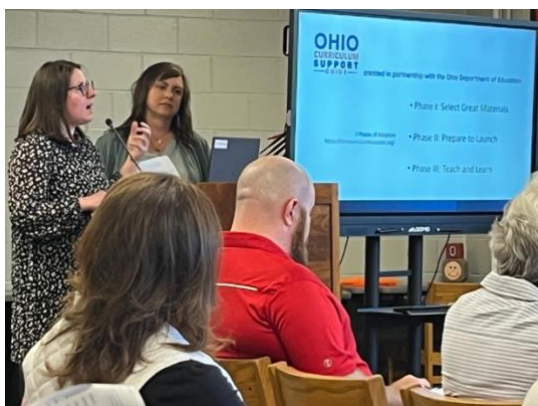


JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

APRIL 10, 2023 / 5 PM / JMS MEDIA CENTER

The Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education met on April 10—the last regular board meeting scheduled to occur prior to the May 2, 2023, Special Election.

Board members reviewed the “Frequently Asked Questions and Fact Sheet” currently being made available to voters regarding the two Johnstown-Monroe Schools’ no-new-tax levy renewals appearing on the May 2 ballot. No changes were made to the FAQs, which may be reviewed [HERE](#).



The Board of Education also received a presentation on the coming implementation of the newly adopted, K-12 math series.

District Treasurer Kim Pulley also provided board members with another, updated five-year financial forecast.

As previously reported, as required by Ohio law, the five-year forecast must be prepared presuming the failure of the two, no-new-tax levy renewals appearing on the May ballot.

Absent the revenues resulting from the two renewal levies — combined funds which make up a significant portion of the school district’s operating monies — exponentially mounting deficits would result, likely impacting staffing and services.

Pulley noted that while some in the community presume Johnstown-Monroe Schools are already receiving revenues from the Intel project, the actual tax revenues are not expected for some time. Eventually, the Johnstown-Monroe Schools will benefit from payroll taxes from Intel and other new businesses within the area; however, the future schedule is not yet confirmed. Presently, the Intel project, if it remains on schedule, will not be in operation before 2025.

District officials described the two renewals on the May 2 ballot — renewals that last for five years, the minimum period allowed under state law — as a “bridge” intended to see the school district through current needed operating expenses until the operational phase of Intel and expected, allied commercial developments are realized.

Math series implementation process reviewed; math coaches & consulting services approved

Math education is receiving major strategic focus within the Johnstown-Monroe School District. The J-M Board of Education approved a new, K-12 math series in March. During the April meeting, the board received a presentation regarding implementation processes that represent the next step toward phasing-in the district's new math series.

The board also approved a math series consulting contract with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, as well as, two new math coach positions for the 2023-24 school year. Both the consulting services and coaching positions will be paid for using "Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief" (ESSER) funds.

In other action, the board approved the 2025-26 school calendar.

Several Board Committee meetings have occurred since the March regular school board meeting. Reviewing Building, Grounds and Safety discussions, Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner spoke about J-M's new radio communications system, which he said will also improve emergency communications between the schools and Johnstown Police.

Board member Amanda Davis discussed the move from quarters to trimesters at the K-5 grade levels. She said that in addition to increasing teaching time, the new trimester system better aligns with testing schedules.

Board members Anne Thomas and Ruth Ann Booher updated fellow board members on recent insurance meetings, noting the gatherings with staff were very positive and showed notable enthusiasm, as well as sparking "lots of good questions."

A Strategic Planning and Economic Development Committee will be scheduled soon, but Board President Tim Swauger observed, "We've had good conversations with the city council and Mayor about being on the same page as the schools. It's great that we're working in cohesion... As I've said before of the school board, we're influencers, we're not decision-makers when it comes to development. We don't get to say 'yes' or 'no' to any development... The fact that we've got a good relationship with (city officials) and they are willing to work with us is critical to our success. They feel very strongly that schools are very critical to their success, as well."

Dr. Wagner updated the Board of Education regarding the unsettled estate and last wishes of "Johnstown Hometown Hero," Brigadier General Perry L. Miles, a highly-decorated hero of the Philippines and First World wars. Miles died in 1961, yet his estate remains in litigation more than 60 years after he left instructions for his land and possessions to be used to the community, educational, and religious benefit of Johnstown and Liberty Township citizens.

Dr. Wagner said, the Board of Education, the City of Johnstown, and Johnstown Greater Parks and Rec. District filed a legal brief in response to what's occurring at the probate court level. No response had been received as of April 10, Dr. Wagner told board members.

To learn more about B.G. Perry Miles and his local legacy, see the following biographical videos [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).