

## 2/10/21 - Regular Business Meeting

Present - Patrick D. McCabe, Roxanne Rebmann, James Grant, Phillip Kenline, Heather Cayea, Erik Polkowski, Robert Masse, Jody Brege, Deborah Forrestel, James Andres, Barbara Goodman, Mark Alexander, John Jablonski, Cynthia Tretter

Jim - Call meeting to order 7pm. Pledge to the Flag. We have budget presentations tonight from the district supervisors. We appreciate you all coming out tonight to share with us your expenses. As Mr. McCabe pointed out, there will be a microphone for you to use so the public can hear your presentation. Who's first, Mr. McCabe?

Pat - Just give me one second before I allow them to begin. I am sharing my screen so the public can see what's being presented. This evening we have food service, interscholastic athletics, I'll be pinch-hitting for Mr. Dailey who's not available tonight from technology, and transportation and facilities. Just before I kick over to Mrs. Goodman, I just wanted to express to the board that this is part of the ongoing series. We hope to provide you with an update to the budget in particular. This evening you'll hear about the anticipated expenditures from the various departments. I just want to express my appreciation for everybody that could come tonight. Before a dollar is spent, a lot of time and effort goes into considering the needs, the educational needs, the programmatic needs of our students. That process is not easy. It involves more than the spreadsheet you'll see tonight. There's a lot of dialogue and there's a lot of people involved to bring us up to this point. Of course it is an ongoing process. That's not to say we won't have to perhaps revisit these budgets once we know more about the revenue side and continue to refine. Having said that as a bit of an introduction to what you'll see, again I express my appreciation to everyone. Barb, if you can start off.

Barb - First of all, I'll introduce myself. Those of you who are new on the board or maybe don't know who I am. My name is Barbara Goodman. I have worked for the district for 32 years in the food services realm. It's a comfort to see a lot of my staff working in the district, so we don't lose touch. It's been 32 years already. Now I also want to say something before I get into my presentation about this community. I will say that we have had since March 13, 2020 when we were first let out of school and told we were not coming back for a while, I have had nothing but genuine support from Akron Community, whether it be on emails, on Facebook, by them bringing us little tokens of appreciation. We have had unbelievable support. I have not had anybody in the community complain about what we had done or how they were serviced. I want to thank the community for that because without them, we don't survive. We need the parents in the community to let you know that you're doing a good job or what can be fixed. Thank goodness we didn't have to fix anything. The other thing is we have been working in a capacity which is very different to us because we are accommodating three different principals with situations that are the best for their particular building. That means my staff are quite stretched, but they are accommodating every building with the demands that are given to us and the time requirement because it does change from week to week. On to the agenda. I believe you all have a copy of my budget. I'm going to make note of a few things. Let me do the items of note. The food service department will not need any subsidies from the general fund in the 21-22 school year. The fund balance will remain positive. Every year, the district has graciously given us a pad of \$30k, and we have not taken it in several years. I feel that we're at a point with our budget, the way it stands now, and the income that we've been obtaining this year, we will not have to have that \$30k out of there. That will be going back into the general fund. This year, we upgraded to what they call SFSP. When we did an analysis of the way we did things last year compared to the choice that we could make, we found that there would be much greater reimbursement and much better service our kids, along with the fact that everybody gets at least one free breakfast and one free lunch every day, no matter who we are, we offer it to them. Reimbursements have been quite substantial and are making up for any deficits that we're seeing at the cash registers that are not being used right now. They do not say whether or not this method can be utilized for the fall. They'll probably let us know in August. At least we've applied for it, we've got all our numbers in and are set to go if they decide we can continue on with that. Staffing hours have been adjusted. Again, because we're accommodating so many methods of sending out food, handing out food to the classrooms, having food in the cafeterias, every single method is a little different. My hours for my staff are reflective of that at times. We are making sure that every staff

member is getting their board approved hours, but they are gracious they are getting extra hours should they need them. This is our second year in a row for our 19 cents extra for NYS foods. The thing is that the state is being a little reluctant to give that to us this year. I don't feel bad though because when we look at the new reimbursement dollars that we're getting from our new method, it overcompensates for that 19 cents. We will continue to pursue the NYS Farmers. We'll try for next year should the status change. There is going to be coming in September, a decrease of 20%, which I guess was the well-known percentage from the state. They decreased our reimbursement. Our reimbursements are separated into federal and state, as you'll note on our budget. The federal is much larger and the state gave 20% of theirs back. There is a decrease this year, but so far we've been able to maintain everything without it. Our equipment line did change. There have been a lot of repairs to my, especially my refrigeration the last year to two years, and have gone with using purveyors that have warranties on them. Because of that, because I know those particular things are covered for the next five years, I will not have to invest as much money in them for repair or renewal. I guess those are my highlights. I gave you also, move your papers. I gave you a packet and it's got all the food items we send home in the bags. We don't just send food home in bags arbitrarily, we send home a little sheet week by week. Anything that has to be prepared by the child or a parent further than what they're getting in the bags, is written up on those sheets. Those coordinate with the take home bags. It tells of all the safety procedures, it also is a nice tool for a parent that wants the child to follow instructions and make the meals for them. It's a self-taught kind of a thing. That's worked beautifully. That's just Akron. Does anybody have any questions about my budget?

Pat - Barb, is there anything on what's displayed, just in terms of specific context? I know you mentioned about the decreasing some of your expenditures because now you've got warranties on items.

Barb - On equipment?

Pat - Yeah, is there anything notable here that you'd like to.

Barb - I don't think, I think I touched on most of the lines that changed. The other one is either incremental, that's my revenue. We wanted our revenues to coincide with last year's data because we have had no revenues at the cash register. We eliminated second lunches, we eliminated catering, we eliminated ala carte. Those are big numbers. We think it's about \$20k a month that we have been lacking because we no longer sell those things. We can't even sell those things, let alone have them come through the cash register line. We did not use those numbers from this year because of that. These numbers are reflective of the year, what was it, 2018-2019 or was it 2019-2020. Whatever, last year when we were normal. Anything else?

Pat - So you have your 2019-2020 revenues projected, then your proposed 2020-2021 adopted, then your proposed.

Barb - Yes.

Pat - If I'm reading it correctly, your close to \$35k dollar change did increase your revenue.

Barb - We can do that.

Pat - The other thing that is now projected for the board and for the community is your expenses, and I see that they correlate.

Barb - Much of the expenditures are things that we cannot adjust because they're based on formulas, such as our health insurance, social security, all those things I think are at the bottom. As far as food purchases go, we have not gotten the bids from BOCES yet. Some of them passed tonight at their board meetings, so I don't have pricing for next year. I am basing it on a consistent dollar figure that we have been using all along, and it seems to be in line. Anything else on there? Food is a big expense, so that's why note that one. Also in salaries, there's also another big line. That one, I believe that they're subject to a standard increase in their contract, so that's how that was calculated, depending on the

number of hours, and they just multiply that by the increased value in the contract. It does show an increase, but that's why.

Pat - Good. Any questions for Mrs. Goodman?

Jim - Any questions from the board?

Barb - No questions? Yeah. Ok. Comments?

Heather - I just would like to say thank you for the food service that you have been offering to the community. I can't imagine how much work must go into that and how many meals you guys have prepared.

Barb - Thousands, hundreds of thousands.

Heather - Yes.

Barb - Thank you very much. That was very nice of you to say. And they enjoy every minute of it. When my staff wasn't face to face with the kids, they really missed it. They're really happy that we went to the hybrid because it gives them that one on one.

Heather - Yeah.

Barb - Yeah, they're very very content with it. Thank you very much.

Pat - Mr. Jablonski?

John - Thank you, Mr. McCabe. Again, thank you everybody for giving me the opportunity to be here tonight. I wanted to start off by giving some talking points to our current sports season here at Akron Central. Swimming is currently running for modified and varsity try-out levels. Kids are very excited to get back into the water, doing what they do best, swim and win. Varsity girls are currently in first place in the league with a 6-0 record, where they have defeated tonight Newfane. Basketball starts tonight for the varsity and JV boys. Again, I can't say how excited they are to be participating. Then when you look around the league and you talk about participation. Once again, strong numbers for Akron Central. In the fall, we had strong numbers for the modified programs. It wasn't anything that we were doing, we were always waiting for the league schools to be able to say yeah, we want to do this, but they didn't do it. Our kids were left out with modified, but because of your efforts to go forward with modified with the limited number of schools that are participating. Again, thank you. Again, the talk about the things that we're doing, Justin and I, with safety. I can't tell you how much working with Jame's maintenance crew, our safety is really important to why again things are running so smoothly. Again, James, tell the crew, tell everybody, we thank you for everything you've been doing since September. Then we're utilizing YouTube and Hudl to livestream our contests because again, Section VI will now allow us during the winter months to have spectators. Again, from what I understand, thanks to Erik helping out with his tech-savvy, were able to get things rolling here. The upcoming season, we're looking at a start date for fall two, which includes football, volleyball, and cheer, to start on March 22, 2021. Spring sports will start on March 10, 2021. Again, these are not concrete, dates could change. Again, that will be up to the state and Section VI. Again, we are preparing to move ahead with any kind of safety protocol, league, section, whatever it is, the department of health, we're ready to work with the school and those organizations to provide a safe environment for the athletes, for the children, to be in. Going to my first slide. Again, I want to thank all of you. Back at 36 years this all started for me at Royhart. I always would sit there with the coaches and say what are they doing at Akron that we're not doing here? I always wondered that. Akron's such a small school, Royhart was too, but then you have the Albions and the Medinas. They're competing, they're winning. You said to yourself God, what do you think the magic pill is? It all starts at the top with you folks, with Joey and Erik and Heather and James and Robert and Phil. It's you people that make this go. Again, it trickles down to the rest of us. This is my fifth year, I figured it out. It is your support, the love for your kids. The love for the children to

play. That's all they want to do. That's all I ever wanted to do, is play, watch them play. That's all it is. Support. Love. So again, it starts at the top with you guys, comes right on down to the bottom to us, and to anybody else that has a hand in this winning environment. It is winning. You've seen championships with field hockey. You're going to see a championship with the swim team. These aren't flukes. These are things that really happened here and puts Akron on the map. Again, I've been here just a short five years, but I envision because again, support. Somewhere down the road you're probably going to see a stadium down in those fields. Turf and all that kinds of stuff. These are the things that will separate you from everybody else. The Amhersts, the Lancasters, you guys are as I go to my meetings, the talk of the town. Justin and I thank you for your support and again, my time is short. As I sit there in the morning and read the paper, I'll continue to see Akron Tigers #1. You can go to slide two. With the help of Cindy and Sue Brewer, through this process of putting a budget together. Justin and I learned a lot. Again, Cindy and Sue, thank you for everything that you've done. Many of these items are year to year consumable and items that we have needed to update and reconditioning everything for the safety of our athletes. Field hockey goals were purchased, goalie equipment, updated football and lacrosse helmets, updated hurdles on the track. We went a little bit further than we normally do with purchasing. Uniforms to continue that cycle. Again, Justin did a great job, seriously, in doing this. We did include an equipment line this year. I guess it hasn't been there maybe last year, two years ago. I guess what we're saying is we need an equipment line. Some of the things that we're using are old. Pole vault pit is ripping. The touch pads are in need of probably being updated. The concrete around the shot and disc area could use a little bit of work, but these are things that have got to be taken care of sooner than later. Again, that's why you'll see that increase on that equipment line of \$20k. We're also including our character-ed performance coach. Money is in there as well, working with these groups. Again, keeps our athletes on top of being leaders. You saw that part in all of this, one of the leaders that graduated last year, Mindy Doktor. Mindy Doktor was with Section VI and did many things with student leadership. Again, hats off to Akron Central for the hard work that you folks do to watch and see these kids achieve their goals. We reduced our supply budget through the pre-ordering, by purchasing \$27,500 across the middle school, high school, and district. We're adding \$20k for this equipment, somewhere down the line, we'll start out small with the purchase of some. Again, I know the budget for athletics is tall, a big ticket item, but again, athletics, school, academics, plays, everything is what separates you from the rest of the high schools that are out there. Believe me, that's just not me giving you a bunch of things you want to hear. This comes from the heart because like I've said, the last five years this is what I've seen that makes Akron Athletics, Akron Central School work. If I had kids, I would send them here. Truly. This is a place that I kid my daughter because she's our youngest, move to Akron, send them here, and believe me, they'll make you proud. Again, thank you and somewhere down the road I'm sure our paths will cross. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jim - Thanks, JJ.

Jody - My household was actually watching the basketball game when I left at Maryvale today. They were streaming in on the tv.

Pat - I'll just share some information with the board and the community regarding our technology budget. It's not nearly as glamorous as our food service or our athletics, unfortunately, but Mr. Dailey had shared in his notes, you'll see when I go to that screen that he doesn't have any significant changes in the budget relative to fiscal increases. In fact, he has a slight decrease for this year. One of the things that Mr. Dailey is responsible for is our Smart School Investment Plan, and our Chromebooks have a replacement cycle to them. Some of those devices are nearing the end of their lifespan, and we are seeking to replace three grade levels with new, updated devices. Obviously, they'll run faster, their internet connectivity will be stronger and are certainly more capable of, you know with technology, everytime you roll it over, it gets faster and better and sometimes more affordable. We are on hold, we're being cautious recognizing that money coming out of SED is slow. In the past where we've had some level of commitment, the money is coming, we will make the purchases out of our general fund, and then substitute it back with the money received from SED. We hadn't made that commitment yet because we want to have some degree of reassurance that the SED review process is moving forward and we'll have money. It's currently planned, but we are going to be fiscally conservative and responsible

before making that expenditure. A new expenditure this year, as I know you are aware, is our need to increase internet connectivity for our community who don't have reliable access. In some cases, their access is limited because of just geographically where they live. In other cases it's financially not possible for certain individuals to pay for internet. In all cases we've made great strides, and I want to credit Doug and Dr. Farrar and our building principals for really identifying who those families are and making smart decisions with the district's money and not just buying all over the place and maybe distributing them to folks who did have internet. At this point, there are 65 devices that have been purchased. We do pay a monthly fee for those devices. It is an expensive proposition. You'll perhaps, I don't know if Mrs. Tretter is going to bring it up tonight or in a future meeting, there is a proposal in the governor's budget to help offset the cost of internet access, but it's not focused on increasing internet connectivity for infrastructure, for areas that don't have it, it's really just driving down the cost for fiscally disadvantaged families. Finally, he notes they're looking at e-rate money for infrastructure improvements. Forgive me, Mrs. Tretter, for putting you on the spot, do you know, can you provide any detail on that item of what he's referencing there?

Cindy - No, I'm sorry Pat, I cannot.

Pat - That's fine.

Cindy - I'll circle back with the board at the next meeting.

Pat - What I was going to say, I'll provide that information. On the basement, it seems to say what it is, infrastructure improvements. I'm assuming that's here on campus. Just to highlight, I know it's challenging to see, the bottom line it's an overall \$500,500 decrease in anticipated expenditures next year. I did want to note the wise cost-saving fiscal decision that Mr. Dailey and Mrs. Tretter worked out together. That is the shift in the Library AV Contractual line, so it, I'm trying to find it on this screen.

Cindy - It's on the computer contractual, I'm sorry I told you the wrong line.

Pat - Thank you.

Cindy - And it's a decrease that represents the electronic timesheets that we use. We have purchased that as a district, and we're rolling that into BOCES, so we can now get aid on it. It's coming out of Doug's budget, but it will be going in the BOCES budget.

Pat - That's the \$8k of reallocating where that expense comes from. If we can purchase it through BOCES, we can get some aid back on it. If there are questions on technology, you can let me know and I will let Mr. Dailey know. Transportation, Mr. Alexander.

Mark - Good evening, everybody. Transportation is a very busy place this time of year. Our budget overall maintains current levels of staffing for this year. My current levels, we're maintaining all of the routes we currently have. We certainly are looking for additional people, but the actual number of routes will be maintained. This number, of course, may change based on any out of district placements that may have happened between now and next year. We will have to accommodate and plan for those, but we are looking forward to the same number that we have in the current school year. Proposed one-time expense, we talked about those last year and it didn't make it in the budget. We are actually taking a look at our current budget, and we were able to realize some savings in our fuel island and our staffing because of our lack of field trips, sports trips, some of the afterschool runs as well as the hybrid model throughout most of the schools that we're servicing. We only have a handful of schools that we are busing to right now that are open 5 days a week. Most of them are on a schedule or hybrid cohorts, similar to Akron. Some are on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, so we realize some savings between staff and fuel. That has allowed us to move forward with replacing our radios this spring, so we started that process working with Saia Communications to make that happen. That'll be a great thing for us to increase our communications and safety throughout the fleet because that's been a huge need for a

number of years. We're excited to make that happen. That does account for, you'll see a small overall increase in our budget, by switching to the new radio system, our contractual line increases by about \$5400, and that is from going from the single repeater that we have on South Newstead to actually moving over to Saia Communications towers, so this system will communicate based on location of buses throughout the fleet and our coverage. That increase you will see in our budget lines. All other lines remain consistent. We are planning for next school to be, for a lack of a better term, a normal school year where we would return to 5 days of instructions, field trips, sports trips, a normal year as far as transportation goes. We're hopeful, again from a planning standpoint, that's where we're at. This school year we were able to condense and consolidate the routes coming into Akron, so we actually have one less large bus route that comes into school, so we're only using 15 buses right now, this school year based on students that are fully remote as well as parents that are transporting their kids to and from. Next year we expect to be back at 16 based on ridership increasing and again, returning to normal. That is also included in our budget. We have also continued on with our replacement cycle, so the referendum that you already acted on earlier this year, is to replace three full-size buses and one small bus to keep us moving forward with our 10-year replacement cycle. That will go out to the voters in May for a vote, but that is what we are planning at this point so we can keep the fleet in a good place. Other things happening in transportation, we just began a process with the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration, on the base security audit. They came out yesterday to do our first interview and meeting to get that process started. It's a free service, but it analyzes and reviews the procedures that we have in place as a district as far as transportation. They will then provide a report back to us on areas that we can improve, things that we're doing well, things of that nature. That process started yesterday. As that continues and as we get results, that information of course will be shared with you. We did just start that process. Other than that, we are just moving forward with assisting in any way we can. Sports, basketball's on the road tonight, so we finally have our first sports trip in a long time, helping Barb out with food distribution on Wednesdays, continuing to deliver remote materials on Wednesdays as well, about 220 families currently. We are keeping busy. Are there any questions for transportation? Alright.

Jim - Thank you very much.

Pat - Finally, Mr. Andres.

Jim A. - Facilities budget will pretty much follow suit like all the other departments, whereas all my 21-22 proposed codes will essentially remain the same or are reduced, like all the other departments, with the exception of salaries and COVID-19 PPE that we purchased and we will continue to probably purchase, that we're expecting, I'm looking at a reduction in the budget not exceeding \$69k. The good news is with the Capital Improvement Project, we will see some savings with energy management. Currently, right now the high school boiler system, which feeds the high school and the elementary, runs at about a 60-65% efficiency rate. This summer, putting in our new high condensing hot water boiler regulating steam boilers, we're probably going to move up to 80-85% efficiency. The reduction of fuels, I'm taking that down \$5k in fuel. That's a pretty good number. We went from \$105k to \$100 on that, and that's been going down over the years, too as we take a look at our usage. Energy management, we've been chipping away at that coming down over the years when we look at our usage. The heating repairs. Obviously, we're going to be taking a lot of the units out of the high school. There's 80 plus heating units that are coming out of the high school in every classroom, new ones going in. We're going to get some energy efficiency here. We're going to have some warranties, obviously, so reduced in heating repair budget line. I'm taking that down \$12,500. A lot of our work here is high school. We're changing a lot of compressors. We're doing a lot of maintenance on these units, and we're looking forward to getting those changed out. That's a really good thing going on there. Electrical savings. I'm proposing we hold off on that. Yes, the heat pumps in the high school will be more energy efficient in the classrooms, however, we have a lot of electrical additional costs due to new A/C split units going to server rooms, which those unfortunately run 12 months out of the year because of the heat that's generated in those rooms. We're going to have some adds, we're going to have some credits going on there. My recommendation would be to hold off, see what our actuals are and kind of go from there. Next slide, please, Mr. McCabe. For the equipment budgets, again my lines went to \$0 both 1620 and 1621 codes. We did have a request from Todd Esposito to upgrade the current 21 folding cafe tables that he has. There's a

picture there of those, they're in fair condition to good condition, and he's requesting to purchase new ones like we have, you've seen them here in the past. They're the trifold, you can use them for multifunction. It's just more suitable for what he's looking for in the elementary. He's looking at, I have the \$10k I'm carrying for his budget line for that, and he's getting other funding from another organization. I'm not too sure where that's from, but he's got some other funding. The next one is my budget line to line, and if there's any questions on that, take a moment to look at that. Again, you can see every one of them will hold the same or got major reductions. You can see in the one line there is an increase, and that was due to the U&S Service Contract that my predecessor had taken out last year, due to some changes in personnel, and we made that decision to put that back in, you might be aware. I'm sure you are. That's kind of where we had to get that increase back on.

Jim - Significant decrease in equipment, you're not planning on purchasing any equipment this year.

Jim A - No, I talked to the grounds personnel, and I told them we're going to go on hold, are you comfortable with that? We have everything that we need. We've done very well over the years. We're going to hold off on the truck purchase for a year. I don't think it's going to be anything that's gonna really put us out. I think we're in really, really good shape. I think we can hold the boat we have.

Jim - Any questions for Mr. Andres? I'd like to take this opportunity since this is the first any of you have been with us since March to thank each and every one of you and your staffs for the extra effort that you put forward since last March when we had a shutdown because of COVID-19. Your focus on our children and their safety and doing the best we can to continue to provide the best education we can given the circumstances. You should all be commended. Thank you very much. On the budget side, I also appreciate given the uncertainty of revenues, the decreases that we're seeing. Mrs. Tretter's going to talk about that. You've all presented essentially flat or decreased budgets. I will challenge you as we move forward and finalize the budget and revenue gets turned on, keep in mind anything that you have, I anticipate before we finish we'll have to challenge each of you to squeeze a little bit more out. This is only the first step in the process until we see revenue projections and the total expenses, we can't finalize the budget presentation, but please keep in mind that we may have to come back to each and every one of you and challenge you a little bit further.

Pat - Just in closing, you can see the budget update calendar projected, so at our next meeting you'll hear from instructional programs and special education, similar to tonight's format.

Jim - Mr. McCabe, I don't know if I missed it, but if you could make sure the board has everybody's presentations, including their line items, so we can have that for our package?

Pat - Will do.

Jim - Is that it for presentations at this point?

Pat - Yes, it is.

Jim - Thank you everyone. You're welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or you're welcome to go home and enjoy your families and whatever plans you have. Item #3 on our agenda is Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. This is the time in the board meeting where district residents may address the board of education with their comments relative to issues, not individual people. Comments are to be submitted to the district clerk at [districtclerk@akronk12.org](mailto:districtclerk@akronk12.org) no later than one hour prior to the meeting. I do this evening have a public comment from Jamie Congi, and I'll read it. I'm not sure if she's online tonight or not. I'm also going to mask down so it's a little clearer. It reads "The deficiencies surrounding the two days in-person hybrid model remain unaddressed. Akron Schools are failing the youngest and most vulnerable students in the district. These kids are falling behind to the point of no return. After numerous attempts to seek resources from the school to combat this, we have been told over and over that there are no resources. We are

supposed to let them keep failing. If you have access to internet, you are told you are not eligible for full-time in-person education. Access to the internet is not an education for kindergarten, first, or second grade. They need an actual classroom, actual teachers, actual lesson plans. If we cannot get a full-time structure for all students due to state regulation, Akron needs to prioritize the youngest grade levels. Enough of excuses, these kids are struggling and nobody is listening." I appreciate you sending your comments and concerns, I know that administration is working to maximize our in-school attendance. I'll ask Mr. McCabe to continue to follow up with building administration. Item #4 Superintendent's Report.

Pat - Certainly. I'd like to start by saying first, and I feel I speak for the board of education as well as our entire educational institution. There is simply no substitute for in-person learning. I certainly hear the concerns expressed by this particular parent, as long as other parents, and frankly, teachers that I've spoken to. I will make a point of reaching out to that parent directly tomorrow and following up on that concern. I'd like to begin this evening by shifting this portion of my comments to Mrs. Tretter, who will be updating the board on our preliminary revenue picture, as well as some information on where our expenses may be headed relative to that scenario. The board was provided a packet from Mrs. Tretter as well.

Cindy - Good evening, everyone. Is it ok if I take this down? Thank you. You should have received two packets. One will show you the status of our reserve fund, and the other is a packet with 6 numbered pages in it, starting with the executive governor's proposal. Does everyone have that? Great. I'm going to take you on a little bit of a journey tonight. Unfortunately, it's not a straight line from this point to this point, it's going to veer off course a little bit. Not because I want to, but because that's kind of year that we're having. There's a lot of twists and turns in our budget preparation this year, based on what the governor has sort of provided to us. I'm going to start on page one of your handout, which is the governor's proposal. You'll see the top half is the current year that we're in, the bottom half is what he's proposing for next year. You'll notice in the top half he's snuck in something called Star Payment. The star dollars have never been any component of state aid. That's always been a component of our tax levy. It was interesting and startling to us when we saw that he was now sliding that into the prior year, and then also including it down in the proposed year. I'm going to talk about star at length in a few minutes. I'm going to go through the lines of the governor's proposal, and I've highlighted certain sections. The first number that's highlighted is what he's calling services aid, where he's bundling a bunch of previous independent aids into one category. He's proposed we're going to receive \$2.9 million basically next year in services aid. That would include for Akron BOCES aid, transportation aid, hardware aid, software aid, library aid. Those 5 aids would combine to this \$2.9 million. That number is unrealistic. I don't know where he got it from. I don't know what factors he's using to come up with it, but I can tell you that I've analyzed it and analyzed the last several years of actual aids for those 5 categories, and we are not going to secure that aid. Even in the best of years, we would not secure that aid, but when you couple it on top of a year when, as Mr. Alexander explained, we're transporting in a hybrid model, we have fully remote Wednesdays, we've had fewer athletics. Our transportation expenses are down, which means we won't be generating aid next year as we normally do. Our BOCES expenditures are down. So our two biggest aid categories that combined into this services aid, are both down this year because of the pandemic. Number one, he overestimated in the best of years, but it's not the best of years. It's actually one of the lowest generating expenditures years that we've had. I'm going to talk about what I think is a more realistic number in a few minutes. He always includes a number for UPK. Those are not dollars we are able to use to fund our general fund budget, so we're going to take those out in an upcoming page. I just wanted you to know. Building and reorganization aid, I saw this number and immediately was concerned because that was not the number that I was anticipating. I've contacted our fiscal advisor and confirmed that unfortunately, the state is going to move forward with building aid based on all of our previous projects and not on the filing for project day that we're going to be completing this summer. That's ok because as long as we file our final cost report by December 31, 2021, that aid number will jump up. We're going to project based on the higher building aid that we will generate. I've worked very closely with Campus Construction and Jim Andres, Vaughn, and Dave here at the district and we are pushing the work to get done by October 2021 so we can get all of our payments done by November, and we'll get that

final cost report out in December. On an upcoming page I'll be able to share with you what our real building numbers should be based on my calculations. Then you'll see the star number highlighted. I know some of you attended Tim's presentation, others of you have watched the ASBO presentation regarding star. I will just say that it appears that what the governor is doing is trying to maintain his maintenance of effort with the federal government. Every school has to file a maintenance of effort report, which basically says you cannot decrease your level of effort in a certain area and still secure funding for it. I believe NYS has to do that same exercise with the federal government. So because he's cutting our dollars, he's now throwing in another category that doesn't apply just so he can meet that maintenance of effort. That's speculation on my part and several others across the state, but again, that star payment, we're going to talk at length in a few minutes. Below that in pink you will see the \$1.22 million as a cut. It's described as local district funding adjustment, which for those of you who have lived through this with me, it equates to the gap elimination adjustment. That is going to be an adjustment that is going to continue on. It just so happens to match that star money, but that is a cut you can expect for several years, and the governor has actually been quite vocal about projecting it to 24-25. The last highlighted number is the COVID-19 supplemental stimulus. That's a one-time federal payment of stimulus money that was recently approved. In order for us to secure that funding, there will be two separate grant applications that will need to be prepared and submitted, much like there was last year in the CARES funding. I wish they would use the same descriptors all the time, but they don't. They call this COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus, but it's actually the Esser and the Geer grant, too. We will pursue that when it becomes available. The state hasn't even defined or provided guidance on what it would take to secure those funds. Those were sort of the things that pop out on the governor's proposal.

Pat - Mrs. Tretter, could you make a comment on what we know about Foundation Aid being frozen at the 2019 level. It was established in 2019, stayed for 2020, and is projected if I'm not wrong, it remains the same again. Three consecutive years with no adjustment.

Cindy - Yup, and if you go to the second page of your handout, page 2, what you're seeing on this handout is 4 years of budgeted numbers with the state aid categories, then the governor's proposed budget, and then what I'm estimating is actual aid. I want to talk through, as I said I would do, again, Foundation Aid stays the same. Services aid stays the same. While the governor's indicated we're going to bring in \$2.9 million, I think a more realistic estimate is \$2.334 million. Obviously, we cannot use Universal PreK to fund the general fund, so that number is zero.

Jim - May I ask a question on the previous item? I'm going to ask a question on the previous item. If these are expense-based aid, are those expenses that we've spent or will spend in 20-21 to be reimbursed in 21-22?

Cindy - Yes. Which is why our expenses are down this year with the pandemic and the hybrid model and fully remote.

Jim - Theoretically, you have savings in the current year that we won't be reimbursed for next year.

Cindy - We have savings in the current year in some lines. We have more expenses in other lines. It's interesting, in the lines that we have additional costs doesn't necessarily generate additional aid. It's a nuance of actually looking at the specific lines and what lines roll up to the aid categories in the formulas that the state uses.

Jim - Thank you.

Cindy - You're welcome. The two middle lines, which are high cost public and private, those are our special education kids in both our public and private placements based on the reimbursement rates. Those numbers seem accurate to me. Building aid. Again, if we file our final cost report, and I will do everything in my power to do that by December 31, 2021, I believe will generate \$2.96 million. Below that, you will see Star. I have zeroed that out because Star is actually part of our levying amount. It's not appropriate to put it with state aid. The state has not given us guidance on this. There are some business administrators that are taking it away from the levy amount and showing it in state aid. There are others, like me, who are taking it away from state aid and leaving it where it's always been at. Either

way, we've always had it. We can't double count it. I'm not counting it in state aid right now. I'm keeping it with the levy. Below that, you'll see our local district funding adjustment, which is the new Gap Elimination Adjustment. Below that, is our federal COVID-19 stimulus money, which at this point, I was just estimating using half next year, knowing that this is going to be an ongoing problem. That's a decision the board will have to make. Do you want to use all of your federal stimulus next year, do you want to try to preserve some of it? Just for the purpose of the presentation tonight, I just made an assumption that maybe we do half next year and half the following year, knowing we're still going to have that \$1.2 million elimination adjustment. Again, that's something that you will all decide in the next six weeks. You can see there's a big difference between what the governor's proposal is in aid and what our estimates are based on the knowledge that we have for our local factors and our local information.

Jim - Before you move on, I think it's important for the board at this point to talk about the use of the stimulus aid and whether we will ask that you recognize it all next year or to split it. It's a significant number.

Jody - It was my understanding that that is supposed to be used. It's one payment, but it's supposed to be for this year and next year, right?

Cindy - It's a guaranteed payment. We don't know how long this elimination adjustment is gonna go on. It's likely going to go on for more than two years. I think what the board will have to talk about, and I put it in a little box at the bottom, is consideration of a levy percent, consideration of use of existing reserves, and then consideration of how we want to use that federal stimulus money. I realize I'm throwing a lot at you tonight, and it's murky at best. Not because I wanted to be murky, unfortunately, it just is. I spoke with Mr. McCabe earlier, and I literally have been on six different webinars across the state over the last three days, the bottom line for every webinar is they're just not telling us anything. They're not explaining what this means. They're just not telling us how this will work. They haven't developed the formula. They aren't confident in the application approach to get the federal stimulus funds. They are being very silent about a lot of this. I'm sharing everything I can, and we're going to have to make the best decisions we can. Those are going to be the three primary considerations for the board over the next several weeks.

Jim - I know that so much of this is unknown. The governor has presented a worst-case budget, that these numbers are based on the federal government has not acted on the stimulus plan, which changes daily. I think my recommendation, and of course I'm only one voice on the board, that we need to maximize our revenues and minimize our expenses when presented to us. I personally feel that we should recognize all of that COVID-19 stimulus in 21-22 and see where next year brings us.

Cindy - Ok. If you will turn to handout three. This is a comparison of our revenue lines from the current year's adopted budget to what is proposed. I understand that you have not given me direction on levy and some of these areas. I've made some assumptions so that I could give you a complete model that you then will tell me how to tweak. Ok? So the very first line is the real property tax levy. I built in a 1% increase. Currently, the tax cap formula would allow you to levy a 1.87% increase. There is an additional \$85k approximately that you could levy on top of what's already built in there, should you decide to go with 1.87%. Below that is our Impact Aid, our federal payments, and realty tax. Below that we have our pilot payments, and then below that is our Star reimbursement. That is where I kept it instead of including it in state aid. I'm going to talk about that in just a couple minutes. The next line is non-property tax distribution, which is our sales tax allocation. The governor recently cut sales tax, it will be hitting municipalities this month. Of course, when it hits municipalities, it will also hit schools. It is unclear how badly that will impact us. When I estimated last year, we had traditionally built in \$1.2 million. We get about \$100k a month in sales tax from Erie County. I estimated that we would only secure \$800k. We're probably going to be a little bit ahead of that. However, we won't be at \$1.2, and now that he's severely cutting it I'm going to let you know that that number is likely going to have to come down when there's more clarity with regard on how that cut will impact our school. I will get back to you on that. The rest of these lines, once you get down to interest of earnings, the interest rates are too low. We're not able to make a lot of money on investments, so I'm reducing that amount down. Sale of equipment. Because we're not

going to be purchasing a truck, we won't be selling a truck next year, so that revenue line is zero. If you look at the gray shaded lines, those are the state aid categories. I do want you to look at the services aid. You can see that the current year budget is \$2.671 million for those five categories all rolled into one. I really have no idea how the governor came up with \$2.9 million in his original estimate, when obviously, expenses this year are going to be less than they have been in the past. You'll see my estimate of the \$2.334 million. When you look down in the bottom, what I want to pop out to you is right now with a 1% levy, with using only half of the federal stimulus, I am projecting that our revenues would come in around \$31 million, and our expenses are at \$32.7 million. We'll be \$657k short at this point and time, ok? At this point from an expenditure side, and I know we're not talking about overall expenditures, we still have to complete our BOCES budget, we're still waiting on health renewal rates, we're still waiting for our principals to come back to let us know if they've come up with some creative programmatic changes, some scheduling changes, some staffing changes that might be a way to save some money. As those things continue to add clarity, then we'll be better able to define the full expenditure side of the budget, ok? Any questions on this page?

Heather - I have a question about the Foundation Aid. You said you think it's overinflated. Are you finding other districts are seeing the same thing or are you just finding just us?

Cindy - Not Foundation Aid. I don't think Foundation Aid is overinflated. The services aid of the five categories combined into one.

Heather - I read it wrong, sorry.

Cindy - That is, it varies across the state. Again, it's very difficult to understand how he's come up with certain numbers, but clearly it's not based on historical expenditures. I think he wanted to paint a rosier picture than we actually were going to get. Ok, let's move on to the fourth page, which is Star.

Jim - Before you go on, I know balancing expenses, and certainly a \$1.6 million current projected shortfall is of significant and major concern. Where do you currently anticipate 20-21 finishing?

Cindy - 20-21?

Jim - Yes, the current year. Where do you project 20-21 to finish?

Cindy - I'm working on that. I actually have a phone call with Moody's tomorrow, and I'm working on a very detailed projection for them. They actually are talking about enhancing our rating in a pandemic, which is ironic, I guess. I suspect, I don't want to give you exact figures Jim, honestly, because I've given you most of the time getting through the webinars and trying to prepare this. I need to spend a few hours tomorrow morning before I interview with them to really hone in on the number that I'm comfortable with. Why it's difficult, let me just explain. Every department, you saw multiple supervisors tonight, you're going to see multiple administrators come to you the next time. They own their lines. They may have encumbered a lot of money they don't intend to spend, or maybe not encumbered it, but still try to spend it. Trying to get a handle on all those budget lines, and you know there's 20 pages of budget lines. It's very difficult. It's more thorough exercise than just taking a look at here's where we're at year-to-date in revenue and here's where we're at in expenditures. I really will have to drill down and pull apart each of those lines. I don't always know, I certainly know with our supervisors where we're at because we talk all the time, but with the building administrators, they tend to have more of a bigger instructional areas. I really need to consult with them before I estimate because I just don't want to make assumptions that wouldn't be accurate.

Jim - I understand. With my background, I'm asked to make those assumptions all the time and before we finalize next year's budget, recognizing it will be a projection, I'd like to see at least a preliminary estimate where we, as a district, project where we're going to finish 20-21.

Cindy - Absolutely. Mr. McCabe and I spoke today. We're probably going to be freezing our budget, which will kind of put a stop to the pre purchasing and all of the other things that are kind of happening right now, which will, I guess the best way to equate it, it will stop, the dust will settle so we can take a good picture of things. Ok, awesome.

Pat - To that point, this is something Mrs. Tretter and I instituted last year, was determining a freeze on spending. In prior years, my understanding was that it went right up to the very last moment, and she was scrambling at the end to consolidate the expenditures. Last year we did institute a freeze. We plan on doing so, even with greater need, if you will. It will be this week, quite frankly.

Jim - Alright.

Cindy - So now we're going to talk about Star. Your page 4 shows you that Star takes the form of two separate Star programs. One is the Star Exemption Program, which is frozen, and one is the Star Credit Program. We all used to be in the Star Exemption Program where you would get your tax bill, and you would see an offset with Star. Part of your tax bill was exempt, and you would remit payment on the net amount. What happened in the Star Exemption Program is you would pay a lower amount for your taxes and the state would reimburse the school for the amount that you didn't have to pay. That's the part that the governor's playing with. In 2016 the governor created this new Star program, and it was for any new homeowners, any changes in propertyship, or for anybody who opted into it. The Star Credit Program is when you get your tax bill, you pay the full amount, and the state mails you a credit check back right around the same time your taxes are due. The governor has always wanted to try to push people into the credit side of things, rather than staying in the exemption thing. He sort of grandfathered everybody into the exemption side, and said if you want to go to the credit side, I'm going to continue to increase that potentially each year, but I'm freezing the Star Exemption, so you'll never get an increase. That was his way to incentivize people to move into the credit side. I think what the governor has done is sort of taken a look at how he can influence his budget without alienating voters, and I think his assessment is I can cut the Star Exemption and reduce that and eliminate it, because then I'm just irritating a school district or school districts, rather than eliminating the Star credit, which would alienate every single voter who is counting on that Star credit. He mails us one check for everybody. That is how he has built his proposals to basically show the Star exemption in state aid and cut the same amount. The scuttlebutt, the conversation, the kind of what's leaking out is he intends to just eliminate that Star Exemption payment to schools. Taxpayers will still get that offset, we just won't get the state to reimburse us for that amount. That is the conundrum and many of my colleagues across the state are taking the approach that they want to try to talk their taxpayers into shifting from the exemption side into the credit side, thinking that that will maybe persuade the governor, it will take away some of his luster because he really doesn't want to alienate all of the taxpayers. The problem with that is trying to explain that within your community and trying to explain how it might be better for someone to have to pay a bigger check and then wait and hope the state actually mails them a credit check back for the difference. I think for some of our taxpayers, it would be difficult because you've got an elderly population, a low-income population, for them to have to come up with that money up front and then hope the state sends them back, that's a hard sell. I think the board needs to talk about that and certainly an approach we can work on educating our community if you all feel that's a viable option and might somehow pull the rug out from under the governor or maybe persuade him to take this off the table, which he might anyway. We don't know, but that is the crux of it. That is the piece that he's talking about removing is that payment reimbursement back to schools for the levy that was offset for that Star Exemption.

Jody - Cindy, as business officials, you all have a group and you've obviously talked about all this. Are we just going to sit around and think this is ok or are we going to start pushing some buttons at the state level between us, everyone. Your organization, Pat's organization. I just feel like now we can't just keep sitting around saying well we'll see what he's going to do and now maybe we'll talk to the taxpayers to see if they'll switch this around instead of starting to say, alright we have to start making some changes and we have to start giving him some pressure on this because that came out loud and clear on that video call that the three of us were on Thursday. I just want to make sure that we're gonna

start going after that because I'm done, personally, sitting around just waiting to see oh is he going to lift the 10pm curfew tonight? You know, I think it's now time we start advocating for our district and our taxpayers.

Cindy - Agree, 100% I know that NYS ASBO, which is my organization, and NYS ASBA, which is also my organization. One is business, one is personnel, are both generating quite a bit. I'm sure the superintendent's counsel is also generating quite a bit. Again, I would encourage all of you to contact our legislators. It's a scary year.

Jim - Mr. Polkowski, would you like to comment on what the legislative group is working on?

Erik - Just that this is a topic, it's starting to come up. A lot of it I think too, at least with the last meeting, was more along the lines of trying to see what the perspective things because at that time the initial budget runs, which is what you see on the first page, which you are asking how other districts were, you can go on and you can see where other districts are when they run their reports as well, and it is. I went looking at it, you can see where Akron was losing \$1.2 million, and the district next to is gaining \$250k, and the district to the other side of you is gaining \$185k. The whole numbers thing doesn't make sense. From that standpoint too, the biggest thing is, I would agree with Jody in saying that it's advocacy. First and foremost, I think rallying your community around it to begin with, and I know the other districts that are represented on the legislative team, each district can come up with letters, contacting their representatives and that's what they're looking at right now. This time last year, I was in Albany advocating on behalf of the district with our four state officials. In seeing with the pandemic and everything else, that's not happening this year, so we're looking at trying to meet with them virtually, but at the same point too, it doesn't stop us from individually sending letters, you know, either as a board or as a board member or as a member of the community. I think what Cindy's saying in regards to pushing this and get this advocacy out, honestly, if we can bring to the community and say we're looking at a shortfall, these are the reasons why we need to do something. You'll find that the community will be a little bit more receptive as to trying to advocate in one way, shape, or form. It's just a matter of, a lot of times all that needs to happen is to first, ring the alarm, raise the concern, and then lead them in a fashion that says here is a letter, print this out, send this to this address, or here is your local representative's phone number, make this phone call, contact them, and those sorts of things. I think for the most part, our local legislatures are very much aware, and this is the same problem they had with the gap elimination because all of the Upstate New York districts are in a hardship from the standpoint that we raise the levy to the max, and that 1% we levy up here, garners \$85k, whereas that same 1% down in Suffolk County all of a sudden garners \$3.5 million. There's always been this issue with distribution and what you can and can't do. The biggest thing is the squeaky wheel gets attention, you've gotta be the grease to enact that action. I think I would agree that's the sort of thing that we're going to do, but it is in process. Many of the other districts are trying to figure out what they want to do as well.

Jim - Thank you.

Cindy - Behind that, I wanted to share with you, page 5 is sort of our current state aid factors. I thought that might be interesting to you. You see a lot of data on that page. The final page is a page that sort of opens up, it's a larger page. That's where you'll find the history of those several areas that combine into the new services aid. I provided this to you because I wanted you to see the analysis that I've done. When you look at historically, even from 2016-17 to 2017-18 to 2018-19, and you look at those, well it's highlighted in four areas because they actually combined two aids into one line, but you look at transportation and BOCES aid, I have no idea how he's saying we're going to come up with \$2.9 million. Again, just completely overestimating it. That's the benefit of having your local people do the local analysis on your actual data and making sure that your estimates and your revenue in the budget reflect more appropriately what you'll actually get. Just so you know, what I have estimated is transportation aid for next year would be \$1.15 million, for BOCES aid is \$1,047,000. Hardware, software, library would combine to about \$137k, and that's where I come up with my \$2.334 million. That could change between now and June if expenditures increase in any of those areas, if we're able to provide or secure services that we're able to distribute, but it's very difficult in a remote model where people are meeting virtually, they're not attending things at BOCES. They're not securing the services that we

generally do. All those expenditures are down, and as Mark had explained our runs, although we're picking kids up, we're only picking half the kids up on alternate days, and there's a full remote Wednesday. Again, I did my best to estimate based on what I know in this district. So that is the first packet of materials that I've provided to you, and I should also go back and say I did build in, Mr. Grant, the \$800k use of appropriated fund balance and in addition \$200k, then it would be in the board's purview to decide how much additional use of reserves on unappropriated fund balance you may want to allocate towards next year. That's why I gave you the second handout, just to get reacclimated with that. I'm proposing that we use \$200k of TRS, \$500k ERS, and then of course, \$1 million of unappropriated. That's what is built into the model right now, so maybe we see where state aid falls, refine our expenditure lines, we can come back and give you a better sense of where we're going to end this year, and maybe the next meeting we have a bigger and broader discussion on where you might want to go with that.

Jim - Thank you for this level of detail. I know so much of it is unknown, but as we delve into this and look at it, more information sooner is better. We, regarding the tax levy, have historically tried to keep that levy at 1%, so we'll have to address and determine a final number, but right now the 1% seems like a reasonable base in what the board has attempted to do with the tax levy in the past.

Cindy - These are all tweaks we can make. I do have to file the tax cap by March 1, 2021. I'm going to file it with the 1%, we can amend it after that, ok? At least that gets us filed and we can check the box that we complied with that deadline, but we have the whole month of March to change it.

Jim - Ok, as long as you can modify it.

Cindy - Yes.

Jim - Any other questions for Mrs. Tretter at this time? Thank you very much.

Cindy - Thank you.

Jim - Mr. McCabe?

Pat - I just want to begin by thanking Mrs. Tretter for the detailed report and the amount of time she's spending on it, it was certainly one of the more challenging fiscal years. A few brief items this evening. Just to let the board know that the transportation project is currently under review by SED, and we should expect feedback fairly soon. As we've discussed at the last meeting, there is an ongoing investigation on how to improve the drainage ditch area. I authorized some engineering work to go out there. It's a little challenging with the scope involved, and we haven't gotten our report back. We do have a 2017 report that was done somewhat recently for the purpose of an SED submission and can at least get the ball rolling while we're still awaiting that analysis, and I happened to see out of my window last Friday the engineers out there.

Jody - I saw them out there when I was dropping a kid off.

Pat - Yeah. At this point, Campus and Clark Patterson Lee are suggesting that we are on schedule to go out to bid by mid March and have contracts to the board for consideration on April 19, 2021. That's just an update, things are always subject to change if there's a delay in a review or any other engineering delays. It is a very competitive timeline for bidding, that's why we're being aggressive. Had an opportunity actually to go to a swim meet to talk to some of our community members that have adjoining property, and he was grateful for the commitment of the district to continue to investigate that work. I told him to call me. Hopefully, he does. Just a reminder to the board interested in nominating individuals to serve on the BOCES board of education to send those nominations to Mrs. Rebmann by March 3, 2021. Included in your packet are some proposed board of education meeting dates for next year, and they're just for your review. If you have any questions, let me know. I wanted to make note that later in this evening's agenda there is

a personnel item, and I wanted to take a moment to pause and note the many contributions that Dr. Farrar has made to the Akron Central School District, to me personally. I know speaking with Cindy in the room, Mark, how much we valued collaborating with her and the many contributions that she has made. I also want to wish her on behalf of the whole ACS Community, our sincere appreciation and congratulations to her as she is set to be the new superintendent at West Valley School District. Also, just to point out to the board, in the interim, she has been working closely with me and other administrators, directors, across the district on a transition plan, does hold a great deal of responsibility for the district. She's working hard to maintain the level of professional commitment to help us in the interim. Congratulations to her.

Jim - Thank you, Mr. McCabe. Item #5 Minutes. Our recommendation is that the Akron Central School Board of Education accept the minutes of the regular business meeting held on January 27, 2021 as submitted by District Clerk, Roxanne Rebmann.

Heather - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on those minutes?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #6 Personnel Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following instructional items, consent #6A-6C.

Jody - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on those items?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #7 Personnel Non-Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following non-instructional items, consent #7A-7C.

Erik - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on those items?

Jody - I actually do have a question.

Jim - Go ahead.

Jody - If Regents does end up being cancelled this year, we won't have to worry about the reviews, correct?

Pat - That's correct. At this point, all I can tell you is at a recent update provided by the Erie 1 District Superintendent, who has ongoing dialogue with SED, NYS Assessments are still on track to move forward. Despite the SED requesting a waiver from the federal government, SED has indicated that they don't believe the waiver will be granted and we are

conceivably having 3-8 assessments and Regents assessments, which I think comes as a surprise to many, but like many things, we're waiting to see and planning to go on as anticipated.

Phil - What does that do for those students who already had their Regents cancelled at the end of last month?

Pat - It doesn't make a whole lot of sense. We were just told to prepare for it being offered.

Jody - I don't care, but there's no way those teachers are going to be able to cover all the material that will be in the Regents exams. There's no way.

Jim - Any additional comments?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #8 District Items. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following District Items, consent #8A-8H.

Bob - Moved.

Jody - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments on these items? I'd like to echo Mr. McCabe's comments and thank Dr. Farrar for her many years of service to the district and the children of the district and wish her the best in her future position as superintendent. I'd also like to make note that tonight we're approving the collective bargaining agreement with the Akron Faculty Association. I'd like to thank the members of the district that served on the negotiating team, including Mr. Masse and Mr. McCabe, Mrs. Tretter, and the other members of the team, and the teachers union for the diligence that was placed in difficult times and bringing us to this agreement that gives us at least cost certainty for the 5 years moving forward under this agreement. I'd also like to thank Mr. Dunham for updating the Special Education Plan. Anyone else?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #3 Special Education. Our recommendation is that the Akron Central School Board of Education approve the special education classification and placement as per the list received as recommended by the Committee on Preschool and Special Education and the Committee on Special Education. These recommendations are for the least restrictive environment at this point.

Heather - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #10 Financial Reports. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education approve the financial reports for January 2021 as submitted by District Treasurer, Susan Brewer.

Jody - Moved.

Erik - Second.

Jim - Any questions, comments for Mrs. Tretter on these reports?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #11 School Board Correspondence. Thursday, February 11, 2021 ECASB Budget and Finance Team from 6:30-8:30pm. Mr. Kenline, enjoy.

Phil - Thank you.

Jim - Upcoming dates. Thursday, February 11, 2021 Parent Teacher Conferences Virtually tomorrow afternoon from 4:15-7:30pm. Friday, February 12, 2021 Parent Teacher Conferences again, virtually from 7:00-11:30am. Monday to Friday, February 15-19, 2021 no school for Mid-Winter Recess. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 10, 2021 here at 7pm. Item #13 Input from the Public, school-related items not on the agenda. Mr. Alexander? Mrs. Tretter? Any items from the board? Yes, sir.

Bob - I just wanted to talk real quick about sports. The way we're doing it right now, no spectators in the stands. First, I wanted to make the comment that I really appreciate the effort that the group has done to get the sporting events online. Seems like every week, and I'm talking about swimming because I've been watching it every week. I was able to watch yesterday when I was in Philly and now I get to watch it at home. I do appreciate all the effort that's been done. What I do see is a number one, I find and I think a lot of the public finds because you can't come to meets and games, that they will really like this format. I'd like to see this continue even after the pandemic ends. I'd like to expand on what we have, maybe get more than a little webcam, right now the video is poor in my opinion. I think it could be better, the sound is not all that great. I think they made some efforts, but I think it's minimal and just the thought to throw out there, I think there's room for the kids to get involved with this. It could be a program, whether it's a club or AV Club like we used to have back in my day. I was on it.

Jim - So was I.

Bob - I admit it, but it was great. I think that we could expand in broadcasting, you know, you can have sideline student reporters. You can have things, but something we don't do here could be brought into curriculum somehow, someway, and I really think it's a good opportunity, as important as sports are here, we can watch sports, broadcasting, it can lead many students into that field or at least expose them. The idea just came to me as I watched these things and we have one view through this weak little camera, and I thought, you know what, this 10 minute recess you can have somebody over with a little camera to look at the senior wall, looking at the pictures on the wall. There's just a lot of opportunity there, and I ask that you at least explore, expand, and I'd really like to see some improvement of equipment. I know swim's almost over, but I'd really like to think this is not going to end right away, but I think it's something we should look at.

Pat - You're right and to reply, I couldn't agree more. Kudos to our tech department and our coaches that work really hard, and honestly to our business department for helping us get the money to get this stuff done. We started looking at the Hudl program last budget year and as things evolved rather rapidly this year and not knowing what was going to happen in athletics to pull this together so quickly is commendable, and I do know that many districts are livestreaming and some aren't yet, which is unfortunate. But yeah, to the extent that can work with the tech department to improve quality and I'll have direct communication and I can share with both Mr. Caprio and Mr. Dimitroff to see if we can spark some interest at the educational level.

Bob - Ok, thanks.

Jody - I think Alden has like a TV station.

Bob - They do.

Jody - We might want to reach out to Adam and ask him. They have a really good program over there with that.

Bob - They do a great job with it. There's a lot we can do here with this, and opportunity is right in front of us right now. Nobody ever would have thought about making the effort, now it's so important and I can see whether it's elderly or people that really enjoy watching this.

Pat - It is amazing that there are some silver linings to COVID-19. We were talking today, it was not a meeting, but a bunch of administrators and I were talking about the greater parent participation in parent-teacher conferences because the signing up to do the conference virtually, people can't get out away from their families or arrange for child care to have a conference. We do want to carry some of these things over.

Bob - That system worked great as well. I did it last time and it was really good.

Heather - When there's technology grants, who applies for those? Do we have a grant writer, is the responsibility for that department to apply for it?

Pat - We don't have a designated grant writer. It's done within the department or sometimes a teacher may be interested in support. That's not to say that grant writers aren't available. Sometimes they're more work than they're worth. They ask you for all the information, and you finally say wouldn't it just be easier if I did it myself? We have some outstanding people in the district and you know our middle school technology program, in particular, stands out. That's something I can share with Mrs. O'Malley to see if she's aware of anything. There are new technology standards coming out that need to be implemented by 2024, and we're in that early stage where just analyzing them and doing some preparations, but that's also on our radar from a curriculum perspective.

Erik - Just to kind of piggyback off of what Mr. Masse said, just since I'm kind of an end user here with utilizing it and running the swim computer and everything else that's associated with that. Just some of the feedback that I've gotten from it, first off, I'd say I worked with the technology department with regards to making it as user friendly as possible. First off, with the swim program, we have a live stream because everything is virtual, we have a live google document that is giving times and tracking scores, which is accessible for parents to watch so they can follow along with me. Then there's other applications that are associated with this. With that in mind, and seeing that Hudl is going to be the thing going forward, you know, live stream most of our events going forward. It was very nice that they set up on the home page under athletics, specifically for all of the live streams. Swim is currently in one spot, everything is right there for parents to access. Basketball is already set up and it will be the same sort of process. Going forward, it should be each collective. Plus, right on the front of the home page is a YouTube link that takes us right to the channel. So without even going any further because I tried to do it with Alden the other day, and it's buried and I couldn't find it. I would consider myself pretty user friendly with the computer, so to find it right on the home page makes it nice and easy. That's a positive thing. The secondary thing is it's nice we have a YouTube channel. We live stream, the swim is on their live stream and then within 5-6 hours after the live stream is done, it converts into a video, and the video is kept online. If you wanted to watch a past meet, you can watch a past meet. The advantage to that is a couple of different things. Number one, the swimmer can watch it after the fact. They can critique their own things either with the coach or parent or whoever their instructor is to see what they maybe did or didn't do right, wrong, indifferent, make adjustments. The other thing too is many students coming into junior and senior year are looking to make recruitment videos to submit to colleges for consideration. This gives them a direct link where they can now download their event or whatever was going on and create their own video for their college enhancement, if that is going to be the next step for them. So that's another advantage. The third advantage you kind of linked on was in regards to participation. The first video from the swim meet had 350 people had viewed it. On a regular basis we're having probably between 45-60 people watching it at any one point of time when we're streaming. One of the comments I got was I overheard one of the girls after her event, comes back up into the stands, she makes a mention to one of her friends "my phone is blowing up". We go "with who?" She goes "My grandma. She's telling me things that are going on and she's not even

here". And likewise, I talked to somebody else who indicated that their parents live in Brockport and they've watched each one of their granddaughter's meet collectively. Got home today, and there on my TV was the meet from today because my wife had left it on. It's something where everybody is participating and everybody is using it. It's a great thing. So far, I'd have to say with athletics at least, it's nice to see that the kids are in the water and participating because it is just a great thing to see the kids have that level of normalcy that they I think are missing so much today. Even though the season is short and compressed, and everybody's a little stressed out with having meets every other day, the bottom line is they're having fun and it's encouraging to see. That's all.

Jim - Regarding the use of technology for events, it's something we should consider expanding to the musical program when we can do those again.

Bob - Absolutely.

Jim - I think that it's something we can carry for any event that we're doing here, we should make the effort to expand. I'd like to see it.

Erik - I know with the previous, in having a conversation with Debbie Komosinski, when they did the elementary school concert, both concerts they had done through a video format as well. She had one parent reach out to her and say it's so disappointing we're not there, but Debbie kind of turned it on their ear in a sense that said the one advantage was when I had the Prism Concert, I was only allowed to have three pieces for my 7th & 8th grade students. This year I was able to take out a little group here, a little group here, and the kids then were even elevated as to what they were able to do. So even though the format was a little bit different, the opportunity there is just a matter of rethinking the format and what's going on. Just trying to find the opportunity that presents itself and make the best out of it.

Jim - Thank you both. Anything else? Item #14 Executive Session. We do have a need to go into Executive Session tonight. Mr. McCabe, please confirm it's for the employment of a particular person?

Pat - That's correct.

Jim - I can't open the document online tonight. May I have a motion please?

Bob - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments? We are in Executive Session at 8:44pm. We do not anticipate conducting any business after we come out of Executive Session. Again, I thank Mrs. Tretter and the district supervisors for their input tonight, and thank you to the public for attending.