



CEO Update  
Jan. 10, 2018  
Meeting Minutes  
Choffin Career and Technical Center

The meeting was called to order and CEO Krish Mohip addressed comments made at Jan. 9 school board meeting. He said that during a closed-door meeting with district principals he tried to convey the sense of urgency in adhering to the strategic plan and improving student academics. Without that improvement, the district is in danger of being turned over to charters. He said he won't remain at the district if that happens and it won't be something that he has control over. However, CEO Mohip believes the district can stop that from happening if it improves.

He emphasized the positive changes that have been instituted at YCSD in the last 18 months. Some of those include a new, modern website unveiled this week, a new instructional framework, improved parent engagement and better human resources management and fiscal systems.

The CEO then turned the meeting over to Tyrone Olverson, chief academic officer, to run.

Under public comment, Brenda Kimble, school board president, questioned Mohip's reported statements at the principal meeting. Mohip repeated what he said.

Superintendent Joseph Meranto reported the move of Central Office staff out of the Ward Administration building is complete and work is underway to renovate that building to become the new home of Youngstown Early College.

Amanda McGinnis, deputy chief of transformation, reported that the Gradual Release of Responsibility, the new instructional framework, is progressing.

Tim Filipovich, chief of academic accountability and assessment, said scores from tests students took in the fall are coming in and information will be sent to families soon. Meetings also will be set up to help students and families learn ways to improve scores. He said the PSAT will be administered in March.

The window for student testing was supposed to conclude last week, but because of weather-related school cancellations, that window has been extended. Assessments start Jan. 20.

Filipovich acknowledged that it sounds like a lot of testing, but to help teachers and principals to understand what's needed for student improvement, those assessments are necessary.

Rick Shepas, chief of physical development and athletics, said he has assembled a high-quality staff who wear many hats as they work to rebuild the athletic program and provide students with what they need. These are iconic people in the community; families know them. That's helping to build trust and rapport between athletics and the athletes and between the department and students' families. Shepas reported an uptick in the number of students participating in athletics.

Shepas sent a letter this week to the state to report that sports will restart at Chaney High School in the fall. Football won't begin until Fall 2019, but cross country, volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball and indoor track will start during the 2018-19 school year. Rugby is also beginning at East this year. Shepas said CEO Mohip want to provide opportunities to as many students as possible.

Lori Kopp, chief of student services, said the department continues to grow and maintains its focus on compliance. Student services is also deploying new behavior therapy and more intensive social-emotional supports.

Linda Yosay, deputy chief of student services, said the department started a new screening process for kindergarten students. For those students who didn't perform as well, additional supports were put in place. Most of those students had improved when screened again. For those that didn't more programs will be employed.

Pat Lowry, director of strategic initiatives, said the first round of sixth-graders will go to Camp Fitch in early February. It promises to be a memorable experience for students. District high schoolers also will go on the trip as mentors for the younger students. Second-graders from six of the district's elementary schools just completed swimming lessons at the Central YMCA. Those from the remaining elementary schools will begin swimming lessons the week of Jan. 30. Through a partnership with the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and several organizations and agencies, 2,600 YCSD students underwent vision screenings. About 300 had eye examinations and two pairs of eyeglasses – one for home and one for school – will be given to those students within the next couple of weeks.

Linda Hoey, chief of parent engagement, said each school has a parent coordinator and Hoey meets with them monthly. The coordinators also help principals with the twice monthly families events at each school. They keep sign-in sheets for every event. The PRIDE – Parents Realizing Involvement Determines Education – is about 60 strong and meets monthly as well. Parent-community meetings also are monthly. Hoey said she's proud of the parent engagement coordinators. They work hard. Mr. Mohip has made parent engagement a priority for the school district and Hoey appreciates that. On April 27 is the annual parent conference, but this year it will be an evening affair. The conference draws 300-some parents and each year, teachers nominate parents to be honored. This year, parents will nominate teachers to be honored too.

John LaPlante, chief information officer, said the district's new website went live the first week of the new year. He credited the web publishers throughout the district for providing the content and updating

the site. The website is the second or four steps planned to improve district communications. The first was the new robocall system, second was the website. No 3 is the ability to send text message alerts and the fourth is the mobile app.

Colleen Murphy-Penk, chief of transportation, complimented bus drivers who transport children to school in dangerous conditions. The department continues to increase its service, running multiple shuttles daily. The My Stop app allows parents to track online the time their children will be picked up or dropped off by the bus. One more piece is being rolled out in the next of weeks. Children will get a lanyard with a card that they will swipe when they board and get off of the bus. Parents will be able to see that their children got on or off the bus.

Cheryl McArthur, chief of human resources, said the department will begin in March and April attending career fairs to recruit teachers, administrators and other employees.