



**District Office**

90 S. Tippecanoe Dr.  
Tipp City, Ohio 45371  
(937) 667-8444  
(937) 667-6886 Fax  
www.tippcityschools.com

**District  
Administration**

**Mark Stefanik**  
Superintendent

**David Stevens**  
Treasurer

**Steve Verhoff**  
Asst. Superintendent

**Board of  
Education**

**Theresa Dunaway**  
President

**Anne Zakkour**  
Vice President

**Corine Doll**  
Member

**Joellen Heatherly**  
Member

**Simon Patry**  
Member

**District Statement**

Issued by Mark Stefanik, Superintendent  
February 10, 2021

Tipp City Schools takes this opportunity to clarify misinformation being spread in the community and on social media.

- Each time a staff position is vacated or a service contract is set to expire, the district evaluates its needs using data and assessing its investment rate. Many factors may influence the evaluation. The district and Board of Education work in tandem to be good financial stewards when making decisions.
- At the end of each school year, teacher aides who are not on a continuing contract are non-renewed. Teacher aides are para-professionals who provide support to some students in the classrooms. The district bases its decision on student populations and student needs. That information is not available until summer registration is completed. In late July or early August, aides are asked their interest in returning to the position.
- Regarding the BOE's use of legal counsel, there is no guidance in Ohio Revised Code that references who may contact legal counsel for the board and/or district. The decision is left to the BOE on who may reach out to board counsel. The current district policy #0174, which has been in place for almost two decades, does not limit any board member from contacting board counsel for business related to Tipp City Schools.
- The district sought board legal counsel to clarify the BOE's role in approving library trustees. This occurred following a request from the library to add an appointment to the BOE's monthly agenda. A review of the BOE minutes indicates the Board of Education has appointed trustees to the Tipp City Public Library in the past, at least since 2013. Records indicate that no one was appointed by the BOE in 2018 and 2019, even though the terms of two seats on the Library Board of Trustees expired. The BOE needed to research the next steps to address these appointments. The BOE discovered that it is the duty and responsibility of the BOE to finalize appointments to the Library Board of Trustees. Therefore, the two trustee seats that were open at the end of 2018 and 2019 needed to be filled in accordance with the provisions of RC 3375.15.
- When COVID forced the Board of Education to hold its monthly meetings virtually, the BOE modified its public comment opportunity. Those wishing to make a public comment were asked to submit it in writing to district treasurer

Dave Stevens or board president Theresa Dunaway before the meeting. All public comments received by them were read at the respective board meeting and noted in the minutes. Letters to individual board members were not and are not considered for public comment. The BOE reverted to in-person public comments in October 2020.

- Board members take their responsibilities seriously. Each board member reads, researches, inquires, and analyzes materials to prepare for meetings and discussions. It is unrealistic to believe all BOE members will agree on all issues. They bring different experiences and points of view to the conversation. Diverse opinions based on accurate information are an asset to the district.

Community involvement is one of our great district assets; however, some community members utilize modern technology to spread misinformation that is harmful to the district and/or individual members of the district. Researching and correcting misinformation takes time and diverts attention and time away from important district business. Instead of seeking answers on unofficial sites (i.e., Facebook pages, Twitter, and other channels) to address district needs/issues effectively, please send us an email, schedule an appointment, or call the board office. My staff and I are willing to talk with community members to address any concerns and answer questions.

Tipp City Schools is a strong district. Some controversy is a part of life, but we should not let that dominate the headlines and detract from the outstanding accomplishments synonymous with Tipp City Schools. Instead, let's allow ourselves to disagree civilly based on facts and focus our attention on our fantastic district's many successes!