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CMSD School Board to Develop Goals and Guardrails and Seeks Community Feedback

Board Committee Recommends Outreach Plan to draft then adopt Goals and Guardrails

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s (CMSD) Board of Education is embarking on a three-month long process to adopt first-time Board-directed Goals and Guardrails for the district as the next step in its Student Outcomes-Focused Governance work. The Board unanimously approved a resolution to contract with the Council of the Great City Schools in September 2023 to begin a board development project focused on effective governance in service of improved student outcomes.

The Chair of the Board of Education created the Goals and Guardrails Process Implementation Planning Committee in December 2024, and the committee has developed and recommended an outreach plan for the process. The Board adopted a resolution accepting this recommendation at its meeting on January 14, 2025. The committee is also working on a review of the Board’s previously assembled stakeholder groups and outreach plans.

The Board of Education has reviewed reports from the Board’s engagement of the community during the 2023 CEO search, the CEO’s listening tour during his first year at CMSD, and Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb’s education listening tour in 2022. The Board will use these inputs and detailed district student performance data to develop the district’s draft five-year Goals and Guardrails. Once adopted, these Goals and Guardrails will drive the CEO’s performance goals.

These draft Goals and Guardrails will be communicated to the community broadly with the aim of seeking feedback to ensure the community’s input has been reflected in the Goals and Guardrails. The district will share these engagement opportunities in the coming month.

Sara Elaqaad, Chair, Cleveland Board of Education says, “The Board takes seriously its responsibility to govern the district in a manner that prioritizes student outcomes. We have been paying careful attention to our community’s input and plan to leverage it to ensure the community sees its vision and values within our priorities. The community can expect to see the agendas and content of our future Board meetings change to align with supporting student outcomes improvement aligned with this strategy. We’re doing this to put the Board’s focus exactly where it belongs: on what we as a district will be achieving for students.”

About the Cleveland Metropolitan School District

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) is Ohio's third-largest public school system, serving roughly 36,000 students. Under The Cleveland Plan, a groundbreaking reform plan created by the community and written into state law, CMSD strives to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education, regardless of the provider. To that end, CMSD lets families choose which District schools their children attend, with options that include STEM, the arts, single-gender education, International Baccalaureate, Montessori, and early college.