

BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021, 7:00 PM
at **BEACHWOOD CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM A,**
25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122

James Pasch
Justin Berns
Mike Burkons
Alec Isaacson
Barbara Bellin Janovitz
Eric Synenberg
June Taylor

Agenda Items

1. Mayor's Report
2. Discussion regarding Three -Year Pilot Program for Discounted/Fully Funded Universal Preschool
3. Citizen's Remarks
4. Any other matters coming before the Committee of the Whole

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**CITY OF BEACHWOOD
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Council; Law Department; Mayor's Office
FROM: James Pasch, President of Beachwood City Council
DATE: 10/8/2021
SUBJECT: Discounted/Fully Funded Universal Preschool Program

Council Members:

We will be holding a Committee of the Whole on 10/14 to discuss the concept of a Three-Year Pilot Program for a heavily discounted or full- funded preschool program, run by the schools and paid for or mostly paid for by the city.

I discussed this concept with the City and School Administrations. I also want to thank Councilman Isaacson for his work on this as well. Beachwood Schools were excited to learn of our possible interest in funding residents' preschool tuition fees, and they generated the attached financial information in response.

Although Beachwood Schools do not benefit financially if the City pays for universal preschool, they do support the concept because they believe it can accomplish two worthwhile goals: (1) Attracting an even greater number of young families to move into Beachwood; and (2) Preparing all students for Beachwood's rigorous Kindergarten program irrespective of a family's ability to pay for preschool.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the last fiscal year that was typical for the Fairmount Preschool was FY2019. The attached excel sheet provides details from that school year. They are representative of most years:

- District expenditures on the preschool program were - \$533,639.78 (**\$482,986.91 of that is in direct expenses of salary/benefits**)
- District revenues (from preschool tuition payments) were - \$ 497,311.92
- The preschool operated at a modest loss - (**\$36,327.86**)
- Preschool enrollment was 84 students -- this is typical
- Preschool camp profits were \$61,000 -- this is typical also

We should consider that the preschool program would likely grow. If it were to grow over time, all the way to capacity, approximately 130 students could be enrolled across nine classrooms. Costs in that scenario could increase to a maximum number just shy of \$1million annually if the City was covering 100% of the costs.

Although that universal coverage is something I would support, during this meeting we can and will discuss a number of potential options including a sliding scale of coverage, where potentially during the three-year trial period, the City covered 70% of cost(s) with parents covering the remaining 30%.

If there is an estimated 84 Beachwood preschoolers in year one (2019 numbers), the following would be the estimated city expenditures at percent of cost(s) covered for direct expenses:

- 100% covered universal preschool for residents: An estimated \$483,000
- 70% of tuition covered for residents: An estimated \$338,100
- 60% of tuition covered for residents: An estimated \$289,800

*These numbers can/will rise if the number of students rises, but there is a cap of total students.

Our nation is woefully behind when it comes to funding early childhood education. Please see yesterday's article in the NY Times: (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/upshot/child-care-biden.html?auth=login-google>).

This proposal would make us the first city in NE Ohio to provide either a universal or significantly discounted and expanded preschool program. It would show the region that our community values our children's education and are investing in our future.

I look forward to the discussion next week and the joint meeting of the Board of Education to follow.

School and City officials will be present at the Committee meeting to answer your questions.

Best regards,

James Pasch
Beachwood City Council President

Preschool FY 19			
FY 19	Instructional	Non-instructional	Total
Sal/Benefits	413,894.11	69,092.80	482,986.91
Other Costs:			
Purch Serv	7,179.00	0	7,179.00
Utilities	0	28,944.18	28,944.18
Supplies	11,758.10	1,898.79	13,656.89
Equipment	872.80	0.00	872.80
Subtotal	19,809.90	30,842.97	50,652.87
Total Costs	433,704.01	99,935.77	533,639.78
Revenues			497,311.92
Net profit/(loss)			(36,327.86)

	Children of	Children of	Children of	Total
Students	69	13	2	84

PreK Camp		Profit	\$61,000
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