

CITY OF
Beachwood



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Third Graders Help Direct Bus Seat-Belt Legislation

Class on City Government Culminates in Beachwood City Ordinance

BEACHWOOD, Ohio –Dec. 14, 2018– Third graders at Hilltop School got more than classroom experience during their recent social studies segment on local government.

Beachwood City Council members Brian Linick, James Pasch, Eric Synenberg, and Alec Isaacson participated in classroom discussions and students were then encouraged to develop ideas for city-wide legislation.

One of their ideas, to put seat belts on school buses, struck a chord: particularly with City Council VP James Pasch, who broke his neck and back in a school-bus rollover accident while in high school.

“This for me is life coming full-circle. It is extraordinary to work with my colleagues on council and at the Board of Education to prevent what happened to me from happening to any of our students. And, most importantly, this idea was borne in a third-grade classroom from the students themselves. To all of the students: thank you for being difference makers,” said Mr. Pasch.

City Council President Brian Linick brought the third-graders’ suggestion to City Council. Mayor Martin Horwitz and council members met with Beachwood City Schools Superintendent Robert Hardis and Board of Education President Brian Weiss to discuss operational details.

“The plan to outfit the District’s new school buses with seat belts, and the generosity of the City to fund this effort, demonstrates our joint commitment to protect the youth of our community,” said Dr. Hardis.

The resultant legislation, to pay up to \$250,000 for the installation of seat belts when Beachwood purchases new school buses, will be introduced at the Monday, Dec. 17 City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Beachwood’s City Hall is located at 25325 Fairmount Blvd. at Richmond Rd.

“Beachwood is truly a special city! This is further exemplified by the cooperative relationship we enjoy between the Beachwood City Schools and the City of Beachwood around the critical issues of safety and security for our students and staff. We are thankful for this partnership,” said Dr. Weiss.

“I am so proud to be part of such a groundbreaking initiative between a city and school district. I hope other communities take note and join us in promoting the installation of seat belts in all school buses,” said Mr. Linick.

Mayor Horwitz concurs. “As a long-time school board member, I appreciate the debate surrounding seat belts on school buses. It is clear, however, that a growing trend in national and state legislative efforts supports their use. I am proud of our City Council and Board of Education for leading Ohio in these efforts; this type of forward thinking has always characterized our city and schools.”

The third-grade class and their families have been invited to attend Monday’s City Council meeting and will celebrate afterwards with ice cream: the perfect reward after a long evening of legislating.

About the City of Beachwood, OH

Founded as a village in 1915, the City of Beachwood was incorporated in 1960. Conveniently located along Highway I-271, Beachwood is home to nearly 12,000 residents and more than 2,500 companies. Named “#1 Place to Live in Cuyahoga County” by *Cleveland Magazine* in 2017, Beachwood is well-known for its excellent city services, recreation facilities, highly rated schools, and low property taxes. Its diversity of residents is five times the state average in Ohio. For more information about living and working in Beachwood, visit www.BeachwoodOhio.com.

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