



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11
Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8
Dale Miller | Dist. 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Simon asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Schleper, Houser, and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Jones was absent from the meeting. Councilmember Conwell was also in attendance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 21, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Ms. Simon and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) None

6. PRESENTATION

- a) Early Matters NEO - Making Northeast Ohio a Top Place for Working Families

Ms. Michelle Rose, Chief Executive Officer of Greater Cleveland Works; Ms. Kara Porter, Chief Impact Officer for Starting Point and Ms. Shawna Rohrman, Director, Office of Early Childhood and Invest in Children, addressed the Committee and shared their vision on how Northeast Ohio can become a top place for working families, and how County Council can be supportive. Ms. Rose, Ms. Porter and Ms. Rohrman provided an overview of Early Matters Northeast Ohio; Why childcare matters; Childcare challenges; Strengths and assets to build from; Cuyahoga County childcare investments and Ohio business partnerships. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Debbie Berry, Chief of Integrated Development for Cuyahoga County, addressed the Committee and said that at the request of Councilmember Houser, she is working on a Community Benefits Agreement

and legislation, as it relates to loans that may be given out to people by the County to ensure they are giving back to Cuyahoga County. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Rose; Ms. Porter, Ms. Rohrman and Ms. Berry pertaining to the presentation, which they answered accordingly.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m., without objection.