



Blue Jackets end emotional season with stirring victory

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3 endorsed in crowded CCS race

Franklin County Democrats reveal who party backs

Jordan Laird
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Franklin County Democratic Party has endorsed three candidates in the crowded race for the Columbus City Schools Board of Education.

Ten candidates, all Democrats, are running in a nonpartisan primary on May 6. Despite a handful of Democrats speaking up at the party's April 17 meeting against endorsing any of the candi-

dates, the majority voted to endorse candidates selected by the local party's screening committee. The final vote was 92 to endorse, with nine opposed and 10 abstentions.

The party endorsed Jermaine Kennedy, Patrick Katzenmeyer and Antoinette Miranda.

Kennedy is a CCS parent and the chief program officer at Boys & Girls Club of Central Ohio. Katzenmeyer is a CCS parent and a senior project manager at The Pizzuti Companies. Miranda

is a professor and director of the school psychology program at Ohio State University and a former member of the State Board of Education who represented part of central Ohio.

Will Petrik, a county Democratic committee member, introduced a motion not to endorse anyone, saying the Democrats need to rebuild trust with Columbus voters. The motion failed by an 82-32 vote.

Eric S. Brown, a former CCS board member from 2016 to 2023 and a former Ohio Supreme Court Justice, spoke in favor of Petrik's motion.

"This is one where we can and should trust the voters," Brown said.

Franklin County Democratic Party Chairman Mike Sexton told the members in attendance that the party decides to endorse in races on a case-by-case basis. For example, in the Columbus City Council District 7 race, the party decided not to screen the three candidates – Tiara Ross, Jesse Vogel and Kate Curry-Da-Souza – for possible endorsement.

"With 10 candidates in the (CCS

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"If it's not possible, if we're so far apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he's going to say, 'well, we're done,'" Secretary of State Marco Rubio, center, said April 18 in Paris.

JULIEN DE ROSA/VIA REUTERS

Rubio says U.S. will abandon Ukraine peace push if no progress made soon

Kyiv calls talks in Paris constructive and positive

Bart H. Meijer and Gabriel Stargardter
REUTERS

PARIS – President Donald Trump will walk away from efforts to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal within days unless there are clear signs that a deal can be done, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said April 18.

"We're not going to continue with

this endeavor for weeks and months on end. So we need to determine very quickly now, and I'm talking about a matter of days, whether or not this is doable in the next few weeks," Rubio said in Paris after meeting European and Ukrainian leaders.

"If it's not possible, if we're so far apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he's going to say, 'well, we're done.'"

Three European diplomatic sources told Reuters of Rubio's comments, which coincided with signs of some pro-

gress in talks with Ukraine, reflected growing frustration in the White House over Russian intransigence to end the war.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said some progress on a peace settlement had already been made but that contacts with Washington were difficult. He said Russia was striving to resolve the conflict while ensuring its own interests. Moscow remained open to dialogue with the United States, he added.

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Closure of Chillicothe Paper Mill paused

Shutdown would affect about 800 employees

Destiny Torres and Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE – Pixelle Specialty Solutions will pause the closure of the paper mill until the end of the year, Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, announced April 18, giving state and local officials more time to come up with a Plan B.

Moreno said he spoke April 18 with H.I.G. Capital CEO Sami Mnaymneh – which acquired Pixelle three years ago – and urged the company to reconsider its plans for the 215-year-old mill. The sudden shift came just days after Pixelle announced the closure, which would affect approximately 800 employees.

"We want to attract businesses here that want to invest in people, that want to invest in communities, that want to bring capital to Ohio to create thriving businesses," Moreno said. "If your motive is to destroy, to pick apart, to sell for scrap our great companies, you will face a wrath from all levels of the government."

Moreno joined fellow Ohio Sen. Jon Husted, Gov. Mike DeWine, Attorney General Dave Yost and other leaders at an event outside Homeland Credit Union, attended by about 100 people from the community.

Pixelle had not released a new

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Businesses show support for paper mill employees, offer discounts. **2A**



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