

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
August 25, 2025

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Todd Spangler, Mr. John Weaver, Mrs. Andrea Zacharias, and Mr. Ryan Zeiter were in attendance.

Dustin Ruffell, Technology Coordinator, provided a technology update. Even though the district has only been in the new building for seven years, there have been so many advancements and changes in technology, requiring updates within the district. With the primary focus being on safety and security, the department works closely with the superintendent and treasurer to budget for these necessary updates. Mr. Ruffell also noted how integral the entire staff has been with implementing the updates. Items addressed include a full cyber assessment through NWOCA, an account cleanup, an automation of student accounts and security, and multi-factor authentication. Mr. Ruffell also explained how many updates have been made as a result of new state laws enacted by government officials, such as Senate Bill 29 and House Bill 432. Mr. Ruffell provided information on the review of the current servers within the district. There are currently 20 servers. His goal is to take the district down to one server as it would be more cost effective and there is no longer a need for that many physical servers. He also noted the technology department has rewired the middle school gymnasium's audio system, rewired the Liberty Education Center (LEC), replaced a network core, updated the phone system, computers, smart boards, and public address system. The PA system also includes a security system with lockdown buttons in the offices and emergency call buttons in the classrooms. He did note that the emergency call buttons in the classrooms have a plastic security cover to help prevent inadvertent activation of the buttons. The new PA system allows for two-way communication and includes outside speakers. When asked whether or not the system covers the spring sports complex, Mr. Ruffell said it currently does not; however, because the system is expandable, it can be added in the future.

#70-25 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 21, 2025 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Buenger provided an update on the regular monthly reports. She noted a CD came due in July and it was reinvested with Civista Bank at a rate of 4.04%. Mrs. Buenger also thanked the very generous donors. She explained that Mrs. Moody is a resident of the district and had friends visiting from Missouri. As a way to give back to the community, she took the kids shopping at Walmart for a bookbag and supplies for specific students in specific grades. They then wrote personal notes and donated the items to students in need within the district.

#71-25 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter that the Board approve the Treasurer's Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approve the financial reports, including the following:

- Monthly Bank Reconciliation
- Cash Summary Report
- Disbursement Summary Report
- Investment Report

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Approve the following donations:

Jackson Quarles/Janet Moody	Backpack and supplies for an 8 th Grade Student	
Elaina Quarles/Janet Moody	Backpack and supplies for a 5 th Grade Student	
Greysen Best/Janet Moody	Backpack and supplies for an 8 th Grade Student	
Emmersen Best/ Janet Moody	Backpack and supplies for a 5 th Grade Student	
Dr. Bob and Luann Limbird	Trumpet for the Band Program	
LC Athletic Boosters	State Track Expenses	\$1,903.75

Retroactively approve the Transportation Agreement for the 2025-26 School Year.

Declare transportation to be impractical for three students, who will be attending Monclova Christian Academy, and offer these students payment in lieu of transportation, the rate to be determined by the Ohio Department of Education for school year 2025-26.

Declare transportation to be impractical for two students, who will be attending Monclova Christian Academy, and offer these students payment in lieu of transportation, the rate to be determined by the Ohio Department of Education for school year 2025-26.

Approve the following student activity budgets for the 2025-26 school year:

Boys Soccer
Spanish Club

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update on the elementary school. They started the year with a staff cookout on Monday, August 18th. It was a great time for staff members to sit together and enjoy some sunshine while catching up on the summer and coming school year. Ms. Postl also informed the Board that Melanie Martin, the new Elementary Secretary, has been an excellent addition to the building. She has proven to be a quick learner, and the transition has been seamless.

Kindergarten students began school today. Ms. Postl informed the board there are 98 students enrolled in kindergarten. She also noted the enrollment in the elementary building has grown this year by 20 students.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update on the middle school. They had a very smooth start to the school year. He noted a few important upcoming dates. The Community Connections Day will be held on Friday, September 19th in the Varsity Gym. On Thursday, September 4th, students in the 6th grade will hold their annual Camp Willson Walk-a-thon at the football field.

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High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, the arts, and athletics in the high school. The high school will be having the “Return of the Tiger” challenge throughout the school year. He also highlighted a few new courses and curriculum. The class Math Model and Reasoning is being offered as an Algebra 2 equivalent. There is a new agricultural course, Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing, that upperclassmen can elect to take. There is also a new IXL math supplemental program.

For the arts, Mr. Radwan announced the dates for the spring musical: April 16th, 17th, and 18th. He also congratulated the marching band on their first Friday half-time performance of the year.

Lastly, Mr. Radwan wished all the fall sports athletes the best as they begin their seasons.

Athletic Director’s Report

Mr. Pohlman updated the board on the happenings in the athletic department. Meet the Team was held on Wednesday, August 20th. In a long standing tradition, the community was welcomed to Rex Lingruen Stadium for the event. There was a great turnout. Mr. Pohlman thanked the local fire department and KK Collision for providing trucks and an escort for the parade.

Mr. Pohlman highlighted a few new people in the athletic department. Easton Delgado is the new boys soccer coach. Chase Miller, a newly hired high school math teacher, will be serving as the Game Manager this year. Jameson Meyer will be volunteering in the athletic department as an intern.

Mr. Pohlman also provided an update on the fall sports teams. Football kicked off their season on Friday, beating Tinora 42-0. The girls soccer team is starting the season with a record of 2-0-1. The boys soccer team is 0-2, but both games were decided by one goal. The cross country team began their season on Saturday at the Eastwood Night Race, which is now a favorite race for the team. The volleyball team is now 2-1, with a home game tonight. The golf team has competed well and had the opportunity to golf in the Port Clinton Invite at Catawba Island and placed 15th.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Peters talked about the start of the school year. There are 994 students enrolled for the 2025-26 school year, with 33 students at the LEC. He noted it has been a great start to the school year, with today being day four for most students and the first day for kindergarteners.

Mr. Peters informed the board the district will be renting bleachers from the Henry County Fair Board for the 2025-26 school year. They will be utilized at the football stadium in the fall and at the track in the spring. A need has been expressed for additional seating at both venues, so the district is renting them to see how much the portable bleachers are used to then determine if the district should purchase additional bleachers in the future. Mr. Peters thanked the Henry County Fair Board for working with the district.

#72-25 Superintendent’s Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Weaver to board approve the Superintendent’s Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approve the bus routes for the 2025-26 school year as presented.

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Appoint Mr. Weaver as the Board's delegate and Mr. Spangler as the alternate to the OSBA's annual Capital Conference, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio from November 16-18, 2025.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#73-25 Superintendent's Personnel Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Weaver to board approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2025-26 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Through the passage of HB 583 and ORC 3319.36 and 3319.101 approve the following individuals as Substitute Teachers for the 2025-26 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license or Pre-Service Teaching license:

Arielle Bernal
Mariah Bostelman
James Clay
Shalyn Findling
Chris Garcia
Ashton Kessler
Renee Meyer

Approve the following individuals as substitutes to the department listed for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all necessary training and paperwork:

Steven Chapa – Bus Driver
Mike Clendenin – Bus Driver
Donna Crozier – Bus Driver
Kathy Curlis – Bus Driver
Jennifer Fitzenreiter – Bus Driver
Norene Keller – Bus Driver
Brian Meyer – Bus Driver
Terry Miller – Bus Driver
Deb Nash – Bus Driver
Maryann Reimund – Bus Driver
Phil Roseman – Bus Driver
Karen Savage – Bus Driver
Bill Sharpe – Bus Driver
Kevin Sonnenberg – Bus Driver
Josh Williams – Bus Driver
Diana Smith – Van Driver
Paula Maurer – Van Driver

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Ellen Bockelman – Lunchroom
Hayley Babcock – Lunchroom
Stacey Dietrich – Lunchroom
Sue Garretson – Lunchroom
Kristi Gyurasics – Lunchroom
Katelyn Konrad – Lunchroom
Bernadette Meyer – Lunchroom
Barb Maunz – Lunchroom
Karen Savage – Lunchroom
Gwen Weaver – Lunchroom
Karlla Decant – Lunchroom
Kim Firman – Lunchroom
Jamie Evans – Lunchroom
Melissa French – Lunchroom
Hayley Babcock – Custodian
Kim Firman – Custodian
Josh Williams – Custodian
Melissa French – Custodian
Kirsten Weirauch – Custodian
Rita Bare – Secretary
Riley Garretson – Secretary
DeeAnn Shafer – Secretary
Jenny Perry – Secretary

Accept the resignation of Ellen Bockelman as a Monitoring Aide, effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Approve advancing Jessica Keller, Classroom Teacher, to the Masters column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2025-26 school year. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule:

Joanne Junge – Mentor
Carrie Sines – Mentor
Megan Kolasinski – Mentor
Mary Chamberlin – Mentor
Jeanette Strauss – Family Literacy Night Facilitator
Chelsey Kester – Musical Director

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Technology Committee for the 2025-26 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Stacy Bowers: Co-chair
Carey Pogan
Kara Kellermier

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Liz Halleck
Cindy Hageman
Jacob Rupp
Ryan Miller

Appoint Kyle Storrer, Middle School Principal, and Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, as the Administrative Representatives on the Technology Committee for the 2025-26 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Evaluation Committee for the 2025-26 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Ryan Miller: Co-chair
Stephanie Sager
Teresa Detmer
Mary Chamberlin
Kathy Bailey

Appoint Greg Radwan, High School Principal, and Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, as the Administrative Representatives on the Evaluation Committee for the 2025-26 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on their respective Building Leadership Team (BLT) for the 2025-26 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Elementary:
Meggin Radlinski: Co-chair
Merry Giesige
Traci Chapman
Regina Babcock
Brittany Meyer
Mackenzie Mahnke
Lori Giesige

Middle School:
Teresa Detmer: Co-chair
Cassie Hartzell
Betsy Rees
Kim Jones
Steve Doseck
Alex Geahlen

High School:
Jessica Keller: Co-chair
Kathy Bailey
Shelley Ahleman
Diane Mott
Stephanie Sager

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Patrick O'Dwyer

Approve the following individuals to serve on the District Leadership Team (DLT) for the 2025-26 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement

Carrie Sines: Co-chair
Stephanie Sager: Co-chair
Meggin Radlinski: BLT Chair
Teresa Detmer: BLT Chair
Jessica Keller: BLT Chair
Diana Szabo
Betsy Rees
Shelley Ahleman
Stacy Bowers
Patrick O'Dwyer

Appoint the following as Administrative Representatives on the District Leadership Team for the 2025-26 school year:

Richie Peters
Katie Jimenez
Greg Radwan
Kyle Storrer
Allison Postl

Approve the following individuals to serve on their respective building Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee for the 2025-26 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Elementary:
Julie Masuwa and Annette Niekamp: Co-chairs
Emily Hill
Kara Kellermeier
Kim Rettig
Pam Righi
Dianna Szabo
Hillary McBride

Middle School:
Andrea Panning: Co-chair
Cassie Hartzell
Joanne Junge
Teresa Detmer
Luke Hutchinson
Alex Geahlen

High School:

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Diane Mott: Co-chair
Katherine Bell
Megan Kolasinski
Casey Mohler
Jeff Ressler
Amy Spieth
Chase Miller
Shelley Ahleman

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) for the 2025-26 school year with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Jodi Biederstedt: Co-chair
Betsy Rees
Kathy Bailey

Appoint Allison Postl, Elementary Principal, and Greg Radwan, High School Principal, as the Administrative Representatives on the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) for the 2025-26 school year.

Approve stipends to Liberty Center Classroom Teachers for the 2025-26 school year to serve as mentor teachers. Each stipend amount will be determined by and received from the college or university of the student teacher.

Approve Sheri Stacey as a District On-Board Instructor for the 2025-26 school year.

Offer Kelly Wolfe a one-year probationary contract as an Educational Aide and Monitoring Aide, effective August 25, 2025, pending completion of all necessary paperwork and certification. Placement on the salary schedule is pending verification of education and experience. All benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#74-25 Superintendent's Contract

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Weaver that the Board offer Richard A. Peters a five-year contract as Superintendent of Liberty Center Local Schools beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2031.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

The Finance Committee will be scheduling a meeting.

The next board meeting is September 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

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The first Senior Citizen Breakfast of the year is Thursday, September 25, 2025.

#75-25 Executive Session

Mr. Weaver made the motion and Mr. Zeiter seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:49 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.

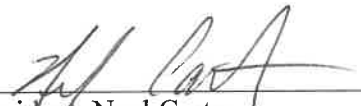
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

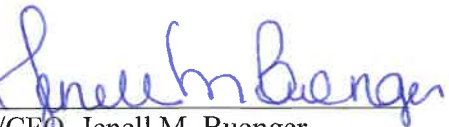
#76-25 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to adjourn the August 25, 2025 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:28 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 

Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger