

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
September 23, 2024

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Todd Spangler, Mr. John Weaver, Mrs. Andrea Zacharias, and Mr. Ryan Zeiter were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dr. Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, presented information on the state report card. The District received an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars for the 2023-24 school year. There are five components to the state report card: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, and Early Literacy. The state also looks at college, career, workforce, and military readiness, which will be factored into next year’s state report card. Liberty Center Schools received the following scores:

<u>Achievement</u>	<u>Progress</u>	<u>Gap Closing</u>	<u>Graduation</u>	<u>Early Literacy</u>
District: 5	District: 3	District: 4	District: 5	District: 3
Elementary: 5	Elementary: 3	Elementary: 5	Elementary: N/A	Elementary: 3
Middle School: 5	Middle School: 4	Middle School: 5	Middle School: N/A	Middle School: N/A
High School: 4	High School: 2	High School: 4	High School: 5	High School: N/A

These scores place Liberty Center Schools 1st in Henry County and 2nd out of 23 area schools in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties.

Looking at the breakdown by building level, the Elementary had a 4.5 star rating, placing it 4th in the four county area. The Middle School had a 5 star rating, placing it first in the four county area. The high school had a 4 star rating, placing it 10th in the four county area. Overall, Liberty Center Schools is ranked in the top 8% of all districts in the state of Ohio for performance on state tests, placing 68th out of 871.

#73-24 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 26, 2024 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 reviewed the regular monthly reports. Mrs. Buenger explained the FY25 Permanent Appropriations, noting they are \$148,022.72 higher than last fiscal year. She also explained the updated Certificate of Estimated Resources, which happens as there are increases throughout the year. Mrs. Buenger also provided information on the payment in lieu of transportation, which will be reimbursed at the ODE approved rate at the end of the school year. Mrs. Buenger provided information on Amazing Shake. It is a new supplemental position, requiring the creation of a new account, budget, and revenues.

Mrs. Buenger explained item 12 on the agenda. A “Then and Now” statement on a purchase order is required when the date of the purchase order is after the date on the invoice. This is certifying that we had the funds then, the date of the invoice, and now, the date of the purchase order. Then and Now invoices over \$3,000.00 have to be Board approved. The district started the process of changing vendors for the phone system in an effort to save money. The new vendor, Zoom Video Communications, Inc. initially provided services free of charge, with paid services beginning August 1st. However, the vendor dated their invoice in a previous fiscal year during the period of free services, and was unwilling to change the date.

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#74-24 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Weaver 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

Approve the FY25 Permanent Appropriations as presented.

Approve the updated FY25 Certificate of Estimated Resources as presented.

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 2024-25.

Approve the following donations:

LC Athletic Boosters	Football Moms' Fundraiser	\$7,780.00
AgCredit	Elementary Grade Card Envelopes	1,000 Envelopes

Approve the following new Fund and Special Cost Center, Appropriation Modification, and Amended Certificate Modification:

New Fund and Special Cost Center
018 9024 Amazing Shake

Appropriation Modification
018 9024 Amazing Shake \$1,565.00

Amended Certificate Modification
018 9024 Amazing Shake \$2,000.00

Approve the following student activity budget for the 2024-25 school year:

Amazing Shake

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

Principals' Reports

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Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update on the elementary. The PTO will be having snow cones for the students on Friday, September 27th. The PTO mum fundraiser pick-up date is scheduled for Friday, October 4th at the Spring Sports Complex.

Academically, Ms. Postl provided the following information to the Board: grades K-4 are all using ARC this year, grades K-3 are using UFLI for phonics, grades K-1 are using Heggerty, which the preschool also uses, reading and math diagnostic testing is completed for grades 2-4, and the KRA is almost complete.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer updated the Board on the middle school. A Community Connections Day was held on Friday, September 20th. Thirty local businesses participated in the event. Students were able to explore different types of jobs and careers. Each middle school student chose three different businesses that interested them and had specific questions and talking points for each. Mr. Storrer thanked the local businesses for supporting the Community Connections Day.

Mr. Storrer also provided information on a newer program in the middle school, Chess Club. Middle school students meet once per week. There are over 40 7th and 8th graders participating this year. They will compete against Pettisville in a competition in November.

Mr. Storrer also highlighted the bake sale supporting suicided prevention that was hosted during the varsity football game against Archbold. Over \$9,000.00 was raised between the two schools.

Lastly, Mr. Storrer briefly discussed the results of the state report card. The middle school was awarded a 5 star rating for the second straight year. This was the highest score for any middle school in the four county area. He noted how proud he is of the students and staff for all of the hard work that went into earning this great honor.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, the arts, and athletics in the high school. The PBIS Committee is focusing on the culture in the building. They have brought back the Tiger Challenge. He also noted students participated in a homecoming scavenger hunt last week. Additionally, Amy Schimming Remer, a 1999 graduate, came and spoke to the students. Mr. Radwan commended the student council for planning the homecoming pep rally, festivities, and parade. He also acknowledged the sophomore class officers and advisor for their work on a successful homecoming dance.

Mr. Radwan highlighted two activities in the arts department. The Art Club will be painting two plows for Swan Creek Township. He also noted there was a great turnout of band alumni for the halftime performance of the homecoming game.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. This past Friday, they were able to reveal and showcase some of the special features that the new lights offer. It was very well received and people really enjoyed it. The video on Facebook has nearly 40,000 views and 300 shares.

Mr. Pohlman also highlighted the Liberty Center Cross Country Extravaganza, which was held this past weekend at Leader's Farm. Every year, it continues to grow in size in regards to participants, spectators, and

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the number of people needed to make the event happen. Mr. Pohlman thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the day a success. There were over 1500 runners this year!

Lastly, Mr. Pohlman provided an update on fall sports:

Volleyball: 7-8

Boys Soccer: 2-5-3

Girls Soccer: 5-4-1

Football: 5-0

Golf: Boys finished 6th at leagues. Both the boys and girls will compete at Sectionals this week.

Cross Country: Both boys and girls are running well. The girls team finished 8th and the boys were 15th this past weekend.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters thanked Dr. Jimenez for her presentation on the results of the state report card. He noted it is truly a testament to the hard work and dedication our staff brings to our students and community every day. The results reflect our commitment to excellence and our ongoing efforts to support student success. Mr. Peters thanked our teachers, staff, parents, and students for this continued success.

#75-24 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Approve an overnight trip for FFA students and teachers to attend the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN from October 24-26, 2024.

Retroactively approve membership in HPS (Hospital Purchasing Service), at a cost of \$1,983.45 for the period of August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

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

Mr. Peters explained item 11. j. on the agenda. Brianna Hayden will start after her maternity leave.

#76-24 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2024-25 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 2024-25 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license:

Arielle Bernal
Carol Creque

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Chris Garcia
Mea Garretson
Michelle Gigax
Lynn Groll
Jessica Hammond
Ashton Kessler
Jody Kolbe
Sarah Millikan
Katelyn Mohler
Elizabeth Patrick
Madison Perry
Jocelyn Peterson
Natalie Rufenacht
Cassidy Watchman

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplemental position per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licensed employees, move to retroactively offer the following non-certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Bryan Hefflinger – Assistant Football Coach
Burgin Bachman – Freshman Volleyball

Approve the following volunteers for the activity listed, contingent upon completion of all necessary paperwork:

Karlee Badenhop – Volleyball
Amanda Lee – Music Department
Kyle Lee – Music Department

Retroactively approve Dakota Sines as an educational aide substitute for the 2024-25 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Evaluation Committee for the 2024-25 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Ryan Miller: Co-chair
Kaite Yungmann
Kathy Bailey
Amy Spieth
Stephanie Sager

Appoint Greg Radwan, High School Principal, and Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, as the Administrative Representatives on the Evaluation Committee for the 2024-25 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Technology Committee for the 2024-25 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

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Stacy Bowers: Co-chair
Carey Pogan
Kara Kellermeier
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 2024-25 school year.

Offer Brianna Hayden a one-year probationary contract as an Educational Aide, with crossing guard and bus aide duties. The effective date is 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.

Approve the following individuals as substitutes to the department listed for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork and training:

Robbi Robison – Custodian
Kim Firman – Custodian

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

#77-24 Approve Then and Now Purchase Order

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to approve the following “Then and Now” purchase order in accordance with ORC Section 5705.41 (D)(1) which states, “Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section and section 5705.44 of the Revised Code, make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, the amount required to meet the obligation in the fiscal year in which the contract is made, has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon. If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt by the taxing authority of the subdivision or taxing unit of a certificate of the fiscal officer stating that there was at the time of the making of such contract or order and at the time of the execution of such certificate a sufficient sum appropriated for the purpose of such contract and in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances, such taxing authority may authorize the drawing of a warrant in payment of amounts due upon such contract, but such resolution or ordinance shall be passed within thirty days after the taxing authority receives such certificate; provided that, if the amount involved is less than one hundred dollars in the case of counties or three thousand dollars in the case of all other subdivisions or taxing units, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without such affirmation of the taxing authority of the subdivision or taxing unit, if such expenditure is otherwise valid.”

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Purchase Order #2500202 to Zoom Video Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$14,035.71

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

New Business

The first Senior Citizen Breakfast of the school year is Thursday, September 26th at 8:30 in the Auditoria.

The next Board meeting is October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

#78-24 Executive Session

Mr. Weaver made the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:42 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.

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

The Board returned from executive session at 8:43 p.m.

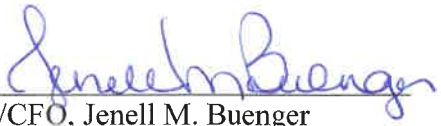
#79-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to adjourn the September 23, 2024 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:44 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