

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
February 26, 2024

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 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.

Mr. Radwan, High School Principal, and Mrs. Kester, 7-12 Choir Teacher, recognized and commended Savannah Hernandez for being selected for the OMEA All-State Honors Choir. The event consisted of three full days of rigorous rehearsals and a final performance at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in Columbus, Ohio. This ensemble is the equivalent of an individual state sport championship and acceptance into the All-State Honor Choir is the highest achievement for student musicians in the state. After a difficult audition process, Savannah was chosen from over 1,200 auditions from across the state. She is the first Liberty Center student to be accepted into this ensemble. She was awarded the All- State Honor Choir medal at the event to commemorate her achievement, talent and dedication.

#21-24 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the minutes of the Records Commission meeting held on December 18, 2023 and the Organizational and Regular meeting held on January 10, 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. She also thanked the very generous donors. Mrs. Buenger explained the resolution accepting the rates as determined by the budget commission authorizing the necessary tax levies, which is completed each year in February. Mrs. Buenger also provided information on the NwOESC agreement, which shows an increase of approximately 4.5% over the current year. The increase is mainly due to salaries, a 2.5% increase to the base, and benefits, a 4% increase for health insurance. There is also an increase in the services we receive. Costs are calculated on the number of students served, which changes every year. Services include speech, OT, PT, preschool, Special Education Supervisor services and the IEC. A review is completed twice each school year to ensure we are utilizing all of the contracted services.

Mrs. Buenger explained the appropriation and amended certificate modifications. The Career Exploration and Awareness fund is a grant we are receiving from Four County Career Center. This will be used to purchase software for career guidance and exploration, field trips to local businesses and career fairs. The Class of 2029 increase is due to the class budget being approved, which is also on the agenda. The Students in Need increases are due to the very generous donations we have received. The remaining increases and decreases are a result of reallocations of grant funds from the state and to correct grant accounts. Lastly, Mrs. Buenger reviewed the revised foundation deduction agreement with NwOESC for the 2023-24 school year. There is an increase of \$30,691.13 due to the number of students at the IEC increasing from four to five. Additionally, our preschool costs have increased due to the special needs of the students.

#22-24 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

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

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Approve the financial reports, including the following:

- Monthly Bank Reconciliation
- Cash Summary Report
- Disbursement Summary Report
- Investment Report
- Budget vs. Actual

Approve the following donations:

LCMS Social Committee	Archery Donation in Memory of Ronald Hutchinson	\$25.00
LCCTA	Archery Donation in Memory of Ronald Hutchinson	\$50.00
LC Athletic Boosters	Cheerleading Cake Raffle	\$1,099.00
LC Athletic Boosters	Bowling Raffles and Donations	\$5,265.00

Approve the resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Approve the agreement with the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center (NwOESC) to provide services beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$841,996.38.

Approve the following student activity budget for the 2023-24 school year:
 Class of 2029

Approve the following Appropriation Modifications and Amended Certificate Modifications:

Appropriation Modifications

499 9019	School Safety Grant	-\$4,165.67
499 9024	Career Exploration and Awareness	\$7,495.17
018 9103	Students in Need Fund	\$6,000.00
300 950A	Athletic Fund	\$40,000.00
499 9123	Ohio AG's School/Law Enforcement Technology Linking Safety Grant	-\$20,000.00
572 9102	Title 1D Neglected	-\$51,116.31
200 967J	Class of 2029	\$1,200.00
587 9700	Preschool Grant Expenses	-\$5,889.58
572 9104	Title 1A Improving Basic Programs	\$5,779.94
590 9204	Title 11A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$551.45
516 9714	Title VI-B IDEA B Special Education	\$180.56

Amended Certificate Modifications

499 9024	Career Exploration and Awareness	\$7,495.17
018 9103	Students in Need Fund	\$1,000.00
572 9102	Title 1D Neglected	-\$3,027.32
587 9700	Preschool Grant Expenses	\$6.97
572 9104	Title 1A Improving Basic Programs	\$5,779.94
590 9204	Title 11A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$551.45

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516 9714 Title VI-B IDEA B Special Education \$180.56

Ratify the revised Foundation Deduction Agreement with the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for Special Education services for fiscal year 2024. The foundation deduction shall be revised to an annual amount of \$731,383.42.

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. In collaboration with the Liberty Center Public Library, on February 8th, Author Mr. Jay visited the elementary. Ms. Postl also informed the Board on upcoming events. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held March 4th through the 8th during school. It will also be open on the evening of Monday, March 4th for the Literacy Night, "Wild About Reading," from 5-6:30 p.m. The PTO is sponsoring a mother vs. son dodgeball tournament on Friday, March 15th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. There is also an Urban Air fundraising event through the PTO.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update on the middle school. Several students in grades 5-8 participated in the annual spelling bee. Celia Shepsko was the winner and Mia Gyurasics was runner-up. Both have earned the honor of participating in the Henry County Spelling Bee in March. The middle school also recently hosted Tori Hope Peterson for an interview style assembly to talk with students. Jackson Ward conducted the interview. Tori Hope Petersen shared about her life in the foster care system, concentrating on perseverance and resilience. Lastly, Mr. Storrer informed the Board the following students were selected as Students of the Month for 100% Accountability: Abigail Rohrs, Sam Clapp, Will Keller and John Babcock.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, the arts and athletics in the high school. There were 36 students who recently participated in an ACT Bootcamp, led by Sylvan Learning Center. All juniors will be taking the ACT on March 26th. He also announced that the National Honor Society is holding a t-shirt drive as a service project to make dog toys for an animal shelter. Additionally, Cole Bauman, a member of Liberty Center's technology team, presented to the district technology team. He researched and learned about the different features of the new model of interactive digital boards that the district is looking into and shared the information with the committee.

Mr. Radwan congratulated Megan Grooms for having her artwork selected to be displayed at Owens Community College "Passages" high school art show. Band members also had the opportunity to perform a pop-up concert at the Liberty Center Public Library last week. It was a valuable experience for the students to work together in ensembles and showcase their talents. Mr. Radwan also congratulated the choir students selected to participate in the OMEA District 1 Honors Festival. He also provided an updated from Tenneco on the murals painted in their breakrooms by high school art students. They are very appreciative for the talent and work being done to enhance the aesthetics of their breakrooms.

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Mr. Radwan congratulated all of the winter athletes on their post season awards and good luck to those competing in the state tournaments.

Athletic Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. The winter sports season is coming to a close. The gymnastics team and girls bowling team finished their seasons last week in their respective District competitions. The boys bowling team won the NWOAL, are the Sectional Champions, and placed 3rd at Districts to qualify for State. The girls basketball team is heading to the District tournament this week after winning a Sectional Championship last week. The wrestling team had eight wrestlers qualify for Districts this weekend at Rossford. The boys basketball team won the NWOAL title for the first time since 2005 and will begin their tournament run tomorrow.

Mr. Pohlman updated the Board on changes happening at OHSAA. The OHSAA board of directors voted to increase the number of divisions for all competitive balance sports starting next school year. These sports include boys and girls soccer, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball. The individual sports are also being considered for increases in divisions but the change is less severe in nature. This is an ongoing discussion at OHSAA as they say comparing team and individual sports is like comparing apples to oranges. There is more discussion that needs to take place as there are different issues with individual sports.

Mr. Pohlman updated the Board on the progress at the Spring Sports Complex. The batter's eye construction has concluded and will just need painted on the backside. Installation of the new scoreboards has begun. The company will complete the installation process once the weather allows. The track will be inspected this week to determine if any additional layers need to be added or sealed before they stripe the track, which will take place when the moisture is completely gone on the track.

Lastly, Liberty Center hosted both the NWOAL bowling and wrestling tournaments. Both events went very well. Mr. Pohlman thanked both the Wrestling Club and Bowling Boosters who played a major role in ensuring the success of both events. Liberty Center has a reputation of hosting great events like these in every sport.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters reviewed the decision to close school on Monday, April 8th for the solar eclipse. On February 2nd, all of the Henry County Schools sent a press release to notify parents and the community that school would be closed due to the solar eclipse. The total eclipse is scheduled to occur at the same time students are dismissed, which creates several safety concerns. All scheduled athletic games have been postponed. Our plan is to allow practices later that evening unless we deem it is unsafe for students to be on the roads.

Mr. Peters also discussed the 2024-25 school year calendar, which is on the agenda for approval. We worked with both the certified and classified staffs to determine this calendar. School will begin on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 and the last day will be on Thursday, May 22, 2025. There will be a full two-week Christmas break from December 23rd through January 3rd.

#23-24 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Commend Savannah Hernandez for participating in the 2024 OMEA All-State High School Choir.

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Approve the 2024-25 school year calendar.

Approve John Patrick to serve on the Liberty Center Public Library Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2031.

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

#24-24 Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations

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

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2023-24 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Through the passage of HB 583 and ORC 3319.36 and 3319.101, retroactively approve the following individuals as Substitute Teachers for the 2023-24 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license:

Arielle Bernal
Jessica Hammond
Cadin Jaessing
Morgan Leppelmeier
Samuel Medina
Alisha Pieracini
Cole Plassman
Hayden Shultz

Approve the following individuals as chaperones for 6th Grade Camp Willson, pending completion of all necessary paperwork:

Dawn Badenhop	Aimee Naveau	Amanda Dilbone
Thomas Myers	Kristi Gyurasics	Kelly Dotson
Brian Dotson	Jeremy Kern	Celeste Croley
Kristen Campos	Ryan Sager	Lynette Shepard
Sara Lawniczak	Adam Lawniczak	Brenda Oberhauser
Nicole McClure	Daniel Wright	Dave Brink
Robert O’Neal	James Case	Stacie Maas
Joe Dilbone		

Approve Leah Leeper as a classroom volunteer for the 2023-24 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork.

Accept the retirement resignation of Kerry Homan, Classroom Teacher, effective May 31, 2024.

Accept the retirement resignation of Kathy Bishop, Classroom Teacher, effective May 31, 2024.

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Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2023-24 school year. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Supplemental Salary Schedule:

Kerry Homan – Assistant Track Coach
Matt Bryan – Assistant Track Coach
Annette Niekamp – Assistant Track Coach (50%)
Luke Crozier – Jr. High Track Coach
Raellen Merritt – Jr. High Track Coach

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2023-24 school year. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Supplemental Salary Schedule:

Kara Behnfeldt – Jr. High Track Coach
Bryan Miller – Jr. High Track Coach

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplemental positions per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licensed employees, move to offer the following non-certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2023-24 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Nikole Keil – Head Softball Coach
Darcie Mohler – JV Softball Coach
Peg Zientek – Assistant Softball Coach
Brandon Horman – JV Baseball Coach (50%)
Spencer Rader – JV Baseball Coach (50%)
Josh Ryan – Assistant Baseball Coach
Dennis Spade – Assistant Track Coach

Approve the following volunteers for the activity indicated for the 2023-24 school year, contingent upon completion of all necessary paperwork:

Lexi Meyer – Softball
Danielle Jones – Softball
Scott Barrett – Softball
Emily Young – Softball
Katie Fuller – Softball
Jenny Perry – Softball
Tom Mohler – Softball
Ben Richard – Baseball
Zach LaPlante – Baseball
Todd Spangler – Track
Kenny Barnes – Track
Sophie Long – Track
Kristi Gyurasics – Track

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Brecken Garretson – Track
Abigail Badenhop – Gymnastics
Erika Wolf – Gymnastics

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

#25-24 OHSAA Membership Resolution

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to approve the resolution for continued membership for the 2024-25 school year in the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

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

New Business

The next Board meeting is March 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Board Members' Committee Reports

The Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday to review items related to the 'Prepared Initiative.'

#26-24 Executive Session

Mr. Weaver made the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:34 for the purpose of preparing for negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees concerning compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session 8:22.

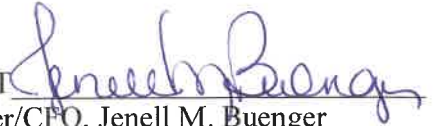
#27-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to adjourn the February 26, 2024 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:23 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