

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2024

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:01 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. Brian Baker, Northwest Ohio OSBA Representative, recognized Neal Carter and Todd Spangler for their 10 years of service to the Liberty Center Board of Education.

#44-24 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 22, 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 thanked the very generous donors for their donations and support of the various programs at the school. She explained the Ohio AG School Safety Grant, which was applied for in February and received in April. The funds are being used to add a door in the Administrative Building to our existing system. The remaining funds will go towards the purchase of an AED. Mrs. Buenger also explained the transfer of funds into the Permanent Improvement Fund for the replacement of the Varsity Gymnasium/Administrative building roof.

Mrs. Buenger updated the Board on the May Five-Year Forecast. Originally, the District was forecasted to end the year \$15,278.00 in excess revenues over expenditures. The May update increases this to \$589,180.00. The updated forecast also now shows FY25 ending the year positive, where as it was estimated to be deficit spending in the November 2023 update. FY26-FY28 continue to be forecasted as deficit spending; however, the amounts are lower than previously estimated: FY26 - \$94,915.00, FY27 - \$650,922.00, and FY28 - \$1.231 million. FY23 ended with a cash balance of \$8.67 million. The cash balance at the end of FY24 will be approximately \$9.26 million if the anticipated revenues and expenditures hold true for the last month of the fiscal year. Mrs. Buenger noted the forecasted amounts are based on conservative estimates, which typically result in higher realized amounts, specifically as the District is consistently looking for ways to reduce expenditures and ultimately decrease the projected deficit spending.

The revenues for FY24 came in much higher than anticipated primarily due to two main causes: an increase in property tax revenue and an increase in interest revenue. Henry County underwent its triennial update, resulting in a valuation increase of approximately 20%. This created an additional \$400,000.00 in revenues that was not originally forecasted. With the Fed not cutting interest rates, as had been previously predicted, interest income has remained high, resulting in an anticipated \$450,000.00 in revenues for FY24, compared to the \$263,281.00 from FY23. Mrs. Buenger noted income tax receipts were down slightly from the previous fiscal year. She also explained the open enrollment numbers for FY24. There are 196 students open enrolled in with 48 enrolling out. Last year there were 185 open enrolled in and 46 enrolled out.

Mrs. Buenger also explained the District's expenditures have remained fairly consistent from last fiscal year. Salaries and benefits account for approximately 78% of the District's budgeted expenditures. The current teacher's contract was ratified in September 2021 and included a 3% wage increase the first year and a 2.5% increase in years two and three of the contract. Mrs. Buenger highlighted the cost of substitutes for FY24 is

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down compared to previous years, as well as purchased service expenses. She also explained the District will be purchasing new computers and CleverTouch devices in preparation for next school year. Overall, Mrs. Buenger noted the District is in a much better financial position than originally anticipated.

#45-24 CFO/Treasurer’s Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver 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
- Budget vs. Actual

Approve the following donations:

Tenneco Automotive	Art Club	\$2,000.00
LC Athletic Boosters	Girls Soccer-Memorial	\$300.00
Liberty Center United Methodist Church	School Lunches – Elementary	\$125.00

After Prom

Automatic Feed Company	Brett’s Towing	Dave’s Auto Service
Davis Farm Services	Dental Excellence	Gerken Companies
Homan Seed Service	K.D.S. Trucking LLC	Lauf & Meents-Optometrist
North Star Bluescope Steel	Pisanello’s Pizza	Red Barn Sales and Service
Rivellos McDonald’s	Select Sanitation	Skye Cinema
Swanton Welding	Tiger Den Dairy Bar	Wildcat Nutrition
DRS Brennan Johnson DDS	Merry Giesige	Azul Tequila
Beauty by Jen	Sonnenberg Trucking	Conner Sonnenberg Coating
Monica Atkinson	Urban Air	Skye Zone
Janelle Cline	Bartels Family	Anthony Wayne Nutrition
Log Cabin	Regina Babcock	Mohler Family
Randy & Patty Hill	Zeb & Rachel Orr	Norm & Sarrah Zeiter
Joan Davis	Tyler Smith-DSD Express	Lori Bostelman
Susan Patton	Michelle Pieracini	Sara Vicar
Marie Herschberger	Main Stop Marathon	Circle K
Shelley Davis	Walmart-Napoleon	Shawn Wymer
Sean & Lisa Walker	Eric & Cassie Maynhart	

Approve the Five-Year Forecast as presented.

Approve the following Appropriation Modification and Amended Certificate Modification:

Appropriation Modification		
499 9020	Ohio AG School Safety Grant	\$4,477.40

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Amended Certificate Modification

499 9020 Ohio AG School Safety Grant \$4,477.40

Approve the transfer of \$200,000.00 from the General Fund to the Permanent Improvement Fund.

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. First grade students recently had their spring musical performance, A Bear Went Over the Mountain. It was a big success! Ms. Postl also highlighted the petting zoo the FFA recently held for elementary students and the 7th Grade Buddies program with elementary students.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update on the middle school. Eighth grade students recently traveled to Fort Meigs to learn about the fort and battle field. Seventh grade students had the opportunity to spend the day at BGSU to see the planetarium. While there, a group of students also had the opportunity to interview the President of BGSU for their podcast. Sixth graders recently returned from Camp Willson, where they participated in many outdoor activities and team building exercises. Lastly, all middle school students had the opportunity to enjoy field day with a variety of relay games and tournaments.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, the arts, and athletics in the high school. Seniors had a busy week with senior awards on May 13th, senior trip on May 14th and graduation on May 19th. An art show was recently hosted at the Liberty Center Public Library showcasing the work done this school year. The spring band concert was held on April 30th and the choir concert was on May 14th. Mr. Radwan also noted the Music Boosters raised \$855.99 from the electronics recycling drive. Lastly, Mr. Radwan wished the track and field athletes the best as they continue into Regionals.

Athletic Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. The NWOAL held its annual leadership conference at Sauder's. It was a great day learning about effective leadership strategies and strengths. LC representatives included Zander Zeiter, Ian Rosebrook, Tatum Oberhauser, Colbie Strayer, Ethan Gray, and Mackenzie Fuller. Brooks Miller, an Evergreen Grad and the current Head Coach Started the day with a Keynote Presentation that got everyone involved. We then did some team building exercises both by school and by separated groups with each group having a student from each league school. This included some physical challenges, brain teasers, and a spaghetti tower building competition. Wauseon AD Matt Hutchinson ended the day with a leadership inventory that allowed students to find their most effective leadership style. This led to some great, high-level conversations between the student-athletes.

Mr. Pohlman highlighted spring sports. The baseball team finished their season tonight with a makeup game with Genoa from earlier in the season and sits at 10-9. The softball team finished 16-5 and lost to Oak Harbor in the District Semi-Finals. The girls track team is the NWOAL Champion and won the District Championship

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this past weekend at Montpelier. The boys track team was the District Runner-Up. He noted that Regionals will be at Fostoria and State will be at Dayton.

The NWOAL awards an all-sports championship for the boys and girls side each year. The standings are created by giving points in reverse order of finish for each league sport based on the respective finish. The Girls are All-Sport Champions for the first time in school history. They edged out Bryan with a score of 45.5 and Bryan finished with 41.

Mr. Pohlman highlighted some numbers from the 2023-24 school year:

- 224 student-athletes, which is 66% of the student-body
- 417 sporting events
- 68% varsity winning percentage (139-59)
- 123 All-NWOAL honorees, including 4 Players of the Year, 3 Coaches of the Year, 41 1st Team, 29 2nd Team, and 46 Honorable Mention
- 5 NWOAL Championships: Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Boys Bowling, and Girls Track. This is the most LC has ever won in a single year
- 68 NWOAL Scholar-Athlete Awards with 10 student-athletes recognized as Scholar Athletes in all three sports seasons
- 5 Sectional Championships: Softball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Bowling, and Girls Soccer
- 3 District Championships: Girls Cross Country, Girls Basketball, and Girls Track
- 1 Regional Runner Up: Girls Cross Country
- 1 Regional Championship: Football
- 3 Top Ten Finishes: Wrestling, Girls Cross Country, and Boys Bowling
- 1 State Runner-Up: Football
- 1 State Champion: Competition Cheer
- 1 NWOAL All Sports Championship: LC Girls Sports Teams

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters highlighted the new hires on the agenda. Mr. Brian Meyer is being hired as the District Mechanic/Assistant to the Transportation Supervisor. Mr. Peters thanked Sonnenberg Trucking for their partnership this year in ensuring the maintenance and repair of the school's bus fleet. While the District will continue to work with them for major repairs, Mr. Meyer will be able to complete routine maintenance on the buses and assist with the repairs within the District. Mr. Radwan introduced Mrs. Shayla Benecke, the new High School Intervention Specialist. There were over 10 applicants for the position. Mrs. Benecke's experience and personality made her a great fit for the position. Mr. Pohlman noted there were 25 applicants for the Athletic Secretary position. Waverly Rue's experience and enthusiasm for the position will make for a smooth transition as Mrs. Shafer retires.

Mr. Peters also noted the last student day is May 23rd. An Employee Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Friday, May 24th at 8:00 a.m.

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#46-24 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 the Liberty Center Public Library's 2024 Proposed Budget as presented.

Approve the contract renewal for the (free) Basic Educational Technology Membership in NWOET for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Approve the amended job description for Athletic Secretary.

Approve the amended job description and title for District Mechanic/Assistant to the Transportation Supervisor.

Approve the following new and amended board policies:

#2623	#2623.02	#3120.04	#3140	#4124	#4140
#5310	#7540.03	#7540.04	#8600	#8600.04	#8640
#8650	#8660				

Approve an overnight trip for the cross country team to attend the Camp of Champs in Tiffin, OH from July 21-25, 2024.

Approve an overnight trip for the girls basketball team to attend a basketball playing camp at the Cedar Point Sports Center in Sandusky, OH from June 10-12, 2024.

Approve an overnight trip for the boys basketball team to attend a basketball playing camp at the Cedar Point Sports Center in Sandusky, OH from June 17-18, 2024.

Approve an overnight trip for the boys basketball team to attend a basketball playing camp at Findlay University in Findlay, OH from June 27-28, 2024.

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

#47-24 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 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:

Grace Elton

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Offer employment to the following individuals as part-time summer (2024) custodial employees at minimum wage, \$10.45 per hour, with no benefits, beginning approximately May 28, 2024 through approximately August 16, 2024, pending completion of all necessary paperwork:

Logan Estelle
Collin Reyes

Offer Shayla Benecke a one-year probationary contract as a High School Intervention Specialist, effective at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, pending confirmation of certification. Placement on the salary schedule is pending confirmation of coursework and credit hours. All benefits will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement.

Retroactively approve the following individuals as Educational Aide substitutes for the 2023-24 school year:

Mariah Bostelman
Cassidy Wachtman

Approve advancing Andrea Dennie, LEC Intervention Specialist, to the Masters +15 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's salary schedule, effective at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

Offer Hayley Babcock a two-year contract as Transportation Secretary, effective August 21, 2024, on an as needed basis for a minimum of 7.5 hours per week and up to 190 days, part-time, flexible schedule for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

Approve the addendum to the Administrator Contract for Sheri Stacey.

Approve the addendum to the Employment Contract for Amber Wymer.

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2024-25 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Supplemental Salary Schedule:

Kathy Bailey – Senior Class Advisor
Jessica Keller – Junior Class Advisor (50%)
Stephanie Sager – Junior Class Advisor (50%)
Heather Underwood – Sophomore Class Advisor
Jeff Ressler – Freshman Class Advisor
Patrick O'Dwyer – High School Student Council
Andrea Panning – Middle School Student Council (50%)
Liz Halleck – Middle School Student Council (50%)
Holly Weber – Elementary Student Council
Diane Mott – National Honor Society
Carrie Sines – National Junior Honor Society
Shelley Ahleman – SADD/Stand for the Silent
Shelley Ahleman – High School Quiz Team
Cassie Hartzell – Middle School Quiz Team

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Emily Hill – Elementary Art Show
Holly Weber – Jr. Great Books
Heather Underwood – District Mentor Coordinator
Matt Bryan – Tiger Tales Advisor
Jeff Ressler – Yearbook Advisor
Lynn Leatherman – Pit Band Director
Lynn Leatherman – Director of Bands
Mary Chamberlin – Elementary Musical
Amy Spieth – Art Club
Kati Weaks – Future Business Leaders of America
Chelsey Kester – Vocal Music Director
Carrie Cowger – Spanish Club
Chelsey Kester – Musical Director
Matt Bryan – Assistant Football Coach
Ryan Miller – Assistant Football Coach
Luke Crozier – Jr. High Football Coach
Raellen Merritt – Jr. High Volleyball Coach
Dylan Bush – Game Manager
Katherine Bell – Basketball Cheer Coach (50%)

Offer the following certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2024-25 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule:

Bryan Miller – Jr. High Football Coach

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplement 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 2024-25 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Chris Righi – Assistant Football Coach
Nick Miller – Assistant Football Coach
Brad Howe – Freshman Football Coach
Eric Wymer – Freshman Football Coach
Jesse Miller – Jr. High Football Coach
Sydney Arno – Basketball Cheer Coach (50%)
Mallory Dockery – Head Volleyball Coach
Stephanie Sharpe – JV Volleyball Coach
Ken Barnes – Head Cross Country Coach
Sophie Long – Jr. High Cross Country Coach
Tim Davis – Head Girls' Basketball Coach
Bruce Engler – Boys' Bowling Coach
Rick Shadday – Girls' Bowling Coach
Greg Badenhop – Head Boys' Basketball Coach

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Kenan Newbold – Head Boys’ Soccer Coach
James Norris – Assistant Boys’ Soccer Coach
Troy Westhoven – Head Wrestling Coach
Chad Ball – Head Girls’ Soccer Coach
Shane Hollenbaugh – Assistant Coach Girls’ Soccer Coach (50%)
Colleen Roth – Assistant Girls’ Soccer Coach (50%)

Offer Brian Meyer a one- year contract, with salary and benefits, as District Mechanic/Assistant to the Transportation Supervisor for 260 days beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Offer Waverly Rue a one-year probationary contract as the part time Athletic Secretary beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, for 150 work days. Her salary and benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

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

#48-24 Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to offer the following certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the positions indicated below for the 2024-25 school year. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement.

Casey Mohler – Head Varsity Football Coach
Casey Mohler – Weight Room Coordinator

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

#49-24 MOU – LCCTA

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Liberty Center Local School District Board of Education and the Liberty Center Classroom Teachers’ Association to clarify the use of sick leave.

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

New Business

The LEC Graduation is May 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the LEC.

The next Board meeting is June 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Retire/Rehire Public Hearing for Kathy Bishop will be held June 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. during the regular board meeting.

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The Retire/Rehire Public Hearing for Kerry Homan will be held June 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. during the regular board meeting.

Board Members' Committee Reports

The Facilities Committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

#50-24 Executive Session

Mr. Zeiter made the motion and Mr. Weaver seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:32 p.m. to review negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees concerning compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment and 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 8:05 p.m.


#51-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to adjourn the May 20, 2024 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:06 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