

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
May 19, 2025

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 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.

#49-25 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 28, 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 thanked the very generous donors.

Mrs. Buenger presented the May five-year forecast. Originally, the district was expected to end the year \$202,449.00 in excess revenues over expenditures. The May update increases this to \$376,890. The updated forecast has FY26 and FY27 ending the year positive and FY28 and FY29 ending the year deficit spending; however, the amount is less than previously anticipated. The updated amounts are FY26: \$591,072.00, FY27: \$157,397.00, FY28: -\$416,697.00, and FY29: -\$871,101.00. The cash balance at the end of FY25 is projected to be approximately \$9,934,377.00 if the anticipated revenues and expenditures hold true through the end 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 increase in revenues for FY25 can be attributed to higher property tax and income tax collections. The reappraisal in 2023 resulted in property values increasing. Additionally, an annual increase of 3.5% for income taxes is projected; however, the District has realized an increase of approximately 8% this fiscal year. As for state funding, the District is anticipating an increase of \$200,000.00 for FY26, but there is no increase expected for the remainder of the forecast. For FY25, grant funding also increased with the additional career technical classes at the high school. The school also received \$70,938.00 in casino tax revenue, which is approximately 3% higher than the previous two years.

Mrs. Buenger also provided information on the expenditures for the District. Salaries and benefits comprise 75% of the total expenditures. The most recent teachers' union contract included wage increases of 3.25% in FY25, 3.0% in FY26, and 2.75% in FY27. It also included a one-time ratification stipend of \$250.00, which was paid in FY25. The recently approved public school employees' contract mirrors the teachers' contract for wage increases: 3.25% in FY26, 3.0% in FY27, and 2.75% in FY28. Mrs. Buenger noted insurance premiums are set in September for the following calendar year. For 2025, health insurance increased 2%, dental insurance increased 4%, and there were slight changes to the vision plan. Mrs. Buenger is projecting a 4.5% increase for insurances throughout the forecast.

Mr. Peters noted state funding for schools is a widely discussed issue. More information will be available once the state budget is approved. It is likely the changes at the state level will have an impact on the forecast. Some of the proposals include placing a cap on the amount schools are allowed to carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

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#50-25 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias 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:

Outlaw Smokehouse

Lunch for 7th Grade Students

After Prom

Accurate Equipment

Ben DeWit

China Garden

Davis Farms

Dr. Mitchell Dermatology

KK Painting

Ninja

Pisanello's – Liberty Center

Sue Wyrembek

Walmart – Napoleon

American Freedom Fuel

Cakewalk

Country Gourmet

Dr. Carpenter

General Store

KK Collision

Orr Family

Red Barn

Sonnenberg Trucking

Wildcat Nutrition

Beauty by Jen

Casey and Mandi Mohler

CK Coating

Dr. Lauf

Holgate Metal Fab

Marcos – Delta

Peg Zientek

Subway – Napoleon

Swanton Welding

Approve the Five-Year Forecast as presented.

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

Principal's Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl introduced Melanie Martin, the new Elementary Secretary.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer did not have anything to report for the middle school.

High School

Mr. Radwan informed the Board there were 26 applicants for the 5-12 band position. He is in the process of scheduling interviews.

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Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman congratulated the 49 student athletes who graduated on Sunday. He thanked them for their commitment and dedication to athletics. Mr. Pohlman acknowledged the following award recipients: Maddie Bailey – OHSAA Scholar-Athlete, Jackson Bartels and Leah Orr – NFHS Award of Excellence, and Brady Giesige and Libby Zeiter – OHSAA Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Mr. Pohlman also recognized Maddie Bailey, Macie Krugh, Addison Zientek, Payten Hageman, and Leah Orr who all earned 4-year, 3 season athletic awards.

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on spring sports. The softball team ended their season with a close loss to Patrick Henry in Sectionals. Baseball and track and field begin their post-season this week. Mr. Pohlman wished them the best.

Mr. Pohlman informed the Board the Henry County Hospital recently performed physicals for our student athletes. This is a great tool for us to stream line efficiency for compliance before the seasons start. The hospital staff performed over 160 physicals. The Athletic Boosters cover the costs of the physicals up front and the hospital donates the money back to the school.

The school has hosted, and will continue to host, a few spring athletic events. Mr. Pohlman informed the Board we hosted the LCJH Relays and the NWOAL JH Track and Field Meet. He thanked the track coaches, athletes, maintenance staff, and other workers, included the boys basketball team and football team, who helped park cars. We will also be hosting District Softball this week.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters shared information regarding the increase in measles cases across the country and state. While there has not been a confirmed case in Henry County, he, along with the other school districts in Henry County, are working closely with the Henry County Health Department to provide information to parents over the summer and into the next school year. School age children are required by Ohio Revised Code to have their MMR vaccine unless a waiver is completed for medical or religious reasons. The health department will be providing information on how to get the vaccine to keep kids safe and in school in the event a positive case occurs.

#51-25 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Approve an overnight trip for the girls basketball team and coaches to attend a camp at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio from June 9–10, 2025.

Approve an overnight trip for the boys basketball team and coaches to attend a camp at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio from June 16–17, 2025.

Approve an overnight trip for the boys basketball team and coaches to attend a camp at the University of Findlay from June 26–27, 2025.

Approve an overnight trip for the cross country team and coaches to attend a camp in Hocking Hills, Ohio from June 12–15, 2025.

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Approve an overnight trip for the cross country team and coaches to attend a camp at Camp Glenn in Tiffin, Ohio from July 20–24, 2025.

Approve an overnight trip for the girls soccer team and coaches to participate in a beach soccer tournament in Muskegon, Michigan from July 25–27, 2025.

Approve the Liberty Center Public Library’s 2025 Proposed Budget as presented.

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

#52-25 Superintendent’s Personnel 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:

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2024-25 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Retroactively approve Peyton Armev as an educational aide substitute for the 2024-25 school year.

Approve Norene Keller as the Lead Cook beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Retroactively approve Brian Meyer as a substitute bus driver for the 2024-25 school year.

Approve the following volunteer van drivers for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork and training:

Trina Elieff
Leslie Barnes

Offer employment to the following individuals as part-time summer (2025) custodial employees at minimum wage, \$10.70 per hour, with no benefits, beginning approximately May 27, 2025 through approximately August 15, 2025:

Alan Blair
Logan Estelle

Accept the resignation of Susan Miller, Intervention Specialist, effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Offer Dustin Mays a three-year contract as the Network Assistant, beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. All insurances, leaves of absence, vacation, and holidays will be per Board Policy.

Approve the addition of Family Literacy Night Facilitator as a student activity.

Approve the job description for the Family Literacy Night Facilitator.

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Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2025-26 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%)
Alex Geahlen – Middle School Student Council (50%)
Holly Weber – Elementary Student Council
Diane Mott – National Honor Society
Carrie Sines – National Junior Honor Society
Jeff Ressler – SADD/Stand for the Silent
Shelley Ahleman – High School Quiz Team
Cassie Hartzell – Middle School Quiz Team
Emily Hill – Elementary Art Show
Holly Weber – Jr. Great Books
Heather Underwood – District Mentor Coordinator
Jeff Ressler – Yearbook Advisor
Mary Chamberlin – Elementary Musical
Amy Spieth – Art Club
Kati Weaks – Future Business Leaders of America
Chelsey Kester – Vocal Music Director
Carrie Cowger – Spanish Club
Nicole Carter – Drug Free Club
Nicole Carter – Archery (50%)
Luke Hutchinson – Archery (50%)
Pam Righi – Amazing Shake
Stacy Bowers – Amazing Shake
Stacy Bowers – District Publicist

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 2025-26 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Mallory Dockery – Head Volleyball Coach
Ken Barnes – Head Cross Country Coach
Chad Ball – Head Girls' Soccer Coach
Easton Delgado – Head Boys' Soccer Coach
Shelley Davis – Football Cheer Coach
Brian Dotson – Head Golf Coach

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Offer Melanie Martin a one-year probationary contract as Elementary Secretary beginning with the 2025-26 school year. 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

#53-25 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to offer the following certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the positions indicated below for the 2025-26 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

The LEC Graduation will take place on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at the LEC.

The Staff Appreciation Breakfast is Friday, May 23, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in the Auditoria.

The next board meeting is June 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Retire/Rehire Public Hearing for Jeanette Strauss will be held on June 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. during the regular board meeting.

Facilities Committee Update: Now that graduation is over, the roof project will be scheduled.

#54-25 Executive Session

Mrs. Zacharias made the motion and Mr. Weaver seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 7:19 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

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

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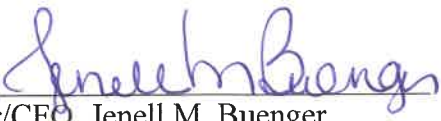
#55-25 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to adjourn the May 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:51 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 

Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger