

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
September 22, 2025

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 22, 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. A moment of silence was held in memory of Connie Zeiter.

Dr. Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, presented information on the 2024-25 district report card results. The district received a rating of 4.5 stars, with the following breakdown per component: Achievement: 5 stars, Progress: 3 stars, Gap Closing: 5 stars, Graduation: 5 stars, Early Literacy: 3 stars, College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness: 5 stars. When looking at the overall rating points, Liberty Center Schools earned 3.906 points. As a district, we are proud to announce that this score puts Liberty Center Schools first out of the 23 districts in the four-county area. This places the district in the top 10% of all districts in the state of Ohio, earning 62nd out of 607 districts.

Mrs. Jimenez explained each building level's specific information. The elementary earned 4.5 stars, ranking 5th in the four-county area. The middle school earned 5 stars, ranking 1st in the four-county area. The high school earned 4 stars and ranked 5th in the area. Mrs. Jimenez will be working with the staff to review the data. Each building has its own unique strengths and targeted growth areas. These will be used moving forward to build on the pathway of the Prepared Initiative.

The elementary earned 5 stars for Achievement, 5 stars for Gap Closing, 3 stars for Early Literacy, and 4 stars for Progress/Growth. They will be utilizing a new MTSS system, a digital RIMP platform, and data-driven interventions to assist students. The middle school earned 5 stars for Achievement, 4 stars for Progress, and 5 stars for Gap Closing. They will be dedicating a block of time to intervention/enrichment and utilizing iReady to target ELA vocabulary and math number sense. The high school earned 4 stars for Achievement, 2 stars for Progress, 3 stars for Gap Closing, 5 stars for Graduation Rate, and 5 stars for College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness. The high school will continue the 'Tiger Vision' program and concentrate on financial literacy, business tours, career exploration, and focus on growth measures.

Mrs. Jimenez noted that as a district, we are extremely proud of these results, but we want to continue to get better. The goal is to strengthen student growth outcomes alongside high achievement. We will be monitoring the impact of the new intervention systems and schedules, with the focus remaining on the Prepared Initiative.

#77-25 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 25, 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 also explained the appropriation and amended certificate modifications. They are a result of ODE changing the district's grant allocations and student activity budgets being submitted after the June deadline. Mrs. Buenger also provided information on the permanent appropriations and certificate of estimated resources. The FY26 appropriations total \$24,088,395.92 which is \$1,195,012.02 more than last year. The FY26 certificate of estimated resources is updated to include the new grant allocation amounts and student activity budgets.

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Mrs. Buenger reviewed the information on the Financial Forecast. She met with the Finance Committee last week for an in-depth analysis of the forecast. She reviewed highlights for both the revenues and expenditures. The district is anticipating an increase of \$201,290.00 for FY26 in State Foundation Funding. In FY27, we are forecasting an increase of \$34,278.00. She noted that open enrollment increased by 5 students this year, from 170 to 175. Enrolled out students decreased by 10, from 49 last year to 39 this year. Total enrollment saw an increase of 22 students from last year, from 1,001 to 1,023. Mrs. Buenger also informed the Board that the Career Tech funding is projected to be approximately \$9,000.00 more than last year, for a total of \$125,000.00. The district received two Medicaid payments in FY25: \$82,057 for FY22 and \$72,103 for FY23. Typically, only one Medicaid payment is received per fiscal year. Interest income has been higher than expected due to higher interest rates. Mrs. Buenger is projecting interest income to decrease slightly as rates have been decreasing. All of this will be dependent on the decisions of the Federal Reserve. Lastly for revenues, in FY24 the district received \$793,301 in Excess Costs for students at the LEC. In FY25 it was down to \$681,183. The amount is anticipated to be higher this year as the LEC will be serving more students from other area districts.

Mrs. Buenger also explained the expenditure portion of the forecast. Salaries and benefits total approximately 75% of the district's budget. Mrs. Buenger noted that the district's retirement costs have increased recently and are expected to continue to increase as the retirement age and years of service requirements for STRS and SERS change.

Mrs. Buenger highlighted the Excess Revenues Over Expenditures line of the forecast. Based on the conservative projections for FY26, the district is expected to end the year with a positive balance of \$165,630.00.

Mrs. Zacharias asked when the last time a property tax was levied for operation expenses. Mr. Peters informed the Board the last property tax levy for operating funds was passed in 1988. The most recent operating levy was in 2006, but it was an income tax levy.

#78-25 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:

Approve the financial reports, including the following:

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

Approve the following donations:

LC Athletic Boosters	Football Moms Raffle Fundraiser	\$7,900.00
Henry County Hospital	Donation for 2025 Sports Physicals	\$3,360.00
Jerry and Alice Geiger	Donation of 1941-1976 Yearbooks	
Archbold, OH		

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

Class of 2030

Approve the following New Fund and Special Cost Center, Appropriation Modifications and Amended Certificate Modifications:

New Fund

200 963D Drug Free Club

Appropriation Modifications

300 951D	Boys Soccer	\$1,275.00
200 925A	Spanish Club	\$1,000.00
551 9700	LEP Grant (NWOESC)	\$138.16
516 9714	IDEA B Special Ed	\$229,378.78
572 9102	Title I-D Neglected	-\$3,052.63
584 9022	Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	\$10,000.00
590 9204	Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$21,932.64
572 9104	Title I A Improving Basic Programs	-\$3,448.60
200 967A	Class of 2030	\$2,000.00

Amended Certificate Modifications

300 951D	Boys Soccer	\$1,100.00
200 925A	Spanish Club	\$1,700.00
551 9700	LEP Grant (NWOESC)	\$71.66
572 9102	Title I-D Neglected	-\$3,052.63
590 9204	Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$10,783.03
572 9104	Title I A Improving Basic Programs	-\$3,448.60
200 967A	Class of 2030	\$2,000.00

Approve the FY26 Permanent Appropriations as presented.

Approve the updated FY26 Certificate of Estimated Resources as presented.

Approve the Financial Forecast as presented.

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. She noted that the building is excited to earn a 4.5 star rating again this year. Ms. Postl also highlighted activities in the elementary. As part of learning the letter 'T', kindergarten students recently had a guest speaker who raises turtles. On Friday, the homecoming court,

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cheerleaders, and football players greeted students as they entered the building. This is a highlight for the students every year!

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update on the middle school. On September 4th, 6th grade students participated in the annual Camp Willson Walk-a-thon. The money raised from this event helps offset the costs of camp for all 6th graders. Mr. Storrer also told the Board how proud he is of the students and staff for earning another 5 star rating. He is planning a celebration on October 10th to recognize this achievement. Lastly, Mr. Storrer thanked all of the local businesses who participated in the Career Connections Day last Friday. It was a great opportunity for students to engage in conversations with potential future employers and explore various career paths.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, the arts, and athletics in the high school. After last year's success, they have the 'Return of the Tiger' challenge this year. Mr. Radwan also highlighted the building earning 5 stars for the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness on the state report card. Additionally, Mr. Radwan informed the Board about the recent University of Toledo college visit that was open to junior and senior students, as well as the weekend's homecoming festivities.

For the arts, Mr. Radwan announced the dates of the spring musical, which will be held April 16th, 17th, and 18th. He also congratulated the band and choir for their performances at Friday's football game.

Mr. Radwan congratulated all of the fall sports teams and athletes and wished them the best as they finish their season and head into the postseason.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman updated the board on athletics. This past weekend was the cross-country LC Extravaganza. Over 60 schools participated with over 1,600 runners. This event continues to grow and was our largest one yet. Mr. Pohlman thanked all of the volunteers and workers who made the event a success. Mr. Pohlman also congratulated Mason Like on setting a new school record at the event. The girls teams placed third.

Mr. Pohlman highlighted the flyover conducted by the 180th at the Swanton versus Liberty Center football game on September 12th. It was a great experience for all involved.

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on fall sports. The boys and girls soccer teams are continuing to compete at a high level. The boys team is 4-6. The girls team is 5-3-2. Both cross country teams ran well at the LCXC Extravaganza. The volleyball team is 9-5. The golf team had two individuals make the all-league team at the league tournament last week. Mr. Pohlman informed the Board he will announce all of the all-league honorees at the end of the season.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters congratulated the Board, students, staff, parents, and community for earning a 4.5 star on the state report card. He also thanked Mrs. Buenger for her work on the forecast. Mr. Peters informed the Board about the positive feedback that has been received about the additional seating at the football stadium. Through a partnership with the Henry County Fair Board, we have been able to rent their portable bleachers for the fall sports season. Mr. Peters will be meeting with the Facility Committee to review the options for portable

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bleachers, including capacity, dimensions, and portability between the football stadium and the track at the spring sports complex.

#79-25 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler 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 29 – November 1, 2025.

Retroactively approve membership in HPS (Hospital Purchasing Service), at a cost of \$2,164.47 for the period of August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.

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

#80-25 Superintendent's Personnel Consent Agenda

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

Karina Dickinson
Mea Garretson
Jody Kolbe
Tara Leahy
Makayla Mays
Danielle McClay
Joshua Miller
Kathryn Mohler
Jennifer Perry
Molly Perry
Ethan Purny
Taylor Rogers
Anna Wendt

Retroactively approve Taylor Rogers as an Educational Aide substitute for the 2025-26 school year.

Approve the following individual 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:

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Regina Babcock: Co-chair

Approve the following classroom volunteers for the 2025-26 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Rachel Amstutz	Jenna Andrews	Andrea Babcock
Crystal Blankenship	Rudi Bogner	Tasha Burdue
Celeste Coey	Kara DeLaCerde	Kendall Detmer
Robin Griffith	Elizabeth Gruver	Janaye Guess
Ashley Guyer	Riley Guyer	David Harrison
Kelly Hill	Arika Hoffman	Ashley Huffman
Kaylie Johnson	Ashton Kessler	Brooke Kleeberger
Katie Kurtz	Sara Lemaster	Emily Lumbardo
Kortney Mack	Kayleigh Martin	Jessica Meadors
Christi Miller	Emily Miller	Bridget Murphy
Megan Oehler	Diane Phelps	Denise Radlinski
Waverly Rue	Brianna Schoenlein	Megan Schwab
Chyenney Shipman	Cathy Smith	Emily Stacey
Kristin Stacey	Sarah Taft	Jenna Tammarine
Hannah Thomas	Adream Watson	Stephanie Williams
Jessica Wittenmyer	Kenny Wittenmyer	Alicia Wohlfarth
Nick Wohlfarth		

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplemental positions per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licenses employees, move to offer the following non-certified individuals a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork, with a salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Greg Badenhop – Head Boys Basketball Coach
Tim Davis – Head Girls Basketball Coach
Troy Westhoven – Head Wrestling Coach
Rick Shadday – Head Girls Bowling Coach
Sydney Arno – Basketball Cheer Coach (50%)
Josh Drain – Head Baseball Coach

Offer the following individual 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:

Katherine Bell – Basketball Cheer Coach (50%)

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

The next board meeting is October 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

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

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The Facility Committee and Policy Committee will both be scheduling meetings.

#81-25 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to adjourn the September 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:54 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