

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Organizational and Regular Board Meeting
January 12, 2026

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room for the purpose of reorganization of the Board of Education for calendar year 2026, as well as the regular January meeting.

The oath of office was administered to re-elected Liberty Center School Board of Education member Mr. Neal Carter and newly elected members Mr. Kyle Kern and Mrs. Andrea Oyer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board members Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Kyle Kern, Mrs. Andrea Oyer, Mr. Todd Spangler, and Mr. Ryan Zeiter were in attendance.

#1-26 Election of President

President Pro Tempore, Mr. Spangler, declared nominations open for the office of President of the Board of Education for the calendar year 2026. Mr. Kern nominated Mr. Zeiter. Mr. Spangler nominated Mr. Carter. Mr. Spangler asked for a motion to close the nominations. The motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Carter. The vote to close nominations was unanimous with all members voting yes. Motion passed.

Vote for Mr. Carter to serve as President: Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler, Mrs. Oyer

Vote for Mr. Zeiter to serve as President: Mr. Kern, Mr. Zeiter

Mr. Carter was declared the 2026 Board President.

#2-26 Election of Vice-President

President Pro Tempore, Mr. Spangler, declared nominations open for the office of Vice-President of the Board of Education for the calendar year 2026. Mrs. Oyer nominated Mr. Spangler. There were no other nominations. Mr. Spangler asked for a motion to close the nominations. The motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mrs. Oyer. The vote to close nominations was unanimous with all members voting yes. Motion passed.

Vote for Mr. Spangler to serve as Vice-President: Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter

Mr. Spangler was declared the 2026 Board Vice-President.

The Oath of Office was administered by Mrs. Buenger, Treasurer, to the newly elected President and Vice-President. Mr. Carter then took over the meeting as President.

#3-26 Proposal to Establish Meeting Date and Time

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mrs. Oyer to establish the regular meeting date as the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., except for May, June, July, November and December, in the Board Room. Below is a schedule of the meeting dates for 2026:

February 23rd
March 23rd
April 27th
May 18th

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June 29th
July 20th
August 24th
September 28th
October 26th
November 16th
December 14th

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#4-26 Establish District Records Commission

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter that the Board of Education’s District Records Commission shall be comprised of the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#5-26 Authorize the Treasurer to Request an Advance Tax Draw

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to request from the Henry County Auditor and Fulton County Auditor an advance draw of taxes during calendar year 2026 if and/or when necessary funds are available.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#6-26 Establish Board Service Fund

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter that the Board establish a Service Fund for the Board of Education in the amount of \$8,000.00 for calendar year 2026.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#7-26 Approve Legal Firms

The motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler that the Board approves the following legal firms for district legal services during calendar year 2026:

Ennis Britton Co. L.P.A.
Squire Patton Boggs (US) L.L.P.
O’Toole, McLaughlin, Dooley & Pecora Co., LLC

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler
Nays: None – Motion Carried

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#8-26 Appoint Superintendent as Purchasing Agent

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mrs. Oyer to appoint Superintendent, Richie Peters, as the purchasing agent for the Liberty Center School District for calendar year 2026.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#9-26 Authorize Superintendent to Enter Into Agreements

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter that the Superintendent, Richie Peters, be authorized to enter into collective and individual agreements with Ohio Colleges and Universities, on behalf of the Board of Education, for terms related to the College Credit Plus Program.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#10-26 Authorize the Superintendent to Accept Resignations

The motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler that the Board authorizes the Superintendent, Richie Peters, on behalf of this Board, to accept resignations which have been submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session, subject to ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance. The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of the Board.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#11-26 Authorize the Superintendent to Offer Employment

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter that the Board authorizes the Superintendent, Richie Peters, during periods when this Board is not in session, to make offers of employment directly to candidates for either teaching or nonteaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to a subsequent vote of ratification by this Board, provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer. The authorization shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#12-26 Committee Appointments by the Board President for Calendar Year 2026

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mrs. Oyer to approve the following committee appointments for calendar year 2026:

Board Facilities Committee: Neal Carter and Todd Spangler
Board Policy Review Committee: Neal Carter and Kyle Kern
Board Student Achievement Liaisons: Kyle Kern and Todd Spangler
Board Legislative Liaison: Andrea Oyer

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Board Representative to L.C. Schools Education Foundation Board: Andrea Oyer
Board Finance Committee: Andrea Oyer and Ryan Zeiter
Board Representative to Board Bargaining Teams: Neal Carter

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#13-26 Henry County Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve Richie Peters, Superintendent, as the district's representative to the Henry County Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC).

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#14-26 Treasurer Pro Tempore in the Absence of the Treasurer

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to appoint the Board Vice-President as the Treasurer Pro Tempore in the absence of the Treasurer.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#15-26 Public Records Designee

The motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler to appoint the Superintendent and/or Treasurer as a designee to attend public record access training required for Board members for each term of office.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern
Nays: None – Motion Carried

The regular January meeting of the Liberty Center Schools Board of Education immediately followed the Organizational meeting with all board members still in attendance.

#16-26 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 15, 2025 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer
Nays: None – Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Buenger noted the office has been very busy with calendar year end preparations and report filings. Our Payroll Specialist, Bre Niedzwiecki, processed 300 W-2's for 2025. This includes 145 employees, as well as substitutes, coaches, and board members. Kristin Bauman, Accounts Payable Specialist, processed 27 1099's as part of the calendar year end procedures. The 1099's are for non-employee compensation of \$600 or more. Mrs. Buenger informed the Board she submitted 46 applications for excess costs for FY25. She explained they are for special needs students who are not residents of the district, which includes students who are open enrolled

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into the district, or students who are court placed at the LEC. The actual costs to educate these students exceed the amount set by the state. We are also working on our 2025 state audit.

#17-26 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

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

Liberty Center students and staff members collected gifts to donate to House of Ruth, a division of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy as part of our companion service project for healthy relationships (Dating Violence Prevention) initiative.

LC Athletic Boosters	State Cross Country Hotel Rooms	\$1,659.00
Chambers Control – Kirk Chambers	Girls Basketball Camp Fund	\$250.00
Chambers Control – Kirk Chambers	Boys Basketball Camp Fund	\$250.00
Foundation Steel LLC	Football Moms – Banquet Meal	\$2,500.00
John and Kati Weaks	Football Rings	\$1,000.00
LC Athletic Boosters	Cheerleader Fundraiser	\$4,500.00
Vicars Heating & Air Conditioning	Girls Basketball Camp Fund	\$200.00

Approve the following Appropriation Modifications, Amended Certificate Modifications, and Intra-Fund Transfers:

Appropriation Modifications

572 9102	Title 1-D Neglected Even Year Disadvantaged Youth	\$24.95
022 9516	Tournament Fund – Football	\$3,032.00
022 9523	Tournament Fund – Cross Country	\$3,600.00
022 9512	Tournament Fund – Boys Basketball	\$10,000.00
572 9104	Title 1-A Improving Basic Programs	\$626.36
590 9204	Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$442.97
584 9022	Title IV-A Student Support & Academic Achievement	\$69.37
516 9714	IDEA B Special Education	\$22,256.27
587 9700	Subsidy Preschool Grant (NwOESC)	(\$115.38)

Amended Certificate Modifications

572 9102	Title 1-D Neglected Even Year Disadvantaged Youth	\$10,024.95
022 9516	Tournament Fund – Football	\$3,032.00
022 9523	Tournament Fund – Cross Country	\$3,600.00

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022 9512	Tournament Fund – Boys Basketball	\$10,000.00
572 9104	Title 1-A Improving Basic Programs	\$626.36
590 9204	Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	\$442.97
584 9022	Title IV-A Student Support & Academic Achievement	\$69.37
516 9714	IDEA B Special Education	\$22,256.27
587 9700	Subsidy Preschool Grant (NwOESC)	(\$33.31)

Intra-Fund Transfers

572 9103	Title 1 Neglected Odd Year Disadvantaged Youth	(\$36,238.21)
572 9102	Title 1 Neglected Even Year Disadvantaged Youth	\$36,238.21

Approve the 2026 mileage rate at the current IRS rate of \$0.725 per mile for all non-union employees. All LCCTA and OAPSE members will receive mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate of \$0.725 per mile. The Athletic mileage rate is set per the LCCTA Contract at \$0.32 per mile.

Adopt the Alternative Tax Budget Packet for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027) as shown and that this packet be submitted to the Henry County Budget Commission.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler
 Nays: None – Motion Carried

Superintendent’s Report

As part of School Board Recognition Month, Mr. Peters thanked each of the board members for their service and dedication to the students at Liberty Center Schools. He noted that serving on the school board requires a significant amount of time and a strong sense of responsibility. We are grateful for the work completed to guide the district. Their decisions and leadership have a lasting impact on our schools, and we sincerely appreciate their willingness to serve.

Mr. Peters highlighted the review and approval of the Wellness Policy, which is required annually. He also explained the daily wage increase for substitute aides is due to the increase in the state’s minimum wage for 2026.

#18-26 Superintendent’s Consent Agenda

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

Approve participation in the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund Consultant Service at a cost of \$250.00 for calendar year 2026.

Approve membership in the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) at a cost of \$5,447.00 for calendar year 2026.

Review and approve policy #8510 – Wellness.

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Having completed the graduation requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the Liberty Center Board of Education, retroactively approve the following students as graduates of Liberty Center Local Schools:

Jacob Rayner – December 19, 2025
Kaya Berlin – December 19, 2025
Kirsten Cox – November 14, 2025

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#19-26 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler to board approve the Superintendent's Personnel 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 individual as a Substitute Teachers for the 2025-26 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license or Pre-Service Teaching license:

Lindsay Bergman
Alex Buchhop
Carly Grime
Aubrey Pennington
Nevaeh Powers
Brooklyn Reineke
Shelby Roe
Brodey Roth
Sara Thielman
Layton Willson

Approve advancing MacKenzie Armeay, Classroom Teacher, to the 150+ column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the second semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Approve advancing Julie Masuwa, Classroom Teacher, to the Masters +15 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the second semester of the 2025-26 school year.

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:

Pam Righi – Head Girls Track Coach
Annette Niekamp – Assistant Track Coach (50%)
Matt Bryan – Assistant Track Coach

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Luke Crozier – JH Track Coach
Bryan Miller – JH Track Coach
Kara Behnfeldt – JH Assistant Track 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 2025-26 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Rob Myers – Head Boys Track Coach
Kerry Homan – Assistant Track Coach
Kristi Gyurasics – JH Assistant Track Coach
Nikole Keil – Head Softball Coach
Samantha Engler – Assistant Softball Coach
Peg Zientek – JV Softball Coach

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

Ken Barnes – Track
Elle Mohler – Track
Gracie Miller – Track
Brecken Garretson – Track
Todd Spangler – Track
Dalani Woods – Wrestlerette

Accept the retirement resignation of Kati Weaks, Classroom Teacher, effective May 31, 2026.

Approve increasing the substitute aide pay to \$77.00 per day, effective January 1, 2026.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

The Finance Committee will be meeting before the next Board meeting.

#20-26 Executive Session

Mr. Zeiter made the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern
Nays: None – Motion Carried

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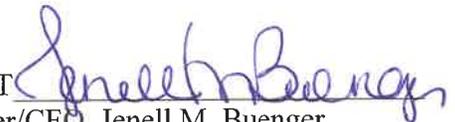
#21-26 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Carter to adjourn the January 12, 2026 organizational and regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:07 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Carter, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Oyer
Nays: None – Motion Carried



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger