

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
May 22, 2023

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members Mr. Jeff Benson, Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Todd Spangler, Mr. John Weaver and Mrs. Andi Zacharias were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Pohlman recognized the Competition Cheer Team for their runner-up finish at the State competition.

#44-23 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 24, 2023 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Buenger reported on the regular monthly reports. She explained the SORSA insurance policy. The total amount is \$518 less than last year. The District now has a \$2,500.00 deductible for automobile physical damage, \$5,000.00 for property and \$10,000.00 for educator's legal liability. Previously, the District had no deductible. Additionally, the building and business personal property limit has increased by \$3,911,998.00 from \$61,838,883.00 to \$65,750,881.00. The automobile physical damage limit increased by \$49,514.00 from \$1,155,731.00 to \$1,205,245.00 due to the new buses purchased this year.

Mrs. Buenger updated the Board on the Five-Year Forecast. The Finance Committee met on May 8th to review the forecast in detail. Originally, the 2022-23 school year was forecasted to end \$50,900.00 positive. The updated forecast is to now end the year at \$10,041.00 positive.

The Five-Year Forecast shows a small revenue increase over FY24-27. The forecast shows a slight increase in the property tax line. Mrs. Buenger is projecting this to increase 1.5% over the next three years. Tangible personal property tax also decreased slightly. It is forecasted to decrease 1% each year due to the depreciation of the pipeline and Nexus challenging the valuation. Income taxes increased by 5.75%. For the forecast, Mrs. Buenger is projecting a 4% increase for FY24-27. For the State Foundation payments, the new state funding formula has made a significant impact on this line, with a large portion coming from the funding following student enrollment. As a result of the District's open enrolled in versus open enrolled out, the District has seen an increase of \$1 million in funding in this line with the funding change. For 2022-23, there were 185 students open enrolled in, compared to 175 last year. This year, there were 46 open enrolled out, compared to 47 last year. Mrs. Buenger also noted the catastrophic costs are reimbursed through the restricted grants in aid line on the forecast. Last year we received \$15,103.00, which was 47% of the amount approved by ODE. This year, ODE approved \$125,708 in catastrophic costs, but we will not know our percentage of reimbursement until June. For line 1.05, Mrs. Buenger also projected a 1.5% increase, just as the property tax line is forecasted for FY24-27. Lastly for revenues, Mrs. Buenger informed the Board the Medicaid reimbursement for this year is delayed and may not be received until next fiscal year.

Expenditures are also expected to increase over the Five-Year Forecast. Salaries and benefits account for approximately 78% of the budget. Salaries increase each year as negotiated with LCCTA and OAPSE. Mrs. Buenger anticipates benefits to increase 10% each year of the forecast. Substitute costs were slightly lower for the 2022-23 school year at \$140,000.00. The purchased services line includes expenditures for special education services, utilities, maintenance and repair agreements, school resource officer, and school nurse

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services, all of which are expected to increase. Mrs. Buenger is also projecting supply costs to increase by 4% each year. Mrs. Buenger noted there has not been a need to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Lunchroom Fund, and she does not anticipate a need to transfer funds for a few years as the current balance is \$328,000.00. She also highlighted the grant funds the District receives, which were over \$1 million this year, and used for salaries, benefits, computer software, supplies, purchased services, buses and security items. The current forecast shows a projection of deficit spending beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

#45-23 CFO/Treasurer’s Consent Agenda

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

Approve the following donations:

Liberty Center United Methodist Church	School Lunches – Elementary Students	\$300.00
LC Athletic Boosters	State Bowling Expenses – Hotel/Meals	\$1,577.80
LC Athletic Boosters	State Wrestling Expenses – Hotel	\$2,000.00
Three Cord LLC	After Prom T-shirts	\$1,243.55

After Prom:

KK Collision	Sharpe Design	Tigers Dairy Bar
Pisanello’s Pizza	Avinas	Linda Kramer
Bretts Towing	KDS Trucking	J Brennan & A Johnson LTD
Lauf & Meents	Dave’s Auto Service	Tom Oelkrug
North Star Steel	Automatic Feed	Select Sanitation
Davis Farm Service	Swanton Welding	Scott & Charlyn Barrett
Red Barn	Sattler Meats	Hill Asphalt
Maumee Bay Turf	Gerken Paving	Homan Seeds
LC Athletic Dept.	Dental Excellence	Civista Bank
April Shank	Amanda Podach	Heidi Miller
Lisa Brown	Jody Meller	Beverly Gurney
Darci Tammarine	Erica Blanton	Amanda Tallent
Krista Gerken	Robin Weaver	Stacey Hagen
Brooke Keefer	Sara Bateman	Jessica Smith
Martha Gebers	Kimberly Jones	Amanda Mohler
Angie Spradlin		

Renew the property, fleet and liability insurance policies with SORSA (Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority), Frost Insurance Agency, at a total annual premium of \$84,178.00. This policy will be in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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Approve the Five-Year Forecast as presented.

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

Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update for the Elementary. The spring state test results were recently received. In 3rd grade, 71% of Liberty Center students were proficient or higher for ELA and 83% were proficient or higher in math. The state average was 59% for ELA and 62% for math. In 4th grade, 89% of Liberty Center students were proficient or higher in ELA and 94% were proficient or higher in math. The state average was 59% for ELA and 67% for math. Ms. Postl noted how proud she is of all the students.

The elementary field day is scheduled for May 24th, with grades K-2 behind the K-12 building and grades 3-4 at the Spring Sports Complex. Ms. Postl also highlighted the spring music performances by 1st grade, 3rd grade and the students who participated in the Special Olympics.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update for the Middle School. On May 5th, Mr. Leatherman hosted an outdoor spring band concert for students in grades 5-12. He also highlighted the sixth grade students who attended Camp Willson. He thanked the staff and chaperones for a successful camp experience for the students. Mr. Storrer also informed the Board the National Junior Honor Society held their induction ceremony and the middle school had their awards program on May 18th.

High School

Mr. Radwan highlighted events and activities in the High School, including academics, arts and athletics. The senior class awards ceremony is scheduled for May 25th at 7:00 p.m. Graduation is May 28th at 2:30 p.m. He also noted the state test results have been received. He also highlighted the spring band concert on May 5th and spring choir concert on May 11th. Mr. Radwan congratulated the spring sports teams on their successful seasons and recognized the track and field athletes competing in regionals this week.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman provided the Board with a year in review for athletics. There were 612 school sponsored sporting events during the 2022-23 school year. 323 students in grades 7-12 participated in athletics. In grades 9-12, there were 226 student athletes, which is 62% of the high school student population. Throughout all sports, there were 96 individual honorees at the NWOAL, with 27 First Team, 32 Second Team, 35 Honorable Mention and two Coaches of the Year. For the 2022-23 school year, there were 71 Scholar Athletes. This is awarded to seniors who have a 3.5 GPA and letter in their respective season. Eight individuals earned this honor all three seasons and 15 earned it two seasons. Mr. Pohlman also announced there are 54 graduating seniors who have been involved in athletics this year. He wished them the best in their future endeavors. Lastly, Mr. Pohlman recognized Xander Myers as a Wrestling State Champion, the football team for their Regional Championship, the girls cross country team, girls basketball team and girls cross country team for earning District Championships and the following for representing Liberty Center Schools at the State Level: girls cross country, football, wrestling, boys bowling, gymnastics, diving, girls track, boys track and the competition cheer team.

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Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters thanked Jenell for her diligent work on preparing the Five-Year Forecast. He noted with deficit spending projected to occur in fiscal year 2024, the District will continue to seek ways to operate in the most cost-effective manner in order to reduce expenditures in hopes that the revenues will exceed expenditures by this time next year.

Mr. Peters noted the Policy Committee met on May 11th to review the policies on the agenda.

He also highlighted the current vacancies within the District, including an educational aide, lunchroom aide and bus driver. The hope is to have all of the hiring completed by the June Board Meeting.

Mr. Peters reminded the Board and public of upcoming events, including the LEC graduation on Thursday, May 25th at 11:00 a.m. at the LEC, staff appreciation breakfast on May 26th at 8:00 a.m. in the Auditoria, and graduation on Sunday, May 28th at 2:30 p.m. in the Varsity Gym.

#46-23 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Approve the girls basketball team and coaches for an overnight trip to attend a team basketball camp at the Cedar Point Sports Complex from June 12-14, 2023.

Approve the boys basketball team and coaches for an overnight trip to attend a team basketball camp at the University of Findlay from June 8-9, 2023.

Approve the boys basketball team and coaches for an overnight trip to attend a team basketball camp at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne from June 20-21, 2023.

Approve the Liberty Center Public Library's 2023 Proposed Budget as presented.

Approve the following new and amended board policies:

#131.1	#1615	#2114	#2271	#2412	#3215			
#4215	#5512	#5310	#5460	#5610	#6325		#7434	
#7540	#7540.01	#7540.02	#7540.03	#7540.04	#8120	#8300	#8305	
#8315	#8390	#8400			#8420	#8462	#8600	
#9160	#9700.01							

Approve the deletion of the following board policies:

#3120.09	#4120.09
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VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Carter

Nays: None – Motion Carried

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#47-23 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

Approve the NwoESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2022-23 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Approve the transfer of Jillian Kabwata from Lunchroom Cashier/Cook – 6.5 hours to Lunchroom Cashier – 3.75 hours, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Accept the resignation of Norene Keller, Bus Driver and Educational Aide, effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Approve the transfer of Norene Keller from Lunchroom Aide – 2.5 hours to Lunchroom Cook – 6.5 hours, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Approve the transfer of Karlla DeCant from Lunchroom Cook – 6.5 hours to Lunchroom Cashier – 6.5 hours, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Approve the transfer of Michelle Gowing from Lunchroom Aide – 3.5 hours to Lunchroom Cook – 6 hours, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Approve the transfer of Kim Bergstedt from Lunchroom Aide – 3.5 hours to Lunchroom Aide – 3 hours, beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Accept the resignation of Larry Black, LEC Principal, effective April 25, 2023.

Offer employment to Makayla Mays as a part time summer 2023 custodial employee at the hourly rate of \$10.10 per hour, with no benefits, beginning approximately May 30, 2023 through approximately August 25, 2023, pending completion of all necessary paperwork.

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplement position per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licensed employees, move to retroactively offer the following non-certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2022-23 school year, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Dennis Spade – Assistant Track Coach

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2023-24 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%)

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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
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
Nicole Carter – Archery Advisor (50%)
Luke Hutchinson – Archery Advisor (50%)
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
Doug Hinton – Freshman Boys’ Basketball Coach
Dylan Bush – Game Manager

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2023-24 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement’s Salary Schedule:

Paul Amstutz – Assistant Football Coach
Bryan Miller – Jr. High Football Coach
Jon Mignin – Assistant Girls’ Basketball Coach
Kyle Bostater – Assistant Boys’ Basketball 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 2023-24 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

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Chris Righi – Assistant Football Coach
Nick Miller – Assistant Football Coach
Brad Howe – Freshman Football Coach
Eric Wymer – Freshman Football Coach
James Whitmire – Jr. High Football Coach
Jesse Miller – Jr. High Football Coach
Ken Barnes – Head Cross Country Coach
Tim Davis – Head Girls’ Basketball Coach
Josh Williams – Assistant Girls’ Basketball Coach
Braelyn Wymer – Freshman Girls’ Basketball Coach
Casey Underwood – Girls’ Jr. High Basketball Coach
Taylor Snyder – Girls’ Jr. High Basketball Coach
Bruce Engler – Boys’ Bowling Coach
Rick Shadday – Girls’ Bowling Coach
Greg Badenhop – Head Boys’ Basketball Coach
Justin Frye – Assistant Boys’ Basketball Coach
Kyle Pieracini – Jr. High Boys’ Basketball Coach
Jesse Miller – Jr. High Boys’ Basketball Coach
Kenan Newbold – Head Boys’ Soccer Coach
James Norris – Assistant Boys’ Soccer Coach
Troy Westhoven – Head Wrestling Coach
Brian A. Dotson – Assistant Wrestling Coach
Tyler Short – Assistant Wrestling Coach
Linnea Short – Wrestlerettes
Chad Ball – Head Girls’ Soccer Coach
Shane Hollenbaugh – Assistant Coach Girls’ Soccer Coach (50%)
Colleen Roth – Assistant Girls’ Soccer Coach (50%)
Brian O. Dotson – Head Golf Coach
Bryce Trapp – Assistant Band Director

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

Todd Spangler – Football
Becky Keller – Girls’ Soccer
Logan Meyer – Boys’ Basketball
Dylan Bush – Boys’ Basketball
Rod Metzger – Boys’ Bowling

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

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#48-23 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Spangler to offer the following certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the positions indicated below for the 2023-24 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. Benson, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Carter
Abstain: Mrs. Zacharias
Nays: None – Motion Carried

New Business

LEC Graduation: May 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the LEC

Employee Appreciation Breakfast: May 26, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the Auditoria

Graduation: May 28, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in the Varsity Gymnasium

The next Board meeting is June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Retire/Rehire Public Hearing for Donna Eickholt: June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Board Meeting

#49-23 Executive Session

The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Spangler to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the District.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

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

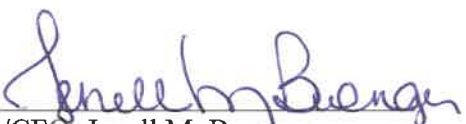
#50-23 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to adjourn the May 22, 2023 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:48 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger