

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Organizational and Regular Board Meeting
January 11, 2023

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met on Monday, January 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room for the purpose of reorganization of the Board of Education for calendar year 2023, as well as the regular January meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board members Mr. Jeff Benson, Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Todd Spangler, Mr. John Weaver, and Mrs. Andrea Zacharias were in attendance.

#1-23 Election of President

President Pro Tempore, Mrs. Zacharias, declared nominations open for the office of President of the Board of Education for the calendar year 2023. Mr. Spangler nominated Mr. Carter. Mr. Weaver seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Zacharias asked for a motion to close the nominations. The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Weaver. The vote to close nominations was unanimous with all members voting yes. Motion passed.

Vote for Mr. Carter to serve as President: Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias

Mr. Carter was declared the 2023 Board President.

#2-23 Election of Vice-President

President Pro Tempore, Mrs. Zacharias, declared nominations open for the office of Vice-President of the Board of Education for the calendar year 2023. Mr. Weaver nominated Mrs. Zacharias. Mr. Benson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Zacharias asked for a motion to close the nominations. The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Weaver. The vote to close nominations was unanimous with all members voting yes. Motion passed.

Vote for Mrs. Zacharias to serve as Vice-President: Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias.

Mrs. Zacharias was declared the 2023 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.

#3-23 Proposal to Establish Meeting Date and Time

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to establish the regular meeting date as the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., except for July, November and December, in the Board Room. Below is a schedule of the meeting dates for 2023:

February 27th
March 27th
April 24th
May 22nd
June 26th
July 17th

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August 28th
September 25th
October 23rd
November 20th
December 18th

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

#4-23 Establish District Records Commission

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

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

#5-23 Authorize the Treasurer to Request an Advance Tax Draw

The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Weaver 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 2023 if and/or when necessary funds are available.

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

#6-23 Establish Board Service Fund

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias that the Board establish a Service Fund for the Board of Education in the amount of \$8,000.00 for calendar year 2023.

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

#7-23 Approve Legal Firms

The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Weaver that the Board approves the following legal firms for district legal services during calendar year 2023:

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

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

#8-23 Appoint Superintendent as Purchasing Agent

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Spangler to appoint Superintendent, Richie Peters, as the purchasing agent for the Liberty Center School District for calendar year 2023.

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

#9-23 Authorize Superintendent to Enter Into Agreements

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson 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. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#10-23 Authorize the Superintendent to Accept Resignations

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias 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: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#11-23 Authorize the Superintendent to Offer Employment

The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias 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: Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Weaver
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#12-23 Committee Appointments by the Board President for Calendar Year 2023

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the following committee appointments for calendar year 2023:

Board Facilities Committee: Todd Spangler and Neal Carter

Board Policy Review Committee: Jeff Benson and Neal Carter

Board Student Achievement Liaisons: Todd Spangler and John Weaver

Board Legislative Liaison: John Weaver

Board Representative to L.C. Schools Education Foundation Board: Andi Zacharias

Board Finance Committee: Jeff Benson and Andi Zacharias

Board Representative to Board Bargaining Teams: Neal Carter

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

#13-23 Henry County Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council

The motion was made by Mr. Benson 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. Spangler, Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson
Nays: None – Motion Carried

#14-23 Treasurer Pro Tempore in the Absence of the Treasurer

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

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

#15-23 Public Records Designee

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Benson 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: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Benson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Spangler
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.

#16-23 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2022 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Public Participation

Rory Strugalski, a parent in the District, registered for public participation. He requested the Board consider implementing a notification system of when a teacher is out and which substitute will be in the classroom. He expressed this request after he and his wife, Kristen, asked the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for the information for a preschool teacher and was denied the information. Mr. Strugalski then emailed Superintendent Peters to ask if the District provided the information. He said he felt Mr. Peters dismissed his question and read a portion of the email Mr. Peters sent him explaining that the District does not send out teacher absence and substitute information. Mr. Peters' response did include that every substitute is properly certified, including a background check. Mr. Strugalski expressed that he did not think a background was sufficient. Mr. Strugalski stated he would like to be notified when teachers are out and who the substitute is so

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parents are aware of who is in their child's classroom. Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Strugalski and informed him the Board would look into its options on the matter.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Buenger noted the office has been very busy with calendar year end preparations and report filings. Excess Cost Reporting opened in December for FY22. They are due by January 25, 2023. Mrs. Buenger reported she filed 52 applications this year. Excess costs are when the total cost to educate a student with a disability exceeds the amount received from the state and applies to any open enrolled student with a disability, including LEC students. Mrs. Buenger anticipates receiving the first payment for excess costs in the second Foundation payment in February. She estimates the amount will be approximately \$550,000.00.

For calendar year end, Breanna processed 292 W2's and Kristin processed 26 1099's. Additionally, the State Auditors have been in the District. They hope to have everything completed in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Buenger reported on the regular monthly reports. She noted the increase in the IRS mileage rate for 2023 from \$0.625 to \$0.655. Mrs. Buenger also explained the recommendation for the Board to approve the resolution for blanket purchase orders to meet the requirements set by the state as well as Board Policy.

#17-23 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 2023 mileage rate at \$0.655 per mile for all non-union employees. All LCCTA and OAPSE members will receive mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate of \$0.655 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 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) as shown and that this packet be submitted to the Henry County Budget Commission.

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

Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update for the Elementary. Fourth graders are currently focusing on a mystery unit. Deputy Nicky explained how fingerprinting works and Deputy Glanz and K9 Andy came to the school to

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present information on their detective work. Ms. Postl also highlighted the KinderStart's field trip to the local post office.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer provided an update for the Middle School. He noted the sixth graders are working on rock cycle projects in science class. They each took part in presenting a variety of projects about the rock cycle to their classmates, including the creation of children's books, posters, songs, comic strips and slide shows. Mr. Storrer also congratulated Paige Hill, Mia Gyurasics and Trinity Oberhauser for winning in the Henry County Calendar Coloring Contest. Lastly, Mr. Storrer told the Board about the recent PBIS activity "One Word" where students and staff could choose one word to describe themselves/others and made a collage on the wall in the hallway with the words.

High School

Mr. Radwan highlighted events and activities in the High School, including academics, arts and athletics. He noted students are ready for the second semester to begin, with new electives being offered to students. There were 18 students who received training and certification in CPR/AEDs. Mr. Radwan noted that the High School is exploring a Drug Free Club where students can certify to be drug free, which they can then include on job and college applications.

Mr. Radwan congratulated the students selected for OMEA Honors Band and OMEA Honors Choir. He also commended winter sport athletes on their successes at the beginning of the season.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman reported winter sports are well underway. The boys basketball team is 5-4 as they head into the second half of the season. They were runner-up at the Henry County Classic and will play St. Francis at the Rossford MLK Classic on Monday. The girls basketball team is 12-1. They are currently the #1 seed in the District and ranked #1 in the most recent poll released by the Toledo Blade. The wrestling team has competed at some very tough invitationals, most recently the PIT Tournament in Perrysburg. They placed 11th as a team and had four individual placers. The wrestling team has been ranked as the #3 seed for the State Wrestling Duals that will take place in February. The bowling teams are currently in second place in the league. Wes Wilhelm had the first 300 in school history. The gymnastics team competed in the Beauty and the Beast Invite in Findlay. Calla Oelkrug placed first in the all-around.

Mr. Pohlman noted the girls basketball team is collecting items for the Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission, which is a non-profit organization that combats poverty in Henry, Defiance, Fulton, Paulding, Van Wert and Willams counties.

The Athletic Boosters are in the midst of their winter fundraiser. There are having a putting contest during halftime of varsity basketball games. Individuals can buy a ticket for a chance to putt a golf ball 94 feet across the gym floor into a hole to win \$500.00. It has been well received. They are also preparing for the "Night at the Races" event on March 25th. This has been a successful fundraiser in the past for the Athletic Boosters.

Mr. Pohlman also reported he has been working with the Athletic Boosters and Hall of Fame Committee on the new Hall of Fame in the commons area. The plan is to have a touch screen monitor with updated bios for all previous inductees and future inductees. He recently met with a software company to review designs and next steps in the process. This will be available in person, but also online.

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Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters discussed the calendar options for the 2023-24 school year. He noted each option would start after the Henry County Fair and conclude before Memorial Day. The length of Christmas break varies, but is approximately two weeks for each option. The plan is to present a calendar at the February board meeting for approval.

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.

#18-23 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Approve the Wrestling team and coaches for an overnight trip to attend the Coldwater Wrestling Tournament on January 13-14, 2023.

Approve the Wrestling team and coaches for an overnight trip to attend the Sally George Wrestling Invite at Marion Pleasant on January 27-28, 2023.

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

- Makayla Hessler – Effective January 3, 2023
- Isaiah Hufford – Effective December 22, 2022
- Korey Minnich – Effective December 22, 2022

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

#19-23 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Benson 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 following individuals as Substitute Teachers for the 2022-23 school year with the Non-Bachelors 1 Year Temporary License:

- Brooklyn Reineke
- Nicholas Yates

Retroactively approve Sarah Feehan as a tutor for an elementary student for a maximum of 20 hours per week starting January 1, 2023 through the end of the 2022-23 school year.

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Approve the following volunteers for the activity indicated for the 2022-23 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Bethany Wolf – Gymnastics
Erika Wolf – Gymnastics
Pam Righi – Indoor Track
Rob Myers – Indoor Track
Matt Bryan – Indoor Track
Brandon Readshaw – Archery

Approve the following classroom volunteer for the 2022-23 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Marlea Myles

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

#20-23 Personnel Recommendation

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve Kathleen Benson as a Substitute Teacher for the 2022-23 school year with the Non-Bachelors 1 Year Temporary License.

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

#21-23 Blanket Purchase Order Resolution

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the resolution authorizing the Treasurer to execute 'blanket' and 'super blanket' purchase orders and 'blanket' purchase orders to not exceed \$50,000.00 unless approved by the Board of Education.

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

Facility Committee

Mr. Peters informed the Board the liner panels for the commons are on backorder. Once received, the District will be able to closeout the remodel project for the Varsity Gym/Admin Building.

Education Foundation

Mrs. Zacharias reported the Liberty Center Education Foundation membership drive is underway.

#22-23 Executive Session

The motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Weaver that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the District.

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The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:52 p.m.

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

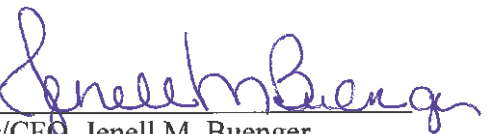
#23-23 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to adjourn the January 11, 2023 organizational and regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 6:53 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 

Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger