

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting**  
**September 28, 2020**

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2020 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.

**#94-20 Approve Minutes**

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 24, 2020 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 highlighted the donations, noting that over 1,500 masks have been donated to the school for staff and students, a generous donation was made to assist less fortunate children, and the Athletic Boosters donated two televisions for the new concession building and \$35,000 towards the cost of the restroom/concession facility. Mrs. Buenger provided an update on the new fund and special cost center, as well as the appropriation increases. The CRF grant is additional CARES funding and will be used for PPE and online instruction through NOVA. Last month \$81,771.08 was appropriated. The total is actually \$54,782.25, which is why there is a decrease this month.

Mrs. Buenger explained the FY21 Permanent Appropriations. Last year \$19,421,041.11 was appropriated. Due to the completed building project, this year's amount is \$18,959,532.29. She also informed the Board the increase in Certificate of Estimated Resources is due to additional grant allocations and student activity budgets that were submitted after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**#95-20 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda**

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler 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
- FIN SUM
- Check Register
- Investment Report

Approve the following donations:

The Gerken Companies	360 Student Masks	
Anonymous	Handmade Masks for Students and Staff	
Napoleon Physical Therapy	Football Mom's – Team Meal	\$200.00
UAW Local 86	Golf Tournament Proceeds for Meals for Less Fortunate Students	\$500.00
State of Ohio	1100 Face Masks	
LC Athletic Boosters	2 Smart TV's for Concession Building	\$831.64
LC Athletic Boosters	Restroom/Concession Building	\$35,000.00

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

<b>New Fund and Special Cost Center</b>		
510 9021	BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant	
<b>Increase Appropriations</b>		
510 9021	BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant	\$4,500.00
300 955A	Archery Club	\$7,000.00
467 9020	Student Wellness and Success	\$25,164.49
510 9921	CRF	(\$26,988.83)
<b>Increase Amended Certificate</b>		
510 9021	BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant	\$4,500.00
300 955A	Archery Club	\$7,500.00
467 9020	Student Wellness and Success	\$25,164.49
510 9921	CRF	(\$26,988.83)

Declare transportation to be impractical for one parochial student who will be attending Northwest Ohio Classical Academy and offer this student payment in lieu of transportation, the rate to be determined by the Ohio Department of Education for school year 2020-21.

Approve the following student activity budget for the 2020-21 school year:  
Archery Club

Approve the FY21 Permanent Appropriations as presented.

Approve the Certificate of Estimated Resources as presented.

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

**Principals' Reports**

**Elementary School**

Ms. Postl provided an update on beginning of the year testing in the Elementary. The building uses NWEA Map for reading and math in grades 1-3 and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) for kindergarten students. The diagnostic deadline for reading is September 30, 2020 in order to identify students who are “on-track” and “not-on-track” to pass the state’s third grade reading test. The reading portion was completed last week. The math portion will be given this week.

American Reading Company conducted virtual professional development last week that catered to teachers who have not received official ARC training. The Elementary staff was also joined by two Middle School intervention teachers as they plan to implement the intervention toolkits with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

For fire prevention week, kindergarten students will be walking to the fire station and firefighters will visit the preschool classes.

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The number of Elementary students participating in online learning through NOVA has decreased to 32.

A Halloween parade is being planned for Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Even though parent volunteers are not allowed due to COVID-19, the community is encouraged to line the streets and support the students dressed up in their costumes. More information will be forthcoming.

**Middle School**

Mr. Radwan provided an update on the Middle School diagnostic data. Utilizing iReady, they have identified areas and strategies for improvement in both reading and math. Additionally, the Guidance Department conducted 34 presentations in grades 6-12 to educate students about the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, and the resources available to help students in the event of a mental crisis. Mr. Radwan also highlighted the drive-by rally parade held for Caydyn Eagleton, a middle school student battling cancer. The Liberty Center community and school came together to show their support for Caydyn with over 100 vehicles participating. Additionally, the staff raised over \$900 to give to the family for travel expenses. The eighth grade football team presented Caydyn with a game ball. Lastly, Mr. Radwan noted his goal to increase communication in the Middle School. He is sending a weekly newsletter to parents and regularly posts to the Middle School social media accounts.

**High School Principal**

Mr. Black congratulated the following Homecoming Court members: Queen – Cassidy Chapa, Senior Attendant – Samantha Graber, Junior Attendant – Riley Garretson, Sophomore Attendant – Reagan Simon and Freshman Attendant – Emerson Gray.

Mr. Black noted the school year is going well. He thanked the students, parents and staff for working together to follow the guidelines set by the Henry County Health Department and the county superintendents, which has required a considerable amount of cooperation.

Mr. Black informed the Board that senior yearbook pictures will be taken on October 1<sup>st</sup>, with Four County Career Center students taken first, followed by Liberty Center students. There is no cost to students, and it will guarantee all students have their picture in the yearbook.

**Athletic Director's Report**

Mr. Pohlman provided the following updates:

- Fall Sports
  - Boys Soccer (2-6-2) (0-3-1 in the league)
  - Girls Soccer (4-2-2) (1-1-1 in the league)
  - Volleyball (6-8) (1-3 in the league)
  - Football (3-2) Sitting tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league standings
  - Cross Country
    - Girls just won the first annual LCXC Extravaganza in the Division 1/2 race. We had 5 of the top 8 runners.
    - Boys finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Division 1/2 Race. Top 3 runners were 5, 14, 24
  - Golf just competed at the League tournament. They have shown a lot of improvement over the year. They will compete in sectional tournament this week.
- Playoffs

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- OHSAA has made some financial decisions when it comes to participation. There is now a participation fee for golf, cross country, bowling, gymnastics, and track and field.
- No team expenses will be paid for this year's postseason. This includes transportation and meals that will now be the responsibility of the school.
- The LC Athletic Department is committed to giving our student-athletes the opportunity to compete at the highest level, so these financial changes will not affect our sports.
- Football playoffs have been expanded so every team will make the playoffs. The amount of games hosted by the higher seed has been increased so there is a possibility of hosting more games at Liberty Center. They have not alluded to any changes in attendance amounts for those games.
- OHSAA Updates
  - Still working on changes for winter sports season.
  - Big change that came at the end of last week was that we can now compete against different schools on the same day in contact sports.
  - Inspectors have been sent out to football, soccer, and volleyball games. The biggest point of emphasis that has not been passed is keeping social distance of those not on the field/court. This is something we have made a concerted effort to do after our incident.
- Restroom/Concession Facility
  - Have heard nothing but good things from the community. One comment was that "This place is really coming together" (speaking about the whole campus).
- Senior Nights
  - Due to COVID Restrictions by the OHSAA and ODH there have been a couple modifications to the senior night format but we will be recognizing all the seniors and their families. We have not been told whether there will be any inspectors at our events, but want to keep the same high standard of follow through even if they aren't there.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Peters commended the students, staff, parents, and community for their cooperative efforts to ensure students are able to attend school in person. He noted the confidence of the district is constantly increasing and communication has been key.

The bond refunding that was started a year ago has been finalized. We were able to capitalize on the current low interest rates and save the taxpayers of Liberty Center School District \$3,146,245.75. This is *not* new money for the district. This is a savings district residents will see on their property taxes. On an annual basis, the owner of a \$100,000 home will see a property tax reduction of .59 mills, which equates to \$20.65 per year.

Power has officially been generating through the solar panels since September 17<sup>th</sup>. This energy saving system is projected to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs over the next thirty years.

Mr. Peters informed the Board the District enrollment is down 38 students, or 3.8%. This is not surprising due to COVID-19; however, this decline in enrollment is less when compared to other districts. When looking at overall enrollment, the District has a net positive of 117 when considering both open enrolled in and open enrolled out. There are no kindergarten students open enrolled out.

Mr. Peters noted the Senior Citizen Breakfasts are postponed due to COVID-19.

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**#96-20 Superintendent's Consent Agenda**

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

Having completed the requirements established by the State Department of Education and the Liberty Center Board of Education, approve Jessie Daniel Musinski as a graduate of Liberty Center Local Schools, effective September 28, 2020.

Approve the Emergency Operations Plans for the District, Elementary School, Middle School and High School.

Retroactively approve membership in HPS (Hospital Purchasing Service), at a cost of \$992.78 for the period of August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

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

**#97-20 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations**

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

Approve advancing Betsy Rees, Classroom Teacher, to the Masters +15 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's salary schedule, retroactively effective at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

Retroactively offer Laura Myers a one-year probationary contract as a bus driver beginning September 4, 2020 through September 3, 2021. She will start at step 2 on the OAPSE Wage Schedule. All benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Approve the NWOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2020-21 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Approve Hayley Babcock as the District's On-Board Instructor for the 2020-21 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork. Her salary will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Approve Ashley Chapa, Intervention Specialist, as a homebound tutor for a middle school student for a maximum of five hours per week through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Approve Robin Davis as a substitute in the lunchroom for the 2020-21 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork.

Approve advancing Ashley Chapa, Intervention Specialist, to the Masters +30 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's salary schedule, retroactively effective at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

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

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**#98-20 Memorandum of Understanding**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Local 414 of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees to offer Ms. Hillary McBride, Paraprofessional, a one-year limited teaching contract to be the teacher of record for the online education option. Upon completion of the one-year limited contract, she will return to her paraprofessional position, retaining her seniority in OAPSE.

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

**#99-20 Personnel: One-Year Teaching Assignment**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Benson to retroactively offer Hillary McBride a one-year limited teaching contract effective September 21, 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 school year. This is a one-year assignment to support online learning due to COVID-19.

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

**#100-20 Personnel: Crossing Guard Contract**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to retroactively offer Hillary McBride a limited contract as a crossing guard, effective September 21, 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Her rate will be \$25 per student day.

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

**New Business**

The next Board Meeting is October 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members' Committee Reports**

The Finance Committee and Facilities Committee will be scheduling meetings.

**#101-20 Executive Session**

The motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Weaver that the Board enter Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. to consider confidential information related to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic assistance and for the purpose of employment of a public employee of the District.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

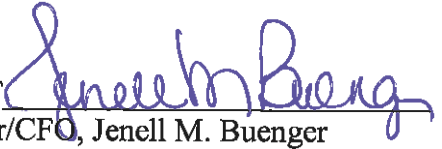
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**#102-20 Adjournment**

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Benson to adjourn the September 28, 2020 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:14 p.m.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Neal Carter

ATTEST   
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger