

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
April 27, 2026

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. 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.

Mr. Radwan recognized and commended the Class of 2026 Valedictorians.

#37-26 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 23, 2026 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Treasurer’s Report

Mrs. Buenger reported on the regular monthly reports. She noted on the Budget vs. Actual report that the revenues are already at 83.6% for the year. One of the main reasons for this is that the payment for Excess Costs was received in March. The payment was \$784,834.00 for 46 students, 30 of whom attended the LEC. Mrs. Buenger thanked the very generous donors. She also explained the Revised Foundation Deduction Agreement with the ESC. The ESC understands the financial challenges school districts are facing. They reviewed ways they could operate more efficiently. Some of the changes being made to lower costs include more strategic use of supervisors and coordinators, as well as adjustments to preschool screenings and play-based assessments. The District’s total savings from this is \$48,700.15.

Mr. Carter recognized Mrs. Buenger and her staff for earning the Auditor of State Award on their audit.

#38-26 CFO/Treasurer’s Consent Agenda

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

K Kern Painting	State Championship Football Rings	\$500.00
Red Barn	State Championship Football Rings	\$500.00
Swanton Welding	State Championship Football Rings	\$500.00
Crossbuck Construction	State Championship Football Rings	\$500.00
Holgate Metal Fab	State Championship Football Rings	\$500.00
Liberty Center United	School Meals	\$212.00
Methodist Church		

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The Family of Michael A. Feffer	Memorials to the Music Department	\$345.00
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Approve the Revised Foundation Deduction Agreement with the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for Special Education services for fiscal year 2027. The foundation deduction amount shall be revised to an annual amount of \$1,032,365.71.

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

Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl highlighted students and events in the elementary. She announced the 4th grade Amazing Shake top five students and winner: Paul Tejkl-Bauman, Case Carter, Everly Spangler, Jaelyn Norden, and winner Hazel Holt. She also recognized the kindergarten students and staff for a successful Farm Show. Lastly, Ms. Postl highlighted the elementary students for their art work at the Elementary Art Show, which is being held at the Liberty Center Public Library. She noted that her Principal's Award went to Everly Spangler for her tiger art work.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer highlighted students and activities in the middle school. He recognized the following Students of the Month for Live to Give: Leah Martin, Emma Schroeder, Doug Pieracini, and Korie Westhoven. He highlighted the mini-manufacturing day the 6th grade students recently attended at Northwest State Community College, which was led by local businesses. He also noted that students in the middle school would be taking the math state tests this week. 5th and 8th grade students will take the science state tests next week.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on high school academics, the arts, and athletics. Mr. Radwan highlighted the National Honor Society's service project and donations to the Henry County Humane Society. The students had the opportunity to visit the HCHS to drop off their donations and learn more about the operation of the humane society. He also noted the recent Contractor's Day that students attended, and the Food Science 2 class visit to Sattler's Meats in Napoleon. Mr. Radwan also announced the senior awards will be held May 14th and underclassmen awards will be on May 21st.

Mr. Radwan announced the High School Art Show will be held at the Liberty Center Public Library from May 1st through the 8th. He also acknowledged the cast and crew of this year's musical, *Legally Blonde*. He explained that both he and Mrs. Jimenez made cameo appearances in the show. Through the process, they gained a greater appreciation for all of the time and work the students and directors pour into the show.

Lastly, Mr. Radwan wished the spring sports teams and athletes the best as they finish out their season.

Athletics

Mr. Pohlman recognized freshman Jack Badenhop for earning Special Mention All-Ohio in basketball. This award was announced after the March board meeting. Mr. Pohlman also explained the OHSAA referendum items. In May, the administration will vote on 12 referendum items. Some of the changes involve small

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language changes, but there are a few items that could impact area schools. One item would allow students to compete in a sport not offered by their home school at another school within 20 miles of that school, if the superintendents agree. Some other changes to the transfer bylaw could be implemented if passed by a majority vote.

Mr. Pohlman announced that there will be a celebration for the state champion football team with a ring ceremony on May 13th. Mr. Ressler has created a yearbook style publication that will be available for purchase to commemorate the season. The ring design is a surprise, so it will be fun to have the players see the rings for the first time.

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on spring sports. The baseball team is off to a great start with a record of 7-4. All four losses have been two runs or less. The softball team is competing well. Their tournament draw will be this weekend. This is the first year they will use RPI points in determining seeding. The boys and girls tracks teams are also competing well. The boys team placed first and the girls team placed second at the LC Invite.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters recognized Diana Smith for her retirement at the end of the school year. She has been with the District for 10 years. Mr. Peters also recognized the three new hires on the agenda, all of which are Liberty Center graduates. Michelle Matheny is being hired as the Special Education Supervisor. She has 23 years of special education experience. She is already serving in this role, but she is contracted through the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center. We are bringing this position back in-house. Chris Ward is being hired as the new High School Principal. He is currently in his 14th year as an elementary principal. He has also been a 6th grade teacher, dean of students/athletic director, and a guidance counselor. Jessica Sharp is being hired as the new MS/HS STEM Teacher. She is currently a science teacher in Defiance and has a passion STEM. She will work with the principals to create and develop this CTE position.

#39-26 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:

Commend the Class of 2026 Valedictorians: Taryn Kolodziejczyk, Stone Roth, and Calleigh Stoner.

Commend Jack Badenhop for earning Special Mention All Ohio for Boys Basketball.

Approve the 2026 graduating Seniors from Liberty Center High School, contingent upon the successful completion of graduation requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the Liberty Center Board of Education.

Approve an overnight trip for FFA students and teachers to attend the FFA State Convention in Columbus, OH from April 30-May 1, 2026.

Approve the College Credit Plus Partnership Agreement with Owens Community College, which shall be effective through June 30, 2027.

Approve offering student accident insurance for the 2026-27 school year from Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company, Glenview, Illinois, through Frost Insurance Agency in Napoleon, Ohio.

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Approve the NwoESC Mentor Program Agreement for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve the amended job description for Director of Student Services.

Approve the new job description for Special Education Supervisor.

Retroactively approve the Home Instruction Service Agreement with the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for the period of April 23, 2026 through June 30, 2025.

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

#40-26 Superintendent’s Personnel Consent 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 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 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:

Erin Yoder

Offer employment to the following individuals as part-time summer (2026) custodial employees at minimum wage, \$11.00 per hour, with no benefits, beginning approximately May 26, 2026 through approximately August 14, 2026:

Alan Blair
Hudson Keefer
Braelyn Wymer

Accept the retirement resignation of Diana Smith, Educational Aide, effective June 30, 2026.

Approve Brian Baker as a substitute bus driver for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all necessary training and paperwork.

Approve Aaron Shafer as a van driver for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all necessary training and paperwork.

Offer the following contracts to non-certified staff beginning with the 2026-27 school year, subject to assignment by the Superintendent. Salary and benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement:

Two Year Contract
Lauren Whitman – Educational Aide

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Melanie Martin – Secretary

Continuing

Hayley Babcock – Secretary
Stacey Dietrich – Bus Driver
Mike Weaver – Lunchroom Aide

Offer Kelly Wolfe a two-year contract as an Educational Aide and Monitoring Aide, effective August 25, 2026 through August 24, 2028, subject to assignment by the Superintendent. Salary and benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Offer the following contracts to certified staff beginning with the 2026-27 school year, subject to assignment by the Superintendent. Salary and benefits will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

One Year

Karsyn Ashbaugh
Kathy Bishop
Buffy Kelb
Joel Kellar
Chase Miller
Samantha Molina
Jeanette Strauss
Audrey Wade

Three Year

Michelle Bailey
Lauren Carl
Carrie Cowger

Continuing

Regina Babcock
Shayla Benecke
Jessica Keller

Non-renew all 2025-26 Supplemental Contracts as of June 30, 2026.

Offer Kyle Storrer a five-year, 215-day contract as Middle School Principal, beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2031.

Offer Katie Jimenez a five-year, 215-day contract as Director of Student Services, beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2031.

Offer Kristin Bauman a five-year, 250-day contract as the Accounts Payable Specialist/Executive Assistant, beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

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Offer Michelle Matheny a two-year, 215-day contract as Special Education Supervisor, beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028.

Offer Chris Ward a two-year, 235-day contract as High School Principal, beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028.

Offer Jessica Sharp a one-year probationary contract as a Classroom Teacher (MS/HS STEM Teacher), effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Placement on the salary schedule is pending confirmation of coursework and credit hours. All benefits will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement.

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

#41-26 Resolution to Initiate

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to adopt the Resolution to Initiate the retire/rehire process of Teresa Detmer, whose retirement resignation was approved in Resolution #24-26.

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

Graduation will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. in the Varsity Gymnasium. Mr. Peters will send out the detailed information to board members.

The next board meeting is May 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The LEC graduation will take place on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the LEC.

The Retire/Rehire Public Hearing for Teresa Detmer will be held on June 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. during the regular board meeting.

Mrs. Oyer reported on a meeting she and Mr. Peters attended at the county regarding the abolishment of property taxes. The movement currently does not have enough signatures for the 2026 ballot, however; those signatures remain and can be used in 2027. She also noted she attended her first LC Education Foundation meeting where they reviewed applications for scholarships.


Mr. Peters noted that the Facility Committee met in April. The bleachers were delivered a few weeks ago. Staff members were trained on how to move and set them up. The old bleachers will be moved to Fireman's Park where community members will still be able to use them. For the setup of the mobile bleachers at the football stadium, both sets will be in the west endzone so they are not facing the sun as it sets in the evenings. Mr. Pohlman is currently working with companies to have the flag pole and time clock moved. Mr. Peters also noted that they are looking into options to fix drainage issues at the softball and baseball fields. Mr. Pohlman explained that he is working with a company to develop a long term plan.

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#42-26 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to adjourn the April 27, 2026 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:40 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger