RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
September 28, 2026

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

Dr. Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, presented information on the state report card. The district received a total of 4 out of 5 stars, exceeding state standards. 5 stars were received for Achievement, Graduation and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness. 3 stars were received for Early Literacy and Gap Closing. 2 stars were received for Progress. Dr. Jimenez noted the overall score of 4 stars is positive news for the District. The data shows what is working and areas that can be improved. Liberty Center Schools ranks third in the four-county area with an overall rating of 3.531.

The Elementary received a 4.5 star rating. In Achievement and Gap Closing they scored 5 stars. In Progress and Early Literacy, they scored 3 stars. The Middle School received a 4 star rating. They scored 5 stars in Achievement and 3 stars in both Gap Closing and Progress. The High School received a 3.5 star rating. They scored 5 stars in both Graduation and Postsecondary Readiness, 4 stars in Achievement, 3 stars in Gap Closing, and 1 star in Progress. In reviewing the District's strengths and next steps, Dr. Jimenez noted that the focus will be on Progress.

In the Elementary, 81.3% of third grade students were proficient in reading. 50.8% of previously off track K-3 students moved on track. The goal is to have consistent literacy instruction across grades K-4 with earlier identification of foundational reading needs with a strong tie in with Science of Reading. There are six-week MTSS cycles with targeted intervention and progress monitoring.

In the Middle School, strong achievement remains a strength, and there is a need to focus on student growth. The Middle School is working on a dedicated intervention and enrichment time to target specific reading and math needs. They are also working to build more opportunities for students to solve problems across all subjects.

In the High School, graduation rates and post-secondary readiness continue to be strengths. The focus for improvement will be in student growth, specifically in English language arts, math, and Biology. The goal is to define rigor across all courses and increase student ownership of learning. We will use course and assessment evidence to strengthen academic growth alongside readiness. The High School will continue Tiger Vision, financial literacy, career exploration, and connections with local partners.

Dr. Jimenez explained the District's goal is to preserve our strong achievement, graduation, and readiness outcomes. Our focus across all three buildings will be on student growth. We will align expectations across grades and monitor whether our changes improve student learning. Our objective is to tie everything in with our Prepared Initiative. We will continue to ask, "Are students prepared for what comes next – and challenged to grow while they are here?"

#73-26 Approve Minutes
The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 24, 2026 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Patty Hill, community member, registered for public participation. She spoke about the substitute teacher pay and wanting it to be higher than what is being recommended to the Board for approval.

Treasurer's Report
Mrs. Buenger updated the Board on the regular monthly reports. She noted line 1.05 is higher on the Budget vs. Actual Report due to the HB186 Inflation Cap Credit being deposited into that line rather than line 1. Mrs. Buenger also thanked all of the very generous donors. The Girls Basketball donations exceeded $8,000.00.

#74-26 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 Report

Approve the following donations:

LC Athletic Boosters	Football Moms Fundraiser	$8,500.00
Addie's Sons Consulting	18" Classroom Chairs	$2,745.40
LC Athletic Boosters	Hudl Subscriptions	$10,000.00
Crossbuck Construction	Labor for Prepping/Pouring Cement	$3,500.00

Approve the following donations to Girls Basketball:

Leitner Dentistry	Essential Wellness-Crystal Kline	
Tiger Den	Cactus Designs	Davis Farm Services
Ag Credit	Brick N Brew	JGB
419 Signs and Designs	Crossbuck Construction	Swick Shop
TOJI-Dutchmen	Bridgemill Private Wealth LLC-Gabe Pollock	
Glenn Hunter & Associates	K Kern Painting LLC	Hill Asphalt LLC
The Gerken Companies	Scott Judge-Terry Henricks Ford	
Dental Excellence	Meyer Badenhop Insurance Agency	
Stacey Machining	Northstar Bluescope Steel LLC	
KK Collision	Brad Meister-Meister and Associates	
Wayne Holmes	Raab Advantage Excavating and Trucking	
Worthington Steel	JCM Construction and Management	
BSN-Equipment	Kylee Miller-Moxi Salon & Spa	
The Sports Plance-Banner	AB Perfectionist Painting	

Approve the following student activity budgets for the 2026-27 school year:

Vocal Music
Liberty Center Drama Department

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

Principals' Reports

Elementary
Ms. Postl highlighted enrollment in the elementary. There are 403 students in the elementary, with 17 new students who are not kindergarteners. 25% of students in the elementary have special needs. Ms. Postl thanked the FFA for hosting a petting zoo, which is a favorite of the students every year. She also informed the Board that 3rd and 4th grade students have begun the Amazing Shake lessons. She noted that only 4th grade students will participate in the competition.

Middle School
Mr. Storrer provided information to the Board on programs and initiatives in the middle school. To improve ratings in both progress and gap closing, the middle school has dedicated time each day to targeted intervention and enrichment. This period is designed to help students performing below grade level close academic gaps through focused support. Simultaneously, students performing above grade level engage in enrichment opportunities that promote critical thinking and foster continuous academic growth.

Mr. Storrer explained Morning Meeting to the Board. The middle school begins each day from 8:00 to 8:15 with Morning Meeting. This dedicated time gives students a consistent, supportive group to start their day off right. During the 15 minutes, the focus is on the core traits that drive individual success using the 7 Mindsets curriculum, highlighting a new mindset each month. The goal is to build character and foster a positive school culture.

The high school leadership class is once again hosting a middle school leadership class. Through the cross-grade mentorship and hands-on team building experiences, middle school students are developing practical leadership skills they can use both in and out of the classroom.

High School
Mr. Ward shared with the Board his initiative for this year: 'Don't be good, or great, Be Elite!' Students are being challenged to be elite in attendance, academics, sports/clubs/band, in the way we treat others, and in doing the right thing.

Mr. Ward informed the Board the high school is currently averaging 95%-97% daily attendance, the lunchroom is in better shape at the end of the day than it's ever been, there is very little movement in the hallways during class time, students are holding each other accountable, and students are taking more ownership of their school. The positive changes are already notable!

Mr. Ward shared his future goals for the high school: additional course offerings, schedule changes to open up other opportunities, exposing students to as many trade, college, and career readiness opportunities as possible,

pushing higher academic rigor to raise test scores, become more efficient in all areas, and lastly to never be satisfied as we are and to always strive for improvement.

Athletic Director's Report
Mr. Pohlman was at the girls soccer game and was not able to attend the meeting.

Superintendent's Report
Mr. Peters provided information on the project to update the baseball and softball fields, which is nearing completion. As part of the project, approximately 24,000 square feet of existing turf was milled out. Significant grade corrections were made throughout the infield and sideline areas of both fields. Additional material was brought in to also fine-grade the skinned infield areas and create a consistent, high-quality playing surface. The game mound was rebuilt and both bullpen mounds at the baseball field. Following the installation of new irrigation systems on both fields, Kentucky bluegrass sod was installed to complete the turf areas. Mr. Peters noted the project had a few minor weather delays, but the project is 98% complete. There are only a few final details remaining, including the application of conditioner of both fields, but the project is expected to be completed by Wednesday.

Mr. Peters also explained the item on the agenda to increase long-term substitute teacher pay. After talking with the Principals and recognizing the difficulty in finding long-term subs, Mr. Peters is recommending a new pay scale for long-term subs to help incentivize certified individuals to take those open positions. The longer a sub is in a position, the more their pay will increase.

#75-26 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:

Approve an overnight trip for FFA students and advisors to attend the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN from October 21-23, 2026.

Retroactively approve the Service Agreement with the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center for ELL Instructional Services, effective September 10, 2026 through June 15, 2027 at a cost of $24.45 per hour.

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 student as a graduate of Liberty Center Local Schools:

Jonathan Brink – August 26, 2026

Retroactively approve membership in HPS (Hospital Purchasing Service), at a cost of $2,272.73 for the period of August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

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

#76-26 Superintendent's Personnel Consent Recommendations
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mrs. Oyer to board approve the Superintendent's Personnel Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented, for the 2026-27 school year, to obtain substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

Through the passage of HB583 and ORC 3319.36 and 3319.101, approve the following individuals as Substitute Teachers for the 2026-27 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching License:

Peyton Armey
Rita Bare
Arielle Bernal
Klayton Boland
Amelia Canales
Fiona Floyd
Aubrey Hammer
Haley Hammer
Tara Leahy
Mariah Leatherman
Becky Meyer
Neveah Powers
MaKenzie Prigge
Rachelle Rolison
Danielle Tejkl

Approve the following long-term substitute teacher pay for a long-term substitute teacher with an assignment to one specific teaching position:

Days 1-10: $110 per day
Days 11-20: $115 per day
Days 21-30: $120 per day
Days 31-60: $125 per day
Any day(s) beyond 60 will follow the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Middle School Building Leadership (BLT) for the 2026-27 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Kim Jones
Audrey Wade

Approve the following individual to serve on the Middle School Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee for the 2026-27 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Tracy Krueger

Accept the resignation of Betsy Rees from the District Leadership Team effective September 9, 2026.

Approve the following individual to serve on the District Leadership Team (DLT) for the 2026-27 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Andrea Panning

Accept the resignation of Nicole Ruiz, Educational Aide, effective September 4, 2026.

Approve the following individual as a substitute to the department listed for the 2026-27 school year, pending completion of all necessary training and paperwork:

Sue Davis – Bus Aide
Sue Davis – Lunchroom

Approve advancing Merry Giesige, Classroom Teacher, to the Masters +15 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year.

Approve advancing Kathy Bailey, Classroom Teacher, to the Masters +30 column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year.

Retroactively approve Karen Burns as a tutor at the LEC for the 2026-27 school year through the Title 1D Neglected Funds. Her hourly rate will be the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement tutor rate of $25.00 per hour.

Approve the following classroom volunteers for the 2026-27 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Kali Bodenbender	Jenell Cobb	Heather Frye
Elizabeth Gruver	Ashley Guyer	Gina Hill
Brittanie Horseman	Shaylee Hyman	Kaylie Johnson
Leah Leeper	Emily Lumbardo	Jamie Marlin
Alexandra Moody	Diane Phelps	Hanna Rabe
Michala Reiser	Perci Scarbrough	Lindsey Scott

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

The next board meeting is October 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The next Senior Citizen Breakfast is Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditeria. There were 129 attendees at the September breakfast.

The Policy Committee and Facilities Committee will be scheduling meetings.

#77-26 Executive Session
Mr. Zeiter made the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:42 p.m.

#78-26 Adjournment
It was moved by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler to adjourn the September 28, 2026 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:43 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