

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
March 23, 2026

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 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. Pohlman recognized and commended the winter sport athletes.

Mr. Dustin Ruffell, Technology Coordinator, provided a technology update. He addressed HB96 and the LC Cyber Program. HB96 established three primary requirements and the implementation of a basic cybersecurity program. The board is required to pass a resolution that includes the adoption of a cyber security program. Entities are encouraged to not include specific program details in the public resolution or presentation to prevent providing attackers with information to target systems. The program's requirements can be found on cyber.ohio.gov. He explained that school districts across the state must implement HB96 requirements by July 1, 2026. The Auditor of State's Office is responsible for auditing schools and ensuring compliance. Mr. Ruffell noted that moving toward a cyber program is not new as he has been working towards this for the past three years. The only new element is the need to codify it within the given timeline.

Dr. Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, Mr. Kyle Storrer, Middle School Principal, and Mr. Greg Radwan, High School Principal, presented information on a new STEM teaching position. With Kati Weaks retiring at the end of the 2025-26 school year, the district is evaluating the best way to fill the position. She currently teaches courses in personal finance, investing and wealth management, Microsoft applications, and digital academy. With the mission statement of the district focusing on challenging each child to think critically, be prepared for life beyond high school, and empowered to pursue a fulfilling future, the district wants to align the replacement of this position to meet the needs of the students and workforce.

For the 2024-25 school year, the district implemented a new life skills classroom with courses in child development, human growth, personal wellness, family and consumer science, and college/career readiness. The classes focus on critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal skills, communication, financial literacy, and real-world readiness.

When evaluating how to fill the position created by Mrs. Weaks' retirement, Mr. Storrer noted the district would like to pivot towards building a program that is more integrated between the middle school and high school, with a focus on technology and computer science exposure, inquiry based learning, problem centered learning, and a program that aligns to student aptitudes and workforce demands. Mrs. Jimenez explained that when reviewing data from aptitude and interest surveys through YouScience, many students showed high aptitude in technology-related fields with a low interest in those fields. Mrs. Jimenez noted the administrators determined this was due to a lack of exposure to career opportunities in these areas. As a result, the district determined that the creation of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Teacher position will best serve the students. The Career Technical Education program in the Engineering Design and Development strand within the Engineering and Science Technologies career field will serve students in grades 7-12 and focus on engineering design, problem solving, computational thinking and programming, applications of artificial intelligence, and hands-on, project-based learning connected to real-world challenges. Candidates for the position would need to have a Career Technical and Workforce Development Engineering Technologies License or have one of the following and be willing to obtain a supplemental CTWD license in Engineering Technologies: Integrated Math 7-12 License, Integrated Science 7-12 License, or 5 years of work experience in the engineering and/or technology field.

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The state has made career technical education (CTE) a priority to ensure students graduate prepared for both college and high-demand careers. They have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to expand CTE programs, facilities, and equipment to increase access to hands-on learning. The state also encourages career awareness and exploration beginning in middle school to help students identify areas of interest. CTE is required at the middle school level. CTE programs are designed to connect academic learning with industry skills, credentials, and work-based learning to meet Ohio's workforce needs, with the goal to develop a skilled workforce.

Currently, Liberty Center students in grades 7-8 have limited access to CTE classes, with 8th grade only having one class of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. Historically, the district could request a middle school CTE waiver if they did not offer CTE in grades 7-8. Starting with the 2026-27 school year, the state is eliminating this waiver and requiring district to provide CTE opportunities for students in grades 7 and 8. Consequently, Liberty Center must expand the middle school CTE programming. Furthermore, the state provides additional funding for CTE.

The courses being considered include engineering logic, engineering principles, programming, applications of artificial intelligence, and a capstone class. Mrs. Jimenez explained that the classes offered through the new STEM teaching position would help expand the Prepared Initiative from awareness and skill development into a structured pathway where students can apply these skills through hands-on engineering and technology experiences. This would also benefit the district's state report card in the category of college and career readiness. Mr. Peters noted that moving forward with the position now has the potential to alleviate any potential issues in the future if the state mandates the addition of a STEM program.

#30-26 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 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 also explained the appropriation and amended certificate modifications. The Stronger Connections Grant will be used for sensory items and the Network Connectivity Grant is for internet access.

#31-26 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

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Approve the following Appropriation Modifications and Amended Certificate Modifications:

Appropriation Modifications

584 9024	Stronger Connections Grant	\$429.15
451 9501	Network Connectivity Grant	\$174.84

Amended Certificate Modifications

584 9024	Stronger Connections Grant	\$429.15
451 9501	Network Connectivity Grant	\$174.84

Approve the following donation:

LC Athletic Boosters	Bowling Team Fundraiser	\$2,521.00
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Approve the following donation to the Cheerleading Fund as a sponsor for the International Cheer Competition:

Delta American Legion

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

Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update on activities in the elementary. There were over 250 families in attendance at the annual Family Literacy Night. Kindergarten students did their best to track and trap leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day. On March 20th, the building celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness by wearing crazy socks. Ms. Postl also highlight the Amazing Shake competition. The first and second rounds were hosted today. She also noted that 3rd and 4th grade students will start state testing on April 14th and 16th with ELA.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer highlighted students and activities in the middle school. The middle school has been named a 2025 Ohio Blue Ribbon School. This recognition is based on academic performance and making significant strides at closing achievement gaps. He also informed the Board of spring state testing dates: ELA is April 14th-15th, math is April 28th-29th, and science is May 5th-6th.

Mr. Storrer announced the 8th grade quiz team recently won the Henry County Quiz Meet. Members of the team included Maely Dotson, Mia Gyurasics, Raley Kessler, Kaylee Bauman, and Alana Naveau. The 5th grade math counts team also recently took 1st place in the Henry County Math Competition. Team members included Clay Pierce, Henley Oyer, Brantley Weichers, and Colin Ebersole. Clay Pierce also won 1st place as individual.

The 3rd quarter assembly was held last Friday. Various student groups were honored, and the student council hosted a few friendly competitions.

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High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on high school academics, the arts, and athletics. The Leadership Class recently traveled to Columbus for an overnight trip where they had the opportunity to attend a Columbus Blue Jackets event, the Eugene Smith Leadership Institute, and the Ohio Statehouse. He also noted junior students took the ACT on March 11th, the FFA banquet was on March 19th, and he highlighted the National Honor Society service project.

The band and choir both recently hosted concerts on March 9th and 10th, respectively. The choir also competed in the OMEA District event on March 13th. The musical for this year is *Legally Blonde* and will be presented on April 17th and 18th.

Mr. Radwan wished the spring sport athletes good luck on their season.

Athletics

Mr. Pohlman wished the spring athletes the best as they begin their season.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters provided an update on the lunchroom. In order to prioritize the health and well-being amongst our students, Liberty Center's school nutrition program follows the meal patterns set by the USDA to offer nutritionally balanced options for breakfast and lunch. We comply with state laws for nutritional standards and food safety. Our food service staff takes pride in ensuring they are following guidelines, not only daily, but for weekly portion requirements of whole grains, meat/meat alternatives, fruits, and vegetables, while also creating recipes that keep students coming back every week.

Mr. Peters also explained the internal staff transfers on the agenda. With Doug Hinton retiring from the 5th grade ELA position, Julie Masuwa requested to transfer from 2nd grade to the 5th grade position. Sarah Feehan requested to transfer from 1st grade, to the open 2nd grade position. MacKenzie Armeij then requested to transfer from Elementary Title/Intervention to the open 1st grade position.

Mr. Peters also informed the Board the Policy Committee reviewed the updated and new policies that are on the agenda for approval. They are recommended by NEOLA to meet the required state and federal laws.

Mr. Peters thanked High School Principal, Mr. Greg Radwan, for his dedication and commitment to the students at Liberty Center. Mr. Radwan served as the Middle School Principal for one year and High School Principal for five years. Mr. Peters wished Mr. Radwan and his family all the best as he becomes the High School Principal at Sylvania Northview next school year. Mr. Zeiter also thanked Mr. Radwan for all he has done for Liberty Center Schools during his time with the district.

#32-26 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 Joy Brown for competing at State in Diving and placing 2nd.

Commend Hunter Spangler for competing at the Indoor State Track meet and placing 1st in shot put.

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Commend Lindley Crow for competing at State in Wrestling and placing 7th.

Commend Braedyn Tammarine for competing at State in Wrestling and placing 3rd.

Commend Daine Bayer for competing at State in Wrestling and placing 4th.

Commend Logan Sifuentes for competing at State in Wrestling and placing 6th.

Commend the Competition Cheer Team for the following awards:

1. Competing at State in Division V and placing 2nd
2. Competing at Internationals in Florida and earning the following awards: International Champions – High Point Score, Sweet Surprise, and 1st Runner-Up Grand Champion out of all Divisions

Skylar Bailey
Arianah Brown
Kenleigh Howe
Abby Ordway

Quinn Bailey
Avery Carter
Alyvia Meyer
Abbi Rohrs

Grace Brandeberry
Madison Foster
Marleigh Myers
Aurianna Rossi

Approve membership in the Henry County Chamber of Commerce beginning March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2027 at a cost of \$100.00.

Approve the following new or amended policies:

#5112	#5421	#5430	#6220	#6320
#6325	#6425	#7540.09		

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

#33-26 Superintendent’s Personnel Consent Recommendations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter 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:

Lillian Burkholder
Kamryn Chaffee

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Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplemental position per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licensed employees, move to offer the following non-certified individual a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2025-26 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Dennis Spade – Assistant Track Coach

Approve the transfer of Julie Masuwa from 2nd Grade Teacher to 5th Grade ELA Teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve the transfer of Sarah Feehan from 1st Grade Teacher to 2nd Grade Teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve the transfer of MacKenzie Arney from Elementary Intervention Specialist/Elementary Title Teacher to 1st Grade Teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve James Jones as a chaperone for 6th Grade Camp Willson, pending completion of all necessary paperwork.

Retroactively approve additional hours for Dustin Mays to assist with the audio/visual production for the school musical.

Accept the resignation of Mr. Greg Radwan, High School Principal, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Accept the resignation of Brianna Hayden, Educational Aide, effective March 18, 2026.

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

#34-26 Electricity Purchase Program Agreement of the Ohio Schools Council

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler that the Board approve the Electricity Purchase Program Agreement of the Ohio Schools Council.

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

The next Senior Citizen Breakfast is Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditoria.

The next board meeting is April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Facilities Committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

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#35-26 Executive Session

Mrs. Oyer made the motion and Mr. Zeiter seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District and to discuss the details of security arrangements for the District, as disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the District.

Mr. Ruffell went into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. He left Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:54 p.m.

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


#36-26 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mrs. Oyer to adjourn the March 23, 2026 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:56 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger