

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
August 24, 2026

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 7:01 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.

Ms. Allison Postl, Elementary Principal, presented information on the 2026-27 federal grants. The district will receive \$115,467.88 through the Title I grant. The Title I funds are used for our Title I Teacher's salary and benefits. It is also used to purchase intervention resources and supplies. Title I funds are to be used for programs that benefit disadvantaged students when low-income families make up a specified percentage of the student population. This was previously determined by the completion of free/reduced meal applications. Currently, the data is pulled directly from the state's system and determined by records of assistance.

\$21,201.33 will be received in Title II funding, which will be used to help offset the salary and benefit costs for a kindergarten teacher in an effort to reduce the sizes of the kindergarten classrooms. This covers approximately 30% of the teacher's salary.

Title IV funding for the year will be \$10,214.54. It will help offset a portion of the gifted teacher salary as well as purchase supplies for STEM, PBIS, and help with professional development.

The district will receive \$252,014.25 in IDEA B funding. These funds will go towards a portion of three special education teachers' salaries and benefits.

Lastly, the district will receive \$45,352.37 through the Title ID Neglected grant. These funds will be used at the LEC for teacher and aide salaries for intervention and after school programs. The funds will also go towards academic interventions and PBIS supplies.

Ms. Postl noted that there is no significant change in grant amounts from last year, so the use of the funds remains similar to the 2026-27 school year.

There were no public comments.

#66-26 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 20, 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 provided information on the Financial Forecast and Permanent Appropriations, which are on the agenda for the Board. The Finance Committee met to review the forecast information, but some items have already changed due to enrollment adjustments. Appropriations establish a budget for the year, anticipating what will be received in revenues and spent in expenditures.

FY26 ended with a carryover of \$993,898.00. The was largely attributed to ordering computers and technology devices that did not arrive prior to the end of the fiscal year, which will now be paid for in FY27. The District uses conservative projections based on historical results and known changes. For FY27, the district anticipates

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\$19.83 million in revenue and \$19.77 million in expenses, resulting in an approximate carryover of \$62,557.00, if everything is actually realized.

The month of July already saw a higher than normal receipt of income taxes. The projection was a 3.5% increase from July 2025, but the July income taxes were 8% more than a year ago. Property tax revenues are forecasted to remain flat.

Personnel costs, including salary and benefits, comprise approximately 76% of the projected expenses for FY27. Personnel costs are agreed upon with unions. The LCCTA contract extends through August 2027 and the OAPSE contract is through June 2028.

Purchased service expenses are expected to increase by 2.5%. These expenses include services provided by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, the school resource officer, nursing contract, and computer agreements. The district will also be purchasing a new school bus, which was not originally anticipated, but is now needed.

Mr. Peters noted there is still uncertainty at the state level regarding school funding and the future of property taxes, which makes forecasting very difficult. So far, the changes have not drastically impacted the district. He also informed the Board the total enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is 1,002 for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. There are 184 students open enrolled into the district and 31 students open enrolled out of the district. Last year, there were 177 open enrolled in and 41 open enrolled out.

Mr. Peters provided additional details on enrollment. Enrollment into the district is evaluated based on the district's staff and resources, specifically at the younger grade levels. Retaining students in the district and attracting students outside of the district assist in keeping the district's finances healthy as the state provides approximately \$9,000.00 per student. Based on the open enrollment numbers, the district will receive around \$1.3 million in revenue.

Mr. Peters also highlighted the carryover to the cash balance allows those funds to generate more interest, which is beneficial with the uncertainty of school funding at the state level.

Board Member Ryan Zeiter commended the district for their efforts in sustaining the financial health of the district, which he noted sometimes goes unnoticed. Board President Neal Carter also thanked the staff for the work they do to maintain the district's finances.

#67-26 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

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

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Approve the following donation:

In Memory of Alan D. Desgrange Athletics

Approve the Financial Forecast as presented.

Approve the FY27 Permanent Appropriations as presented.

Approve the increase of the 2026 mileage rate from \$0.725 per mile to \$0.76 per mile (current IRS rate), effective July 1, 2026, for all non-union, LCCTA members, and OAPSE members. The athletic mileage rate is set per the LCCTA contract at \$0.32 per mile.

Declare transportation to be impractical for two students attending Monclova Christian Academy, and offer these students payment in lieu of transportation, the rate to be determined by the Ohio Department of Education for school year 2026-27.

Approve the Restatement of the 403(b) Retirement Plan.

Approve the Transportation Agreement for the 2026-27 School Year.

Approve the following Appropriation Modifications and Amended Certificate Modifications:

Appropriation Modifications

300 951D	Boys Soccer	\$1,075.00
018 9024	Amazing Shake	\$1,300.00
300 944A	Band	\$5,250.00

Amended Certificate Modifications

300 951D	Boys Soccer	\$1,100.00
018 9024	Amazing Shake	\$1,300.00
300 944A	Band	\$5,000.00

VOTE: Ayes: Mrs. Oyer, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Kern, Mr. Carter

Nays: None – Motion Carried

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. The flagpole was moved to the southwest corner of the stadium. This allowed for both sets of mobile bleachers to be placed in the west endzone, allowing fans to enjoy events without looking directly into the sun. A concrete pad was poured around the base of the flagpole. The State Championship sign was also installed on the press box.

Meet the Team was held last Wednesday. All of the fall sports teams and coaches were introduced.

Mr. Pohlman thanked the Liberty Center VFW Post 6596 for their efforts in organizing and presenting the flag at Friday's home opener against Tinora. It is a great tradition and special time for the community.

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Fall sports are now underway. The football team opened with a win against Tinora. Volleyball won their first match on Saturday, beating Stryker in three sets. Girls soccer is 1-2. They opened with a win against Napoleon. Boys soccer is 3-0. They will begin league play on Tuesday at Bryan. The boys and girls golf teams are competing well. Cross country will open their season on Saturday at the Eastwood Night Race.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters noted that Open House for the district was held tonight, tomorrow the staff will have professional development sessions, and school starts on Wednesday for students in grades 1-12. Kindergarten students will all start on Monday. Mr. Peters thanked the maintenance and custodial staff for their hard work getting the buildings and grounds ready for the school year. He also thanked the principals for their work and preparation leading up to the start of the school year.

Mr. Peters explained the purchase of a bus, which is on the agenda for approval. Our needs for transporting handicap students have changed, making the purchase of a new bus necessary. Our current handicap accessible bus is a 2007 with over 260,000 miles.

Mr. Peters also provided information on the contract for construction manager at-risk services. Tyler Athletics is being recommended for the baseball/softball field updates. The recommendation is based on an extensive evaluation process, included the cost of \$201,817.50, completion schedule, references, and long-term maintenance plan. The project will be paid for using permanent improvement funds, athletic department funds, and the Athletic Boosters have also expressed an interest in donating towards the project. The project is expected to be completed in October, but the weather could have an impact on the completion date.

#68-26 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 the bus routes for the 2026-27 school year as presented.

Appoint Mr. Todd Spangler as the Board's delegate and Mr. Ryan Zeiter as the alternate to the OSBA's annual Capital Conference, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio from November 15-17, 2026.

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

#69-26 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 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:

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Alex Buchhop
James Clay
Isabelle Cohara
Bryson Collins
Heidi Garretson
Emily Gillson
Nicole Keller
Makayla Mays
Kylee Miller
Elle Mohler
Becky Meyer
Aimee Naveau
Aubrey Pennington
Shalyn Podach
Cheyenne Segura
Emmalyn Westrick
Chloe Wiechers
Erin Yoder

Offer the following certified individuals each a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2026-27 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork. Their salary will be per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Supplemental Salary Schedule:

Mary Chamberlin – Mentor
Carrie Sines – Mentor
Joanne Junge – Mentor

Rescind the following supplemental contract for the 2026-27 school year:

Owen Box – Freshman Football Coach

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplement 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 2026-27 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork, with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Deborah DeCoursey – Assistant Band Director
Owen Box – Freshman Football Coach (50%)
Nick Miller – Freshman Football Coach (50%)

Approve the following volunteer for the activity listed, contingent upon completion of all necessary paperwork and training:

Carson Knapp – JH Cross Country
Tom Russell – Football

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Mike Vicars – Football

Accept the resignation of Katelyn Konrad, Bus Driver, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

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

Rita Bare – Secretary
Heidi Garretson – Secretary
Riley Purny – Secretary
Jenny Perry – Secretary
Waverly Rue – Secretary
DeeAnn Shafer – Secretary
Hayley Babcock – Custodian
Kim Firman – Custodian
Josh Williams – Custodian
Kirsten Weirauch – Custodian
Hudson Keefer – Custodian
Raellen Shadler – Van Driver
Paula Mauer – Van Driver
Kennedy Hall – Van Driver
Brian Baker – Bus Driver
Brian Meyer – Bus Driver
Donna Crozier - Bus Driver
Ellen Bockelman – Bus Driver
Jennifer Fitzenreiter – Bus Driver
Josh Williams – Bus Driver
Karen Savage – Bus Driver
Katelyn Konrad – Bus Driver
Kathy Curlis – Bus Driver
Kevin Sonnenberg – Bus Driver
Maryann Reimund – Bus Driver
Mike Clendenin – Bus Driver
Norene Keller – Bus Driver
Phil Roseman – Bus Driver
Steve Chapa – Bus Driver
Terry Miller – Bus Driver
Bill Sharpe – Bus Driver
Hayley Babcock – Lunchroom
Stacey Dietrich – Lunchroom
Kim Firman – Lunchroom
Gwen Weaver – Lunchroom
Chelsea Wiley – Lunchroom
Robbi Robison – Lunchroom
Kim Royal – Lunchroom
Kristi Gyurasics – Lunchroom

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Barb Maunz – Lunchroom
Ellen Bockelman – Lunchroom
Karlla Decant – Lunchroom
Jamie Evans – Lunchroom
Melissa French – Lunchroom

Approve Sheri Stacey as a District On-Board Instructor for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Technology Committee for the 2026-27 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Stacy Bowers: Co-chair
Carey Pogan
Kara Kellermier
Liz Halleck
Cindy Hageman
Jacob Rupp
Ryan Miller

Appoint Kyle Storrer, Middle School Principal, and Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, as the Administrative Representatives on the Technology Committee for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Evaluation Committee for the 2026-27 school year, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Ryan Miller: Co-chair
Amy Spieth
Mary Chamberlin

Appoint Kyle Storrer, Middle School Principal, and Katie Jimenez, Director of Student Services, as the Administrative Representatives on the Evaluation Committee for the 2026-27 school year.

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

Elementary:
Meggin Radlinski: Co-chair
Merry Giesige
Traci Chapman
Regina Babcock
Brittany Meyer
Mackenzie Mahnke
Lori Giesige

Middle School:
Samantha Molina: Co-chair

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Cassie Hartzell
Betsy Rees
Tracy Krueger
Alex Geahlen

High School:
Jessica Keller: Co-chair
Kathy Bailey
Shelley Ahleman
Diane Mott
Stephanie Sager
Katherine Bell

Approve the following individuals 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:

Regina Babcock: Co-chair
Carrie Sines: Co-chair
Stephanie Sager: Co-chair
Meggin Radlinski: BLT Chair
Samantha Molina: BLT Chair
Jessica Keller: BLT Chair
Diana Szabo
Betsy Rees
Shelley Ahleman
Stacy Bowers
Patrick O'Dwyer

Appoint the following as Administrative Representatives on the District Leadership Team for the 2026-27 school year:

Richie Peters
Katie Jimenez
Chris Ward
Kyle Storrer
Allison Postl

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

Elementary:
Annette Niekamp: Co-chair
Emily Hill
Kara Kellermeier
Kim Rettig

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Sarah Feehan
Pam Righi
Dianna Szabo
Hillary McBride

Middle School:
Joanne Junge: Co-chair
Andrea Panning
Cassie Hartzell
Julie Masuwa
Luke Hutchinson
Karsyn Ashbaugh
Alex Geahlen

High School:
Diane Mott: Co-chair
Katherine Bell
Megan Kolasinski
Casey Mohler
Jeff Ressler
Amy Spieth
Chase Miller
Shelley Ahleman

Approve the following individuals to serve on the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) for the 2026-27 school year with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Jodi Biederstedt: Co-chair
Betsy Rees
Kathy Bailey

Appoint Allison Postl, Elementary Principal, and Chris Ward, High School Principal, as the Administrative Representatives on the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve stipends to Liberty Center Classroom Teachers for the 2026-27 school year to serve as mentor teachers. Each stipend amount will be determined by and received from the college or university of the student teacher.

Offer Kim Royal a one-year probationary contract as a Bus Driver, effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Placement on the salary schedule is pending verification of experience. All benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Offer Deb Nash a one-year probationary contract as a Bus Driver, effective at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Placement on the salary schedule is pending verification of experience. All benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

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Retroactively offer Christen Moore a one-year probationary contract as a 10-month School Custodian, effective August 17, 2026. Placement on the salary schedule is pending verification of experience. All benefits will be per the OAPSE Negotiated Agreement.

Approve advancing Carrie Cowger, 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.

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

#70-26 Bus Purchase

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler that the Board approve the purchase of one 30 Passenger G5 Chevrolet/Micro Bird Bus with a wheelchair lift (capacity of 18 plus 1 wheelchair) from Cardinal Bus Sales and Service, Lima, OH, in the amount of \$119,514.00. Pricing is per the META Solutions Vehicle Bids.

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

#71-26 Resolution to Award a Contract for Construction Manager At-Risk Services

The motion was made by Mrs. Oyer and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the Resolution to Award a Contract for Construction Manager-At-Risk Services related to the Board's baseball/softball fields improvement project.

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

The Facilities Committee thanked Mr. Peters and Mr. Pohlman for coordinating the moving of the flagpole, pressure washing the bleachers, and freshening up the paint at the stadium.

The next board meeting is September 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The first Senior Citizen Breakfast is Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditoria.

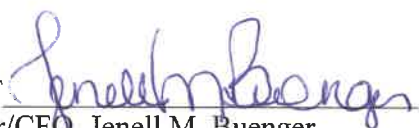
#72-26 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Spangler to adjourn the August 24, 2026 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:33 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