

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
November 18, 2024

The Liberty Center Local Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members Mr. Neal Carter, Mr. Todd Spangler, Mr. John Weaver, Mrs. Andrea Zacharias, and Mr. Ryan Zeiter were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#88-24 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 28, 2024 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Buenger highlighted the Five Year Forecast. It is anticipated that the District will end the next two fiscal years in the black, with carryover balances of \$202,449 for FY25 and \$18,452 for FY26. For FY27, FY28, and FY29, the District is expected to be deficit spending in the amounts of \$400,129, \$838,151, and \$1.3 million, respectively. Mrs. Buenger noted these figures are based on conservative projections and are typically realized in more positive amounts as the District proactively works to reduce deficit spending. However, if this forecast would hold true, it would leave a cash balance of \$7.24 million at the end of FY29.

Mrs. Buenger further explained the revenue and expenditure calculations of the forecast. Property tax valuations increased by approximately 20% with the recent triennial update, resulting in a slight increase in property tax revenue. She also noted litigation is still pending for the valuation of the Nexus pipeline that goes through the district, which impacts the revenues from public utilities and leads to uncertainty in this line. Mrs. Buenger highlighted income tax receipts. In FY24, there was an increase of 3%. So far this year, collections are higher, leading to the projection of a 3.5% increase each year of the forecast.

Mrs. Buenger also discussed how the district's enrollment numbers impact the forecast through the district's foundation payments from the state. While open enrollment decreased from last year with 24 open enrolled students graduating, overall enrollment increased to 1,009. This year, 171 students are open enrolled in and 47 are open enrolled out.

Mrs. Buenger noted the District should see an increase in grant funding due to the addition of a career technical program with Family and Consumer Science classes. She also explained how the District has been able to capitalize on interest income the past few years with the higher interest rates. The District had \$483,559 in interest income in FY24. However, interest income is forecasted to decline as interest rates are predicted to slowly decrease, resulting in an estimate of \$450,000 in interest revenue for FY25.

On the expenditure side, Mrs. Buenger explained that 77% of the District's budget is spent on salaries and benefits. This year a teacher and bus mechanic position were added. However, the mechanic position will reduce the costs previously paid through purchased services for this work. As previously mentioned, the expenses from the teaching position should be partially offset through career technical grant funding. The salaries and benefits are based on negotiated agreements. The LCCTA contract is in place through August 31, 2027 and includes the following salary increases: 3.25 % for FY25, 3% for FY 26, and 2.75% for FY27. There was also a one time ratification stipend of \$250 payable in December 2024. The OAPSE contract is in place through June 30, 2025, with a 2.5% wage increase for FY25. Lastly, the District anticipates an increase of 4.5% each year for benefits.

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Mr. Carter commended those involved with organizing the budgets, as well as other administrators for their efforts in minimizing costs and applying for grants. He also noted how the District has not been on the ballot for an operating levy since 2006.

Mrs. Buenger also reported on the regular monthly reports. She thanked the very generous donors. She also explained the Then and Now purchase order on the agenda for approval. This is due to the date of the purchase order being after the date of the invoice. This is certifying that we had the funds then, the date of the invoice, and now, the date of the purchase order. The renewal notice went to the wrong email, so the PO was not in place when we received the invoice. Changes have been made to ensure this does not happen again with this vendor.

#89-24 CFO/Treasurer's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Spangler 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

Approve the following donations:

Dental Excellence of Napoleon	Tiger Vision Speaker	\$250.00
Premier Bank Charitable Foundation	Tiger Vision Speaker	\$350.00
Henry County CIC	Tiger Vision Speaker	\$500.00
LC Athletic Boosters	Hudl Subscription	\$10,000.00
Anonymous Donor	BSN Basketballs	\$2,000.00
Anonymous Donor	Boys Basketball Camp	\$3,000.00
Megan Oehler	Clarinet for Band	

Approve the Five-Year Forecast as presented.

Approve the following student activity budget for the 2024-25 school year:

- Liberty Center Drama Department
- Spanish Club

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

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Principals' Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update on the elementary. A PAX Tools workshop was held for parents on November 14th from 5:30-7:00. Mrs. Postl also announced some upcoming important dates. The 4th grade winter musical is December 10th at 6:00 and the 2nd grade winter musical is December 12th at 6:00. The preliminary judging for Amazing Shake will be on December 10th for 3rd graders and December 12th for 4th graders. She also announced the elementary will be having a career day on November 25th. Lastly, Ms. Postl noted the PTO is having a poinsettia and winter plant fundraiser. Students who sell six plants or more will get to silly string Ms. Postl.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer updated the Board on the middle school. On November 1st, the middle school held a first quarter assembly to recognize fall sports teams, award prizes for classes who won the PTO fundraiser, and a competition between grade levels with a Red Ribbon Week Jeopardy game. Mr. Storrer also thanked everyone who helped with the Veterans' Day assembly. 8th Graders Kenleigh Howe and Jackson Ward both prepared speeches about the impact of veterans in their lives and their lasting legacy on our country. Lastly, Mr. Storrer highlighted some of the fun activities happening in the science classrooms, from the Ohio EPA visiting to discuss ground water and how to keep pollution out of water ways with 7th graders, to 6th graders learning about the correct way to mix chemicals during a lab, and 8th graders using contour lines on a topographic map to create 3D models.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on academics, arts, and athletics in the high school. Through a new class being offered in the high school, four students are now official OHSAA basketball referees. This earned a four point IRC to be reported on the state report card. WTOL will be airing a segment on November 25th about this program. Mr. Radwan also noted the 2nd and 7 Reading Program through the Henry County United Way has begun for this school year. There are eight student athletes participating with 2nd grade classrooms. He also noted that thanks to a donation, the PBIS committee was able to purchase signs for the hallways. Lastly, all five senior volleyball players were recognized as All District Scholar-Athletes at Lourdes University.

In the arts, Mr. Radwan informed the Board the Sounds of the Stadium concert was well attended. He also thanked both the choir and band for performing at the Veterans' Day assembly.

Mr. Radwan congratulated all of the fall athletes who received league, district, and state awards and accomplishments this fall.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. Mr. Pohlman attended the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators State Conference this past week where he accepted an award on behalf of the Athletic Department. The Bruce Brown Award of Excellence is given to schools that promote positive, engaging, and state of the art athletic programs in the school, community, and state. This process allowed us to highlight a lot of the things done as an athletic department and some individual sport specific items as well.

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Mr. Pohlman also announced the winter sports schedules have been posted on the athletic tab on the school website. He used a universally accessible Google Sheet to allow for changes as there have already been a lot due to the success of our football team and other factors, like schools not having JV teams.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters discussed the calendar options. As stipulated in the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement, input was sought from the District Leadership Team (DLT). They would like to see the 2-hour delayed start PD times remain on the calendar. The union also voted to have three PD days next school year. With the goals of starting after the Henry County Fair, ending before Memorial Day, and having two weeks off at Christmas, there will be four options presented to the staff to vote. The calendar survey will go out on Tuesday and will be due next week.

#90-24 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Spangler to board approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda item as follows:

Approve membership in the Henry County Community Improvement Corporation at a cost of \$250.00.

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

#91-24 Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

Through the passage of HB 583 and ORC 3319.36 and 3319.101 approve the following individual as a Substitute Teacher for the 2024-25 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license:

Peyton Arme
Olivia Liechty

Whereas the Board of Education has offered and advertised the following supplemental positions per ORC 3313.53, and received no interested or qualified licensed employees, move to offer the following non-certified individuals a one-year supplemental contract for the position indicated for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork with salary as stipulated per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement:

Dylan Matthews – Wrestling JH Assistant
Linnea Short – Wrestlerette Advisor

Approve the following volunteers for the activity listed for the 2024-25 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary training and paperwork:

Brandon Readshaw – Archery
Kent Snyder – Girls Basketball
Owen Box – Wrestling

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Jillian Clapp – Girls Bowling
Alisha Pieracini – Classroom
Rhonda Brown – New York City Music Chaperone
Paula Grooms – New York City Music Chaperone
Ryan Kersten – New York City Music Chaperone
Nate Kester – New York City Music Chaperone
Dustin Mays – New York City Music Chaperone
Tammy Mays – New York City Music Chaperone
Anna McMaster – New York City Music Chaperone
Patricia Myers – New York City Music Chaperone

Approve the following substitutes to the department listed for the 2024-25 school year, pending completion of all necessary paperwork and training:

Chelsea Wiley – Lunchroom
Robbi Robison – Lunchroom

Retroactively approve Gracie Miller as an educational aide substitute for the 2024-25 school year.

Approve advancing Emily Hill, Classroom Teacher, to the 150+ column on the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement's Salary Schedule, effective at the beginning of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year.

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

#92-24 Approve Then and Now Purchase Order

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the motion was made by Mrs. Zacharias and seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the following "Then and Now" purchase order in accordance with ORC Section 5705.41 (D)(1) which states, "Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section and section 5705.44 of the Revised Code, make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the obligation or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, the amount required to meet the obligation in the fiscal year in which the contract is made, has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. This certificate need be signed only by the subdivision's fiscal officer. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon. If no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt by the taxing authority of the subdivision or taxing unit of a certificate of the fiscal officer stating that there was at the time of the making of such contract or order and at the time of the execution of such certificate a sufficient sum appropriated for the purpose of such contract and in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances, such taxing authority may authorize the drawing of a warrant in payment of amounts due upon such contract, but such resolution or ordinance shall be passed within thirty days after the taxing authority receives such certificate; provided that, if the amount involved is less than one hundred dollars in the case of counties or three thousand dollars in the case of all other subdivisions or taxing units, the fiscal officer may authorize it to be paid without such affirmation of the taxing authority of the subdivision or taxing unit, if such expenditure is otherwise valid."

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Purchase Order #2500616 to Naviance, Inc. – Powerschool Group in the amount of \$4,599.93

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

New Business

The next Board meeting is December 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Records Commission will be meeting at 6:45 p.m. on December 16, 2024, prior to the regular board meeting.

The next Senior Citizen Breakfast is Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditoria.

The Policy Committee will be meeting soon.

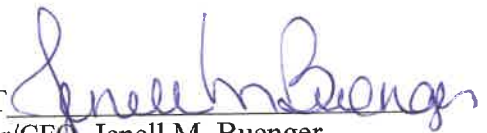
#93-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Zeiter to adjourn the November 18, 2024 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 7:28 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger