

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Liberty Center Local Schools Regular Board Meeting
October 28, 2024

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

Jennifer Arps, Henry County CIC Director, presented the District with a Workforce Innovation Award. This was to recognize the District's participation in workforce development initiatives and commitment to preparing students with the practical skills and knowledge needed to succeed after high school.

Kathy Bailey, Teacher, presented an update on the Family and Consumer Science classes that have been added as part of the prepared initiative. With a focus on life skills, leadership, consumer economics, personal financial management, and career and college readiness, the classes are designed to actively engage students in learning the necessary skills to be successful after graduating from high school. Students from the Family and Consumer Science classes had stations for the Board, administration, and public to visit and participate in meaningful discussions about the class and how it is preparing them to make informed decisions as they become adults.

#80-24 Approve Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 23, 2024 of the Liberty Center Board of Education.

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

Public Participation

Pam Leatherman, Ron Garber, and Amy Westhoven registered for public participation. Pam Leatherman, a community member, asked the board questions about hiring practices for teachers and coaches. She asked if they review applications and call references of those who are recommended for contracts. Mr. Carter informed Mrs. Leatherman that per board policy, board members cannot be questioned individually, but she is welcome to make a statement during public participation.

Ron Garber, a parent in the District, expressed concerns about student discipline. He was upset that information from a Henry County Sheriff's Deputy was shared with the school. He also expressed frustration that the school took additional disciplinary action above the discipline actions of a coach.

Amy Westhoven, a parent in the District, read an opinion she posted on Facebook. "Do not preach mental health care to our kids if you are just going to destroy it. So kids are in a field, not doing anything wrong, no destruction of property, no theft, no drinking, no making babies and get caught by local law enforcement. Property owner is contacted and says no charges, call their parents. Parents come and handle kids. Kids that are involved in an organization together are issued discipline for their impulsive decisions. School finds out and says not good enough. 'We hold our athletes to a higher standard' and basically imply, 'we don't trust our coaching staff to handle this matter.' Now here we are family that owns the property feels that the school administration is way out of line. What happens off school property, outside of school events and outside of supervision by school staff does not get to be governed by the school."

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Treasurer’s Report

Mrs. Buenger reviewed the regular monthly reports. She noted there was a CD that came due in September. She reinvested it into a longer term with the interest rates declining. Mrs. Buenger also thanked the very generous donors. She explained the \$10,000 donation from Pilot Travel Center. Katie Jimenez applied for a grant from Pilot. The funds will be used to promote higher learning, such as STEM resources, as well as expenses for the career fair. These funds were deposited in the HS Principal’s Fund, which is why there is an amended budget for the additional \$10,000. Lastly, Mrs. Buenger explained the Program Cost Agreement on the agenda. This agreement is paid out of Title I funds for a student who lives in our district but attends Holy Trinity. The ESC of Lake Erie West provides the services.

#81-24 CFO/Treasurer’s Consent Agenda

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver 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

Declare transportation to be impractical for one student, who will be attending Monclova Christian Academy, and offer this student payment in lieu of transportation, the rate to be determined by the Ohio Department of Education for school year 2024-25.

Approve the following donations:

LC Athletic Boosters	Cross Country Course Materials	\$1,188.62
Pilot Travel Center	Resources for Deeper Learning Grant	\$10,000.00
Anonymous	Cleats for Football Team	\$6,960.00

Approve the amended HS Principal Fund budget for the 2024-25 school year.

VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Zacharias, Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Carter

Nays: None – Motion Carried

Principals’ Reports

Elementary

Ms. Postl provided an update on the elementary. The Halloween parade will be on October 31st at 1:30. She also thanked the Andrews family for donating pumpkins for students in grades K-4 to decorate during art class. The PTO is supplying the paint for students to use on their pumpkins. Lastly, Ms. Postl informed the Board the 3rd graders completed their fall Ohio reading testing last week.

Middle School

Mr. Storrer updated the Board on the middle school. There were 20 students in grades 6-8 who recently participated in “Women in STEM” at BGSU. Additionally, October is National Bully Prevention Month. Mrs. Geahlen, Deputy Ferguson, and the student council have worked on displays throughout the building to help

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prevent bullying. Mr. Storrer also highlighted the 5 star celebration that was held for middle school students on October 11th. Students enjoyed inflatable games in the gym, a variety of tailgate games outside, and Outlaw BBQ for lunch.

High School

Mr. Radwan provided an update on the high school. He and Katie Jimenez highlighted an event held on October 25th - Preparing for the Jungle: A Future Focus Day. Freshman students took the YouScience aptitude test and reviewed how to complete job applications, create cover letters, and build resumes. They also attended a presentation by Dr. Scott Grant titled 'The New Normal: Personal Branding, Social Media, and Developing a Positive Purpose, Plan & Value.' Lastly, freshmen listened to career stories from local professionals. Sophomore students reviewed the results of their YouScience aptitude tests. They also reviewed how to complete job applications, cover letters, and resumes, attended Dr. Scott Grant's presentation, and met with local professionals. Junior students completed a practice ACT test in preparation for the required spring ACT testing for all juniors. They also attended Dr. Scott Grant's presentation and heard from local professionals about their career journey. Lastly, seniors had the opportunity to either job shadow someone, visit a college, or tour area businesses. Mr. Radwan thanked all of the career presenters, as well as the sponsors: Premier Bank, Henry County CIC, and Dental Excellence.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on athletics. He congratulated the football team on their third consecutive league championship. This is the first time in school history the football team has accomplished this and only the sixth time in NWOAL history of a school winning three straight titles. Mr. Pohlman also congratulated Colbie Strayer and Mason Like for qualifying as individuals for the State Cross Country Meet. The girls team was just two spots away from moving on as a team. Last week, the girls team was District Runners Up at the District meet hosted at Leaders Farms.

Mr. Pohlman congratulated all of our fall sports teams on their great season and those who earned All-League Honors. He noted he will announce the recipients in their entirety after all fall sports have completed their season. Lastly, he informed the Board some winter sports have already begun practices and others will be starting soon.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Peters reported he had the opportunity to attend the Henry County CIC's Annual Meeting and Reception last week. He is very humbled and honored that Liberty Center Schools received the Workforce Development Initiative award. He thanked the Board of Education and staff for their commitment to the 'Prepared Initiative.' Their support is what made this possible.

Mr. Peters also explained the increase in the substitute aide pay rate. Effective January 1st, minimum wage increases from \$10.45 to \$10.70 per hour, requiring an increase to our daily pay rate to match that amount.

#82-24 Superintendent's Consent Agenda

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

Retroactively approve the Epic Communications Agreement for E-Rate Funding Year 28 (2025-2026).

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

#83-24 Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations

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

Approve the NwOESC substitute teacher and paraprofessional list, as presented for the 2024-25 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 Teacher for the 2024-25 school year with the 1-Year Temporary Non-Bachelors Substitute Teaching license:

Gracie Miller
Taylor Miner
Joshua Williams

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:

Brianna Tammarine – JV Football Cheer
Lexi Sexton – Junior High Football Cheer
Aaron Shafer – Freshman Boys Basketball
Kyle Pieracini – Junior High Boys Basketball
Jesse Miller – Junior High Boys Basketball
Joshua Williams – Assistant Girls Basketball
Braelyn Wymer – Assistant Girls Basketball
Casey Underwood – Freshman Girls Basketball
Taylor Snyder – Junior High Girls Basketball
Bryce Trapp – Assistant Band Director

Approve the following volunteers for the activity listed, contingent upon completion of all necessary paperwork:

Aaron Bowser – Music Department
Logan Meyer – Boys Basketball
Bethany Wolf – Gymnastics
Abbie Badenhop – Gymnastics
Kristin Stacey – Girls Basketball

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

Deb Light – Bus Driver

Approve the following classroom volunteers for the 2024-25 school year, contingent upon the completion of all necessary paperwork:

Rachel Amstutz	Andrea Babcock	Logan Balog-Kwapich
Jenna Brenneman	Hope Carroll	Nicole Carter
Courtney Cobb	Jenell Cobb	Celeste Coey
Stephanie Coleman	Brad Crow	Kendall Detmer
Jamie Evans	Brittnay Fierros	Lindsay Foster
Robin Griffith	Kelly Hill	Dana Holt
Jessica Jones	Stephanie Jones	Jessica Keene
Ashton Kessler	Jodi Kolbe-White	Chantel Liess
Kayleigh Martin	Adrienne McDaniel	Emily Miller
Angel Molnar	Molly Morgan	Marlea Myles
Michelle Ohlrich	Diane Phelps	Trang Pollock
Brooke Schmidlin	Martin Schneider	Hope Shanks
Meagan Spicer	Jenna Tammarine	Heather Underwood
Nessa Wanless	Amanda Welch	Cynthia Westhoven
Stefanie Williams	Nick Wohlfarth	

Approve increasing the substitute aide pay to \$74.90 per day, effective January 1, 2025.

Approve Michelle Bailey to serve on the Elementary PBIS Committee in place of Hillary McBride while she is on maternity leave, with a stipend and hourly rate per the LCCTA Negotiated Agreement, effective October 18, 2024.

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

#84-24 Estoppel and Agreement

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Zeiter and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the Estoppel and Agreement with SUT IX, LLC for their refinancing of the solar field project.

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

#85-24 Program Cost Agreement

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, the motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to approve the Program Cost Agreement with the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West for Title I Services for the 2024-25 school year for non-public student(s) attending Holy Trinity School.

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

New Business

The next Senior Citizen Breakfast is Thursday, October 31st at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditoria.

The next Board meeting is November 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Board Member Committee Reports

The Finance Committee will be meeting on November 4th at 4:00.

#86-24 Executive Session

Mr. Weaver made the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to executive session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee of the School District.


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

The Board returned from executive session at 8:35 p.m.

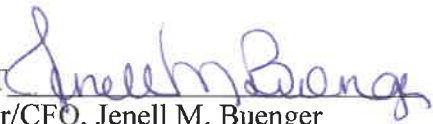
#87-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Zacharias to adjourn the October 28, 2024 regular meeting of the Liberty Center Local Board of Education at 8:36 p.m.

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



President, Neal Carter

ATTEST 
Treasurer/CFO, Jenell M. Buenger