

Liberty Center Local Schools

The Liberty Link

February 2021

The “Link” Between the School and the Community

Mr. Richard A. Peters, Superintendent

From the Desk of Richie Peters:

School districts throughout the state are concluding the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. To say that I am extremely impressed, grateful, and amazed that Liberty Center School District has been able to operate fully in person thus far would be an understatement. This would not have been possible without the collective effort of all staff members doing their part every day to ensure the safety of our students and staff. While the details are still being finalized, we now look forward to partnering with the Henry County Health Department as they prepare for Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccines, which includes school personnel. Specific information about that process will be shared in the coming weeks.

Based on the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, the Liberty Center Board of Education recently took action to begin renovation projects within the District. The Facilities Committee meets regularly to discuss the needs of the District. With the completion of the K-12 building and restroom/concession facility, the current focus is on maintaining and updating the existing buildings and grounds. After careful analysis, the committee developed a plan that will utilize the remaining funds from the K-12 project and Permanent Improvement (PI) funds to make the updates. This will **not** require new funding or money from the General Fund. The Permanent Improvement Fund is designated specifically for improvements in property or assets with an estimated useful life of five years or more, making it the ideal funding source for these projects. In an effort to take advantage of the historically low interest rates, the District can borrow against the PI through a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), knowing this revenue source is consistent and reliable.

The projects highlighted by the committee include: Varsity Gymnasium Building update, Metal Building renovation, and Soccer Field project.

Varsity Gymnasium Building:

When the Liberty Center voters generously approved the bond in 2014 for the new K-12 facility, the approval came with the understanding that the District would maintain and update the Varsity Gymnasium Building, ensuring its longevity would match that of the K-12 building. The proposed updates include: new ceiling tile, flooring and paint in the common area and hallways; remodeling the restrooms and locker rooms; new ceiling panels, paint, and redoing the floor in the gymnasium.

Metal Building:

The 1973 metal building that houses the weight room for all sports and locker rooms for football will be renovated inside and out. The design of the remodel will allow for potential future expansion and the capability to open the facility for public use in the future.

Soccer Field:

In order to create an on-site soccer field location, the long jump, high jump, and pole vault will be moved to the east end of the track, and a soccer field will be created inside the track. This will allow our soccer teams to have a permanent game/practice field and keep the integrity of the track and field events to the inside of the track for spectators.

At the January 11, 2021 Board meeting, the District entered into an agreement with Garmann/Miller to serve as the architect for professional design services for the projects. Having an established relationship with Garmann/Miller from the K-12 building project and restroom/concession building was ideal to move forward with the new projects. The goal is to have all three projects completed before the fall sports season.

January was school board member appreciation month. Neal Carter (Board President), Jeff Benson (Board Vice President), Todd Spangler, John Weaver, and Andi Zacharias make up the Liberty Center Board of Education. Their commitment, dedication and service to students and staff of Liberty Center are at the foundation of the many positive things happening in the District in the midst of these challenging times. We commend and thank them for their unwavering support!

Important Dates

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| End of 3 rd Nine Weeks: | March 19 th |
| Easter Break-No School: | April 1 st , 2 nd & 5 th |
| End of 4 th Nine Weeks: | May 27 th |
| Graduation: | May 30 th |

Finance Office News

By: Jenell Buenger, Treasurer/CFO

Liberty Center Schools is currently pursuing renovation projects for the Varsity Gymnasium Building and the Metal Building on the west end of the football field. In addition, an on-site Soccer Field will be constructed inside the track at the Spring Sports Complex. While the District will not have a cost for these projects until after the request for proposal process is completed, we have already began the process for funding the projects. The main point we want to emphasize is the District will not use General Fund money for the projects. The State still has not closed out the K-12 building project, but the District is currently projected to have \$328,000 remaining in local funds from the 2014 building levy, which can only be used for building projects and improvements. We will combine these funds with a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). A TAN allows the District to borrow against the future proceeds of our 1.25 mill permanent improvement (PI) levy that was passed in 1980. As the PI revenue is received each year, a portion will be designated to repay the TAN. The maximum maturity for a tax anticipation note is 10 years, making it ideal for short-term

borrowing, especially with the knowledge the revenue source to repay the TAN is consistent each year. Additionally, interest rates are historically low, allowing the District to maximize the use of this funding option. We are currently in contact with our bond counsel and local banks as we prepare to move forward with this process.

Many people ask questions about how schools are funded. For operation purposes, public school funding in Ohio comes from three main sources: federal, state and local. Federal funding is received through grants, such as Title 1, and is based on enrollment, as well as the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. State funding is based on student enrollment and the wealth of the district. The local source includes property taxes and income taxes. The most recent operating levy was approved by voters in 2006 for a .75% income tax, bringing the total income tax local funding source to 1.75%. The last property tax increase for operations was in 1988 for 5 mills, which equates to approximately \$5 for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

Kindergarten Clinic

Beginning March 1, 2021, all parents of children who will be 5 years old by August 1, 2021 and plan for their child to enroll in Kindergarten at Liberty Center Local Schools are asked to phone the Elementary Office. Please call 419-533-2604 to begin the registration process. When you call to set up your appointment, we will need the

following information: your child's name and date of birth, parents' names, address, and phone number. There will be an Early 5s Program (Kinderstart) geared towards children who turn 5 between May 1st and August 1st or are not ready for the demands of a kindergarten classroom.

This year's Kindergarten Clinic will be held Thursday, April 22nd and Friday April 23rd at the school. Please plan on the appointment taking approximately 1 ½ hours. It is imperative that you attend this clinic with your child. We are required by law to screen each child before kindergarten. Typically this means that children who do not go through screening in the spring will need to be brought in by parents during the first day of school in the fall to complete the screening process before they can begin regular school attendance. Entering school for the first time is exciting for both the child and parent. We look forward to working with you and your child to make this a memorable experience.

Middle School Second Quarter Awards

Principal's List: Madeline Bailey, Leah Orr, Allicynn Reckner, Addison Zientek, Quinn Bailey, Joy Brown, Gabriel Clapp, Aletha Fausnight, Elliot McMaster, Tyler Rohrs, Calleigh Stoner, Braedyn Tammarine, Max Walker, James Bailey, Baxter Barrett, Cole Bauman, Brady Chapa, Ethan Gray, Takoda Hopkins, Kalan Kern, Jaxton Lawniczak, Addison Naveau, Colbie Strayer, Mason Tallent, Kaylie Westhoven, Kellen Wymer, Raleigh Aschemeier, Isaiah Badenhop, Jonah Bailey, Orian Cover, Henry Fitzenreiter, Paige Hill, Mackenzie Keller, William Krueger, Morrigan Miller, Brooklyn Mohler, Andrew Myers, Abby Ordway, Lydia Scarberry, Celia Shepsko, Cole Spangler

Honor Roll: Kendyl Allen, Maci Bostelman, Stephen Brogan, Mekayla Dilbone, Abigail Elders, Brady Giesige, Payten Hageman, Noah Hammontree, Taylyn Herschberger, Isabell Hill, Kyelar Kern, Macie Krugh, Annika Legg, Tyler Ley, Braden Like, Lillian Lubinski, Aubri Marcum, Paige Mason, Neala Maynhart, Grady Miller, Tatum Oberhauser, Kennedy Perry, Tobin Pieracini, Waylon Rentz, Caylee Sager, Janelle Sattler, AJ Seedorf, Clayton Seel,

Cheyenne Segura, Jadelyn Seiler, Nevaeh Shaneyfelt, Joseph Smith, Ashlee Spade, Mykenna Vasko, Suzanne Walker, Elizabeth Zeiter, Zander Zeiter, Gabriel Chamberlain, Gabrielle Conrad, Hannah Culler, Madison Foster, Heidi Garretson, Ryleah Green-Bacha, Maya Hernandez, Carson Knapp, Taryn Kolodziejcyk, Braxton Light, Mason Like, Tory May, Tyler McDougle, McKenzie McGilvery, David Minnich, Thomas Mohler, Marleigh Myers, Kiera Nonnenmacher, John-Thomas Oelkrug, Carly Ordway, Isaac Orth, Kylie Pinson, Stone Roth, Gretchen Scott, Halle Shadday, Cole Shultz, Mason Smith, Kaden Sonnenberg, Hunter Spangler, Emma Tallent, Wesley Wilhelm, Jackson Zeiter, Hope Atkinson, Brady Badenhop, Skylar Bailey, Liberty Baughman, Daine Bayer, Jackson Bowser, Grace Brandeberry, Lillian Case, Nolan Cordes, Joshua Crippen, Xander Damman, Brady Dennis, Gabriel Dent, Loella Dilbone, Lyndie Espinoza, Treyden Flory, Adam Foster, Mackenzie Fuller, Owen Gebers, Isabelle Genson, Olivia Hannum, Caden Hill, Natalie Huber, Jack Jones, Aiden Lewis, Avery Maynhart, Addie Miller, Jacob Miller, Chloe Mohler, Abigail Morrison, Peyton Naveau, Jacob Nitz, Tate Pieracini, Lily Rankins, Jose Requena, Madelyn Sattler, Cole Shank, Gracie Shank, Karleigh Soto, Collin Westrick, Paige White, Aubree Zeiter, Nacole Barner, Carter Booth, Annabelle Box, Christian Campos, Braydon Crow, Emma Elders, Lucas Estelle, Easton Flory, Ashlynn Grooms, Connor Grubaugh, Laney Hammontree, Kinzly Hollenbaugh, Levi Howe, Noah Huber, Brody Jaqua, Alli Johnson, Boston Johnson, Reina Johnson, Samuel Keller, Jaydyn Kline, Carly Knapp, Brooklyn Lyon, Abigail McGreevy, Alyvia Meyer, Ryley Miller, Tatum Murdock, Ryan Navarre, Teagan Oberhauser, Kaleb Ortner, Mitchell Pieracini, Andrew Silveus, Kaiden Sinay, Aries Spencer, Haydn Willis

Merit Roll: Mariah Bovee, Tala Dotson, William Fitzenreiter, Gavin Geahlen, Elizabeth Golden, Savanah Hernandez, Audrey Hessler, Camden Kahle, Andrew Loboschefski, Landon Massie, Aleah Minnich, Vaughn Norrington, Colton Szczepanski, Braden Vicars, Aiden Bowser, Kamden DeWit, Karla Fonseca, Luke

Marlow, Brookelynn Miller, Lucas Navarre, Degan Schwaiger, Chase Shanks, Grant Bartels, Anthony Capretta, Gregory Croninger, Lucas Dilbone, Alexis Drewes, Jada Furko, Lilly Howard, Logan Jones, Tyler King, Joseph Montague, Maddox Oyer, Marley Perry, Max Perry, Andrew Szczepanski, Emma Wymer, Anthony Alamia Jr., Isaiah Brandeberry, Arianah Brown, Hayden Brown, Bridget Capretta, Sophia Crockett, Bailey Crow, Isabell Epke, Arianna Hufford, Harley Rains

Important Warning for Parents: Dangerous Website/App

If you haven't checked your child's cell phone apps, or the cookies on their computer lately, please make a point to do so soon. Several middle school students have been using a website called [omegle.com](https://www.omegle.com), or app on their phone called Omegle. This website makes them particularly vulnerable to human traffickers and other predators. Omegle does not require users to register, thus allowing communication which is difficult, if not impossible, to trace. If you have questions, or need help with checking your child's devices, please call the guidance office at 419-533-1218.

Spring State Testing Uncertain

As of this time, spring state testing dates appear on the Ohio Department of Education website, beginning as early as March 22nd, and ending as late as May 7th. For the time being, parents are asked to please avoid planning vacations and optional appointments during this time, other than designated days off on the school calendar. Given pandemic related issues, it is possible that waivers at the federal and state level could suspend state testing again in 2021. However, as there is uncertainty, all families, including those using the online/NOVA option, are asked to plan as if they will be required to report to school in person for state testing.

Class of 2025 Parent Meeting

Mrs. Braucksieck, High School Guidance Counselor, will be hosting a Zoom meeting on Monday, February 8th at 8:00 p.m. for all incoming ninth graders and their parents.

Enrichment Opportunity

The Elementary and Middle School Gifted programs have received a grant to participate in a Stem Space Program called Mission to Moon. This is a program that was originally launched in Texas, but now involves schools from across the country and gives students the opportunity to participate in hands-on engineering design and space exploration activities. The curriculum is designed to connect academic subjects to real-world engineering problems and includes topics like designing a space helmet, growing plants in space and even designing and building a lunar base. Students will have the opportunity to connect with students from around the country as well as with NASA engineers and professionals in the STEM field. We are very grateful to Vivify STEM, in partnership with Communities In Schools of San Antonio, NASA, and the WEX Foundation for this opportunity. We will begin the program in mid-February. Follow along to see what we are learning @LCtigertech on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Robotics Competition Team

Recently, our school was able to purchase several CUE robots for our STEM lab. These robots use block-based coding and text based coding, depending on the skill of the user. This year, four of our sixth grade students accepted the challenge to enter a virtual competition using these robots. The team is called the Creative Coding Crew and the members include Cole Bauman, Xander Damman, Takoda Hopkins, and Jaxton Lawniczak. The program provides story-based challenges that students complete by designing accessories and programming the robots to meet the challenges. The students submit their code along with videos and pictures of the robot executing the program for each challenge. It is a world-wide competition and over 4500 schools from 91 different countries participated in this competition last year. They have been working hard this fall to complete the five missions required for the preliminary competition and recently found out that they have been invited to participate in the final round. Congratulations to these students and good luck in the final competition!

LC Education Foundation



You are an important part of our community and we appreciate your support of Liberty Center Schools. We are asking you to continue your support in a very positive way. Working together, we can build on what is best about LC Schools and make it even better.

How do we begin? We already have. The Liberty Center Education Foundation is an endowment, whose earnings are used to reinvest in our most valued commodity: our students and teachers. As the endowment continues to grow, so will our ability to provide support for graduating seniors and well-deserving teachers. Yearly we provide four college scholarships and provide grants to teachers. These grants allow teachers to purchase items to directly benefit their students that cannot be purchased with tax dollars.

Please consider becoming a part of this community-wide movement. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. This means that your contribution is tax-deductible and handled with the highest level of professionalism. Please say, "Yes!" to the future of Liberty Center Schools by sending in your contribution today for 2021. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the foundation and our mission. Thank you for considering a gift to your school's foundation.

\$1000 Lifetime Membership

\$500 Tiger Pride

\$250 Business

\$200 Tiger Club

\$100 Friend

\$50 Family

\$15 Individual

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please send to:

Liberty Center Education Foundation
P.O. Box 105
Liberty Center, OH 43532

Educationally Yours,

Current Foundation Board Members: Scott Armey, Lowynn Atkinson, Stacy Bowers, Louise Dalton, Kara Estelle, Kimberly Jones, Richie Peters – Superintendent, Andrea Zacharias

Friends of the Liberty Center Public Library

Thank you!

The Liberty Center Public Library Staff, Board of Trustees and Friends are grateful for your support. Your participation in our fundraising efforts help to make our library an asset to our community.

Please take a moment and join in supporting your local library.

Email Address: friendsofthelclibrary@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook (Liberty Center Friends of the Library)

Meeting dates and times will be posted in the library, on the library calendar, and on our Facebook Page.



BE A FRIEND

You need your library and your library needs you. You can have an impact on your library and your community by joining the Library Friends group.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Single (\$5)

_____ Family (\$10)

_____ Lifetime (\$100)

Please make all checks payable to the **Friends of the LC Public Library**. Your canceled check is your receipt. Send to P.O Box 66, Liberty Center, OH 43532