



April Regular Board of Education meeting

# LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

Regular BOE Meeting / April 16, 2024 / 6:30 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL

- All Board members were present.
- There were no additions or deletions to the agenda



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### District presentations

- High school student representatives Michael Landry and Ezra Bobo gave an update from LHHS. Students took the ELA AIR test two weeks ago and will start math testing on April 17. National Honor Society inductions will happen April 25.

Softball and baseball are currently in their seasons, and track has had several meets. Boys volleyball is underway, football is working on their off-season training, and two seniors were selected to play in the Licking County All-Star Game this summer.

Graduation preparation continues as well. Jostens handed out caps and gowns at lunch, and students in the special education program enjoyed a resource fair to explore career and education options after graduation.



- High School Principal Mrs. Dawn McCloud and Assistant Principals Dr. Micah Tomlin, Mr. Michael Shipton, Mr. David Moore, and Mr. Tyler Hennen gave an annual update about the high school. The high school has focused their curriculum efforts on strengthening student writing skills since that was the biggest gap in test data last year. Writing has been incorporated into all content areas, including math and science, and the English department led the way in teaching all staff about the SEE Model of supporting a thesis and clearly explaining it.

The high school is also introducing the gradual release model, or “I do, we do, you do,” into all classes to guide student learning. Focus remains on building student capacity and stamina as well. For staff development, instructional rounds and OTES evaluations have been focuses this year.

Like the other schools, the high school provides whole-student supports for essential needs as well. This includes social-emotional learning and support groups, a food pantry, and connecting students to pathways that fit their needs, talents, and abilities after graduation.

Other highlights from the high school that support student development in and out of the classroom include the College Application Blitz, Mrs. Heisler’s Coffee Cart, DECA student leaders, the blood drive, Diaspora, Quiz Bowl, specialized science labs outside school hours for students, and the impressive music program.

- High School Vocal Music Teacher Dr. Meredith Smith presented about the choir’s trip to London, England for the London New Year’s Day Parade and International Choir Festival. She brought along a collection of senior and junior student leaders to speak about their experience. Dr. Smith was particularly proud of her students for challenging themselves in an unfamiliar environment, demonstrating professionalism under pressure, and being excellent ambassadors of Licking Heights as both performers and people.

Students made up one third of the performance choir at the International Choir Festival, and also got to carry a balloon in the parade. They were complimented by event staff for their excellent behavior and preparedness.

Students thanked the board for providing them with the opportunity to do everything from travel outside the country for the first time, to having a professional experience as a young person interested in pursuing music as a career, to simply allowing them the opportunity to do what they love.

### **Board committee updates**

- The Finance Committee met on April 2 and discussed: the Five-Year Forecast; values reassessment for appraisals and property tax increases; district income and expenses; benefits to finances thanks to changes in the state funding formula; additional costs in



the coming years to support student needs; construction updates and goals; and changing some custodial contracts.

- The Curriculum Committee met on April 5 and discussed: incorporating TeachTown curriculum for special education students; opening the alternative school within the high school for 40 students in 2024-25; the required technology credits; developing an AI policy; switching from Naviance to SchoolLinks; utilizing PowerSchool's Unified Insights data analytics tool to spot trends in student academics and behaviors; and Camp Invention, a summer STEM camp coming to West for students entering grades 2-5.
- The Technology Committee met on April 9 and discussed: existing district programs that must have a backup system developed to support technology; summer planning for developing this backup system; planning for end-of-life for software and electronics; acquiring an allotment of refurbished Chromebooks and developing a plan to better account for Chromebooks; purchasing new cameras for West; purchasing QOMOs; and determining bandwidth for the new elementary school and other schools moving forward.
- LPDC met on March 19.

## CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Resignations were approved.
2. Certified employment was approved for 2024-25. Welcome to Licking Heights!
3. Supplemental employment for 2023-24 was approved.
4. Additional days were approved for staff member PD, including Edmentum training and Lean Six Sigma training, and for supervising students praying during Ramadan.
5. Summer technology help was approved for 2024.
6. Staff compensation for training and implementation of Lean Six Sigma was approved.
7. The substitute list from LRESC was updated and approved.
8. Two unpaid leaves of absence were approved for staff members.
9. The non-renewal of Supplemental/Pupil Activity staff and Certified Long-Term Substitute limited contracts was approved for 2023-2024.
10. The preschool calendar for 2024-2025 was approved.
11. A one-year purchase of TeachTown enCore educational programming, along with the necessary materials and training, was approved.
12. The purchase of PowerSchool Data Analytics, Edmentum EdChoice curriculum, and the SchoolLinks Platform was approved.
13. A contract was approved with Hollingsworth Consulting to provide Lean Six Sigma training.
14. The eighth grade Washington, D.C. trip for 2024-25 was approved



15. The ProCare Addendum contract to provide SLP services at Central Preschool for the remainder of 2023-2024 was approved.
16. Donations were approved. Thank you to our donors for their generosity.
17. The minutes from the March 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and April 2, 2024 Special Board Meeting were approved.

#### **ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The March 2024 Financial Report was approved.
2. Permanent appropriations were approved for FY24.
3. A fund-to-fund transfer was approved for maintenance costs.

#### **ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. New positions and reallocations were approved for staffing purposes at the new elementary school.
2. The job description for the new position of Health Aide/Secretary at Central Preschool was approved, along with an expanded job description for the Library Aide position at the middle school.
3. A contract was approved for internet service through LACA, effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028.
4. A contract was approved for internet service through Spectrum for 36 months.
5. The purchase of 12 QOMOs from Central Ohio Audio Video was approved.
6. The purchase of 350 refurbished PCs from Invicta PCs was approved.
7. The new names were approved for Central Preschool, the elementary schools, and Central Intermediate.
8. The Memorandum of Agreement was approved with the Licking Heights Educational Support Professionals Association (LHESPA) regarding Vacancies, Promotions, and Transfers.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Mr. Tsikiwa enjoyed learning about all that is happening at the high school, particularly the writing curriculum and ROX program for girls. He thanked everyone involved in planning and executing the choir trip. He looks forward to being a part of all the strides in STEM education the district is making, and helping to roll out the new names.



- Mr. Johnson was deeply moved by the excellent educators at Licking Heights, especially teachers like Dr. Smith. He is very proud to be a Hornet, and is determined to weather any challenges the district may encounter next year with all of the changes and growth happening.
- Mr. Rader, as a graduate of Licking Heights High School, enjoyed learning about the alternative programs being developed to support the diverse needs of students. He is an advocate of getting every student to the “finish line” of graduation and is thankful for these new opportunities to do so. He thanked donors for their generosity, and everybody involved in the school renaming process.
- Mrs. Russ thanked Dr. Smith for all she has done to build the choral program and wishes her the best, as Dr. Smith will leave Heights to work in higher education next school year. She saw first-hand the impact educators in the music department had on her son, who will graduate with his degree and license to teach music next month.
- Ms. Blumhorst agreed with the sentiments of her fellow Board members and, as an elementary parent, enjoyed hearing about the high school so she can look forward to all the opportunities her students will have one day. She also reassured the community of all the work that went into creating the new school names and thanked them for their support.

## SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Dr. Miller thanked the Board for their continued support, and thanked them for allowing Dr. Smith and her students to present about their trip.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Board then entered Executive Session for a matter pertaining to the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of an employee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The next Regular Board Meeting will be on **Tues., May 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Middle School Media Center.