



December Regular Board of Education meeting

# LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

December 14, 2023 / 6:30 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL

- All Board members were present.
- There was one addition to the agenda: a resolution honoring Mr. Bagley for his years of service to the board.
- There were no public remarks.

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS



## District presentations

- High school student representative Michael Landry provided an update. Ezra Bobo was playing in a basketball game and was not able to attend the Board meeting. Academically, students are busy with winter AIR testing, midterms, and the ACT. Ten students volunteered this month for the annual Pataskala Cookie Walk. Four student teams—Liberia, Nepal, Ethiopia, and Somalia—attended the annual Ohio Model UN conference and debated world issues with 1,200 of their peers from across the state.



Somalia had a resolution place in the top 10 and got to present to the entire conference, and Ethiopia and Nepal both participated in the talent showcase.

For athletics, boys basketball defeated Licking Valley 52-42 on Dec. 13. Boys and girls wrestling participated in the Eastside Duel, too. Different high school clubs like NHS, Student Council, and the Cultural Identity Club are collecting donations for the holidays, and both choir and band have had their holiday concerts. Finally, students are getting ready for Winter Break by having Winter Spirit Week with holiday-themed events.

Mr. Bagley commended Michael and Ezra, saying that in his twelve years as a board member, they have been some of the best student representatives he has seen.

- Licking Heights sophomore student Te'Lario Watkins was recognized for receiving two major national awards for his work to fight food insecurity in Central Ohio. Te'Lario is the owner of Tiger Mushroom Farms, an urban farm that has provided over 300 pounds of fresh produce to food banks. He also sells his mushrooms at local farmers markets and online.

Te'Lario is the recipient of a 10 Under 20 Food Hero recognition from the Hormel Foods Corporation and a 2023 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which included a \$10,000 prize. He will use his proceeds to expand his farm and continue his efforts to teach children about healthy eating, help at-risk teens, and feed hungry families.

- South Elementary principal Kurt Scheiderer, along with Mrs. Hollie Kinney and Mrs. Cassi Solomon, honored art teacher Mandy Rubino for receiving the Ohio Art Education Association's 2023 Outstanding Art Teacher award. Ms. Rubino was honored at the OAEA state conference in November, where she was recognized for her compassion and creativity in the classroom out of all art teachers in Ohio.
- The Board of Education recognized and thanked Mr. Brian Bagley for his twelve dedicated years of service to the district as a school board member. Ms. Blumhorst read an official resolution celebrating Mr. Bagley's accomplishments as a district leader, and Dr. Kevin Miller presented Mr. Bagley with a plaque memorializing Mr. Bagley's service on the board. There was a reception for all meeting attendees as well. Each board member shared their gratitude for Mr. Bagley, and former school board member Mr. Richard Wand also thanked Mr. Bagley for all he has done for Licking Heights.

Mr. Bagley sincerely thanked the following people for their support throughout his twelve years: Mr. Wand, former board member Mr. Mark Sattlewhite, former board member Mrs. Nicole Roth, all current board members, former superintendent Dr. Phillip Wagner, Dr. Miller, Mr. Todd Griffith, Mrs. Linda Aitken, and his family.



## Board committee updates

- The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Dec. 5 to review the HVAC system for the new elementary school and if it will impact timelines for opening the school. They also discussed multiple land leases for utility companies: a radio tower will be installed by West, and Verizon is planning to put a cell tower by the white barn on Mink Street. The committee created a plan to hire interim help over breaks to help with moving and sorting items. Finally, they discussed direct purchases that need to be made for the construction process.
- The Curriculum Committee met on Dec. 8 to discuss potential accommodations for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Logistically, it makes the most sense to have a PD day for staff. The committee discussed the plan to build out career pathways at the high school, which will then filter down to the middle school and elementary schools. They are also currently working on a CTE equipment grant worth \$200 million.

There was discussion about developing an alternative school setting at the high school, which would be for students who benefit from a flexible schedule and work release. There was conversation about trimesters versus semesters for schools, third grade test scores, and Ohio Revised Code requirements for sex education, suicide prevention, and sexual abuse. They created a plan to notify families when these lessons are being taught so parents/guardians can opt their students out if they'd like.

- LPDC met on Tues., Nov. 21.

## CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Classified employment was approved for a new transportation assistant and custodian.
2. Four long-term substitutes were approved to cover leaves of absence and a teacher who resigned mid-year.
3. Darian Kovach's title was officially changed to IT Director and his contract was modified to reflect this.
4. Supplemental employment and volunteers were approved.
5. Extra days were approved for two staff members to support the creation of the Code Next Club, paid for from a Google grant.
6. Three staff members were approved for Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) training.
7. Two teachers were approved for home instruction.
8. Interim classified help was approved for Winter Break, Spring Break, and the week after school ends (May 27-31).
9. The Resources Encouraging Adolescent Character and Health (REACH) program was approved in accordance with Section 3313.6011 of the Ohio Revised Code.
10. An unpaid leave of absence was approved for a staff member.
11. The purchase of equipment for the athletic center weight room was approved.



12. The minutes from the Nov. 21 Regular Board Meeting were approved.

### ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The November 2023 Financial Report was approved.

### ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Membership for 2024 to the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund was approved.
2. There was a second reading of a revised district policy regarding staff leadership in district support organizations.
3. The creation of five new positions was approved: Cybersecurity Coordinator, Technology Infrastructure Manager, Tech Operations Coordinator, Special Education Coach, and Special Education Coordinator. The job descriptions for these positions were also approved.
4. A change order was approved for water main realignment and additional fittings between the new Transportation Center and Athletic Complex. This change order is because of requirements from the Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District.

### BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Johnson wished everyone a happy holiday and reminded them that there will still be people working at the district over the holidays—he appreciates their dedication. He also thanked Kim Henderson as she prepares for retirement. Looking at students like Te'Lario, Ezra, and Michael makes him see all the potential in students. Finally, he thanked Mr. Bagley for his commitment to Licking Heights.
- Mr. Rader enjoyed the outstanding presentations and how they showcased the district's progress. He reminded Mr. Bagley of his one goal to always make the district a better place—and that mission is now accomplished.
- Mrs. Russ said Te'Lario is amazing and she is inspired by his vision. She thanked Ms. Rubino for her dedication and wished the high school choir safe travels to England. Finally, she wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked Mr. Bagley.
- Ms. Blumhorst thanked Mr. Bagley for his leadership and knows she has big shoes to fill as president next year. She is excited for all that 2024 will bring and loved learning more about Te'Lario and Ms. Rubino.
- Mr. Bagley congratulated Mr. Kovach on his new title and all he has done to improve technology at Licking Heights. He could not think of a better way to go out than hearing about Te'Lario and Ms. Rubino. Happy holidays and enjoy 2024!



## SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Dr. Miller reminded all board members they must be at the Jan. 9 meeting at 6 p.m. for photos. He then showed the district's new end-of-year [community video](#) created by Allerton Hill Communications.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The 2024 Organizational Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Licking Heights Middle School Media Center. The January 2024 Regular Board Meeting will immediately follow the Organizational Meeting. Board members must arrive at 6 p.m. for headshots and group photos.