

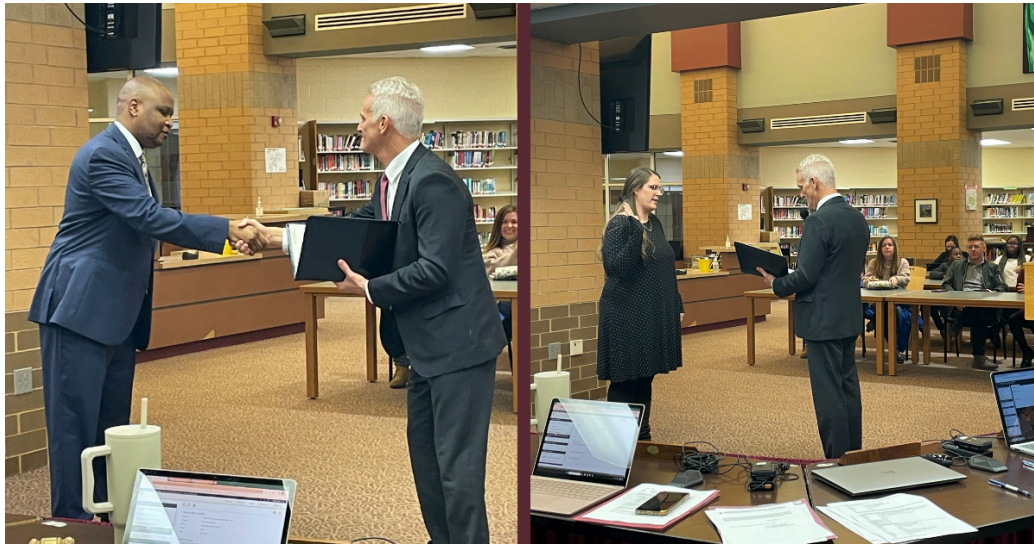


January Organizational and Regular Board of Education meeting

# LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

**Organizational Meeting / January 9, 2024 / 6:30 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- All Board members were present.
- President Pro Tempore Tiffany Blumhorst called the meeting to order.
- There were no additions or deletions to the agenda



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Ms. Tiffany Blumhorst and Mr. Hannington Tsikiwa were both administered the oath of office by Licking County Court of Common Pleas Judge David Branstool.
- Ms. Tiffany Blumhorst was nominated and elected as Board President for 2024.
- Mrs. Tracy Russ was nominated and elected as Board Vice President for 2024.
- Regular Board meetings were established for 2024:
  - January 9, 2024
  - February 20, 2024
  - March 19, 2024
  - April 16, 2024
  - May 21, 2024
  - June 28, 2024
  - July 16, 2024
  - August 27, 2024
  - September 17, 2024
  - October 15, 2024
  - November 19, 2024



- December 17, 2024

## BOARD/ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the following standard yearly action items:
  - Treasurer investing interim and inactive funds
  - Authorizing Treasurer to request school tax advances from the County Auditor
  - Authorizing Treasurer to pay standard bills
  - Establishing Board Service Fund
  - Authorizing Superintendent to apply for State/Federal grants and to approve personnel matters
  - Establishing Records Commission
  - Authorizing Superintendent and Treasurer to utilize certain legal services for school business purposes

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- The following will be the 2024 Licking Heights Board of Education committees:
  - **Buildings & Grounds:** Tracy Russ and Mark Rader
  - **Communications & Community Outreach:** Tiffany Blumhorst and Paul Johnson
  - **Curriculum:** Paul Johnson and Tracy Russ
  - **Finance:** Tiffany Blumhorst and Tracy Russ
  - **Policy:** Paul Johnson and Hannington Tsikiwa
  - **Technology:** Paul Johnson and Hannington Tsikiwa





## Regular Board Meeting / January 9, 2024 / 7:00 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

### AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

#### District presentations

- High school student representatives Ezra Bobo and Michael Landry provided an update. Students took end-of-semester exams and will take the ASVAB test next week. There will also be a CCP/AP Interest Night for students and families.

Wrestling has a home tournament this weekend for all wrestlers, and band will compete in the Solo and Ensemble competition at the end of the month. The choir safely returned from their London trip.

Juniors will receive their required suicide prevention education presentation in January, with all other grades receiving education over the next three months. Finally, the Red Cross Winter Blood Drive will happen in January, along with the annual extracurricular showcase for students and families.

- South Elementary principal Kurt Scheiderer presented Mrs. Burke and her third grade class, who gave the Board a sample of their holiday fashion show they had in December. Mrs. Burke's students could choose whether they wanted to do an outrageous, formal, or cultural outfit, and they each wrote an essay about their outfit's significance. The fashion show is an annual tradition in Mrs. Burke's class.
- West Elementary assistant principal Colleen Wildenhaus presented fourth grade teacher Mrs. Sommekamp, Intervention Specialist Mrs. Miles, and Intervention Specialist Mrs. Morris, who shared about their weekly Book Buddies program for 2nd and 4th grade students. The teachers' students spoke about how they worked together to develop their reading skills and how much they enjoyed meeting and connecting with other students in different grades.
- Karen Jackson from Woolpert/Cooperative Strategies provided an update regarding the community survey that was sent out about redistricting. The district received over 900 responses from the community that will directly influence the process.

Top themes in the survey included: people want to be assigned to their closest schools, want entire neighborhoods going to the same school, want boundaries drawn in a way that requires minimal future adjustment, and want equitably balanced enrollment at each school. Soon, a website will be launched that transparently shares findings and updates with the community.



Cooperative Strategies is looking at future enrollment projections and conducting housing studies to make sure the new elementary boundaries will accommodate future growth. They are now taking the feedback from the community survey and creating different boundary scenarios, which will be presented to the community at an open meeting on Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Community feedback will be integrated into boundary planning, and final options will be presented to the Board of Education at their Feb. 20 meeting for approval.

The Board discussed how important it is for people to know **the Licking Heights district boundaries themselves are not changing. Only the elementary boundaries are changing, and staff will be spread out amongst the existing and new schools.** There will be special attention to supporting students with all elements of the transition—physical, mental, social, and emotional.

- Dr. Miller formally recognized January as School Board Appreciation Month. This included reading a resolution officially dedicating January as School Board Appreciation Month and giving each Board member a special framed certificate.

#### Board committee updates

- All committee meeting dates are currently TBD.
- LPDC will meet on Tues., Jan. 23, 2024.

#### CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Resignations were approved.
2. A contract termination was recognized, but the Board does not consent to the termination since it was after the July 10 contract deadline.
3. Classified employment was approved, including two new bus drivers.
4. Certified employment was approved.
5. Exempt employment was approved.
6. Administrative employment was approved.
7. Extra hours were approved for a staff member who provided PD training to other staff members.
8. Interim classified help was approved for 2023-24.
9. An unpaid leave of absence was approved.
10. The substitute list from LRESC was updated and approved.
11. The list of students deemed impractical to transport was updated and approved.
12. Donations were approved. Thank you to our donors for their generosity.
13. The minutes from the Dec. 14 Regular Board Meeting were approved.



## ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The December 2023 Financial Report was approved.
2. Mr. Todd Griffith, Treasurer, was approved as the public records designee for the district.
3. The annual ARP ESSER budget was approved.
4. The annual amounts and raises for tax rates were accepted and will be certified to the county auditor.

## ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A lease agreement was accepted with The Energy Cooperative, who have a radio tower on West Elementary's property. The district will make about \$100 a month from the lease.

## BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Tsikiwa said he is thankful to be on the Board officially now and thanked all of his supporters.
- Mr. Johnson said he is excited to see all Mr. Tsikiwa will accomplish on the Board. While he will miss working with Mr. Bagley, he is looking forward to another dynamic year and all the new challenges the Board will take on together.
- Mr. Rader welcomed Mr. Tsikiwa and thanked donors for their support.
- Mrs. Russ congratulated Ms. Blumhorst on her new term and welcomed Mr. Tsikiwa. She also thanked Mr. Larry Fravel for his continued support of the district and willingness to always step up when something needs to get done.
- Ms. Blumhorst shared that she is excited Mr. Tsikiwa joined the board and appreciated seeing all of the students—and hearing directly from them—during presentations. She is looking forward to working more with Cooperative Strategies for the redistricting process. Finally, she thanked donors.
- Mr. Bobo from the Ohio School Board Association made a guest appearance to wish the Board a happy School Board Appreciation Month and thank them for their service to Licking Heights.

## SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Dr. Miller said that “dynamic” is the perfect word to describe 2024. Mrs. Jocelyn Cosgrave in HR is already beginning hiring for 2024-25, and the strategic planning family/staff surveys are out and getting hundreds of responses.



- On Jan. 18-19, the Leadership Team for strategic planning will come together and synthesize all responses and information from the process into a draft list of goals for the strategic plan. The full strategic plan should be in place at the beginning of March 2024.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Tues., Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school Media Center.
- The community meeting for redistricting will be on Thurs., Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.