



May Regular Board of Education meeting

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

Regular BOE Meeting / May 21, 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 representative Ezra Bobo gave his final high school update for the year. Students are completing AIR and AP testing, and seniors completed their final week of school. Students are also being recognized at a variety of end-of-year ceremonies, including underclassmen awards, senior awards, C-TEC awards, and NHS inductions. Track, softball, and baseball are all wrapping up their seasons. Fifty students attended the Brown at 70 event at the Lincoln Theatre, honoring the 70th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, the seniors won the Powderpuff game on May 13, and prom took place at Creekside Gahanna.
- The Board of Education recognized Michael Landry and Ezra Bobo for their exceptional work this year as student representatives. The Board agreed that Michael and Ezra were



two of the best student representatives they have ever had and wished them the best next year at the University of Cincinnati (Ezra) and Kent State University (Michael).

- Ms. Deirdre Wise, Conservation Educator at Licking County Soil and Water District, presented fourth grade Broad Peak student Eva Haylett with her award as the River Round Up Poster Contest winner. This is Eva's second year in a row winning this award, and her poster will be used to promote the September 2024 River Round Up cleanup event. Eva and her father also participate in the river cleanup event in September, too. Eva has now won Broad Peak Elementary \$1,000 to use for art and science curriculum supplies.
- Mr. Scott Brown, Regional Liaison to the Ohio Auditor of State, presented the Auditor of State Award with Distinction to the Treasury Department for their excellence in financial reporting. This is the second year in a row Mr. Todd Griffith and his department won this award, which is only given to about 4% of publicly funded entities.
- Mrs. Brandi Wade, Principal at North Elementary; Julie Barclay, Lead Teacher at Pathfinders Preschool; and Aaron Davis, Assistant Principal, presented major developments at Pathfinders Preschool during the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Wade credited the preschool's exceptional staff for all of their success this year.

Major work goals this year for the preschool included developing early childhood literacy and establishing the preschool as a model site for PBIS. The ESC of Central Ohio has provided significant support and professional development to the preschool staff to make this possible, and teachers have incorporated a preschool-friendly PBIS behavior matrix into their curriculum.

The preschool is using Foundations and Heggerty for early literacy education. As such, there is a noticeable difference between the kindergarten readiness of students who attended LH preschool and those who did not—this includes students in the special education program, too.

For family engagement, the preschool is working closely with Mr. Jhuma Acharya and Mr. Mitch Tom to connect with ELL families. This includes community walks, preparing for two Open Houses for prospective families, and creating a volunteer calendar for PreK.

Additional well-received engagement events from this school year include Literacy Night and Math and Science Night, Week of the Young Child daily events, and developing the preschool's partnership with the Licking County Library.

- Mrs. MaryJo Jones, high school art teacher, presented about the EF Tours trip she led to France and Spain over Spring Break. Mrs. Jones shared about the activities her students did over their 10 days abroad and how she saw the trip impact them as students and as young people. Going to Europe is a lifelong dream for her and she is deeply grateful for this opportunity.



- Mr. Todd Griffith, Treasurer, presented the Five Year Forecast and an update on the district's use of ESSER and ARP ESSER funds. Mr. Griffith explained that unknown factors will influence the district's revenue in the next few years. This largely revolves around property taxes and the future of the 20 mill floor. There is a risk that significant valuation increases could lead to a pullback of state funding under the current formula, which is very sensitive to wealth factors.

Another factor impacting revenue is the results of the next biennium election at the Ohio Statehouse. There is currently not much support for public schools in the legislature, but there seems to be a desire to continue phasing in the Fair School Funding formula.

A large cost currently is staffing and hiring. As student populations increase and new buildings open, so does the need for additional staff—particularly to support high-need students. Raises, steps, and benefits are also a large portion of district costs.

Finally, Mr. Griffith discussed the district's strategic use of ESSER funds. Since the district did not need the funds in the specific way that other schools did, Mr. Griffith and his department were able to be strategic in how they allocated funds to cover expenses.

Board committee updates

- The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on May 15 and discussed: a Memorandum of Understanding with Southwest Licking Sewer and Water; roofing audits focused on Broad Peak and the Middle School; sealing for the roofs of these two buildings that will save the district a significant amount of money; hiring summer help; bus lifts; construction for the New Heights Program which will be financed by the CTE grant received by the high school; plans for graduation; demolishing parts of the old auditorium's interior at District Office; finding affordable options to replace the electrical panel at Broad Peak; construction schedules for Lima Ridge, the Athletic Complex, and the high school addition; making playground equipment ADA accessible at Lima Ridge; and demolishing the water tank behind the Middle School.
- The Finance Committee met on May 17 and discussed: the Five-Year Forecast and a recent salary study conducted by the treasurer's office. A salary schedule for district and building-level administrators was created that is competitive with the Central Ohio region. The hiring of administrative assistant for the Treasurer's office, Elisa Carpenter, was also discussed.
- LPDC met on April 23 and May 14.

CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Resignations were approved.



2. Classified and Exempt employment was approved for 2023-24.
3. Expenditures were approved for the Theatre Club's Cabaret show.
4. Extra days were approved for staff members for 2023-24.
5. Administrative, Classified, and Certified employment was approved for 2024-25.
Welcome to Licking Heights!
6. Supplemental employment for 2024-25 was approved.
7. Extra days were approved for staff members for 2024-25.
8. Administrator and Supervisor contracts were approved for 2024-25.
9. Certified, Classified, and Exempt contracts were approved for 2024-25.
10. Summer School Academy staff was approved for 2023-24.
11. Classified summer help was approved for 2024.
12. An unpaid leave of absence was approved for a staff member.
13. Updated staff handbooks were approved for exempt and administrator/supervisors.
14. The student athletic handbook for 2024-25 was approved.
15. An overnight trip to cheerleading camp was approved for the summer.
16. Donations were approved. Thank you to our donors.
17. The graduation list was approved for 2024. Congratulations to our graduates! This is the biggest graduating class so far, with a 97% graduation rate.
18. Student handbooks were approved for 2024-25.
19. A proposal for AP office hours for 2024-25 was approved.
20. Summer End of Course exams were approved for 2023-24.
21. The proposal for the LHHS Freshman Coordinator for 2024-25 was approved.
22. The proposal for the LHHS APEX Manager for 2024-25 was approved.
23. Extended School Year agreements were approved for three students.
24. Contracts were approved to provide services to Students with Disabilities.
25. The purchase of 1,300 Chromebooks was approved.
26. The purchase of bus lifts was approved.
27. A five-year contract for The Ohio State University to provide Athletic Training services and Sports Performance Coaching was approved.
28. The minutes from the April 16 Regular Board Meeting were approved.

ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The April 2024 Financial Report was approved.
2. The Five-Year Forecast was approved.
3. There was a notice of a public hearing on the re-employment of Vicki Willett.

ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS



1. A Classified summer staff member was approved.
2. A Memorandum of Understanding was approved with the Licking Heights Education Support Professionals Association (LHESPA) regarding reimbursement for the cost of work-related permits.
3. New supplemental positions were approved.
4. Job descriptions were approved for every Supplemental position.
5. Roofing repairs were approved at Broad Peak Elementary and the Middle School.
6. A Change Order was approved for: playground accessible paths and additional equipment at Lima Ridge Elementary and library shelving at Lima Ridge.
7. Negotiation of a preconstruction agreement with Robertson Construction was approved for necessary construction for the New Heights Program.
8. Negotiation of an agreement with WSA was approved for necessary design for the New Heights Program.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Tsikiwa gave a shout out to the award-winning treasurer's office and enjoyed learning about the preschool. He congratulated Mrs. Jones for a successful trip to Europe and hopes to see continued student interest and enrollment in EF Tours trips. Mr. Tsikiwa is thrilled to see such a high graduation rate this year and thanked everyone involved in current construction projects.
- Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Adam Koons and his grounds team for all they are doing to improve the curb appeal of the district. He is excited about all the travel opportunities available to students at the Middle School and High School through EF Tours. He also congratulated Mr. Griffith and his department for their award. Finally, Mr. Johnson wanted to assure staff that their needs are always being considered when the district makes major changes and decisions, such as the move to Lima Ridge next year.
- Mr. Rader thanked Mr. Griffith for his hard work and congratulated him on his office's success. He enjoyed learning about the trips available for students and everything happening at the preschool. Mr. Rader also thanked donors and thanked Mr. Koons and his team for their constant hard work. Finally, Mr. Rader thanked the leadership responsible for making major and necessary changes in the district this year.
- Mrs. Russ thanked Michael and Ezra for their work as student representatives this year. She congratulated Mr. Griffith, who she called the "unsung hero" of the district. She enjoyed the presentations and thanked the preschool for the strong educational foundation they provide students.



- Ms. Blumhorst also thanked Michael and Ezra, and congratulated Eva on winning the poster contest again. She thanked Mr. Griffith for his work and shared how she sees the preschool program positively impacting her three-year-old, who can now spell her own name. She wished everyone a safe and happy summer, too.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Dr. Miller shared about the Family Night happening on Friday, June 7 in partnership with Licking Memorial Health Systems. This is a free event that will happen at the high school amphitheater. It will include a screening of Disney's *Aladdin*, food trucks, and plenty of free family-friendly activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The Communications and Community Outreach Committee will meet on **Thursday, May 30 at 4:30 p.m.** in the District Office conference room.
- The Curriculum Committee will meet on **Monday, June 10.**
- The next Regular Board Meeting will be on **Thursday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Middle School Media Center.
- The Technology Committee will meet on **Wednesday, June 26.**