



October Regular Board of Education meeting

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

October 30, 2023 / 6:30 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL

- All Board members were present.
- Per the request of Mr. Bagley, Ms. Blumhorst conducted the meeting.
- There were no additions or deletions to the agenda, or public remarks.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS



District presentations

- High school student representatives Ezra Bobo and Michael Landry provided an update. Academically, students took the PSAT in the month of October and the counselors hosted the College Application Blitz for students across Licking County. Thirty-five different two- and four-year colleges came to Licking Heights to speak with interested students and they could apply to a school on the spot with no application fee. This is the first time Licking Heights ever hosted this event and it was a success—eight high schools



across Licking County visited with 302 total students in attendance. Thank you to Mr. Carrant and the HS counselors for their work on this.

Additional academic updates include the launch of the Coffee Cafe with Mrs. Heisler's class. Students take coffee orders, prepare them, deliver them to staff each week, and manage money. Senior Devin Lawson is also a National Merit Scholarship finalist, a highly prestigious honor.

For athletics, the Last Class on the Grass was hosted on Oct. 13 for football, band, and cheerleading. Volleyball won the LCL Championships for the third time in school history; girls soccer were LCL runners-up, beat Watkins, and earned the most wins in a season in school history; and girls were LCL runners-up for cross country. Sophomore Addison Caudill qualified for the regional meet, broke the school record for time, and came in 31st at Regionals. Finally, the marching band completed their season with a superior rating at the State Marching Band Finals.

High school students are also engaging with their community this fall. Several students participated in Youth at the Booth training so they could work at the polls on Nov. 7. Multiple groups like NHS, Cultural Identity Club, and the Teaching Pathways students participated in Haunted Happenings handing out candy to elementary students. Focus groups through the Educational Service Center also happened for students and families to evaluate post-graduation career pathways and how the school can best prepare students for the workforce.

Mr. Johnson congratulated Michael on his hard work on the football team this year and wished Ezra a successful basketball season. He also shared that if Licking Heights were a D2 school (the high school is currently D1 for athletics), Addison would have qualified for states and be running in the state finals for cross country. Congratulations to our accomplished athletes, scholars, performers, and community servants.

- Two Hornet Awards were given. Director of Human Resources Kim Henderson explained the significance of the Hornet Award—they are given to team members who go above and beyond in serving the district and supporting their team members. Director of Business Operations Adam Koons presented several members of his maintenance team with Hornet Awards for their exceptional work handling a staff accident that happened at the middle school last month. A team member shared about an injury he had while working and how well his coworkers did getting him medical attention, communicating with his family, helping him file the proper reports, and staying calm in a stressful situation. Both the injured team member and his family were thankful for all the help. Director of Technology Darian Kovach presented John Mohler with a Hornet Award for all his hard work to keep the technology department running smoothly while Mr. Kovach was out on medical leave. Mr. Mohler stepped in after two weeks of training and



provided the necessary leadership to run the department. Every day, Mr. Mohler leads with positivity and does a fantastic job handling the challenges that come with his position.

Dr. Miller praised the work of the maintenance team to support their coworker and Mr. Mohler's work to allow Mr. Kovach the time he needed to rest and recover from his medical procedure.

- Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Grades 7-12 Tiffane Warren presented about the 2023 Summer School program. The program is divided into one section for students K-8 and one for students 9-12, and each section is tailored to the needs of students in those groups. For K-8, 17 teachers were employed along with two Intervention Specialists and two paraprofessional aides. Mr. Joe Unger served as the K-8 Coordinator and did an excellent job. Based on test scores, 218 summer school invitations were sent and 157 students participated. The focus for K-8 education was remediation and recovery, primarily for reading/ELA and math. Mrs. Warren noted that even with the recent repeal of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in the state of Ohio, all students who are struggling with reading at the elementary level will have specialized instruction plans to support their learning.

For the 9-12 summer school program, Extended Learning Plan Specialist Donna Chamberlain served as coordinator. Ms. Chamberlain has excelled in this position in the past, and this year was no different. High school summer staff included 13 teachers, four Intervention Specialists, and two paraprofessionals. Coursework focused on credit recovery for 178 participating students. Courses offered included English 9-11, Algebra I-II and Geometry, physical and life sciences, and an AIR testing bootcamp. There was a particular data-driven focus on teaching and improving core standards where students were deficient.

Based on end-of-course exams, Licking Heights students scored higher than the state averages. Seventy-two percent of students met competency in the algebra boot camp, and 66% of ELA test-takers met competency.

Mrs. Warren recognized additional departments outside of teaching staff who helped support K-12 summer school: Food Services provided thousands of free breakfast and lunch meals thanks to Director of Food Services Matt Goings applying for the necessary grant monies; Transportation brought students to and from school every day; and Mr. Koons and his maintenance/custodial staff kept buildings clean and well-maintained.

Finally, Mrs. Warren acknowledged that the summer school program is funded by limited ESSER funds. She is working with Treasurer Todd Griffith to secure funding once ESSER funding ends to continue the summer school program.



Board committee updates

- Buildings and Grounds met on Oct. 4 for a discussion including a full recap of all the summer work completed by Mr. Koons and his team. This includes improving the front entrances of school buildings, auctioning off materials no longer used or needed around the district, installing water bottle fillers in all buildings, refurbishing gym floors, installing new chillers, and deep-cleaning and waxing each classroom. Mr. Rader commended the internal maintenance and custodial team for their hard work this summer. The committee also discussed and approved hiring Ryan Frye as Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Services. The district's continued partnership with youth sports was also discussed.
- The Communications and Community Outreach committee met on Oct. 20 to discuss cost-effective ways to continue partnering with youth sports while also providing the necessary staffing needed to maintain athletic and school facilities.
- The Finance Committee met Oct. 24 to discuss cost increases for health insurance and Mr. Griffith's work on the Five-Year Forecast. Mrs. Russ discussed revenue increases the district is seeing from different pathways and how those increases influence the Five-Year Forecast.
- The Policy Committee met Oct. 20 to discuss new policies in alignment with state standards and regulations, including: removing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee; providing additional training about cardiac arrest for people working in athletics; required staff trainings about student mental health; rights to break times for nursing mothers; consequences for students and staff who tamper with school security devices; and removing blizzard bag requirements. The district also implemented a new policy where they will accept cash payments at all athletic and public events.
- No update for LPDC.

CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Resignations were approved. Congratulations to our staff members who are retiring. Thank you for your service to Licking Heights!
2. The board acknowledged a teacher's termination of contract after July 10 without board approval. The contract is terminated and the employee has resigned, but the board does not consent to the termination since it is not legally or ethically in line with ODE (now DEW) standards.
3. Classified employment was approved, including two new bus drivers. Thanks to the continued hard work of Director of Transportation Darlene Mortine, the district currently has 37 bus drivers on the roster and is looking for the 38th.



4. Two exempt staff members were approved. Dawn Rood will replace Kris Cartwright as Administrative Assistant to Curriculum/Instruction, and district parent Ashley Lyons will take over as the District Office's full-time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. Both Mrs. Rood and Mrs. Lyons are doing excellent in learning their new roles.
5. Ryan Frye was approved as the new Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Service. Mr. Frye comes from a local janitorial company where he was an operations manager and leader.
6. Supplemental employees and volunteers were approved.
7. Theatre club expenditures for Grease were approved.
8. Teachers were approved for home instruction for homebound students.
9. Achievement testing assistants were approved. This is a solution for a shortage of school psychologists. These approved assistants will help the Special Education department with basic student achievement testing for the 2023-2024 school year.
10. The bus duty and after school detention monitoring list was approved.
11. Additional days were approved for a transportation staff member who worked throughout the summer with the grounds and maintenance teams.
12. A staff member was added to the Snow Crew.
13. The substitute teacher list with the Licking County ESC was approved.
14. Unpaid Leaves of Absence were approved for two staff members.
15. After school tutoring hours were approved.
16. An overnight trip for the high school Model UN club to attend the Model UN conference in downtown Columbus was approved.
17. An overnight trip for high school American Sign Language students to visit Washington, D.C. and meet students and staff at Gallaudet University.
18. The list of students deemed impractical to transport was approved.
19. A transportation assistance agreement with Assist Services, LLC was approved from Sept. 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.
20. The three-year lease agreement was approved with the YMCA (Sept. 1, 2023 to Aug. 31, 2026) for the preschool program and before/after school care program.
21. A modification was approved to the lease for Christian Community Church.
22. An inter-district enrollment contract was approved for a preschool student to attend the AG Bell CHIP program through Columbus City Schools.
23. The minutes were approved from the September 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.
24. Donations were approved. The district sincerely thanks donors for their generosity.
25. The consent agenda was approved.



ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The September 2023 Financial Report was approved. Significantly more revenue shows on this report due to interest grants.
2. Then and Now Certificates were approved.

ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provisional changes were made to school policies to comply with House Bill 33, the state budget that was passed in June 2023. This includes changing references to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to its new name of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). Changes will also be made in reference to the State Board of Education, whose primary duties now pertain to teacher licensure and revocation.
2. A Guaranteed Maximum Pricing (GMP) for the high school addition was approved. The addition will now be bid out and groundbreaking can start immediately for the 300 student addition to the building.
3. A Change Order was approved to eliminate a \$98,972.51 charge for fencing at the new Transportation Shelter. This will save money for the Campus Expansion Project, and the fencing can be added back into the project down the line.
4. A Change Order was approved to run conduits from the new elementary school to Summit Road for future AEP electrical feeding. Now is the least expensive time to conduct this project.
5. Conveyance of utilities easement was authorized to the Ohio Power Company.
6. A CIAC agreement was approved for the new elementary school. This will pay AEP to power the new building, and the agreement comes in under budget.
7. An increase of 15% was approved for staff insurance rates.
8. There was a second reading and adoption of revised policies, a first reading of a replacement policy regarding Narcan use, a first reading of new policies regarding care of students with seizure disorders, a first reading of revised policies to align with state laws, and a rescinding of two policies regarding intra-district open enrollment and Narcan use.
9. The administrative resignation for Kim Henderson was approved. Mrs. Henderson will retire effective Dec. 31, 2023. Dr. Miller and each board member expressed their gratitude for Mrs. Henderson's years of service and her work to build the HR department from the ground up. She will be dearly missed and has left this district better than she found it.



PUBLIC HEARING

- A public hearing was held regarding the re-employment of Ann Karas as an Intervention Specialist with the district.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Johnson wanted to make everyone aware that the tennis courts at West are under the district's jurisdiction, meaning the district is responsible for caring for them. Mr. Johnson also shared that he is very concerned about the upcoming election and Issue 2, the statewide issue regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana. He wants everyone to consider the potential impact this legalization could have on students, families, and district policies and events. Mr. Johnson thanked all team members who contributed to keeping the football games safe and secure this season. He was highly impressed by how positive the experience of attending a high school football game was this season. Finally, he thanked Mrs. Henderson for her service to Licking Heights.
- Mr. Rader thanked Mrs. Henderson for all she has done for Licking Heights. He gave a special shout-out to all the successful girls sports teams this season. Mr. Rader is especially proud of the summer school team and all they do to help students successfully continue in their education.
- Mrs. Russ congratulated fall sports teams and the band for their outstanding season. She thanked the Hornet Award winners for their work to serve Licking Heights. She also thanked the summer school staff and the high school students who attended the school board meeting for extra credit.
- Ms. Blumhorst congratulated the Hornet Award winners and also shared how impressed she was with the new safety measures at football games. Both she and her children felt much safer this season. She appreciates seeing safety officers at each building in the morning, too. Finally, she shared that there is a lot happening in 2024 and advised staff to rest and be prepared.
- Mr. Bagley thanked donors and loved seeing the Hornet Award presentations. He hopes the district can find a way to continue the summer school program. He welcomed Mr. Frye to the team and is thankful the GMP was approved for the high school audition. Mr. Bagley commended Ms. Blumhorst for running the meeting so well, too. Finally, Mr. Bagley shared that he truly believes and sees how Mrs. Henderson improved the district throughout her tenure and expressed how much she will be missed.



SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Dr. Miller commended High School Counselor Troy Current for his work to lead the College Application Blitz. He said the band makes him proud to be a Hornet and congratulated them again on their successful season. Dr. Miller also thanked EMIS Coordinator Sue Merrill for her work to gather years of data for the district's work with Cooperative Strategies. Dr. Miller also echoed the gratitude for all staff members and leaders who assisted with the high school football safety and security measures this season. Finally, Dr. Miller shared about how 28 different focus groups will be conducted on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 with the Schlechty Center so the district can move forward with developing a strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Board then went into Executive Session for the purpose of a.) Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official; b.) Discussion, with the Board's legal counsel, of disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action; c.) Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or State statutes.

UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Licking Heights Middle School Media Center.
- The December Regular Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2023 since there is a band concert on Tuesday, December 12.