



September Regular Board of Education meeting


LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

September 19, 2023 / 6:30 PM / LH MIDDLE SCHOOL

- All Board members were present except Mrs. Russ.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

🏠 Licking Heights Local District at a glance ▾ ☰



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Exceeds state standards

Overall Rating

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. The overall rating is comprised of five rated components. The College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness Component is report only and does not contribute to the overall rating on the 2023 Ohio School Report Cards.

Print

Achievement

This component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.

★★★★☆

Meets state standards in academic achievement.

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Progress

This component looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances.

★★★★★

Significant evidence that the district exceeded student growth expectations by a larger magnitude.

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Gap Closing

The Gap Closing Component is a measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups.

★★★★★

Significantly exceeds state standards in closing educational gaps

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Graduation

The Graduation Component is a measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

★★★★☆

Exceeds state standards in graduation rates

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Early Literacy

The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.

★★★☆☆

Needs support to meet state standards in early literacy (K-3).

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College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness

This component looks at how well-prepared Ohio's students are for future opportunities, whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college.

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District presentations

- 2023-2024 Student Representatives from the high school, Ezra Bobo and Michael Landry, introduced themselves and gave their first update for the year. Both serve as team captains in athletics—Ezra for the boys basketball team, and Michael for football and wrestling.

For academics, several science and AP classes are currently doing mandatory testing. The Global Scholars and LCL Leadership students took off-site field trips to enrich their classroom learning. The Jostens cap and gown meeting also happened Sept. 19 for all senior students. DECA and marketing students presented to Cult Marketing as part of the Licking Heights rebranding project. The Underclassmen Awards for 2023 are taking place Sept. 28.



For extracurriculars, the Marching Hornets are enjoying a successful season including a Superior rating at the 14th annual Pageant of Bands and receiving the Grand Champion award at their most recent competition. Volley for the Cure will be Sept. 26 and include freshman, JV, and varsity girls volleyball teams. Last week, some winter sports including wrestling, boys volleyball, and basketball started open gyms. The Homecoming dance and game is this weekend and the Hornets will play Granville. Next week there will be Youth at the Booth training for students interested in being a poll worker in November.

Finally, Beat Watkins Week starts Oct. 2 and is tied to the annual Battle for Broad Street canned food drive. Students can start donating now to this annual competition benefitting LEADS Licking County. Last year, LH students donated over 6,000 cans. This year's goal is 8,000 cans.

- Director of Food Services Mr. Matt Goings presented an update about Chartwells catering across our district. There has been a 55% increase in breakfasts served so far this year since breakfast is now free for all students. Successful programs from last year will continue this year, along with a few new initiatives. This includes:
 - Student Choice competitions at the high school and middle school, where students vote on new menu items
 - Global Eats, where each month is themed with a world cuisine and this is incorporated into the menu/cafeteria programming
 - Scratch cooking for pizzas and several specialty menu items, with made-from-scratch pizza in all cafeterias one day a week
 - Discovery Kitchen, where elementary school students learn about healthy eating and how they can add healthy options into their diets
 - Mood Boost, where kindergarten students learn about how healthy foods impact their moods.

Mr. Goings also shared examples of how Chartwells works with local vendors and farmers for fresh produce used in the cafeterias. A particularly impactful partnership is with a greenhouse in Cleveland that employs community members living in impoverished neighborhoods. All cucumbers come from local farmers, too.

- Dr. Kevin S. Miller, superintendent, presented the 2022-2023 State Report Card (screenshot above). Licking Heights earned four out of five stars under the new rating system, which means the district exceeded state standards. Dr. Miller then explained each section of the rating: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, and Early Literacy.

The district earned three out of five stars in Achievement, meeting state standards. Achievement is now based on a performance index which acknowledges each and every test taken by students during the school year. Licking Heights scored 81.9 out of 108.8.



The district is making progress in moving on from the pandemic, but there are still gaps in proficiency rates that need to be closed.

Licking Heights did earn five stars in two sections of the report card: Progress and Gap Closing. Students' academic progress significantly exceeded state expectations over the school year, and achievements for many minority subgroups also exceeded state standard expectations. The performance of Hispanic, Asian, and disabled students will be something to focus closely on this school year.

The district's Graduation score was four out of five stars. The current weighted graduation rate (combining four- and five-year rates) is 94.4%. The graduation rate of white, non-hispanic students is an area of focus moving forward.

The area of biggest necessary growth is Early Literacy, where the district earned two out of five stars. This is largely due to the percentage of students who are off-track for being at grade-level with literacy skills from grades K-2. There is a high percentage of students who remain off-track from year to year instead of moving to on-track. The Curriculum team is working to develop specific reading supports and customized learning plans for off-track students' needs. There is also a focus on connecting families to library resources in Licking County and beyond.

Board committee updates

- The Communications and Community Outreach Committee met Sept. 1 and talked about the 2024 graduation ceremony.
- The Finance Committee met Sept. 15 and discussed a DEI/Family Support Coordinator position, a contract with Cooperative Strategies, and timelines for the new elementary school.
- The Policy Committee met Sept. 13 to discuss new district policies for approval, with a focus on volunteer processes, Health Services policies, graduation requirements, and aligning with federal guidelines.
- Staff members who will participate in LPDC were approved.

CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

1. Resignations were approved.
2. New classified employees were approved, including two new bus drivers. Thanks to the work of Mrs. Darlene Mortine, Director of Transportation, the district is now fully staffed with bus drivers.
3. Certified employment was approved, including a long-term substitute for middle school Spanish.
4. Supplemental employment and supplemental volunteers were approved.



5. Up to five hours of home instruction a week was approved for students who need special accommodations.
6. The bus duty and after school detention monitoring list was approved.
7. Extra days were approved for Health Aides so they can approve student EMA forms. 95% of EMA forms are completed, which is by far a new record in the district. Thank you to all team members who made this possible.
8. An unpaid leave of absence was approved.
9. Contracts were approved for two school psychologists who work as independent contractors with multiple districts.
10. Donations were approved. Thank you to all who donated and thank you to those donating to the 8th grade DC trip in 2024.
11. The minutes from the August 22 Regular Board meeting were approved.
12. The 2024 high school graduation ceremony date was approved. Graduation will be on Saturday, May 25 at 4 pm outside. The rain date will be Sunday, May 26 at 1 pm outside. If it is raining on the rain date, the ceremony will be moved inside to the gym. Students will be allotted four indoor rain day tickets in advance and there will be a livestream available in the auditorium.

ACTION AGENDA/TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The August 2023 Financial Report was approved.
2. The updated Student Activity Purpose Statements were approved.

ACTION AGENDA/SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There was a notice of an upcoming public hearing on the re-employment of Annette Karas, a retired Intervention Specialist. This public hearing will happen at the October 17 Regular Board meeting.
2. A contract was approved with Cooperative Strategies, an organization specializing in redistricting, enrollment projections, and planning for future needs of school districts. Cooperative Strategies works with Olentangy Schools and is well-versed in working with school districts experiencing rapid growth. They will work with Licking Heights for an updated enrollment projection, redistricting for the new elementary school, and development of a student potential analysis.
3. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Licking Heights Education Association was approved. This is an annual MOU approving OTES and OSCES and how both evaluation systems will be implemented for teachers and school counselors.
4. The new DEI and Family Support Coordinator job description was approved. This position is a reimagined version of the DEI Coordinator position that is more intentional



with family engagement and supporting minority students, ELL families, and students experiencing homelessness. The person in this position will make deep, meaningful pathways with our Nepali and Somali communities, giving those families pathways to get involved in their students' schools.

5. Three change orders were approved for the construction project: boring underneath a creek to run utility lines, accepting sanitary line revisions for the bus garage and athletic complex, and approving the purchase of additional dirt needed to raise the elementary school building site by six inches.
6. There was a first reading of new policies. Three existing policies were rescinded because new ones were created/modified.
7. There was a discussion about solutions for the new elementary school building timeline. This included discussing challenges with getting and installing the air handling unit, redistricting, and potential temporary spaces that can be used in North Elementary.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Johnson expressed his gratitude to all staff who worked on EMA form completion and the strategic methods used this summer to reach families. He is also very thankful for our community volunteers and glad to see successes on the district's State Report Card.
- Mr. Rader thanked the Food Services team for their work and appreciates all the positive feedback he hears from students about school cafeterias. He is thankful for donations and hopes the district can move forward towards a unified goal now that State Report Card standards have been solidified by ODE. Finally, he thanked the construction team for their work.
- Ms. Blumhorst thanked the new Student Representatives and is looking forward to getting to know them. She enjoyed the catering provided by Food Services last week at Strategic Planning. She is excited about the new DEI/Family Support Coordinator role and what that position will bring to family engagement. Finally, she thanked Dr. Miller for simplifying the State Report Card and giving such a thorough, understandable presentation of the data.
- Mr. Bagley looks forward to getting to know the new Student Representatives, too. He is thankful for the State Report Card presentation, the generous donations, and all the creative work the construction team is doing to get students into the new elementary school building as soon as possible.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS



- Dr. Miller thanked everybody who participated in the two-day Strategic Planning process with the Schlechty Center last week. He also thanked Cult Marketing for all of the work they are doing in schools for the district rebranding project.

UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMITTEES, AND MEETINGS

- The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Licking Heights Middle School Media Center.