

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 in the Library; President Joseph Sturm presiding. Mr. Sturm called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Joseph Sturm – Present
 Jennifer Johnson- Present
 Gerald Dubos- Present
 Brian Wharry-Present
 Stephanie Yon- Present

TREASURER'S CONSENT ITEMS

(23-9-8510)

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the following items A-D by consent action:

A. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the August 16, 2023 regular Board meeting

B. Financial Reports

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended August 2023

C. Approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Permanent Appropriation Measure and Certificate of Estimated Resources

D. Donations

- a. Accept a \$500 donation from the PTO. Funds will be used to purchase PBIS awards for students.

Moved by Jerry Dubos. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. Congratulations to the following students who were named to the 2023 Homecoming Court.

Makenna Beeson

Morgan Lewis

Hadassah Rivera

Aryana Romano

Elizabeth Rossi

Bruce Brenner

Nicholas Donatelli

Cody Nolfi

Geno Perry

Anthony Vrabel

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2. Thursday, September 28th we will kick off homecoming celebrations with the parade/snake leaving city hall at 6:45 PM and the bonfire to follow at 7:30 PM. On Friday, the Homecoming Parade starts at 5:30. Queen crowning will take place at half time. Saturday, the day of the dance, doors will open at 5:00 with the King crowning at 5:30 p.m. The dance will follow the crowning at 6:00.
3. Lowellville Local School District is participating in Start With Hello Week, the Sandy Hook Promise, September 18th -22nd. The program empowers youth to "know the signs" leading to safer schools. Students and educators learn how to identify at-risk behaviors and intervene to get help. These early-prevention measures empower everyone to help keep schools and communities safe. The program focuses on social-emotional learning including relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision-making and self-awareness.

To begin Start with Hello Week week, students in grades K-12 have been tracing their hands and preparing these outlines in their visual art and ELA classes as a positive visual art representation for the Sandy Hook Promise. Students will write a positive word on each hand to be displayed in the school cafeteria. Students will also sign the Promise Pledge encouraging empathy, inclusion and speaking up by being an 'Upstander' that they will be able to display in school and then take home for parents to see. A schedule of activities for each day of the week has been compiled. Resources will be provided so that teachers and counselors may implement lessons throughout the school year. All training and resource materials are provided at no cost to the school district.

4. Thank you to the PTO for supporting our PBIS program. They agreed to donate \$500 to purchase awards and prizes for our students. In December/January, they will donate another \$500. In addition, they have Scholastic Dollars to spend and we are welcome to use that to order prizes from the Scholastic catalog.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITIONS:

1. Beginning this month, Mr. Hammond will invite teachers to nominate K-12 students who consistently exhibit the qualities of R.I.S.E. (respectful, inclusive, safe, and engaged) in school. Teachers will be asked to provide a brief description of the student's behavior, attitude and work ethic in their classroom.

Mr. Hammond will then recognize each student in school by awarding them a Rocket Spotlight certificate, a formal letter will be mailed home informing the student's parents/guardians of their recognition, students will have their picture taken as a group and then shared on the school website, Facebook and school media class publication; and lastly, each student will receive a treat from the cafeteria.

The students nominated and recognized for the month of September are:

Kindergarten - Anthony Sesser
2nd grade - Nolan Vincent
3rd grade - Ryan Durkin

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5th grade - Roland Swanson
6th grade - Dominic McCaughtry
7th grade - Azalea Betlyn
8th grade - Lily Sargent
11th grade - Kyle England
12th grade - Michael Ballone

2. Special Award - Submitted by Mr. Van Kirk- Congratulations to 10th grader, Kaden Italiano for receiving a Premier 1st Place Award for his Landscape painting which was entered in the Canfield Fair Art Show.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Save the Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023- Lowellville School Foundation Quarter Auction

The Lowellville School Foundation is changing things up this year for the main fundraising event. Instead of the reverse raffle, we are going to try a Quarter Auction. The event will be held on Saturday, October 7th at the Lowellville Mt. Carmel Club. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the auction will start at 7:00 p.m. It's going to be a fun night and we welcome and encourage everyone to attend. There will be lots of prizes to bid on during the evening. The flier (attachment A) contains additional information as well as a QR code that contains a quick video to explain a quarter auction. If you would like to purchase a ticket to attend the event please contact Mrs. Sawicki at 330-536-8426 ext 148 or c.sawicki@lowellvilleschool.org. Tickets are \$10.00.

We are also seeking donations of any kind (valued between \$1-100) to be auctioned off during the event. If you or someone else is willing to donate a basket, item, gift card, cash, baked goods, etc. please reach out to Mrs. Sawicki. We are asking for all donations to be turned in by Friday, September 22nd.

2. Attendance Challenge -If a student misses just two days a month they will ultimately miss 10% of the school year. Addressing chronic absence is a key component of improving graduation rates, increasing academic achievement and giving young people the best chance at success in their adult life.

Beginning September 18, 2023, Lowellville School District will be partnering with United Way to launch an attendance challenge aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism and promoting regular attendance for all students K-12. We ask that all families work to support our goal of "Strive for Five". Our primary goal is to encourage each student to have no more than five absences in a school year. Regular attendance is crucial for a student's academic success. Thank you for your continued support.

To achieve our goal, we will be implementing a range of strategies and incentives.

- Monthly Resources for Families: Each month, we will provide resources and tips to support families in ensuring their children attend school regularly. These resources will be shared through various channels, including social media and our school website.
- Quarterly Competitions: We will hold competitions every 9 weeks between grade levels (elementary) and 1st period classes (high school). The winning rooms will receive a plaque/certificate to display, and some type of party/treat. The teacher of the winning room will also receive a prize.

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- Year-End Awards: At the end of the school year, we will recognize the top 3 students in each grade who have demonstrated exceptional attendance. Their families will also be invited to join the celebration and will be rewarded as well. In addition, we will honor the student who has shown the most improvement in attendance throughout the year.
 - Whole School Goal: To build community and teamwork, we will set a collective attendance goal for our entire school. To keep track of our progress, we will display a visual representation in the cafeteria that will be updated regularly.
3. 2022 -2023 - Ohio School Report Cards Released
- a. [2023 Report Card Guide](#)
 - b. [Search for 2022-2023 District and School Report Cards](#)
 - c. [Summary, Celebrations, Areas of Improvement & Action Steps](#)
4. Nutrition Group- Samples of new menu items

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building, Grounds, and Safety Board Committee Meeting- Met September 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- a. Building and Grounds - Project Updates, Maintenance, and Needs
 - b. Permanent Improvement Project Updates

Mr. Sturm reported that the committee met to discuss how some of the levy funds have been spent thus far. There was additional conversation regarding the field, track, baseball and softball field repairs that may be needed. The committee reviewed short and long term project priorities and a project wish list. The committee will be scheduling a special Board meeting to further discuss the permanent improvement and capital improvement projects and to solicit feedback from the community.

Mr. Dubos asked if the list of completed maintenance projects from last year was shared with the committee. Mrs. Sawicki reported that it was not shared during the meeting but that it could be provided to the committee. Mr. Dubos also asked if anyone is responsible for building and grounds at this time. Mrs. Sawicki reported that she is coordinating the maintenance efforts at this time. Chad Likens is completing a lot of the maintenance projects. In addition, the district contracts with other providers for projects that require additional support. Mr. Dubos suggested that the administration create a weekly checklist for each administrator to use in order to review the buildings and grounds needs. Mrs. Sawicki stated that the administration and other staff members are keeping up on the clean up and regular maintenance efforts from last year. The rest of the Board members commented that Mrs. Sawicki is doing a nice job at this time staying on top of the maintenance efforts. As things need completed they are getting done.

2. Finance Committee Meeting- Met September 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- a. FES Reconciliation Presentation
 - b. General Updates on the District's Finances and Funding

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Mrs. Johnson reported out that Mr. Karlovic presented on the FES contract during the committee meeting. It was reported that the district is seeing savings from the FES project. There has been about a 40-50% reduction in KWH each month and about a \$10,000-\$12,000 savings per year that the school sees after FES receives their portion of the savings. FES maintains the bulbs, ballasts, etc.

During the meeting, Mr. Karlovic also updated the committee on a recent Vindicator article where Mahoning County Auditor, Mr. Meecham discussed school finances. Mr. Karlovic reminded the committee that it is important to review the state averages in general fund spending of each district.

The ESC of Eastern Ohio will be hosting a Seminar on School Funding on September 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The auditor, and various media have been invited to the event. Mr. Karlovic will be one of the panelists to discuss school funding.

It has been reported that there may be a 26% increase in property values. However, that does not mean that individuals will also see a 26% increase in their taxes. Mr. Karlovic will be completing an estimated update when he presents the district's 5 year forecast.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Schedule a special board meeting to solicit feedback regarding facility upgrades

The Board will hold a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The purpose of the Special Board Meeting is to conduct a work session to discuss permanent improvements and capital projects. No action will be taken during the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Public comment on agenda items or other school related issues.

Discussion:

Mr. Scott Ogle-

- Complimented the school administration for always tying things back to the students and the school.
- Thanked Mr. Dubos for addressing safety issues.
- Asked the Board why the school still does not have a mask policy. He questions why there is not a policy in place to allow (mask) exemptions. He stated a policy would take the responsibility off of one person having to make such a decision and instead place the responsibility on a School Board. He further questioned why the Board has not determined the need to have such a policy and again reinforced the desire to not have one person burdened with making such a decision.
- Safety Improvements- Mr. Ogle asked if the district is at a point since the incident about 18 months ago where parents are completely comfortable sending their kids to school. He asked if the district has all the safety improvements in place rather than looking at baseball and football fields.
- He stated that parents didn't show up at school board meetings in 1970 and that they still do not now.

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- Mr. Ogle questioned if the district really needs to send the students to the nurse first or if they should be sent to the assistant principal first to determine if they should be seen by the nurse.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. At the discretion of the Board President, the time limit may be extended to five minutes. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of calling the Board office to request to be placed on the regular agenda at the Superintendent's discretion. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

(23-9-8511)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following items A - D by consent action:

A. Personnel

1. Classified Staff Appointments

- a. Colleen Murphy-Penk- Substitute Bus Driver, Retroactive to begin September 18, 2023- Step 8 of the classified agreement- \$25.53 per hour

2. Athletic Supplemental 2023-2024 School Year-

Provided they meet the requirements, prior to working with students, set forth by the Lowellville Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Ohio Department of Education:

- a. Dan Dougherty, Baseball- Varsity- 12%
- b. Michael Kacir, Baseball- Assistant - 7%
- c. Carla Raseta, Softball- Varsity- 12%
- d. Brooke Kalitich, Softball- Assistant- 7%
- e. Michael Alfano, Softball- Assistant - 5%
- f. Bob Ballone Jr, Track- Head Boys HS- 12%
- g. Lisa Modelski, Track- Head Girls HS- 12%
- h. Eric Grow, Track- Assistant Boys HS- 8%
- i. Jamie DeMain, Track- 7th & 8th Girls - 8%
- j. Cody Mead, Basketball- Boys 8th- 8%

3. Peace Officer

- a. Michael Trolio- Peace Officer, Retroactive to begin September 15, 2023-to work security for Lowellville School District and events for the 2023-2024 school year- \$30.00 per hour

B. Leave of Absence

- a. Cindi Clemens- Unpaid Leave (2 half days)- August 30 and 31, 2023 (pm only)
- b. Lisa Doll- Revise the FMLA dates- Self- Effective August 2, 2023 - September 10, 2023

C. Building Use Requests

- a. ***Little Rockets Cheer Practice*** (Little Rockets Cheer- A. Higgins)- August and September 2023 if weather is bad and based upon availability- 5:00-7:00 p.m.- Small or Large Gym

MISSION

- b. ***Birthday Party*** (Josh Hartman)- September 30, 2023- 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.- Pavilion & Restrooms
- c. ***Breakfast with Santa*** (Class of 2024- N. Firmstone)- December 10, 2023- 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.- Cafeteria, Kitchen, Stage
- d. ***Financial Aid Night*** (Guidance Dept. - A. Granitto)- January 18, 2024- 6:00-7:00 p.m.- CCP Room
- e. ***CCP Informational Night*** (Guidance Dept. -A. Killingsworth)- February 12, 2024- 6:00-8:00 p.m.- CCP Room

D. Student Activity Anticipated Budgets and Sales Project Potential Forms As Submitted (2023-2024 school year)

- a. Volleyball
 - o Senior Night Basket Raffle- October 10, 2023
- b. Class of 2024
 - o Spirit Wear Fundraiser- September - October 2023

Moved by Joe Sturm. Seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(23-9-8512)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the amended agreement (as submitted) between the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio and Lowellville Local Schools to include one-half day per week of TESOL services during the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved by Jerry Dubos. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

(23-9-8513)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the amended agreement (as submitted) between the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio and Lowellville Local Schools to reflect the new substitute management assignment fee from \$139.70 to \$151.94 approved by the MVRCOG Board in May 2023.

Moved by Jennifer Johnson. Seconded by Stephanie Yon..

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

(23-9-8514)

3. **Other:** It is recommended that the Board approve the contract between Ford Office Technologies and the Lowellville Local School District (as submitted) for the purpose of leasing to own four new copier machines for the district.

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Moved by Joe Sturm. Seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

(23-9-8515)

4. Adjournment:

Moved by **Brian Wharry**, seconded by **Joe Sturm** to adjourn the meeting at **7:09 pm**.

ROLL CALL: Johnson - Sturm - Wharry- Yon - Dubos- All Aye
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

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ATTACHMENT A

LOWELLVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION



QUARTER AUCTION

WHEN: Saturday, October 7th

WHERE: Lowellville Mt. Carmel Club Hall
102 Washington St., 44436

TIME: Doors At 6pm. Auctions At 7pm

COST: \$10 Per Paddle
All In Paddles For Purchase At The Event

FOOD/DRINKS: Bring Your Own!

QUESTIONS: Call Or Email Superintendent Christine Sawicki
330-536-8426 ext. 148
C.sawicki@lowellvilleschool.org

How It Works:
Purchase a Paddle. Purchase Tickets To Use As "Quarters". If You See An Item You Wish To Bid On, Put Ticket(s) In And Raise Your Paddle. Once Everyone Bids, a Number Is Selected From The Container And That Person Wins!



SCAN ME FOR A YOUTUBE VIDEO ABOUT QUARTER AUCTIONS

How To Purchase Tickets:
Contact a Foundation Board Member or Purchase At The Event
A Foundation Board Member Will Reach Out To Coordinate Payment
Email: lowellvilleschoolfoundation@gmail.com
Text: 334-780-8180

Only Pre-Purchased Groups Of 8 Tickets Will Have Reserved Tables

PRIZES




Prizes/Raffles Include:

- Xbox Series S
- Gift Cards
- Party Buckets For Your Table
- 50/50
- Many More Prizes

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Joseph Stuenkel
President

10/18/23
Date

Blaire E. Karlav
Treasurer

10/18/2023
Date

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