

Regular Board Meeting December 20, 2023

2943

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 in the Lowellville 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

(23-12-8531)

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

A. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the November 15, 2023 regular Board meeting

B. Financial Reports

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

C. Donations

- a. It is recommended that the Board accept the donation of two treadmills and an exercise bike from the Lowellville Athletic Boosters to be used by all students.

Moved by Stephanie Yon. Seconded by Joe Sturm.

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. Our K-6 homerooms and high school science classes participated in the Hour of Code, a global initiative reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries held from December 4th to December 10th. The Hour of Code introduces students to the fundamentals of coding and computer science. The goal of this initiative is to spark an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, and broaden students' perspectives on the practical applications of computer science across STEM disciplines. Moving forward, we hope to further integrate coding concepts into our curriculum.
2. To continue with STEM and to help bring in the holiday cheer, the 5th and 6th grade participated in an Elf on the Shelf STEM project on Friday, December 8th. The elf requested a taller shelf to sit upon, so the students were challenged to create one using only toothpicks and gumdrops. Groups consisted of a mixture of 5th and 6th grade students who worked collaboratively to plan, build, and test their elf shelf. In addition, the students wrote reflections about their project and created a poster to display their findings.

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3. On December 4th and 5th, students from grades 6 and 9 participated in Alta's Linkages program which focuses on addressing depression and suicide. Following the educational sessions on both days, students from all grades were offered the opportunity for suicide and depression screenings. Participation in the screenings was strictly on a voluntary basis, and only students whose parents had expressly requested one were screened.
4. Each year a district must ensure that personnel are trained in evidence-based crisis management and de-escalation techniques as well as the safe use of physical restraint and seclusion. On December 19th a team of staff members were trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI). CPI teaches strategies to prevent and manage disruptive behavior in school. It involves understanding root causes, effective communication for de-escalation, and, if necessary, employing safe physical interventions. The focus is on fostering a safe learning environment and equipping educators to navigate challenges while promoting positive outcomes. Additional teams will be trained next year.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITIONS:

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

Mr. Hammond then recognizes each student in school by awarding them a Rocket Spotlight certificate, a formal letter is mailed home informing the student's parents/guardians of their recognition, students have their picture taken as a group and it is 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 this month are:

- K - Aubrianna Edwards
- 1 - Abigail Anderson
- 2 - Patrick Durkin
- 3 - Lucian Wilson
- 4 - Lilliana Sesser
- 5 - Alina Galazia
- 6 - Ethan Camara and John Crilley
- 11- Dominic Encarnacion

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Congratulations to the winners and runner ups in the grades 3-5 and 6-8 grade spelling bees that took place on December 1, 2023:
 - Grades 3-5 Champion: Roland Swanson- 5th grade
 - Grades 3-5 Runner Up: Skylar Higgins- 5th grade

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Grades 6-8 Champion: AJ Powell- 6th grade
Grades 6-8 Runner Up: Michael Alfano- 6th grade

2. Michael Katula- Congratulations to Senior, Michael Katula for signing with Malone University on December 20, 2023. Michael will continue as a track and cross country athlete at the Division II University. Go Pioneers!

3. Dear Families, Students, Staff, and Board Members,

As we approach the joyous holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest holiday wishes to each and every one of you. May this festive season bring you moments of laughter, love, and cherished time spent with family and friends.

In alignment with the spirit of the holidays, I am delighted to share information regarding our upcoming winter break. School will not be in session from Friday, December 22nd through Sunday, January 7th, allowing our students and teachers to enjoy this special time of the year.

This break provides us with an opportunity to recharge, reflect, and appreciate the blessings that surround us. Whether it's celebrating cherished traditions, embarking on new adventures, or simply taking time for relaxation, I encourage everyone to make the most of this festive season.

As we bid farewell to this year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment to our educational community. Your contributions have been invaluable, and I am truly proud of the progress and achievements we've made together.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday filled with warmth, happiness, and beautiful memories. May the New Year ahead be filled with prosperity, success, and continued growth.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Sawicki

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. None Met

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Permanent Improvement and Capital Projects
 - a. Mrs. Sawicki reported that during the process of scheduling a meeting with the Village to discuss the ownership of the land parcels on/near the baseball/softball fields the Village shared the documents outlining a 50 year easement agreement between the school and the village. In the easement, the school provided the Village the rights to the land on/near the softball and baseball

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fields in order to build a baseball/softball park. The easement will expire on May 31, 2051. The school will meet with the Village on January 10, 2024 to further discuss the area, general maintenance and safety concerns, and items outlined in the easement.

- b. Mr. Wharry asked if the Village is aware and understands the cost of the monetary value of upkeep moving forward. Will the Village be able to maintain the costs as outlined in the easement?

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. NONE

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

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

- No Discussion

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

(23-12-8532)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following item A- B by consent action:

A. Personnel

1. Classified Staff Appointments

- a. Tiffany Lesnansky- Cafeteria Aide- Retroactive effective November 29, 2023- Step 0 of the classified agreement- \$10.15 per hour until December 31, 2023. Beginning January 2024, her rate will be \$10.45 per hour.

2. Athletic Supplemental 2023-2024 School Year-

Provided he meets 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. Richard Palumbo- Girls Basketball- Volunteer- 0% - Retroactive to the beginning of the 2023-2024 season

B. Leave of Absence

- a. Cynthia Clemens- Unpaid Leave (2 days)- January 11 and 12, 2024

MISSION

Moved by Jerry Dubos. Seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(23-12-8533)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the amendment to Schedule A for the 2023-2024 services provided to the Lowellville Local School District by the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio (ESC) to include the technology optimization infrastructure services.

Moved by Jerry Dubos. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

(23-12-8534)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Resolution (as submitted) Approving And Authorizing Amendment To Agreement Regarding The Mahoning County School Employee Insurance Consortium To Clarify Certain Inconsistencies Relating To Section 2(C).

Moved by Joe Sturm. Seconded by Stephanie Yon.

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

(23-12-8535)

3. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by **Jennifer Johnson**, seconded by **Brian Wharry**, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at **6:19 p.m.** to discuss:

1. The appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee, official, licensee or student, unless the employee, official, licensee or student requests a public hearing;
2. The purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding;
3. Conferences with the board's attorney to discuss matters which are the subject of pending or imminent court action;
4. Preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees;
5. Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes;
6. Specialized details of security arrangements.

Action **will be** taken.

MISSION

Statement by President Joe Sturm: “The purpose of this part of this meeting is to hear the appeal of student discipline. I understand that the parent has asked that the appeal be held in executive session, which is closed to the public. Ms Apisa, is that correct?”

Ms. Apisa: “Yes”

President Sturm: “Do I have a motion to adjourn to executive session, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3313.66 and 121.22 (G)(5), to consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law and regulations and state statutes?”

Moved by Jennifer Johnson. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

(23-12-8536)

4. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Board Meeting at 7:46 p.m.:

Moved by Jerry Dubos. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

(23-12-8537)

5. **Other:** I (President Joe Sturm) move that the Board affirm the November 10, 2023, expulsion order in favor of expelling the Student for one calendar year based on the findings of fact made on the record and incorporated herein by reference. Please be aware that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2506, the student has the right to appeal this decision to the Court of Common Pleas for Mahoning County. If the Student so chooses to appeal, a notice of appeal must be filed with the Board within 30 days in accordance with Revised Code Section 3313.66(E).

Moved by Joe Sturm. Seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

President Joe Sturm stated, “this concludes the appeal hearing”.

(23-12-8538)

6. Adjournment:

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

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

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President

Date 1/10/24



Treasurer

Date 1/10/24

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