

The Lowellville Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, April 25, 2024 in the Lowellville Library; President Jennifer Johnson presiding. Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**(24-4-8575)**

**TREASURER'S CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**A. Minutes**

- a. Minutes from the March 20, 2024 regular Board meeting

**B. Financial Reports**

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended March 2024

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

1. State testing concluded this week. Results are scheduled to be released on May 14th for math, science and social studies and May 20th for ELA.
2. Congratulations to the 2024 Lowellville Prom Court- Bruce Brenner, Nicholas Donatelli, Robert Loftus, Cody Nolfi, Anthony Vrabel, Makenna Beeson, Joslyn Delsignore, Madison Esposito, Aryana Romano and Elizabeth Rossi. Prom will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024.
3. Starting next school year, our district will transition to using ParentSquare exclusively for its communications, moving away from multiple platforms like Remind, ClassDojo, Send It, etc. This change is designed to streamline communication by consolidating all updates, alerts, discussions, and other messages into one centralized platform. ParentSquare will also handle district-level communications, such as all-call announcements and attendance calls. This means that everything from classroom-specific messages to broader district-wide notifications will come through the same system. By using ParentSquare, we aim to make accessing and managing school communications more straightforward for parents, teachers, coaches and administrators, ensuring that important information is consistently received and easily accessible to everyone.
4. The month of May is nationally recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Lowellville Local Schools will honor the month with a MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK from May 6th- May

**MISSION**

The Lowellville Local School District will educate, empower and challenge our students to reach their individual potentials by providing an environment where tradition, community and excellence create productive members of a global society.

10th. On May 8th, an event for MS and HS aged students will be held here on campus called The GetSchooled Tour! The Get Schooled Tour is a 60-minute high-energy event that educates students about mental health and the network of care that surrounds them. Elements of the Get Schooled Tour include engaging education, trivia competitions, interactive polling, and compelling video. In addition, please, see the list of activities, events and themes for the week.



**LOWELLVILLE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK  
May 6th-10th, 2024**

The month of May is nationally recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Lowellville Local Schools will honor the month with a MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK. Please, see the list of activities, events and themes for the week.

- ★ Monday: **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK Kick-Off**
  - Wear Break the Stigma t-shirt or Green for Mental Health Awareness.
  - School-wide picture to be taken at 8AM. Awareness item give-away.
- ★ Tuesday: **TWIN TUESDAY: Twin with Someone to Show You're Not Alone**
  - Students are encouraged to dress alike or in the same color as a classmate.
- ★ Wednesday: **WEAR WHITE to WHITE-OUT NEGATIVE THOUGHTS**
  - Students are encouraged to wear WHITE.
  - Gr. 6-12 RemedyLIVE "Get Schooled Escapism Tour" 12:30PM
  - Journals to be given to all students and staff to encourage healthy outlets.
- ★ Thursday: **TELL US HOW YOU FEEL THURSDAY**
  - Students are encouraged to wear a color that describes their emotions.
- ★ Friday:
  - GRADES 7-12 WEAR LIGHT BLUE for PHYSICAL HEALTH or HEALTHY ACTIVITIES
  - GRADES K-6 WEAR YOUR GRADE LEVEL COLOR and participate in physical activities for K-6 FIELD DAY

5. The Senior Breakfast is Tuesday, May 21st at 8:00 AM at Avion on the Water. RSVPs can be made to Mrs. Granitto. Commencement is Sunday, May 26th at 2:00 PM.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITIONS:**

**Rocket Student Spotlight of the Month!**

**MISSION**

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1. Congratulations to 6th grade student Abbigail Cavna. Abbigail was one of five students in Mahoning County whose Green Team Recycle/Save the Earth poster was selected to be displayed on a billboard across the county. Her poster is located on South Ave. near Rulli Bros.



### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

1. On Saturday, April 13, 2024, Lowellville junior high band and choir members participated in a solo and ensemble contest at Champion High School. Congratulations to all of the students who participated.

Band- All of the students who performed received the highest rating of a one/superior. Congratulations to:

- Kayleigh Cruz- Snare Drum Solo
- Morgan DeMain- Xylophone Solo
- Jakob Primous- Trumpet Solo
- Nicholas Scott- Trumpet Solo
- Nicholas Scott- Tuba Solo
- Lucas Williams- French Horn Solo
- Steven Yon- Trumpet Solo
- Kayleigh Cruz and Morgan DeMain- Snare Drum Duet
- Nicholas Scott, Jakob Primous, Steven Yon- Trumpet Trio
- Mason Dutton, Nicholas Scott, Lucas Williams- Brass Trio
- Steven Yon, Jakob Primous, Lucas Williams, Mason Dutton, Nicholas Scott- Brass Quintet

Choir- Congratulations to the following students for receiving the highest rating of a one/superior:

- Jakob Primous: Vocal Solo
- Nataley Rolland: Vocal Solo

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Choir- Congratulations to the following student for receiving the second highest rating of a two/excellent:

- Isabella DeBeaulieu - Vocal Solo

2. Class of 2024- Lowellville High School presents its 134th Annual Commencement on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Paul V. Johnson Gymnasium.

3. Parents: We want to inform you about a minor adjustment to the start time for all K-12 students at Lowellville, beginning in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. We will be moving the start time up to 7:40 AM, five minutes earlier than the previous start time of 7:45 AM.

This adjustment is being made to facilitate a positive change in our high school schedule. By adding the additional five minutes to the day and adjusting the length of each period we are now able to introduce a thirty minute advisory period which will occur first thing in the morning. During the advisory period our students will be actively engaged in various activities/meetings including, guidance lessons, class meetings, sources of strength activities, scheduling, academic interventions, among others.

Additionally, our administration will have the opportunity to meet and plan with various staff members throughout the year. During this time, they will focus on reviewing data, planning lessons, and making necessary adjustments to enhance the learning experience for our students.

We believe these changes will contribute to a more effective and supportive learning environment for all students. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to continuously improve the educational experience at Lowellville.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. None Met

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Superintendent Evaluation Process- Mrs. Johnson reported that the Board will follow the state superintendent standards when evaluating Mrs. Sawicki. By June 3rd, Mrs. Sawicki will share with the board elements of evidence and success for each standard. Board members will each have time to review the evidence and provide their own rating and feedback. Next, Mrs. Johnson will collate each board members feedback and the Board will meet with Mrs. Sawicki in an upcoming executive session to provide her with one evaluation. Moving into the 24/25 school year, the Board will do a mid year summary and an end of the year evaluation.

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2. Certified Negotiations- Mrs. Sawicki thanked the certified union negotiating team members (Jeannine, Bob Alvan, and Alayne) for their professionalism and dedication during the recent negotiations sessions. She stated, it was truly a pleasure to work with such a committed and respectful team. Their cooperative spirit and constructive approach contributed immensely to the productivity of the discussions. Mrs. Sawicki also commented on how the administration values the mutual respect demonstrated throughout the negotiation process and are confident that it lays a solid foundation for our future collaboration. Finally, Mrs. Sawicki thanked the entire LEA for coming together so quickly to vote on the tentative agreement. The support the LEA displayed during the negotiations process is much appreciated.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

None.

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**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.

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(24-4-8576)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**A. Personnel****1. Certified Staff Appointments**

- a. Angela Higgins- Success by 6 Teacher for Summer 2024 Program- \$21.13 per hour

**2. Classified Staff Appointments**

- a. Marcela Estevez- Success by Six Aide for Summer 2024 Program- \$16.50 per hour

**3. Non Bargaining Unit Personnel (Grant Funded) Appointment**

- a. Teresa (Tracy) Vivo- 1 year contract for the 2024 -2025 School Year- Behavioral Health and Wellness Coordinator- 240 Days- Step 4 of the Behavioral Health & Wellness Coordinator Salary Schedule-\$62,431

**4. Athletic Supplementals Appointments- 2024-2025 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. DJ Aldish- Basketball Boys Varsity- 21%
- B. Lisa Modelski- Basketball Girls Varsity- 21%
- C. Steve Procick- Basketball Girls Varsity Assistant- 10%

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- D. Ron Rotunno - Basketball Girls JV- 11%
- E. Rick Palumbo- Girls Basketball Volunteer- 0%
- F. Carrine Esenwein- Bowling Head- 6%
- G. Christina Freed- Bowling JV- 4%
- H. Eric Grow- Indoor Track Head Coach- 4%
- I. Robert Ballone Sr. - Athletic Director- 21%
- J. Diane Nord- Girls Assistant AD- 6%
- K. Emily Lisowski- Girls Assistant AD- 6%

**5. Substitute Nurse Appointments**

- a. Sharon Wilson, 2024-2025 School Year- \$18.31 per hour
- b. Carla Raseta, 2024-2025 School Year- \$18.31 per hour

**6. Peace Officers Appointments**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Peace Officers available to work security for Lowellville School District and events for the **2024-2025** school year:

- a. Elrico Alli
- b. Stacy Karis
- c. Troy Fares
- d. Mike Trolino
- e. DJ Aldish
- f. George Stamos
- g. Daryl Wagner
- h. Charles Butch
- i. Jeff Lewis
- j. Dan Mamula
- k. James Ritter
- l. Robert Younger
- m. Robert Cranmer
- n. Keith Brown
- o. Douglas Bobovnyk
- p. Brian Ferreri

**B. Leave of Absence**

- a. Marcela Estevez- Unpaid Leave (2 1/2 days)- May 29, 2024- half day, May 30-31, 2024- full days

**C. Building Use**

- a. ***Birthday Party*** (Lynn Cataldo)- June 8, 2024 - 12:00-3:00 p.m.- outdoor pavilion, restrooms, playground

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

- a. Drama Club
  - Ticket Sales for Spring Play- April 2024
  - Concession Sales for Spring Play - April 2024

**MISSION**

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

(24-4-8577)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss:

1.   X   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.   X   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.

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

(24-4-8578)

2. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Board Meeting at 7:39 p.m.:

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm.

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

**MISSION**

(24-4-8579)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the Class of 2024 graduates as submitted below:

|                          |                           |                 |                   |                   |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sophia Alfano            | Michael Ballone           | Connor Binion   | Hunter Bott       | Meranda Caruso    | Caleb Costanzo   |
| Braylen Dabney           | Riahna Edwards            | Landon Esenwein | Landon Frohman    | Michael Gibson    | Donovon Gomez    |
| Casey Gordon             | Destiny Hunsucker-Richard | Michael Katula  | Olivia Lavernuick | Kayla Lawson      | Mathew Lucido    |
| Bruce Mahon              | Mia Mangine               | Ryan Neider     | Natalie Parry     | Vincent Perry II  | Shannyn Phillips |
| Fortunato Rivera- Ocasio | Rachel Speis              | Serinna Tych    | Arianna Wasko     | Isabella Willrich | Nathan Wilson    |
| Sophia Yon               |                           |                 |                   |                   |                  |

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

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

(24-4-8580)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve a limited contract for the following teachers and/or school counselors for the **2024-2025** school year and be placed at the appropriate step of the Certified Master Contract salary schedule:

|                    |                             |                  |                                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Robbin Carlos      | Renay Choma                 | Megan Anderson   | Lisa Doll                        |
| Daniel Dougherty   | Nicole Firmstone            | Melissa Husosky  | Angela Killingsworth (counselor) |
| McKenzie Augustine | Leslie Mercure              | Jeannine Reamer  | Jared Van Kirk                   |
| Dominique Kerpsack | Alina Wittenauer            | Alyssa Streb     | Gina DeLuca                      |
| Dr. Jared Hale     | Alyssa Granitto (counselor) | Emily Lisowski   | Eric Grow                        |
| Amanda Signor      | Jessica Dent                | Carrine Esenwein |                                  |

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

#### MISSION

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(24-4-8581)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve a two year contract beginning the 2024-2025 (**2024-2025 and 2025-2026**) school year for the following Classified Staff members and be placed at the appropriate step of the Classified Master Contract salary schedule:

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nick Ballone- Educational Aide | Cynthia Clemens- Bus Driver |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Joe Sturm.

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

(24-4-8582)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the following staff “as needed” for the **2024-2025** school year and be placed at the appropriate step of the Classified Master Contract salary schedule:

|                                                          |                                 |                                       |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cheryl Mamula- Cafeteria Aide<br>Custodial Aide (summer) | Lucille Yarnell- Cafeteria Aide | Logan Agee- Custodial Aide            | Richard Beard- Custodial Aide                                    |
| Paulette Collet- Cafeteria Aide                          | Kathy Wharry- Cafeteria Aide    | Tiffany Lesnansky- Cafeteria Aide     | Chad Likens- Cafeteria Aide, Custodial Aide, Grounds Maintenance |
| Toni Lanterman- Cafeteria Aide                           | Mildred Sturm- Cafeteria Aide   | Cheryl Kawecki- Substitute Bus Driver | Colleen Murphy-Penk- Substitute Bus Driver                       |
| Joyce Wilson- Van Aide and Cafeteria Aide                | Laura Macejko- Educational Aide | Ryan Dunn- Substitute Bus Driver      | Shawn McCormick- Cafeteria Aide                                  |
| John Olson- Van Aide                                     |                                 |                                       |                                                                  |

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

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

(24-4-8583)

7. It is recommended that the Board approve the contract (as submitted) between the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board, and Lowellville Schools to engage in a collaborative with Miami University Center of Excellence of School Based Prevention and Early Intervention to support the adoption and/or expansion of the Ohio School Wellness Initiative through onboarding Behavioral Health and Wellness Coordinator in Lowellville Schools.

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Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

**(24-4-8584)**

8. It is recommended that the Board approve the FY25 3313.845 MVRCOG Service Agreement as submitted:

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

**(24-4-8585)**

9. It is recommended that the Board approve the 3 year agreement (as submitted) between the Healthcare Process Consulting, Inc. (HPC) and Lowellville Local School District for the purpose of HPC assisting the district in managing the district's Ohio Medicaid Service Program to procure federal medicaid reimbursement for district provided Medicaid eligible services. The agreement will be effective July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027.

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Brian Wharry.

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

**(24-4-8586)**

10. It is recommended that the Board approve the start and end times for all K-12 students for the 2024-2025 school year. All students will attend school from 7:40 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

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

**(24-4-8587)**

11. It is recommended that the Board approve the change in funding for the Response to Intervention Teacher position beginning the 2024-25 school year. The position was previously grant funded and will now be funded by the general fund.

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

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

**MISSION**

(24-4-8588)

12. It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution (outlined below) to implement a reduction in force of the teaching staff and to suspend a teacher contract.

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code § 3319.17, Board of Education Policy GCPA, and the Lowellville Education Association Contract effective through August 31, 2024 (“LEA Contract”), allow for a reduction in force for financial reasons and, more specifically, the LEA Contract allows for reducing the number of bargaining unit positions in an area in which a reduction is deemed necessary and/or abolishment of a position(s); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board currently employs three physical education teachers in the District; and

**WHEREAS**, for financial reasons and because a reduction is deemed necessary and/or abolishment of a position(s), the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that it effectuate a reduction in force of a physical education teacher position in the best interest of the District consistent with Ohio Revised Code § 3319.17, Board Policy, and the LEA Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that it is necessary to implement a reduction in force or abolishment of a position(s) of a physical education teacher position in the best interest of the District consistent with Ohio Revised Code § 3319.17, Board Policy, and the LEA Contract; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board that:

Section 1. For financial reasons and because a reduction is deemed necessary to abolish one position of physical education teacher. This position is hereby abolished effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Therefore, the employment contract between the Board and affected teacher, Christina Freed, is hereby suspended indefinitely effective June 30, 2024.

Section 2. The affected teacher in Section 1 will be afforded applicable recall rights pursuant to the LEA Contract.

Section 3. The Treasurer/CFO is authorized and directed to notify the affected teacher in Section 1 above of the Board’s action to suspend her employment contract and to provide information as to her applicable rights and obligations as a result of the reduction in force.

Section 4. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and of any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were held, in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Dubos- No

Johnson - Sturm- Wharry- Yon- All Aye

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-1.

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(24-4-8589)

13. Other: It is recommended that the Board accept the terms of the tentative agreement with the Lowellville Education Association (Certified Staff) as submitted for a three year period beginning September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2027.

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Jerry Dubos.

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

(24-4-8590)

14. Adjournment:

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Joe Sturm to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

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

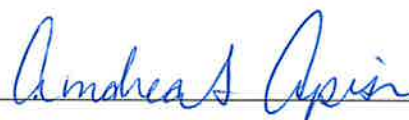
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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
President

5/14/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

5/16/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**MISSION**

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