

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 in the Lowellville Library; President Jennifer Johnson presiding. Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Brian Wharry-Present
Stephanie Yon- Present
Gerald Dubos- Absent
Jennifer Johnson- Present
Joseph Sturm – Present

TREASURER’S CONSENT ITEMS

(24-11-8662)

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

A. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the October 16, 2024 regular Board meeting

B. Financial Reports

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended October 2024
- b. Approve the 5 year forecast financial report

C. Donations

- a. Please approve a donation of \$500 from the PTO to be used for RISE day activities.
- b. Please approve a donation of binders from the Conti Corporation
- c. Please approve a donation of the use of a photo booth during Red Ribbon Week from the Mead Family.

- Discussion regarding the 5 year forecast was led by Ms. Apisa:
 - Received nice interest returns due to a good market.
 - Enrollment is trending nicely. If we can sustain the enrollment and increase the enrollment in the current first grade class things will look even better.
 - The expenditures are in line and the forecast includes the recently negotiated raises for staff.
 - We are not deficit spending until 2029 and that can change because treasurers are conservative when creating the forecast due to several unknowns in five years.
 - The cash balances are at a good level right now. The auditors have been reviewing the district's cash balances and can take money away if the balances are too large.
 - Mrs. Johnson asked Ms. Apisa if she can provide a number of students that take advantage of the voucher program. Ms. Apisa will check into this and get back to the Board.

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye
Dubos- absent
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

MISSION

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. Our juniors recently took the ASVAB assessment, which highlights their strengths across various skills. These results will guide career exploration, as students work with counselors to identify potential career paths and post-secondary options that align with their abilities and interests.
2. The Sadie Hawkins Dance for students in grades 9-12 will take place on November 23rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. *(Discussion: Mrs. Parry reported that the dance was canceled due to lack of interest.)*
3. The PTO will hold a Book Fair on November 25th and 26th.
4. High school students needing to retake end-of-course exams will have the opportunity during the first two weeks of December.
5. The annual spelling bees for both elementary and high school students will be held on December 6th. *(Discussion: Mrs. Parry reported that they will begin the spelling bee with the junior high students first and then move to the elementary level.)*
6. On December 13th, seniors will participate in an application and scholarship writing workshop.
7. The holiday season is packed with special events:
 - Kindergarten through 2nd grade will visit Packard Music Hall on December 6th
 - Grades 3 and 4 will attend Miracle on Easy Street on December 12th
 - Our Junior High and High School Choir will perform on December 4th at 7:30 pm, with the Band concert following on December 11th
 - 1st and 2nd graders will present their Christmas concert on December 16th at 6:00 PM
 - Santa will visit elementary students on December 16th
 - PTO will host a Santa's Workshop on December 18th and 19th
8. This year, we are implementing an alternative end-of-course testing schedule to create a focused environment for spring assessments. In high school, only students scheduled for testing will attend on designated testing days, while other students will participate in community service or job shadowing. Elementary students will follow their regular schedule, with small group settings provided to make testing more comfortable.

Additionally, our teachers are setting individual growth goals for students, using insights from recent Value Added data. These personalized goals, based on past performance and growth projections, align with our focus on student growth in the Ohio State Report Card. Students who meet their growth targets will be rewarded: high school students will join an end-of-year Olympics on May 27th, while elementary students will celebrate with an ice cream social on May 28th. See the attached letter (attachment A) that will be shared with families.

MISSION

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITIONS:

1. Rocket Star of the Month Recognition

Focus on recognizing students that demonstrate initiative, accountability, compassion, leadership qualities and outstanding attendance consistently at school. These are traits that make a real difference in our school community.

K - Ava Rosenberg & Brooklyn Simpson

1 - Aubree Salyers & Lena Ventura

2 - Michael Palumbo

3 - Haley Durkin

4 - Parker Eskins

5 - Aubree Bryner

6 - Alaina Watson & Nolan Tamburino

7 - Tino Alfano

8 - Malena Sturm

10 - Aubrey Kester

2. Bus Buddy of the Month

We're excited to recognize students who consistently demonstrate safe and appropriate behavior on the bus every day! The Bus Buddy of the Month award goes to those who are helpful, respectful, and positive role models for their peers while riding the bus.

- Vinny Taylor

3. Cross Country State Qualifier

Congratulations to Nathan Yon! He competed in the State Cross Country meet on November 2nd at Fortress Obetz, where he finished in 47th place overall (out of 192 runners) with a time of 16:24.71. He also broke his previous school record with this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. **Fall Sports-** I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our fall athletes for their incredible dedication and hard work throughout the season. We've celebrated a variety of individual and team accomplishments, and there's so much for our school and community to be proud of. Each student-athlete represented our district with resilience and sportsmanship, and their achievements have truly energized our school spirit. Thank you to the coaches, families, and fans who supported them every step of the way. Together, we made this season one to remember.
2. **OMEA District 5 Honor Choir-** Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the 2024 OMEA District 5 Middle School and High School Honors Choir. The students performed on Saturday, October 26th at Stambaugh Auditorium.

MISSION

High School Students:

Isabella DeBeaulieu
Abbey Grimes
Levi Moore
Nate Rouns
Derek Sida
John Swanson
Vinny Taylor
Krystalin Vinion

Middle School Students:

Keilani Dominguez
Mackenzie Layton
Alison Eskins
Matthew Bryner

3. **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade-** Lowellville High School freshman Kayleigh Cruz will be representing Lowellville in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! Kayleigh is a two-time selected All American Cheerleader from Cheertime Athletics and UCA cheer camps.

Be sure to tune in and cheer Kayleigh on! You can catch the parade live on 21 WFMJ, starting at 8:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day, and it runs until noon. Let's show our support for Kayleigh as she takes on this exciting opportunity!

4. **Hazel Health -** Our Hazel Health free online therapy and counseling services are now live. Students can now be referred and receive services. Please visit our website or the direct Hazel Health page for more information or to refer a student for services: <https://getstarted.hazel.co/district/lowellvillek12>

We know that staying mentally healthy is critical to engage in learning.

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#): 70% of public schools say more students are seeking mental health services.

This school year, we're proud to offer all students with **\$0 access to online therapy and counseling services**, through our partnership with Hazel Health. Services are 100% safe and confidential.

Your student can speak 1-on-1 with a licensed therapist from the convenience of school or home, with your consent. Hazel Health provides high-quality care for all students — no matter their insurance or immigration status.

Hazel Health's licensed therapists can help students navigate a wide range of issues, including:

- Mood/behavior changes, motivation, grief/loss

MISSION

- Separation anxiety, worry, fear
- Social skills, bullying, peer & family relationships
- Academic stress

Hazel’s short-term online therapy program has been proven to reduce symptoms of common mental health concerns — and gives kids tools to cope with challenges they face at school and beyond. Students cannot receive care without your consent, so please take 5 minutes to sign up today at hazel.co.

5. **Lowellville School Foundation-** The Lowellville School Foundation is excited to announce the “**Just in Time for Christmas**” raffle to help raise money for the foundation which provides scholarships to our students and grants to our teachers. Please consider purchasing a ticket to support our students. Only 500 tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held live once all tickets are sold or on **December 1st**.

1st Prize: \$1,000 Giant Eagle Gift Card

2nd Prize: \$600 Shell Gas Gift Card

3rd Prize: \$400 Amazon Gift Card

You can purchase a \$20 raffle ticket from:

*Mrs. Sawicki or Mrs. Killingsworth at the school

*Any Foundation member

*By calling 330-702-6084

*Or emailing lowellvilleschoolfoundation@gmail.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. None Met

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Updates on the track resurfacing
 - a. Ms. Apisa reported that she continued to meet with the vendors in the co-op and review quotes. She will be recommending the work to be completed by Benyan. A not to exceed cost of \$400,000 was provided to complete the work (strip, grate, asphalt if needed, stripe, etc.)
 - b. During the reviews of the track, the conversations have come up regarding turf and the process involved, potential costs, timeline to complete if decided to move forward.
2. Meeting with Field Turf
 - a. During the reviews of the track, the conversations have come up regarding turf and the process involved to install, potential costs, timeline to complete if decided to move forward, etc. Ms. Apisa is scheduling a meeting with Field Turf to learn more about the process and potential costs. She will report to the Board after the meeting is held.

MISSION

- 3. Ms. Apisa had Dan Clayton come out on November 19th to review the bleachers and press boxes. She asked for a report and potential costs for repairs.
- 4. Mrs. Yon asked if the fence near the basketball courts was the school’s property because the fence is down. Mrs. SAwicki stated that they were aware of one fence damaged due to a tree falling and the fence was already ordered. It should be fixed before the Thanksgiving holiday. Mrs. Sawicki stated that she will check to see if any other portions of the fence need repaired.
- 5. Ms. Apisa reminded everyone about the need to prioritize the projects that need done versus those that are wants at this time and also to identify what fits into the budget at this time. Further, she reminded everyone about the need to correct safety issues (if any) first, determine if debt can be taken out, costs for projects, upfront costs, future costs, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Schedule January 2025 Organizational Meeting and Regular Board Meeting
 - a. The Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
 - b. The Regular Board Meeting for January will be held on January 8, 2025 immediately after the Organizational Meeting.
- 2. Mrs. Johnson reported that she may have a conflict with the December 18, 2024 board meeting. However, she recommended keeping the meeting date as long as there will be a quorum. If she needs to attend in order to have a quorum, she will.
- 3. Mr. Sturm and Mr. Wharry would like to schedule a Building & Grounds Committee meeting when Ms. Apisa receives all of the reports and proposals regarding track, possible turf, bleachers and press boxes. The date of the meeting and any other agenda items will be set at a later date.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

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

No Comments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

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MISSION

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(24-11-8663)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve a new contract for the term of five (5) years to reemploy Mrs. Christine Sawicki as Superintendent effective August 1, 2025 and expiring on July 31, 2030. A copy of the negotiated contract of employment has been reviewed by the Board and on file in the Treasurer's office.

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

Discussion: Mrs. Johnson read an email that was sent from Mr. Dubos (see below).

November 15, 2024

Attendees, LEA Representatives, Administration and Fellow Board Members,

Unfortunately I have had a serious health issue come out of nowhere but am on the mend currently. I will not be able to attend this month's Board meeting and just wanted to be heard. I know that my absence does not allow me to vote on any items but in particular I wanted to go on record that I am 100% in favor with the contract extension for our Superintendent. Her dedication and oversight to ensure that the district is moving forward with positive strides and her unwavering dedication to go the extra mile provides the confidence we as a district have been looking for and are extremely thankful for her being here. The Ohio State University has TBDBITL.....and I believe we have TBDSITL..(The Best Damn Superintendent in the Land). Again, my sincere regrets on not being able to be at this important meeting.

Sincerely,

Gerald "Jerry" Dubos

Lowellville Board Member

Mrs. Johnson also commented that she and the rest of the Board echo what Mr. Dubos stated and they look forward to the continued success of the district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

(24-11-8664)

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

A. Personnel

1. Classified Staff Appointments

MISSION

- a. It is recommended that the Board retroactively approve James Watson III as a **Custodial Aide** “as needed” for the 2024-2025 school year and placed at the appropriate step of the classified master contract (Step 0- \$11.32/hour). His first day of employment was October 25, 2024.

2. Athletic Supplemental 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 and Workforce:

- a. Joseph Donatelli- Basketball Boys Freshman - 8%
- b. Vince DiMartino- Basketball Boys Volunteer- 0%
- c. Bobby Ballone Jr- Track Head Boys HS - 12%
- d. Lisa Modelski- Track Head Girls HS- 12%
- e. David (Wesley) Hodge- Track Assistant Girls HS- 8%
- f. Jamie DeMain- Track - 7 and 8 Girls - 8%

B. Leave of Absence

- a. Jessica Dent- Unpaid Leave- November 27, 2024 (1 day)

C. Building Use

- a. **Donuts with Santa** - (Alyssa Streb- Class of 2025)- Saturday, December 7, 2024- 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Cafeteria
- b. **Meet the Team- Winter Sports (Boosters)**- Sunday, December 8, 2024- 3:00-6:00 (event begins at 4:00 p.m.), Large Gym & Cafeteria
- c. **Blood Drive** (Student Council)- January 30, 2025, 6:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Small Gym
- d. **Elementary Youth Boys Basketball Program- Grades 1-6** (Tony Matisi)- November 10th, 2024 - January 26, 2025 (Sundays) - 3:00 -4:30 p.m.- Small Gym & Large Gym
- e. **Elementary Youth Girls Basketball Program- Grades 3-6** (Dana Donatelli)- November 10th, 2024 - March 2025 (Sundays) -12:00 - 2:00 p.m.- Small Gym & Large Gym

D. Field Trips

- a. It is recommended that the Board approve a field trip for the Middle School Choir to the Villa Maria Center in Pennsylvania to perform for the residents. The date of the field trip will be December 17, 2024.

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

MISSION

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(24-11-8665)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Student Activity Anticipated Budget and Sales Project Potential Forms As Submitted (2024-2025 school year):

- a. Student Council

- Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Sale-November 21, 2024- December 2024

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

(24-11-8666)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution (as submitted) to amend section 3B of the program agreement for the ACCESS Council Assembly.

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

(24-11-8667)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the Model Emergency Action Plan for the Use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (as submitted).

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

(24-11-8668)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the following revised Board Policies (as submitted):

- a. **KGB-** Public Conduct on School Property- REVISION
- b. **IGBEA-R-** Reading Skills Assessment and Intervention (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)- REVISION
- c. **IKF-** Graduation Requirements- REVISION
- d. **JFCK-** Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Communications Devices by Students- REVISION

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye

Dubos- absent

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

MISSION

(24-11-8669)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the following new Board Policies (as submitted):
- a. **EDEC**- Artificial Intelligence- NEW
 - b. **EHC**- Cybersecurity- NEW

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye
Dubos- absent
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

(24-11-8670)

6. Other: It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Ariana Daniels, 8th grade girls basketball coach for the 2024-2025 season. Ariana's resignation date was November 19, 2024.

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye
Dubos- absent
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

(24-11-8671)

7. Adjournment:

Moved by **Brian Wharry**, seconded by **Joe Sturm** to adjourn the meeting at **6:43 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Johnson - Sturm - All Aye
Dubos- absent
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

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Attachment A

Dear Lowellville Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming spring testing season, we want to share our plans and emphasize the importance of students giving their best effort. This year, we are implementing new testing environments for both secondary and elementary students to encourage success.

For High School Students (Grades 7-12):

We will implement an alternative testing schedule to create a focused environment for assessments. Only students scheduled for testing will come to school on designated testing days. Transportation will operate as usual in the morning, meaning all high school students scheduled to test will ride the bus or be dropped off at the regular time. After testing, students will be released early, with two bus runs planned: one for the early release of high school students and a second for the regular elementary dismissal.

Please Note: Students who do not have to test will participate in community service projects or job shadow experiences. They will not report to school. More information about these opportunities will be shared with the students.

High School Testing Schedule Overview:

- **ELA Testing (Grades 7, 8, and 10)**
 - Day 1: Monday, April 7th – ELA Part 1
 - Day 2: Tuesday, April 8th – ELA Part 2
 - *Students Reporting:* Only grades 7, 8, and 10; Grades 9, 11, and 12 will participate in job shadowing or community service.
 - **Schedule:**
 - 8:00 AM - Breakfast in the cafeteria
 - 8:30 AM - Students report to testing rooms
 - 9:00 AM - Testing begins (105 minutes, ending at 10:45 AM)
 - 11:00 AM - Lunch, followed by early dismissal
- **Math & Government Testing (Grades 7, 8, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Government)**
 - Day 1: Monday, April 28th – Math & Government Part 1
 - Day 2: Tuesday, April 29th – Math & Government Part 2
 - *Students Reporting:* Only grades 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11; Grade 12 will engage in job shadowing or community service.
 - **Schedule:**

MISSION

Attachment A (continued)

- 8:00 AM - Breakfast in the cafeteria
- 8:30 AM - Students report to testing rooms
- 9:00 AM - Testing begins (90 minutes, ending at 10:30 AM)
- 10:45 AM - Lunch, followed by early dismissal
- **Additional Testing Days During the School Day:**
 - **Science Testing (Grades 8 and Biology):** April 15th and April 16th
 - **US History Testing:** April 24th and April 25th
 - *These tests will occur during the regular school day. All students are expected to attend school as normal on these days.*

For Elementary Students:

While elementary students will follow their regular school schedule, we will create small group settings during the school day to provide a more comfortable testing environment. Our goal is to ensure all students are set up for success during this important time.

Incentives for Success:

Our teachers are helping students set individual growth goals based on past performance data. Achieving these goals supports both our school's performance and each student's personal progress. To keep motivation high, we're offering exciting incentives:

- **High School Incentive:** Students in grades 7-12 who meet their targets will earn entry to our end-of-year "Olympics" on May 27th, featuring competitions, food, and activities planned by class officers.
- **Elementary Incentive:** Elementary students who meet their goals will be invited to an ice cream social on May 28th, complete with a sundae bar and a DJ.

Please Note: Students in grades K-2 will have the opportunity to also participate in the incentive based on their reading and math benchmarks.

We believe these new testing environments and incentives will keep students engaged and help them recognize the value of their efforts. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to do their best. Please reach out with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,
Tracie Parry

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President

12/18/24

Date



Treasurer

12/18/24

Date

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

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