

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 in the Lowellville Library; Vice -President Joe Sturm presiding. Mr. Sturm called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**TREASURER’S CONSENT ITEMS**

**(25-3-8701)**

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

**A. Minutes**

- a. Minutes from the February 19, 2025 Regular Board meeting
- b. Minutes from the March 10, 2025 Board of Education Work Session

**B. Financial Reports**

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended February 2025

- C.** It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution as submitted to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certify them to the county auditor (city, village, or local Board of Education).

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Stephanie Yon

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**(25-3-8702)**

- 1. Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the agreement by and between The Lowellville Local School District and Current Surfaces, Inc. for the track resurfacing project in the amount of \$119,900.00.

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**MISSION**

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

1. PTO, Mrs. Kamensky, and Mrs. Davis led a school-wide celebration of reading, honoring Dr. Seuss and Reading Across America during the week of March 3-14. The National Honor Society helped decorate classroom doors, and teachers encouraged students to explore diverse books through independent and partner reading. Activities included a *Book Fest* in the library, guest readers, and therapy dog reading sessions.
2. All juniors took the state-funded ACT on March 11th, providing a free opportunity for first-time test-takers and a chance for others to improve their scores.
3. Students celebrated March 14 Pi Day with a fun-filled fundraiser which benefited the junior class. They paid to pie staff members and competed in a pie-eating contest, digging through whipped cream pies to find a piece of gum.
4. On March 18th the elementary students enjoyed a performance by the Avengers which highlighted our RISE program. The play was written by the Avengers, Robbin Carlos, Christina Freed, and Jessica Grow.
5. We will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Wellness Night on Thursday, March 20th. This year the Wellness Club is partnering with Sources of Strength to introduce new games and family activities focused on health, wellness, and community engagement.
6. There will be a junior high dance Friday, March 21st at 5:30 p.m.
7. Thanks to PTO on Tuesday, March 25th students will embark on an interactive journey through space with the *SkyDome Planetarium*, a portable, inflatable dome experience. The program, tailored for grades K-8, includes:
  - Identifying planets through immersive “flights”
  - Exploring Greek mythology in constellations
  - Observing seasonal changes in the night sky
8. There will be no school for students on Friday, March 28th as it is a staff waiver day. Among other sessions, all staff will hands on receive AED and CPR training.
9. This month ELA teachers participated in Amplify coaching, where a curriculum coach from Amplify observed lessons and provided feedback. Teachers and administrators engaged in debrief sessions, promoting collaboration and instructional growth. Observing and reflecting on lessons created a valuable learning experience for all involved. A special thank you to Mrs. Sawicki for prioritizing and supporting this initiative.
10. We are investing in NWEA MAP Growth, an adaptive assessment in reading, math, and science for grades 7-12. These tests adjust to each student’s ability, providing accurate benchmark data to track growth, identify learning gaps, and personalize instruction. MAP Growth is aligned to state standards and predicts performance on state assessments, helping teachers tailor instruction and interventions to ensure students are on track for success. This investment will support more data-driven decisions to

**MISSION**

improve student outcomes.

11. National Honor Society inductions will take place in the evening (7:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, April 9th in the LHS Cafetorium.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

**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 - Jonathan Boone, Linden Docherty, Arya George

2 - Fabiana Lopez-Gomez

4 - Jo Lee White

5 - Olivia Sudon

6 - Angelina Lewis

7 - Frankie Loftus

8 - Laila Coira

9 - Jayden Coon

**2. Shoutout to Our Indoor Track Stars!**

On Friday, March 7th, Drew Modelski and Josh Pazel represented Lowellville High School at the OATCCC Indoor State Championships at Spire, competing against the best in Ohio!

**Drew Modelski:**

60m Dash: 7.12 seconds – 5th place out of 18

400m Dash: 50.20 seconds – 2nd place out of 17

200m Dash: 22.52 seconds – 4th place out of 15

**Josh Pazel:**

400m Dash: 52.72 seconds – 9th place out of 17

200m Dash: 23.96 seconds – 14th place out of 15

Congratulations to both athletes on an incredible performance at the state level!

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**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

1. The district has partnered with WKBN, WYFX, WYTV, and myYTV to help market our school and attract more families to Lowellville. On March 10th, a filming crew captured extensive footage to create a 30-second commercial. The commercial will air over 88 times within two months and be streamed more than 22,000 times—so be sure to keep an eye out for it!

During filming, we highlighted key aspects of our school, including our small class sizes, our range in grade levels from kindergarten to twelfth grade, second-grade students utilizing one-on-one technology with seventh-grade peer mentors, our Math 24 Challenge team, band, PE, art, physics, and the safety and security of our school.

2. Congratulations to the Lowellville High School Concert Band for achieving the highest rating of Superior (I) at the OMEA Large Group Band and Choir District Contest held on March 8, 2025 at Howland High School. Good Luck at State!

**3. ED STEPS- Updates and Solicit Feedback**

The Education Department’s System of Tiered E-Plans and Supports (ED STEPS) is a system that enables educational entities to efficiently and effectively assess needs, plan, and leverage funds to prepare students for a successful future. Built in several stages, ED STEPS fully replaces the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP). The stages consist of a Needs Assessment, One Plan, and One Funding application.

For Fiscal Years 2026, 2027, and 2028, the district has been working to develop a new three-year One Plan through the EdSteps Process. As part of this process, we conducted a needs assessment and identified four main goals, along with several strategies and action steps to achieve them.

We have actively engaged teachers and staff to gather feedback on what has been effective in the current plan, what has not, and which priorities should be added moving forward. We also encourage the Board to provide input and will be soliciting additional feedback from stakeholders tonight, as well as from community partners over the next month. This ongoing input will help us refine the plan before submission to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

While our new plan maintains similar goals to the current one, the work is not yet complete. Although we have made progress, there are still action steps that need to be implemented to continue strengthening key components of our district’s report card.

**Proposed Goals for FY26, FY27, and FY28:**

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Attendance
4. Educator Equity

Discussion from Board:

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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.

- The consensus of the Board was to stay the course with the refined goals for the next three years in order to continue making progress in all areas.
- Mr. Dubos asked for clarification on the root cause of why there could be a possibility of staff not aligning their curriculum to the standards and/or why the curriculum may not be implemented with fidelity. Mrs. Sawicki responded that it could be due to a few factors such as lack of professional development with the curriculum, attendance of staff (subs in place for extended periods of time), or lack of appropriate resources.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Records Commission Meeting
  - a. The commission met on March 6, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.
  - b. Agenda Items
    - i. Nominate records commission chair
      1. Andrea Apisa was nominated as commission chair
    - ii. Approve the Lowellville Local School Records Retention Schedule (as submitted)
      1. The records retention schedule was approved (as submitted) by the records commission

Discussion: Ms. Apisa reported that the Commission will meet again to review the list of the items that are subject to be destroyed. The Board of Education will then vote on the approval to destroy the items presented by the Records Commission.

2. Extracurriculars and Clubs Committee
  - a. The committee met on March 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
  - b. Agenda Items
    - i. Review and Discussion of Policy KMA Relations with Support Organizations and Policy KMA-R Relations with Support Organizations
    - ii. Booster financials review and student support evidence/expectations
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Policy KMA and KMA-R were reviewed with the committee.
    - ii. Andrea Apisa (Treasurer) reported that she had emailed the Boosters twice in order to secure the items outlined in the Board policy KMA and KMA-R. As of the committee meeting she had not received any replies from the Boosters.
    - iii. The consensus of the committee was to have Andrea Apisa reach out once more to the Boosters and provide them with a third request to submit the requested information in order to be in compliance with the board policies. The new deadline provided to the Boosters was March 14th.

Discussion:

- After the third request, Ms. Apisa received some communication from the Boosters and met with President Joe Ballone on March 19th. Andrea Apisa is going to work with the Booster to enact a plan in order to move forward. This may include disbanding the current group of Boosters and reestablishing a new Booster group. Andrea Apisa has asked Mr. Joe Ballone for all of the financials, a list of their public meeting dates, bank statements, and their filing with the IRS by the end of the school year.

**MISSION**

- Mr. Dubos inquired about Ms. Apisa’s comment on disbanding the Boosters. He was concerned because they are an integral part of the school. Ms. Apisa stated that it will be easier to disband due to the federal filings. Moving forward in this matter and starting with a new group will be least disruptive. Mr. Dubos clarified that Ms. Apisa meant that the Boosters will be shut down and then start new. Ms. Apisa confirmed Mr. Dubos’ clarification and reiterated that it is the best way to move forward so that they do not lose their tax exempt status and/or endure any other consequences.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. None

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

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

No Comments.

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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.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S CONSENT ITEMS**

**(25-3-8703)**

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

**A. Personnel**

**1. Classified Staff Appointments**

- a. It is recommended that the Board retroactively approve **Timothy Esarco as a Cafeteria Aide “As Needed”** for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Timothy will be placed at step 0 on the Classified Agreement and the hourly compensation will be \$11.32 per hour per the classified agreement. Timothy’s first day of employment as a cafeteria aide was on March 13, 2025.
- b. **Laura Macejko- Success by Six Aide** for Summer 2025 Program- \$16.50 per hour

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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.

**2. Classified Staff Retirements**

- a. It is recommended that the Board approve the retirement of **Ken Hartzell as Bus Driver**. Ken's retirement date will be July 31, 2025.

**3. Certified Staff Appointments**

- a. It is recommended that the Board approve a limited contract for **Stephen Bada as an Computer Science Teacher** for the 2025-2026 school year and placed at the appropriate step of the certified master contract (Bachelors Step 3 - \$47,244).
- b. It is recommended that the Board approve a limited contract for **Aleen Donnachie as a Mathematics Teacher (grades 7-12)** for the 2025-2026 school year and placed at the appropriate step of the certified master contract (Bachelors Step 1 - \$43,396).
- c. **Angela Higgins- Success by 6 Teacher** for Summer 2025 Program- \$25.00 per hour

**4. Athletic Supplemental Appointments - 2024-2025 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 and Workforce:

- a. Michael Kacir- Baseball- Volunteer - 0%

**5. Leave of Absence**

- a. Brenda Shivley- FMLA- February 20, 2025 - March 7, 2025 (12 days)

**B. Building Use**

- a. **Chess Time** - (Jeff Hammond)- Mondays, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28, and May 12, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Library
- b. **Easter Egg Hunt**- (Lowellville Enrichment Group- Ryan McNicholas)- Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Football Field, Concessions, Restrooms
- c. **TAPS Competition** (Debbi Sanders)- March 25, 27, April 1, 3, 8, and 10, 2025, 2:45 p.m 3:30 p.m., Sanders Classroom

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**MISSION**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**(25-3-8704)**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Kent State University for the purposes of the College Credit Plus Dual Enrollment Program for the 2025-2026 school year as submitted.

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jerry Dubos.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8705)**

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the quote submitted on March 5, 2025 from Papa Wayne's Lawn Care, LLC and presented to the Board to continue to provide grass cutting services and landscaping/lawn care maintenance for the 2025 calendar year.

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8706)**

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the following new Board Policy (as submitted):  
a. **IGBLA-** Promoting Parental Involvement- NEW

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8707)**

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

- a. **JHCD (V1)-** Administering Medicines to Students (Version 1)- REVISION
- b. **BD-** School Board Meetings- REVISION
- c. **DECA-** Administration of Federal Grant Funds- REVISION
- d. **DID-** Inventories (Fixed Assets)- REVISION
- e. **DJF-** Purchasing Procedures- REVISION
- f. **DJF-R-** Purchasing Procedures- REVISION
- g. **EDE-** Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety) - REVISION
- h. **GBH (also JM)-** Staff-Student Relations- REVISION
- i. **IGAH/IGAI-** Family Life Education/Sex Education- REVISION
- j. **IGBA-** Programs for Students With Disabilities- REVISION
- k. **IGCH-R (Also LEC-R)-** College Credit Plus- REVISION
- l. **IJ-** Guidance Program- REVISION
- m. **JHC-** Student Health Services and Requirements- REVISION

**MISSION**

- n. **JHCA-** Physical Examinations of Students- REVISION
- o. **JHCD-R-1-** Administering Prescription Drugs to Students (General Regulation)- REVISION
- p. **JHF-** Student Safety- REVISION
- q. **JHG-** Reporting Child Abuse and Mandatory Training- REVISION
- r. **JM (Also GBH)-** Staff-Student Relations- REVISION
- s. **KBA-** Public’s Right to Know- REVISION
- t. **LEC-R (Also IGCH-R)-** College Credit Plus- REVISION
- u. **JEFB-** Released Time for Religious Instruction- REVISION

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8708)**

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the amended FY25 3313.845 Service Agreement with the ESC of Eastern Ohio to include home instruction services (as submitted):

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8709)**

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the FY26 3313.845 Service Agreement with the ESC of Eastern Ohio as submitted:

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Jerry Dubos.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**(25-3-8710)**

7. It is recommended that the Board approve the FY26 R.C. 167.08 MVRCOG Service Agreement as submitted:

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

**MISSION**

(25-3-8711)

8. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 3-year Wireless Expansion proposal from Northern Buckeye Education Council for the managed internal broadband wireless services as submitted. The contract will commence July 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2028.

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

(25-3-8712)

9. Adjournment:

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Joe Sturm to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Sturm - Wharry  
Johnson- Absent  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 4-0

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

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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

4/16/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4/16/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**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.