

LICKING VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
LICKING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER, 100 HAINSVIEW DR., NEWARK, OHIO

**Vision Statement:** Every adult helping every child learn and grow every day.

*"This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda items titled Public Comment - Agenda Items Only and Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only."  
Licking Valley Board Policy 0165.1 - REGULAR MEETINGS*

**ROLL CALL**

The Licking Valley Board of Education met in Regular Session on November 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Licking Valley High School Media Center. The following members responded to roll call: Mr. Drake McArtor, Mr. Craig Nethers, Mrs. Julie Stedman, Mrs. Jo Lynn Torbert, and Mr. Casey Williams. Mr. Scott Beery, Superintendent, and Mr. Andrew Douglass, Treasurer, were also in attendance. Mr. Lincoln Clements and Mr. Griffin Williams, Student Representatives, were present as well.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION OR MEDITATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**25-149      PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA      149**

Mr. Nethers moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for November 10, 2025, is recommended to be adopted as presented.

*DISCUSSION:*

*None*

Ayes: Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Agenda Items)

None

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Renaissance Trip – Ms. Tricia Phelps**

Ms. Phelps provided details about the requested trip for the Renaissance trip to Orlando Florida. She estimated this will be four students. Mr. Nethers asked how it would be funded for the students. Ms. Phelps said it would be paid for by the students and they would look at fundraising options for students that want to attend.

**Student Spotlight – Haunted High School**

Ms. Wilson highlighted the success of the haunted high school event and described the groups that were brought together to make the event happen. Ms. Wilson explained the teamwork and leadership of the students that ran the event.

**Community Member Spotlight** – Mr. Drake McArtor

No presentation

**Strategic Plan Update – Objective 1.2 Mrs. Tiffany Schmitz**

Mrs. Tiffany Schmitz presented information for strategic plan objective 1.2 related to district-wide curriculum leadership. Mrs. Schmitz provided details about the structure and feedback that was received in the curriculum group. Mrs. Schmitz provided information on the challenges that we have in this area and the way that we balance state requirements and local priorities. Mrs.

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Schmitz also discussed the next steps for the curriculum group. Mrs. Schmitz also discussed the vertical alignment of the district and how it impacts this area.

Mr. McArtor asked about our elementary readiness and if we have checked to see how it compares to other districts. Mrs. Schmitz explained that we have discussed this with other districts and some of the similarities.

Mrs. Torbert asked if we have a way to evaluate how students progress when given the right tools or resources. Mrs. Schmitz explained how the benchmark data is utilized for the evaluation of progress.

Mr. C. Williams asked if we have any trending data about the changes in the KRA and if any of the changes in the district have driven that. Mrs. Schmitz explained some of the tools and resources that are being used now compared to the prior Read for 20 initiative. Mr. Beery also explained the Journey to 5 initiative happening across the county.

Mrs. Stedman discussed some of the positive outcomes from the curriculum committee and also discussed some of the things that were in place or changing on the curriculum hub and that midterm and final exams are being utilized again at Licking Valley. Mrs. Stedman expressed that she feels that board members should be thinking about this as we go and what the things are that they want as a board, such as rigor, policy constraints, and community standards. Mrs. Stedman said board members could provide the information to herself or Mr. Nethers or during board discussion.

Mr. Nethers discussed preschool age students and awareness that we may have to be able to assist individuals that may not have the same structured learning environment as a preschool.

**Board Policy Committee Update** – Mrs. Julie Stedman

Mrs. Stedman provided an update on the board policy committee. Mrs. Stedman mentioned the policies that were covered for the responsibilities of the Treasurer and the Superintendent. Mrs. Stedman also discussed the mandatory reporter’s policy.

Mr. C. Williams asked if the policy is unclear if we are mandatory reporters. Mrs. Stedman said it is clear in the policy but the resources and responsibilities of board members may not have been as clear.

**25-150            TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS            150**

Mrs. Torbert moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Minutes of the Regular Meetings**

It is recommended to approve the minutes of October 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

**Amending and Filing Certificates**

It is recommended to approve the adjusting/filing amended certificates (including the 412 certificates) and appropriation codes to reflect additional incomes, advances, transfers, and expenditures through the end of the month.

**Insurance Recommendation for 2026**

It is recommended to approve the insurance plans listed through our participation in the Ohio School Benefits Cooperative. Insurance rates effective 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026.

**Medical Insurance**

As indicated in the negotiated agreement with the Licking Valley Education Association (LVEA), four medical plan options will be offered through Medical Mutual Insurance. The insurance premiums effective 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026 will be:

SINGLE PLANS	Monthly Premium
Plan 1	\$1,540.64
Plan 2	\$1,469.06
Plan 3	\$1,429.23

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SINGLE PLANS	Monthly Premium
Plan 4	\$1,123.52

FAMILY PLANS	Monthly Premium
Plan 1	\$3,697.96
Plan 2	\$3,515.33
Plan 3	\$3,413.71
Plan 4	\$2,592.70

**Dental Insurance**

As indicated in the negotiated agreement with the Licking Valley Education Association (LVEA), dental coverage will be offered through Delta Dental. The Insurance premiums effective 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026 will be:

SINGLE PLAN	FAMILY PLAN
Monthly Premium - \$43.26	Monthly Premium - \$127.89

**Vision Insurance**

As indicated in the negotiated agreement with the Licking Valley Education Association (LVEA), vision insurance will be offered through VSP. The insurance premiums effective 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026 will be:

EMPLOYEE ONLY	EMPLOYEE + ONE	EMPLOYEE + CHILDREN	EMPLOYEE + FAMILY
Monthly Premium - \$9.63	Monthly Premium - \$16.23	Monthly Premium - \$16.57	Monthly Premium - \$26.71

**Life Insurance**

It is recommended to continue our Board paid life insurance with Lincoln Financial Group with the premium of basic life \$0.05 and AD&D \$0.01 per thousand.

**Healthcare Flexible Spending Account**

It is recommended to approve the Healthcare Flexible Spending Account (FSA) through TASC (125 Plan) Agreement at a cost of \$5.40 per person, per month (board cost) in order that our staff is able to receive a tax benefit if they choose to participate (1/2/26 - 12/31/26).

**DISCUSSION:**

*Mr. C. Williams discussed looking into the insurance carrier and that we should look into shopping the insurance. Mr. C. Williams explained some of the things that have changed in the county and the possibility to provide care and less cost for care.*

*Mrs. Torbert discussed the consortium and said that they cannot raise our rates by more than 15% and asked if we had shopped for our insurance.*

*Mr. Beery explained some of the research that the district has done to look at opportunities or options for insurance. Mr. Beery explained some of the obstacles that we have.*

*Mrs. Stedman asked if Mr. Beery could ask the insurance committee about the discussion about insurance.*

Ayes: Mrs. Torbert, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mr. Nethers moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

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**Personnel**

*Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.291, and receipt of an appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.*

**Resignations/Retirements**

Resignations

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Effective Date
Ashton	Schwendeman	Track – Middle School Girls Assistant	October 15, 2025

DISCUSSION:  
 None

Ayes: Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
 Nays: None  
 Abstain: Mr. McArtor  
 Motion Carried.

**25-152      SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS      152**

Mrs. Stedman moved and Mrs. Torbert seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Personnel**

*Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.291, and receipt of an appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.*

**Resignations/Retirements**

Resignations

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Effective Date
Richard	Trimmer	ES Custodian	October 23, 2025

DISCUSSION:  
 None

Ayes: Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
 Nays: None  
 Motion Carried.

**25-153      SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS      153**

Mrs. Stedman moved and Mrs. Torbert seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Personnel**

*Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.291, and receipt of an appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.*

**Classified**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Salary	Reason
Jeffrey	Unternaehar	Elementary 1st Shift Custodian	1-Year Limited - retroactive to 11/3/25	Step 10	Replacing Richard Trimmer, resigned

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**Substitutes 2025-2026**

**Substitute Aide (Call-in)**

Denise Miller

**Substitute Teacher**

Ashley Tefft, Brandon Mathis, Melinda Stevens, Jennifer Thiel, Betty Willey

**Supplemental 2025-2026**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Category	Salary
Kamden	Walker	Basketball - 7th Grade Boys	2025-26	3	0
Alan	Stein	Basketball - 8th Grade Boys	2025-26	3	6
Rickey	Wilson	Varsity Assistant Basketball - Boys	2025-26	3	0

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Nethers asked if Mr. Stein knew he was a mentor in this position. Mr. Beery said that he knows.

Ayes: Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

25-154

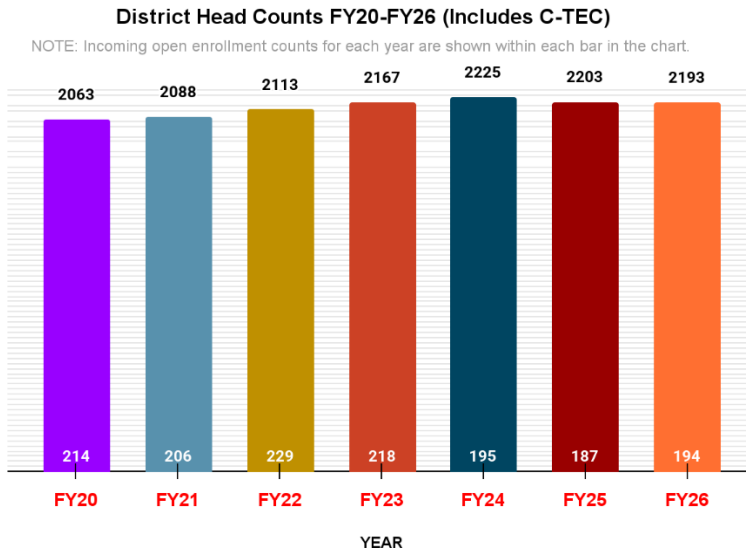
**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

154

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following:

**STUDENTS/CURRICULUM**

**Enrollment**



**Licking Valley Local School District Incidents of Bullying Report 2025-2026**

**Board Policy: 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior**  
Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

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Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device. Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being.

Licking Valley High School

Grade	Males	Females	Grade Count
09	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	0
12	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Licking Valley Middle School

Grade	Males	Females	Grade Count
06	0	0	0
07	0	0	0
08	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Licking Valley Elementary

Grades K-5	Males	Females
TOTAL	0	0

**Suspension/Expulsions Report**

Licking Valley High School (3 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
After-School Work Program	1	16
In-School Suspension	1	2
In-School Suspension	3	1
Out-of-School Suspension	3	3
Out-of-School Suspension	5	1
Out-of-School Suspension	10	1

Licking Valley Middle School (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
Bus Suspension	3	1
In-School Suspension	1	25

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Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
In-School Suspension	2	2
In-School Suspension	3	1
Out-of-School Suspension	1	1
Out-of-School Suspension	2	3
Out-of-School Suspension	3	7
Out-of-School Suspension	4	1
Out-of-School Suspension	5	4
Out-of-School Suspension with Recommendation for Expulsion	10	1

Licking Valley Intermediate (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
NONE		

Licking Valley Primary (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
Bus Suspension	2	1

**Out-of-State Trip Approval**

Renaissance Conference

It is recommended to approve the Renaissance out-of-state trip to Orlando, Florida on June 13-16, 2026, with their advisor, Tricia Phelps.

*DISCUSSION:*

*None*

Ayes: Mr. C. Williams, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**25-155      SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Nethers moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Gifts & Donations**

Donations for October 10, 2025 – November 7, 2025

Date	Donation Recipient	Amount	Received From
10/14	HS Principals Fund	\$500.00	MK Electric Services, LLC
10/16	HS Principals Fund	\$250.00	Wayne Moore
10/16	HS Drama	\$800.00	Durbin Home Team LLC
10/20	HS Principals Fund	\$250.00	Antritt's Lawn Sensations Ltd
10/20	HS Principals Fund	\$250.00	Chrysalis Hair Designs
10/21	HS Panther Pantry	\$1,000.00	Voyant Beauty-\$1000 worth of products

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Date	Donation Recipient	Amount	Received From
10/21	HS Panther Pantry	\$200.00	Hess Family-\$200 worth of food
10/23	National Honor Society	\$250.00	Edward Jones
10/27	Class of 2028	\$20.00	Anonymous Donor
10/27	Class of 2028	\$25.00	Ohio Snowballs - Calvin Bowers
10/28	Class of 2026	\$90.00	Ohio Snowballs - Calvin Bowers
10/29	HS Panther Pantry	\$500.00	James & Robin Hoekstra
11/3	HS Principals Fund	\$500.00	Ratai Builders
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,635.00</b>	

**DISCUSSION:**

*Mr. C. Williams said thank you for the donations and support of the community.  
 Mr. McArtor said he is impressed with how the donations are diversified to separate groups.*

Ayes: Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
 Nays: None  
 Motion Carried.

**25-156                      SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS                      156**

Mrs. Stedman moved and Mrs. Torbert seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Authorization to Solicit Bids for Mowing and Grounds Services**

Licking Valley Local School District  
 Board of Education Resolution  
 Authorization to Solicit Bids for Mowing and Grounds Services

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer to:

1. Issue bid specifications and/or a Request for Proposals (RFP) for mowing and grounds maintenance services for District-owned properties, including the Middle School campus, athletic facilities areas, the Bus Garage property, and the lot next to the bus garage, 71 Hilltop Drive, and the FFA Farm area.
2. Advertise and publicly solicit bids in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws.
3. Receive, open, and record all bids submitted by the date and time stated in the bid documents.
4. Present a recommendation to the Board of Education for the lowest and/or best bidder at a future meeting.

No contract for these services shall be awarded until the Board of Education takes formal action to approve the selected bidder.

**DISCUSSION:**

*Mr. C. Williams asked about being able to bid the entire project to attempt to get better pricing.  
 Mr. Beery and Mr. Douglass explained the contracts that are currently staggered and what we would need to be done to get it into one contract.  
 Mr. Nethers explained that it could also be good for a local company to get the mowing contract.*

Ayes: Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
 Nays: None  
 Motion Carried.

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**25-157                    SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS                    157**

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mr. Nethers seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Transportation of Student Athletes**

It is recommended to approve the following agreement with Tri-Valley Schools:

Whereas the Licking Valley School District does not provide transportation to students who participate as individuals in the sport of swimming, the Licking Valley Board of Education authorizes Tri-Valley School to transport \_\_\_\_\_ (name of students) by school bus to and from all swim competitions during the 2025-26 school year.

*DISCUSSION:*  
*None*

Ayes: Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Nethers, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

**25-158                    SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS                    158**

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Purchase of (2) Two School Buses**

It is recommended to approve the purchase of (2) two school buses as specified by Rush Truck Centers of Ohio, Inc. through the META Solutions Cooperative School Bus Purchasing Program at \$292,608.00.

*DISCUSSION:*  
*Mrs. Torbert would like to see the list of buses and the ages of each bus.*

Ayes: Mr. C. Williams, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

**25-159                    SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS                    159**

Mrs. Torbert moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Surplus**

Tag Number	Item	Qty	Reason	Bid
NA	Reference Books - HS Library	6	No Longer Relevant	No
NA	Zoll AED X13F606813 - HS - J. Eberts	1	No Longer Operational	No

*DISCUSSION:*  
*None*

Ayes: Mrs. Torbert, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

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**25-160      BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS 160**

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mr. Nethers seconded the motion to approve the following.

**Special Education Model Policies & Procedures 2025-2026**

It is recommended to approve the Special Education Model Policies & Procedures for 2025-2026.

*DISCUSSION:*

*None*

Ayes: Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Nethers, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BOARD POLICIES - First Reading (No action)**

Policy	Title
PO2266	NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITIES (revised)
PO3130	ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER (revised)
PO5130	WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL (revised)
PO5136	PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES (revised)
PO5200	ATTENDANCE (revised)
PO5410	PROMOTION, ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION (revised)
PO6109	ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD (revised)
PO6152	STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES (revised)
PO6830	AUDIT (revised)
PO7541	ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN (delete)
PO8400	SCHOOL SAFETY (revised)
PO8462	STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT (revised)

(Information only. No vote taken)

Mr. Beery provided details about the changes to the policies.

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE**

Mr. G. Williams provided an update on student achievements and academic updates from grade cards.

Mr. Clements provided an update on student athletics and highlighted the baseball field updates and football team performance.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE**

Mrs. Stedman provided a student achievement update for each building throughout the district.

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### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Nethers provided a legislative update. Mr. Nethers discussed some of the legislation related to transportation and math.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-agenda items)**

Mrs. Luellen Deeds invited everyone to the Licking Valley Heritage Society breakfast event. Mrs. Deeds discussed the training that she had as a prior bus driver that helped them recognize events.

Mr. Gordon Postle asked if we are purchasing 1 or 2 school buses.

Mr. Douglass said it was for two buses.

Mr. Postle asked if there is a list of things that are available for what Kindergarten students should know when they come to school.

Mr. Postle said thank you for our attention and recognition to veterans.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Mr. Nethers thanked everyone for the veterans' breakfast and said they did an excellent job.

Mr. Nethers provided a word of caution when using AI due to some issues that other industries have had with utilizing AI.

Mr. Nethers asked about NIL and Mr. Beery provided details about NIL and the scope and how it could impact high school athletics.

Mr. C. Williams asked if Mrs. Malone would vote for the district.

Mr. Beery said she would vote and provided how the board could provide their input to him.

Mr. C. Williams asked about the revenue sharing from games with OHSAA.

Mr. Beery clarified that we do not share the revenue with OHSAA.

Mrs. Steman discussed the information that Mr. Beery provided, related to the state report card, and said that she would like to have that information next year when it is released.

Mr. Griffin Williams asked about a Christian podcast that he and a friend wanted to host and if it could be done during school hours or had to be done after hours.

Mr. Beery said they could meet to discuss the podcast.

Mr. McArtor discussed the school board operating protocol that the board used previously for the self-assessment and if they want to keep or change the format that was used for the prior evaluation.

Mrs. Torbert said if you change the format it might be more difficult to track the changes or progress in each area.

**25-161**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**161**

Mr. Nethers moved and Mr. C. Williams seconded the motion to adjourn to Executive Session for employment or compensation of a public employee, or official.

Ayes: Mr. Nethers, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Clements, Mr. G. Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Time out: 8:01 p.m.

Time back: 9:13 p.m.

**25-162**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**162**

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mr. Nethers seconded the motion to adjourn.

Mr. McArtor closed the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

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Ayes: Mr. C. Williams, Mr. Nethers, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

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Drake McArtor, President

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Andrew Douglass, Treasurer