LICKING VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026, 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 February 9, 2026, 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 Representative, were present as well.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION OR MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

26-18 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA 18

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

Addition to the agenda
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda for February 9, 2026, is recommended to be adopted as presented.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

None

SPECIAL REPORT

Student Spotlight
Grace Kaeppner, High School Student
Ms. Keappner provided information about the girls STEM program that she started at the high school. The Board commended Ms. Keappner for her accomplishments with the program.

High School Mock Trial Team – Mrs. Caraline Johnston
The mock trial team is a new club that was started this year. The students explained what a mock trial is and provided information about the activities that they participated in during the first year of the club. The students explained some of the skills that they obtained from participating in the club and some of the things they needed to do, such as learn how to read case law.

High School – Mr. Adam Arcuri – Out-of-State Baseball Trip
Mr. Arcuri thanked the Board for approving the funding for the turf fields for baseball and softball. Mr. Arcuri presented his request for baseball to take an out-of-state trip to Tennessee. Mr. Arcuri explained that the trip would be funded with their fundraising money for the program.

Mr. McArtor asked how the team would travel for the trip. Mr. Arcuri said the families would provide transportation for the trip.

Mr. C. Williams asked what they would be doing for safety. Mr. Arcuri explained how he would work with the parents to review safety and travel needs.

High School – Mr. Chad Dennis – Out-of-State Softball Trip
Mr. Dennis discussed the request for an out-of-state trip for the softball team. Mr. Dennis said they would be utilizing fundraiser money to pay for the trip. Mr. Dennis also thanked the Board for their approval of the turf field for softball.

Mr. C. Williams asked how they would address safety. Mr. Dennis explained that they will have parents transport the students and have everyone stay in cabins. Mr. Dennis also explained that they go everywhere as a group.

Board Policy Committee Update – Mrs. Julie Stedman
Mrs. Stedman provided an update from the Board Policy Committee and reviewed the policies discussed at the previous committee meeting, including those recommended for removal and the anticipated timeline for completing policy updates. She also discussed Policies 2370 and 2371 related to the Ed Options Program and noted the possibility of providing a program report to the Board in June.

Community Member Spotlight – Mr. Drake McArtor
Mr. McArtor recognized Mr. Rick Houston as the Community Member Spotlight. Mr. Beery expressed his appreciation for Mr. Houston and his dedication to supporting the school district and the community. Mr. C. Williams also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Houston as a coach and community member and shared lessons he learned from him. Mrs. Torbert thanked the Houston family for the support they have provided to students in the district without expecting anything in return. Mr. McArtor shared additional remarks regarding what he has learned from Mr. Houston. Mrs. Stedman thanked the Houston family for their contributions to the district and the community. Mr. Nethers expressed his appreciation for the Houston family's generosity and thanked them.

26-19 BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS 19

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

Resolution Naming the Licking Valley Varsity Baseball Field

WHEREAS, Mr. Rick Houston has served the Licking Valley community, school district, and baseball program selflessly throughout his lifetime and continues to lead our community in an exceptional manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Licking Valley Board of Education doth name the Licking Valley Varsity Baseball Field the "Rick Houston Field".

DISCUSSION:
None

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

26-20 TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS 20

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

Minutes of the Regular Meetings
It is recommended to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, 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.

Advances on Tax Settlement
It is recommended to approve the to authorize and adopt the resolution for the Treasurer to secure advances from the Auditor when funds are available and to grant advances and repayments to all funds when needed.

Budget Commission/Tax Levies
It is recommended to approve the resolution and amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission, authorize the necessary tax levies, and certify them to the county auditor.

Approval of Forecast
It is recommended to approve of the 2025-2026 forecast projection, notes, and assumptions and give permission for the treasurer to amend, and re-file when necessary.

DISCUSSION:
Mr. C. Williams asked about the days of cash and noted that the monthly reports show the District is currently at 173 days of cash, below the 180-day threshold for the second consecutive month and expressed concern that this may indicate a developing trend. Mr. Douglass explained the projected days of cash and noted the District is at a seasonal low point in cash flow and that days of cash is expected to increase after receipt of spring property tax revenues. Mr. C. Williams stated that if the District remains below 180 days of cash, expenditures should be reduced to return to at least 180 days of cash. Mr. Douglass stated that maintaining 180 days of cash would be difficult under the current legislative impacts to the budget.

Mrs. Torbert asked about transfers projected in the forecast and whether they could be modified or shifted to improve days of cash. Mr. Nethers asked for clarification regarding transfers made in the fall. Mr. Douglass confirmed a $500,000 transfer occurred in the fall and explained the timing of District cash inflows and outflows, noting there are higher and lower cash points throughout the year. Mrs. Torbert asked whether transferring less in the fall would better align with 180 days of cash. Mr. Douglass stated the fall transfer will be reduced in the forecast and that the change would not have a significant impact on days of cash. Mr. Douglass stated he would consider operational implications and follow up with Mr. C. Williams. Mr. C. Williams thanked Mr. Douglass for his work on the forecast. Mrs. Stedman thanked Mr. Beery and Mr. Douglass for the time they spent explaining forecast information.

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

26-21 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 21

Mr. C Williams 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
Grace	Hoop	Assistant Volleyball Coach	January 22, 2026
Roy	Whisner	Assistant Baseball Coach	February 6, 2026

DISCUSSION:
None

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

26-22 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 22

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

Substitutes 2025-2026

Substitute Teacher
Jessica Davis, Jacie Wolfe, Autumn Dutiel

Substitute Daily Aide (Unit or 1:1)

First Name	Last Name	Effective Date	Reason
Sara	DeDear	Retroactive to February 2, 2026	Replacing Marley Kennedy - resigned

Substitute Bus Driver (Daily)
Karen Gress – retroactive to January 16, 2026

Supplemental

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Status	Category	Salary
Adam	Arcuri	Baseball - Head	2025-26	2	Step - 10
Jared	Whittington	Baseball - Reserve	2025-26	3	Step - 7
Daniel	Sopher	Baseball - Freshman	2025-26	3	Step - 0
Chad	Dennis	Softball - Varsity	2025-26	2	Step - 5
Nathan	Whisner	Varsity Assistant Softball	2025-26	3	Step - 3
Dirk	McFarland	Softball - Reserve	2025-26	3	Step - 9
Tyler	Kuhnes	Track - Varsity Boys	2025-26	2	Step - 8
Matthew	Sorg	Track - Varsity Boys Assistant	2025-26	3	Step - 10
Deborah	Fehrman	Track - Middle School Boys	2025-26	3	Step -10
Darl	Keller	Middle School Boys Assistant Track	2025-26	4	Step - 0
Jessica	Hoover	Varsity Girls Track	2025-26	2	Step - 10
Siarra	Hoover	Varsity Girls Assistant Track	2025-26	3	Step - 1
Emma	Fehrman	Middle School Girls Track	2025-26	3	Step - 0

DISCUSSION:
None

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

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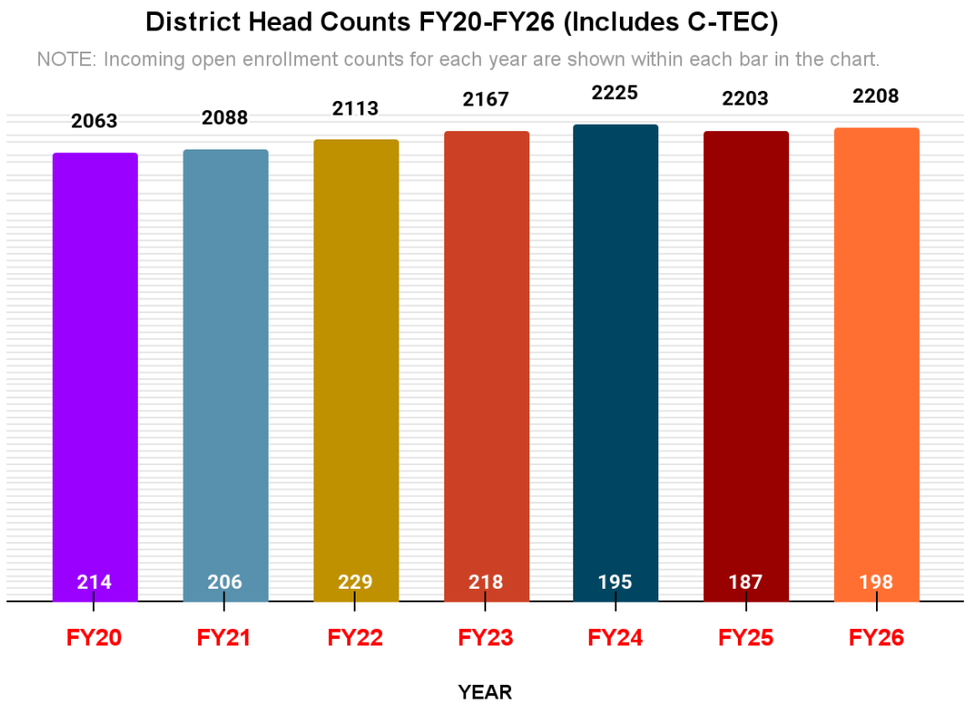
26-23 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 23

Mr. C. Williams moved and Mrs. Torbert 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:

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

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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 (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
In-School Suspension	2	1

Licking Valley Middle School (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
In-School Suspension	1	11
In-School Suspension	2	4
In-School Suspension	3	1
Out-of-School Suspension	3	2
Out-of-School Suspension	5	1
Out-of-School Suspension	10	1

Licking Valley Intermediate (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

Discipline Type	Day(s)	Incident(s)
In-School Suspension	1	4

Licking Valley Primary (0 Vape-Related Incidents)

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

Out-of-State Trip

Baseball

It is recommended we approve the high school baseball team for the out-of-state trip to Memphis Tennessee USA Baseball Complex during Spring Break.

Softball

It is recommended we approve the high school softball team for the out-of-state trip to Pigeon Forge Tennessee Cal Ripken Complex during Spring Break.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

26-24 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 24

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

Gifts & Donations
Donations for January 10, 2026 – February 6, 2026

	Donation Recipient	Amount	Received From
1/12	HS Panther Pantry	$50.00	Toboso United Methodist in-kind donation of food
1/12	HS Panther Pantry	$2,312.00	State Farm
1/12	MS Panther Pantry	$500.00	James & Linda Lawrence
1/12	HS Panther Pantry	$50.00	Phillip Clark in memory of Millie Clark
1/14	MS Panther Pantry	$150.00	Hanover American Legion
1/14	HS Panther Pantry	$150.00	LV Lions Club
1/21	HS Band	$10.00	Tiffany Robinson
1/22	MS Panther Pantry	$976.45	RISE Christian Church
1/23	Primary Principals Fund	$976.45	RISE Christian Church
1/28	Intermediate Principals Fund	$976.45	RISE Christian Church
1/29	HS Panther Pantry	$976.45	RISE Christian Church
1/30	Youth to Youth	$5,000.00	Shawn Phelps
1/30	Student Lunch Balances	$500.00	Toboso UM Church
2/2	Intermediate Principals Fund	$354.25	Licking County Sheriff's Office
2/2	MS Panther Pantry	$354.25	Licking County Sheriff's Office
2/6	Misc Donation	$50.00	Anonymous donation
2/6	MS Yearbook	$200.00	Mike Riley
2/6	HS Panther Pantry	$400.00	James & Robin Hoekstra
2/6	HS Panther Pantry	$100.00	Judy Schonauer
	TOTAL	**$14,086.30**	

DISCUSSION:
Mr. C. Williams provided his thanks for the support to the district.

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

26-25 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 25

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

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Audit IPA Renewal
It is recommended we approve the extension agreement with Wilson, Shannon & Snow, Inc. for Independent Public Accountant (IPA) audit services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, 2027, and 2028, as authorized by the Auditor of State. The agreement includes a fixed annual fee of $27,900, for a total cost of $83,700 over three years. Authorize the Treasurer to execute the agreement and any related documents.

DISCUSSION:
Mr. Nethers said that he asked Mr. Douglass about the fee for the audit and that Mr. Douglass said it could be similar or even more from the state.

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

26-26 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 26

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

Selection Of the Mowing & Grounds Maintenance Services Contract
It is recommended we approve Local Roots Property Service as the vendor for Mowing & Grounds Maintenance Services pursuant to the completed Request for Proposals, for an initial two-year term March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2028, with two (2) additional one-year renewal options, and authorize the Treasurer to execute the contract and any related documents.

DISCUSSION:
Mr. C. Williams asked whether the contract would provide the option to align the two mowing contracts. Mr. Beery confirmed that it would. Mr. C. Williams thanked the Westbrook family for their service and partnership in providing mowing services over the past several years.

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

26-27 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 27

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

Sale of Property

AUTHORIZING PUBLIC AUCTION
OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOARD
(Clearview Dr., Village of Hanover property)
(Pursuant to R.C. §3313.41)

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Licking Valley Local School District (the "School District") is the owner of approximately 10.976 acres and 0.224 acres of vacant real property located at Clearview Drive in the Village of Hanover, Licking County, Ohio, being Licking County Auditor Tax Parcel Numbers 023-065716-00.000 and 023-065670-00.002 (collectively, the "Property"), as depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof;

WHEREAS, the Property is no longer needed for school purposes;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to sell the Property; and

WHEREAS, no start-up community, STEM or boarding schools are located within the territory of the School District entitled to a first offer of the Property pursuant to Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") §3313.413(B).

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

1. It is found and determined that the Property, which exceeds $10,000 in value, is no longer needed for school purposes.

2. The Property shall be presented for sale at public auction in the manner prescribed by R.C. §3313.41 after giving at least thirty (30) days' notice of the sale by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the School District, in accordance with R.C. §3313.41.

3. The Superintendent and Treasurer are hereby authorized to determine the terms and conditions of the sale of the Property at public auction, which terms and conditions shall include that such sale shall be subject to Board approval.

4. After the auction is complete, the high bid received at auction will be presented to the Board and the Board shall determine whether to accept or reject the high bid.

5. The Superintendent, Treasurer, and/or Board President are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary and consistent with this resolution to conduct a public auction of the Property, including paying reasonable costs incurred in connection therewith.

6. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with applicable law, including R.C. §121.22.

DISCUSSION:
Mr. C. Williams thanked Mr. Beery for the work that has gone into this and to the Spaulding's for being flexible to make this happen.

Mr. Nethers asked if this leads to a discussion that we would have with the property owner that is potentially encroaching on our property. Mr. Beery confirmed that additional conversations can happen if necessary.

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

26-28 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 28

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

Safehouse Preparatory Service Agreement 2025-2026 School Year
It is recommended we approve the Safehouse Preparatory service agreement for 2025-2026 for (1) one student.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

26-29 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS 29

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

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Surplus
It is recommended we approve the items listed as surplus.

Tag Number	Item	Qty	Reason	For Bid
NA	HS - 6' Sided Tables - Seckman	29	Replaced	Yes
NA	HS - 8' Tables - Seckman	13	Replaced	Yes
NA	HS - 10' Tables - Seckman	10	Replaced	Yes
NA	DO - Varidesk Adjustable Standing Desk	6	No Longer Used	Yes
NA	MS - Ruckus R610 Wi-Fi Access Point	45	Obsolete/Replaced	No
NA	Inter-Tel Phones - All Buildings	249	Obsolete/Replaced	No

DISCUSSION:
None

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

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Mr. Griffin Williams provided an update on student class activities. He explained information about upcoming scheduling and upcoming choir and musical extracurricular activities.

Mr. Clements provided an update on athletics and the various records and upcoming athletics events and accomplishments from the student athletes.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE

Mrs. Torbert provided a student achievement update and shared highlights of activities occurring in each building. She noted that the primary school newsletter is very informative. Mrs. Torbert also reviewed student and extracurricular achievements across the District and provided information regarding the Youth to Youth program.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Nethers provided a legislative update and discussed proposed legislation that would require students to complete a computer science course, noting that no funding is included for implementation. He also discussed proposed legislation that would allow student teachers to be paid. Mr. Nethers further discussed threat assessment legislation and the information that is shared under those requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-agenda items)

Ms. Stephanie Hancock asked if we had considered streaming the board meetings and noted that it could result in more participation if there was more awareness about the board meetings.

Mr. McArtor mentioned that board meetings are posted on the website.

Mr. Gordon Postal congratulated the district for an outstanding newsletter. He also mentioned that it would be helpful to have a district schedule that includes the district events that are happening.

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BOARD DISCUSSION

AMERICAN READING COMPANY (ARC) LETTER OF THANKS

Mrs. Stedman provided the letter to board members for review that was previously discussed to send to the America Reading Company. The Board members thanked Mrs. Stedman for the work on the letter.

OTHERS

Mr. McArtor discussed how the Board intends to format certain topics listed under Board discussion and confirmed that this format does not limit other topics that may be raised during Board discussion.

Mr. C. Williams referenced a prior conversation regarding facility use and requested that the guideline specify that if a team has more than one Licking Valley participant, the hourly rate would be $150. Mr. C. Williams also discussed comments shared related to NIL and stated his belief that NIL was an administrative decision rather than a Board decision and indicated concerns with the OHSAA structure. Mr. C. Williams stated he would like to know which Board members supported or did not support NIL and expressed interest in the District leading reform efforts with OHSAA. Mr. McArtor stated he did not agree with NIL but believed that if it is implemented, it should be done correctly. Mr. Nethers stated he was not in favor of NIL.

Mr. Nethers encouraged Board members to review the zoning proposal, noting he believes it will impact the District. Mr. Nethers also stated he reviewed the wrestling schedule and noted it was not correct.

Mrs. Stedman asked whether NIL and OHSAA could be added to Board discussion for the next meeting. Mrs. Stedman stated the newsletter is great and requested that the pictures be larger. Mrs. Stedman also stated that she believes the Finance Task Force should be a Board committee.

26-30 EXECUTIVE SESSION 30

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

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

Time out: 8:14 p.m.
Time back: 8:39 p.m.

26-31 ADJOURNMENT 31

Mr. Nethers moved and Mr. C. Williams seconded the motion to adjourn.
Mr. McArtor closed the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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

_____ _____

Drake McArtor, President Andrew Douglass, Treasurer