

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 in the Lowellville Library; President Jennifer Johnson presiding. Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

(26-2-8839)

TREASURER'S CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the January 14, 2026 Organizational Board Meeting
- b. Minutes from the January 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

B. Financial Reports

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended January 2026

C. Financial Forecast

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the submission of the Financial Forecast for the current fiscal year as well as the subsequent two fiscal years for the Lowellville Local School District.

Discussion: Mrs. Apisa reported the following:

- The February forecast is not as favorable as the one in October. The district has been hit by recent legislation passed and now the district will need to react to it. In the previous forecast the district was not deficit spending. Now, the district will be deficit spending in 2028. The deficit spending indicated in the forecast is not good. It's workable but the district needs to tighten up a bit. There are enough funds to operate the district for 180 days. The goal is to avoid deficit spending so that the district does not end up in fiscal emergency.
- In October, the district was on the 20 mil floor and now the district is no longer on the 20 mil floor. Over 200 districts in the state of Ohio came off of the 20 mil floor.
- Enrollment with the fair funding plan is hitting state funding more than expected.
- From the October forecast until the February forecast state funding took a hit which is now impacting districts. This forecast does not take into account inside millage yet because we do not know what that will look like yet.
- The public utilities are only at an 80% collection rate and the district is not getting the money as expected.
- Ms. Apisa will be meeting with the county auditor to advocate for the district and the funds needed to operate. The auditor is a proponent of shared services and she plans to highlight the shared services that the district already engages in and show that they are working.

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.

- Mr. Dubos asked Ms. Apisa why the February forecast showed an increase in supplies. Ms. Apisa explained that she has to plan for curriculum purchases that may be needed in the next few years (ex-new math curriculum if required by the state).

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. Congratulations to the Lowellville Class of 2026 Valedictorians Cheyenne Bott, Reeve Donatelli, Jordan Nock, Nathan Yon and Salutatorian Sophia Rach
2. Kindergarten registration for district students was held the week of February 9th. We currently have 9 district kindergarten students enrolled.
3. Congratulations to our 2026 Sweethearts King, Reeve Donatelli and Queen, Laila Stevens and court:
AJ Boehlke
Reeve Donatelli
Drew Modelski
Joshua Pazel
Kaden Primous
Giuliana Alfano
Giana Morales
Sophia Rach
Laila Stevens
Gabriella Tunison
Crown Bearers: Grayson Salata & Paizley Shuluga
4. Lowellville Schools has been approved by the ESC to implement a Finance pre-apprenticeship program next school year. The program will be embedded into the high school Financial Literacy course for students interested in pursuing careers in finance. Coursework, combined with coordinated work-based learning experiences, will allow students to earn a recognized pre-apprenticeship credential at no cost to the district.

The 12-point industry-recognized credential allows students to meet an Ohio graduation pathway and provides documented evidence of career readiness for employment, apprenticeships, and postsecondary training.

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.

5. On Wednesday, March 4th our elementary students will attend the NED Show, a character education assembly centered on perseverance, encouraging others and doing their best. Through engaging storytelling and high level yo-yo demonstrations, students will learn lessons about resilience and growth mindset. The program aligns with our PBIS framework and supports our focus on safe, structured environments.
6. Family Wellness Night will be held on March 5 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. as a partnership between Wellness Club and Sources of Strength. This year marks the 10th annual event, with the theme WWN – “Wicked Wellness Night.” The evening will include a health fair, family activities, giveaways, and wellness sessions such as sound bowl meditation.
7. We are excited to announce the start of the Lowellville Challenge 24 Tournament at Lowellville School on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Doors will open at 5:00 PM, with competition beginning at 6:00 PM, and the tournament is open to students in grades 4–8. Challenge 24 is a fast-paced math game in which students use four given numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to make the number 24, promoting mental math, problem-solving, and strategic thinking in a fun and engaging competitive format.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Rocket Spotlight Students 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.

KG - Ava Curtis & Nayla Lopez-Cotto

1 - Gianna Tabak & Kennedy Porter

2 - Everlee Lucas

3.- Raegan Zetts

4 - Brianna Soto

5 - Vito Carchedi

6 - Dom Pondillo and Hamza Zaib

7 - Skylar Higgins

8 - Rex Rolland

9 - Laila Coira

10 - Raven Keirse

11 - Aubrey Kester

12 - Abbigail Grimes

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Great News for Lowellville Schools!

Lowellville Local School District will be receiving **\$22,180** through the Ohio School Bus Safety Grant to make important safety upgrades to our bus fleet. These improvements will include **LED lighting** and **illuminated school bus signs** on many of our buses, helping to increase visibility and enhance student safety.

On January 22, 2026, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin announced the award of \$10 million in Ohio School Bus Safety Grants to 371 schools, districts, and county boards of developmental disabilities statewide. These grants support safer student transportation through upgrades to existing buses and the addition of advanced safety features on new buses.

We are grateful for this funding and remain committed to providing safe transportation for our students every day.

2. Reminder: Shave-A-Thon for St. Baldrick's Foundation

The Lowellville Schools Shave-A-Thon to support the St. Baldrick's Foundation will be held on **March 12th at 1:15 p.m.**. At this time, six staff members are registered to shave their heads and/or facial hair, along with several students participating in support of this important cause.

Community members are encouraged to help us reach our fundraising goal by scanning the QR code to donate. No donation is too small, and all proceeds directly support childhood cancer research.



Thank you for your continued support of this meaningful event.

3. Student Achievement Recognition

Zak Sargent recently signed his letter of intent to play golf at Ohio Christian University in January. An honor roll student-athlete, Zak's hard work, dedication, and commitment have earned him this opportunity. We congratulate Zak on this accomplishment and wish him continued success as he advances to the collegiate level.

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.

4. Lowellville School Foundation - 3rd Annual Quarter Auction

The Lowellville School Foundation will host its 3rd Annual Quarter Auction on Saturday, April 18, at St. Michael Byzantine Hall in Campbell. The Foundation is currently seeking donations to support this event, including cash contributions, themed baskets, gift cards, or other items. A donation request letter is available upon request.

Tickets for the event will be \$10 (tables of 8- \$80.00) and will be available for purchase in the coming weeks. Community members are encouraged to save the date and support this fundraiser.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jen Johnson shared the CASTLO Community Fund grant application with Mrs. Sawicki. The district may be able to write for the grant to cover some of the costs for repairs and updates needed around the baseball and softball fields.
2. Rudzik excavating will be coming out next week to assess the property near the baseball and softball fields and provide an overview of what work may need to be completed in order to bring the area up to par.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Schedule an extra-curricular / clubs board committee meeting
 - a. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. The agenda will consist of the following items:

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.

- i. Overview of the current status of the Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference (MVAC)
- ii. Review of potential league transitions in the near future
- iii. Discussion of how possible changes may impact Lowellville Local Schools
- iv. Consideration of options moving forward
- v. Identification of next steps and timeline for decision-making

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

No discussion.

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

(26-2-8840)

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

A. Personnel

1. Certified Staff Resignations

- a. Alina Wittenauer- 2nd Grade Teacher- Alina's resignation will be effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year

2. Certified Staff Appointments

- a. It is recommended that the Board approve a limited contract for **Gina Blascak as a 2nd Grade Teacher** for the 2026-2027 school year and placed at the appropriate step of the certified master contract (Masters plus 20 step 5 - \$59,225).

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.

3. Certified Staff Transfers

- a. Nicole Firmstone- Transfer from Title 1 Math teacher to 5th/6th grade Science teacher
- b. Stephanie Havrilla- Transfer from 5th/6th grade ELA teacher to Response to Intervention (RTI) teacher
- c. Angela Killingsworth- Transfer from school counselor to 4th grade ELA teacher
- d. Debbi Sanders- Transfer from 5th/6th Math teacher to Title 1 Math Teacher

4. Athletic Supplementals Appointments- 2026-2027 School Year

Provided they meet the requirements, prior to working with students, set forth by the Lowellville Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Ohio Department of Education:

- a. Robert Ballone Jr.- Football Assistant - 10%
- b. Vinny Ballone- Football Assistant - 10%
- c. John Hritz- Football Assistant - 10%
- d. John (J.J.) Walsh- Football Assistant- 10%
- e. Ian O'Brien- Football Assistant-10%
- f. Nate Weisbarth- Football- 7 and 8 Head- 9%
- g. Malik Mostella- Football Volunteer- 0%
- h. Mia Mangine- Volleyball JV/ Asst. Varsity- 8%
- i. Brooke Kalitich- Volleyball Volunteer- 0%
- j. Madison Johns- Volleyball 8th- 8%
- k. David Wesley Hodge- Track Volunteer Girls- 0%

B. Building Use

- a. **Youth Basketball Game** (Joey Donatelli)- February 5, 2026- 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Large Gym
- b. **Winter Sports Banquet Grades 9-12** (Lowellville Sports Booster Club)- March 9, 2026 - doors open at 5:30 p.m.- reserve space from 3:00- 9:00- Cafeteria
- c. **Math 24 Tournament Concessions**(Lowellville PTO)- March 19, 2026 from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.- cafeteria and teachers' lounge in the cafeteria
- d. **Lowellville High School Baseball Youth Camp** (Adam Kaweck)- March 21, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.-Large Gym and Small Gym
- e. **Lowellville High School Volleyball - Grades 3-6 Youth Clinic** (Kristen Pallozzi) February 28, March 7, March 14, March 22, and March 28, 2026 from 1:15 p.m. -5:00 p.m.-Large Gym and Small Gym
- f. **TableTop Gaming Club** (Jared Hale)- Wednesdays when school is in session from 2:50 - 6:00 p.m.- Room 231

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.

C. Student Activity Anticipated Budget and Sales Project Potential Forms

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Student Activity Anticipated Budget and Sales Project Potential Forms As Submitted (2025-2026 school year):
 - a. Volleyball
 - o Youth Camp- February & March 2026

Moved by Jennifer Johnson seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(26-2-8841)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the updated gifted plan for the district (as submitted).

Moved by Stephanie Yon seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8842)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the course catalog for the 2026-2027 school year (as submitted).

Moved by Joe Sturm seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8843)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the MOU (as submitted) between Vision to Learn and the Lowellville Local School District. The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the provision of vision screenings, vision examinations, and related services for students in the District through Provider's personnel and its independent contractors using a mobile vision clinic ("Mobile Clinic").

Moved by Stephanie Yon seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8844)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the below resolution to authorize Lowellville Local School District to continue its membership in the Ohio Athletic Association for the 2026-2027 school year.

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.

Whereas, **Lowellville Local School District**, District IRN number: **048330** of **52 Rocket Place**, **Mahoning** County, Ohio

Has satisfied all the requirements for membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not-for-profit; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education/Governing Board (“Board”) and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at the 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSAA;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/GOVERNING BOARD that all schools listed on the reverse side of this card do hereby voluntarily renew membership in the OHSAA and that in doing so, the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport Specific Regulations and Business Rules of the OHSAA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own minimum requirements as it pertains to, but not limited to, student-eligibility, coaching requirements, and administrative responsibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the minimum standards as it deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the schools under this Board’s jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletic programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport Specific Regulations, Business Rules, interpretations and decisions of the OHSAA and cooperate fully and timely with the Executive Director’s office of the OHSAA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board’s jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport Specific Regulations and Business Rules and the interpretations and rulings rendered by the Executive Director’s office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty of the primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension from membership and/or other such penalties as prescribed by Bylaw 11.

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8845)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the contract (as submitted) between the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board, and Lowellville Schools to engage in a collaborative, Project Aware Ohio-demonstration grants, and the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board agrees to pay Lowellville Schools \$50,000 for FY26.

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

MISSION

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.

(26-2-8846)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the following dates as potential make-up dates for staff members during the 2025-2026 school year. In the event of additional calamity days this year the staff will be required to make up days in the following order:

- a. If school is canceled due to cold temperatures, staff will be expected to report.
- b. If school is canceled due to snow-related unsafe road conditions, staff make-up days will follow the established order below.
 - Wednesday, April 8th
 - Tuesday, April 7th
 - Monday, April 6th
 - Monday, June 1st
 - Tuesday, June 2nd
 - Wednesday, June 3rd

Moved by Joe Sturm seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8847)

7. It is recommended that the Board award the bid for the painting project to Diamandis Painting. The total project will cost \$116,400.

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8848)

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

- a. **BD-** School Board Meetings- REVISION

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8849)

9. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Joe Sturm, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. to discuss:

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.

A. To consider one or more, as applicable, of the check marked items with respect to a public employee or official:

1. _____ Appointment;
2. _____ Employment;
3. _____ Dismissal;
4. _____ Discipline;
5. _____ Promotion;
6. _____ Demotion;
7. _____ Compensation of a public employee or official; or
8. X Investigation of charges/complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual (unless public hearing requested).

B. _____ To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the public interest.

C. _____ Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

D. _____ Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

E. _____ Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes.

F. _____ Details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office.

Action **will not** be taken.

Moved by Jennifer Johnson seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8850)

10. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Board Meeting at 7:13 p.m.:

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.

Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(26-2-8851)

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Joe Sturm to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm.

ROLL CALL: Dubos - Johnson - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - all aye
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

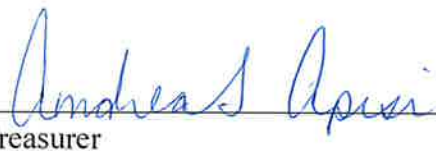
In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, 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.



President

3/18/26

Date



Treasurer

3/18/26

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.