LICKING VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026, at 7:30 A.M.
LICKING VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE, 1379 LICKING VALLEY RD., 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 Special Session on July 29, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. in the Licking Valley District Office. The following members responded to roll call: Mr. Drake McArtor, Mr. Craig Nethers, Mrs. Julie Stedman, Mrs. Jo Lynn Torbert, and Mr. Casey Williams. Ms. Zoe Moran, Assistant Treasurer, Ms. Madison Hays, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Paul Smathers, incoming Superintendent, were also in attendance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION OR MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

26-128 APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER PRO 128

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

It is recommended to appoint Assistant Treasurer, Ms. Zoe Moran, as Treasurer Pro Tempore for the duration of this meeting.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to review and approve new employment for the upcoming school year and approve necessary contract agreements.

26-129 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA 129

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

Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda for July 7, 2026, is recommended to be adopted as presented.

DISCUSSION:
None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

None

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26-130 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 130

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

PERSONNEL
It is recommended to approve the following appointments and assignments.

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 appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

Rescinded Contracts

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
Allison	Shrock	HS Intervention Specialist	July 7, 2026	Returning to Previous Position-HS Educational Aide

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Smathers explained that Ms. Allison Shrock's contract was being rescinded because the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce did not approve her licensure. Since Ms. Shrock had met the district's criteria and passed the required state examinations, the licensure denial was unexpected. She will remain employed in her previous position and continue participating in the district's "Grow Your Own" program while completing the remaining coursework necessary for licensure.

Mr. Williams asked why Ms. Shrock had previously been recommended for Board approval without confirmed licensure. Mr. Smathers explained that the district anticipated approval based on her qualifications and completion of the required examinations.

Mr. Smathers stated that Ms. Shrock will temporarily assist with Panther Excel and the Digital Academy by providing tutoring and student check-ins but will not maintain an active student caseload. He also reviewed how the remaining caseloads will be reassigned, noting that High School Assistant Principal Chris Campbell, who is licensed as an intervention specialist, will assume some responsibilities.

Mrs. Torbert asked whether the district was temporarily modifying Ms. Shrock's duties and whether she would assume the position after receiving her license without the position being publicly posted. Mr. Smathers confirmed that the position would not be posted and stated that the district intends for Ms. Shrock to assume the role once her licensure is approved. He assured the Board that student services would continue during the transition.

Mrs. Torbert also requested information regarding the number of district employees currently working under alternative licenses. Mr. Smathers stated that the staffing information would be provided to the Board.

Mrs. Stedman asked whether Mr. Campbell was currently licensed as an intervention specialist, and Mr. Smathers confirmed that he was. Mr. Nethers asked whether other staff members could assist with the caseloads. Mr. Smathers explained that qualified staff members were already at capacity and that the current arrangement was a temporary measure to maintain continuity of services while the district awaits resolution of Ms. Shrock's licensure.

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

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26-131 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 131

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

Appointments and Assignments 2026-2027

Certified

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Contract Days	Salary	Reason
Allison	Shrock	HS Educational Aide	1-Year Limited	188	Step 6	Returning to Previous Position

Classified

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Contract Days	Salary	Reason
Angel	Holbrook	Bus Driver	1-Year Limited	185	Step 0	Replacing Jacquelyn "Pat" Collins
Mary	Cox	Bus Driver	1-Year Limited	185	Step 0	Replacing Deborah Nance
Sandra	Cullison	Bus Driver	1-Year Limited	185	Step 2	Replacing Charles McKee

Substitutes 2026-2027

Substitute Aide - Instructional (Daily)
Tiffany Walsh

Substitute Aide - 1:1 or Unit (Daily)
Tara Hanley

Substitute Bus Driver (Daily)
Jonathon Brokaw, Patricia McDonald

Substitute Van Aide
Megan Hay

Supplemental

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Status	Category	Salary	Reason
Tom	Fairall	7th Grade Boys Basketball	2026-27	5	Step 0	Replacing Kam Walker - Resigned
Zachary	Hersey	8th Grade Boys Basketball	2026-27	5	Step 0	Replacing Alan Stein-Resigned
Michael	Hancock	Quiz Team	2026-27	5	Step 3	Previously Split with Melissa Flannigan - Taking Over Full Time

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DISCUSSION:

Mr. Smathers noted that Mr. Michael (Shane) Hancock is taking over the Quiz Team advisor role full-time, a position that he previously split.

Mrs. Stedman inquired whether the district is fully staffed regarding bus drivers. Mr. Smathers confirmed that regular bus driver positions are filled and added that substitute bus drivers will be presented at the next meeting.

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

26-132 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 132

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

BUSINESS
It is recommended to approve the following business items.

Special Education and Related Services

Bridge Academy Seat Agreement (New)
It is recommended to approve the agreement between Southwest Licking Schools and Licking Valley Local Schools to purchase one (1) seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

New Story Seat Agreement (New) It is recommended to approve the agreement between New Story Schools and Licking Valley Local Schools to purchase one (1) seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

School Psychology Services Agreement
It is recommended to approve the agreement between Independent School Psychologist Jamilah Mogharbel and the Licking Valley Local Schools retroactive to July 24, 2026.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Stedman asked whether this is the candidate's first role as a school psychologist. Mr. Smathers explained that she has prior experience as a school psychologist.

Mrs. Torbert inquired whether the candidate is originally from the local area. Mr. Smathers explained that she is not, but that she has heard wonderful things about the school district, is very excited to join, and that she will be working exclusively with the district.

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

26-133 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION 133

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

Maintenance Services
It is recommended to approve the contract between Richland Sealcoating Company and Licking Valley Local Schools to provide regularly scheduled asphalt repair and maintenance services at the high school, including sealcoat and paint.

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DISCUSSION:
Mr. Smathers explained that the High School parking lot project is part of the district's regularly scheduled maintenance and was prioritized ahead of the Elementary School parking lot. The work will include sealcoating, painting, restriping, and numbering parking spaces assigned to juniors and seniors. Sophomore parking spaces in the side lot will not be numbered because the area is also used by the marching band for practice. Additionally, the company has agreed to repaint the elementary lot at no cost, as the previous paint did not last as long as expected.

Mr. McArtor requested clarification regarding the numbered spaces, and Mr. Smathers confirmed that they would be assigned to juniors and seniors.

Mrs. Torbert asked whether the work had begun. Mr. Smathers stated that it was scheduled to begin over the upcoming weekend and had been coordinated with the High School administration and band. The contractor guaranteed that the work would be completed before the start of school.

Mrs. Stedman asked whether the maintenance schedule had been adjusted. Mr. Smathers confirmed that the High School and Elementary School projects had been switched and that the Elementary School parking lot would be completed next.

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

26-134 **ADJOURNMENT** **134**

Mr. Williams moved and Mrs. Torbert seconded the motion to adjourn. Mr. McArtor closed the meeting at 7:57 a.m.

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

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Drake McArtor, President Andrew Douglass, Treasurer