

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 in Cafeteria (In-Person-Board & Staff ONLY) & Virtual via Zoom (Public); President Stephanie Yon presiding. Mrs. Yon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Michael Palumbo - Present Joseph Sturm - Present
Brian Wharry – Present Stephanie Yon – Present
Gerald Dubos - Present

Minutes:

(21-02-7813)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes from the organizational meeting and regular Board January 13, 2021:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Review January financial reports and agenda items for approval. Mr. Schiraldi updated the Board that the District financials are on track with the forecast and trending in a favorable direction. Mr. Dubos inquired about the amounts, timing, and uses of newly released ESSER II funds. Mr. Schiraldi informed them that the District's preliminary allocation is around \$171,000, the funds can be used retroactive to March 13, 2020 and forward to September 30, 2023, and uses are similar to ESSER I.

Treasurer's Recommendations:

(21-02-7814)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Financial Report, Bills and Payroll for January 2021, as submitted by the Treasurer:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Gerald Dubos seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7815)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the policy update to the Board Policy, FILE: DFA Revenues from Investments, to align with Ohio Revised Code:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Joseph Sturm seconded by Michael Palumbo.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Principal's Report:

Congratulations to the 2021 LHS Sweethearts King and Queen Dyan Bond and Callie Kester and Court members Kennedy Kelly, Angelina Marsh, Alexis Mesaros, Marissa Rivera, Cole Bunofsky, John Loshuk, Michael Melillo, and Francisco Rivera-Ocasio. Since we could not host a Sweethearts Dance this year, instead we celebrated with a Sweethearts Spirit Week. Students dressed according to each day's theme. The

week ended with the crowing and a dessert reception for the families of the court. The event was live streamed via Facebook.

The girls varsity basketball team was defeated by Newton Falls Saturday in tournament play. They have 1 league make-up game vs. Sebring today.

The boys varsity basketball will host the winner of Brookfield/Lordstown in tournament play this Friday at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be distributed to varsity basketball and cheer families. The JV basketball and jv cheer students will be permitted to attend and watch from the mezzanine to comply with the capacity limits. If we win and play away, tickets will only be for varsity basketball families.

Spring sports officially begin today with track, baseball, and softball.

Applications were distributed for National Honor Society. 19 Juniors and 9 seniors were invited to apply. In order to be eligible for consideration applicants must have a minimum 3.4 GPA, complete 25 hours of service projects, provide a letter of endorsement verifying leadership qualities, and be rated a 3.5 or higher on the character rating scale. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2021. Last year's candidates will also be inducted at this time.

Master scheduling is underway for the 2021-2022 school year. Schedule sheets were distributed to students grades 7-12. The goal is to have the master schedule done before students leave for the summer.

Operation Keepsake presented to the 6th grade. Operation Keepsake is the largest and longest running relationship education program in the country. The purpose of the program is to challenge young people to develop healthy relationships and build character so that they are able to make good decisions in life.

Required school immunization reminder letters were sent out to current 6 and 11th graders. Nurse Wilson is working with the health department to schedule an onsite shot clinic here in April.

Thank you to PTO for creating a safe way for our elementary classrooms to celebrate Valentine's Day. They delivered Valentine's Day Movie Party Kits to each classroom. Each kit included popcorn snack bags, drinks, and a movie for the class to enjoy.

Elementary students are also participating in an Only One You Rock Painting Project. After reading the story Only One You, students decorated rocks which will be displayed outside of the school this spring.

We want to recognize bus driver Paul Mihaly. Suzanne Tucci, the grandmother of Lowellville student Olivia Clemente, called to share that the other day when Paul was dropping Olivia off, Olivia mentioned to him that she did not recognize the car in the driveway. Paul told her he would wait until he saw her give a thumbs up that everything was okay and that someone she knew was home. Mrs. Tucci was so grateful and wanted to commend him for taking the time to make sure that she was okay. We appreciate Mrs. Tucci for sharing this with us.

Mrs. Yon thanked Mrs. Parry for the update and mentioned a second book walk upcoming for the students.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Thomas updated the Board on SchoolComm, a company that provides support for engaging the community. He plans on creating an ad hoc committee for a Zoom meeting with the company and would like two Board Members to be on that committee. Mr. Wharry asked for clarification and Mr. Sturm asked if this was separate from the new app. Dr. Thomas informed them that yes, this is separate from the new app and they assist with communication and engagement with the community. Mrs. Yon asked if this would work in conjunction with the new app and Dr. Thomas agreed that yes, it will. Mr. Wharry and Mrs.

Yon volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee.

Dr. Thomas informed the Board that he is changing the terminology in the District plan to Model One (In-person or Remote) and Model Two (Online). The Board agreed with the change as it better clarifies the different modalities.

Dr. Thomas informed the Board that he is getting updated information regarding school events such as concerts, prom, drama club plays, and graduation. He will be attending a Superintendents meeting where additional information will hopefully be shared. There is also a Health Directors meeting tonight to make guidelines for these events which will be passed on, however the events may still be limited. Mrs. Yon asked whether staff is still making tentative plans. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that yes, the staff continues to make plans for future student events.

Mrs. Yon mentioned attending the All-Boards meeting with Dr. Thomas and informed the Board that they provided a lot of legal updates:

“Mighty Ducks” Legislation – COVID-19 leaves expired on December 31, 2020.

House Bill 404 – Extends virtual meetings for public bodies extended until July 1, 2021, no growth data (value added) for evaluations, teacher evaluations do not need to be conducted this year and those teachers will remain at the same point in the evaluation cycle, and licensure deadlines have been extended.

House Bill 409 - student attendance at internet- or computer-based community schools that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools, to provide public and chartered nonpublic schools discretion regarding educational requirements of substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year, to exempt schools from retaining students under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee for the 2020-2021 school year, to permit the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adjust various deadlines, to prohibit the Department of Education from issuing state report card ratings for the 2020-2021 school year, to establish a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions based on the absence of state report card ratings and community school sponsor ratings for the 2020-2021 school year, and to declare an emergency.

Ed Choice – Weighted toward economically disadvantaged districts.

House Bill 436 - Regards screening and intervention for children with dyslexia and to modify achievement assessment requirements for students receiving state scholarships. Effective for 2022-2023.

House Bill 442 - Occupational Licensing and Regulation revisions.

House Bill 450 – Revisions to require fiscal officers of certain political subdivisions to provide certificates of transition to their successors when leaving office, to modify language regarding the duty of a treasurer of a board of education to deliver to the treasurer's successor all papers related to the affairs of the district, and to remove the eligibility requirements for political subdivisions to receive agreed-upon procedure audits from the Auditor of State, while continuing the agreed-upon procedure audits under rules adopted by the Auditor of State.

FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education be made available to all children with disabilities (IEPs, 504 plans, and child find).

There was also information shared regarding Title IX.

Dr. Thomas added that there is also a push to monitor mental health in students especially after the events of COVID.

Dr. Thomas also discussed that at his Superintendent’s meeting earlier that day, that Ryan Tekac,

the Mahoning County Health Commissioner informed them that Board meetings were still subject to the 10-person limit which is why this meeting had to switch the public to Zoom only.

Dr. Thomas updated the Board that he attended a meeting where Senator Rob Portman spoke. Dr. Thomas noted that Senator Portman discussed the importance of not having earmarks on relief funding and having districts develop a one-page plan to make themselves whole. He also talked about accountability and state testing by noting there should be no financial sanctions for regression to the mean. Mr. Dubos asked if Senator Portman was calling many school districts. Dr. Thomas informed him that this was an "Educate and Advocate" Zoom meeting setup by Nick Santucci at the Mahoning County ESC.

Mrs. Yon thanked Dr. Thomas for sending out his weekly updates to the Board.

Committee Reports:

Academics: Mrs. Yon updated the Board that two new courses will be added to the catalogue and there will be an adjusted grading scale due to lack of midterms and remote/online learning.

Extracurriculars & Clubs: Mr. Palumbo informed the Board that the committee discussed purchasing the Hudl Focus camera which would be setup in the gym to stream basketball games and provide tape to coaches. The committee agreed that this is something that could potentially be done in the future. Mr. Palumbo noted that the committee worked on updating the handbook and decided to condense it as it was around 80 pages. They will meet again to review the condensed version. Mr. Palumbo also noted that the fitness center will remain closed to the public as the school has no one there to enforce guidelines. Mrs. Yon asked if the school would provide refunds. Mrs. Schiraldi stated that they would likely just extend the membership for the time that was missed. Mr. Palumbo went on to note that there was a Boosters meeting with where it was suggested that they did not want to pay for uniforms unless certain stipulations were met which lead to unsuccessful dialogue. Mr. Dubos noted that the Boosters met with Mrs. Parry and Mr. Sammartino and mentioned the district needs to be conducive with the Boosters. Mr. Dubos also inquired about regulations for playoff basketball tickets and mentioned that he shared a website posting with the community. Mr. Sammartino informed him and the Board that it is an OHSAA tournament, so tickets are split 50/50 between home and away teams. 64 to the home team and 64 to the away team, meaning there would be 2 tickets per varsity player and cheerleader. Mr. Dubos asked if there would be a ticket lottery or if it was out their hands. Mr. Sammartino said it was out of the District's hands as it is an OHSAA game. Mr. Palumbo noted that this is the same for every district. Mr. Sammartino also noted that junior varsity basketball players and cheerleaders can go to the game and would be seated socially distanced on the mezzanine. YSN will also be streaming the game for \$9.99 and there is a link on the athletic website. Information was also emailed out to the students.

Mrs. Yon remarked on parent organizations doing a good job getting their information up to date and the importance of them collaborating with the school. Dr. Thomas noted that PTO and the Crescendo Club are not required to have bylaws, but they still have them and keep them updated regardless.

Open Enrollment: Dr. Thomas updated the Board that the ad hoc committee reviewed the policy and how it is aligned with the District's strategic plan. The committee agreed that the policy has been working well and no changes are being recommended. Mrs. Yon commented that the District did a deep dive on the open enrollment policy a few years ago. Mr. Dubos noted that it was updated in 2016 and 2018 as it is a critical policy for the District. Dr. Thomas stated that open enrollment will start on March 1st. Mr. Dubos clarified that it is also year-round.

Policy GBH: Dr. Thomas addressed the District's social media policy. Time have evolved even since the last update to this policy and additional guidelines are out there. NEOLA is a company similar to OSBA that develops Board policies, and we plan to incorporate some of their language into our policy in order to improve it.

Old Business:

Mrs. Yon introduced updates to old business. She reminded the Board of updated COVID guidelines and the updated flowchart. She also gave a reminder to recognize Chuck Harris and Sherri Novak in the future.

New Business:

Mrs. Yon began by thanking Mrs. Parry for recognizing students and staff. She also mentioned the need to schedule another strategic planning committee meeting.

Mrs. Yon announced that the Lowellville Foundation needs 3 new members. If anyone is interested, please reach out. She gave a reminder about the Crescendo Club's upcoming spaghetti dinner. Mrs. Yon also noted that the organizational chart needs to be reviewed and updated.

Mr. Palumbo inquired about the marquee being fixed. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that repairs have been scheduled and we also plan on getting it encased to better protect it.

President's Report:

Mrs. Yon began the public comment portion of the meeting.

Gina Crilley – Mrs. Crilley wanted to inquire about why there was a last-minute decision that the public could not attend in person but acknowledged that Dr. Thomas addressed this earlier in the meeting by stating the Board Meetings were still subject to the 10-person limit.

Art Miller – Mr. Miller introduced himself as both a parent and Booster member and wanted to try to separate the two. He commented on having a meeting with the administration, but he has yet to hear anything back. He stated that it does not seem like communication is working. Mr. Miller noted that Joe Ballone (who was a part of the initial Booster and administration meeting) had another meeting with the administration where it was said that Joe and Art threatened to not buy jerseys and that they wanted certain coaches fired, which is untrue. Mr. Miller would like to have a conversation with the person who said he wanted coaches fired. Mr. Miller also wants there to be better communication. He stated that accountability starts at the top and wanted more information on the District process for hiring coaches. Mrs. Yon agreed that open communication is important. Mr. Miller continued to reiterate his original points. Mrs. Yon ensured him that that he is being heard and there needs to be open lines of communication. She noted that everyone should be heard and valued. She also noted that the administration will reach out to set up a meeting with the Boosters organization.

Mrs. Yon addressed the Board for the need of a Special Meeting for evaluations. The Board agreed to schedule the Special Meeting on March 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

(21-02-7816)

1. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Eileen Waring, educational aide effective January 14, 2021:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Joseph Sturm seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7817)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve Madeline Burgess as a Substitute Teacher through the MVRCOG for the 2020-2021 school year and placed at a cost of \$100.00 per day plus associated costs (\$25.67 per day) retroactive to January 19, 2021:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Stephanie Yon seconded by Brian Wharry.

Mr. Dubos asked the question why should we use the COG when we have 12 substitutes? Dr. Thomas replied that one of the long-term subs took a leave of absence and we needed a replacement. The other subs are already assigned elsewhere.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7818)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the master calendar for the 2021-2022 school year:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Stephanie Yon seconded by Gerald Dubos.

Mrs. Yon asked why we have Flex Days? Dr. Thomas replied that this gives the Teachers time to get their classroom ready.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7819)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Eastern Gateway Community College, University of Toledo and Youngstown State University for College Credit Plus for the 2021-2022 school year:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7820)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the FY22 Internet and Application Services Contracts with ACCESS:

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Stephanie Yon seconded by Michael Palumbo.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7821)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the resignation of Nick Lucente, Weight Training (6%):

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Gerald Dubos seconded by Brian Wharry.

Chris Crilley interrupted the meeting as he missed the public comment section of the meeting. Mr. Crilley brought up his issues with House Bill 404 as he believes it does not apply to our school and the public should be in person. Mr. Crilley also stated that communication from the school has been unacceptable, especially with this last second change in the meeting that switched the public to remote only. Mr. Crilley

also announced that if the Board wanted to know what he wanted for a lawsuit settlement he wants his legal fees paid and for Dr. Thomas to resign. Mr. Crilley stated that he would not settle for anything less.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

7. It is recommended that the Board approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2020-2021 school year and placed at the appropriate percentage on the Master Contract 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:

Mr. Dubos inquired whether there was a policy for partial compensation of supplementals. Mr. Schiraldi stated that there is not a Board Policy, but the District typically pays a pro-rated amount for the portion of the season that was actually worked.

Andrew Mamula Weight Training 6% (21-02-7822)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Gerald Dubos seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Eddie Driskel Football Assistant 10% (2021-22) (21-02-7823)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Dennis Davis Football - 7&8 Head Coach 9% (2021-22) (21-02-7824)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Pat Minnie Football - 7&8 Assistant 8% (2021-22) (21-02-7825)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Brian Wharry seconded by Michael Palumbo.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

Mike Minnie Track - 7&8 Boys 8% (21-02-7826)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Joseph Sturm seconded by Michael Palumbo.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7827)

Jenna Modelski Track - 7&8 Girls 8%

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7828)

Malik Mastella Football Assistant 10% (2021-22)

Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7829)

8. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Michael Palumbo, seconded by Stephanie Yon, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss:

- Personnel matters (individuals need not be named)
- Appointment and/or employment
- Dismissal
- Discipline
- Promotion or demotion
- Compensation
- Investigation of charges and/or complaints
- Purchase or sale of property
- Conferences with legal counsel related to pending or imminent court action
- Negotiations
- Security arrangements
- Economic Development
- Matters required to be kept confidential by state or federal law

Action will not be taken

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-02-7830)

9. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Mr. Palumbo called for a motion to approve. Moved by Brian Wharry seconded Joseph Sturm.

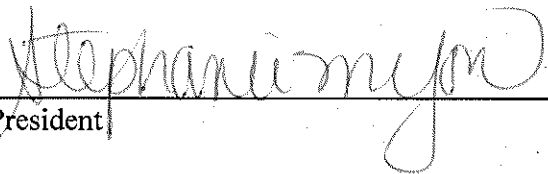
ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

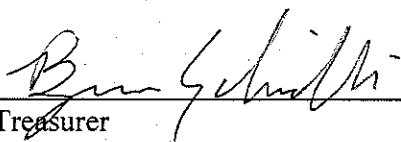
10. Adjournment:

Gerald Dubos moved to adjourn at 9:27 pm. Seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.



President



Treasurer