

The Lowellville Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 in person in the Cafeteria; 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:

(21-06-7907)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 special Board meeting:

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

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

Treasurer’s Report:

1. Review May financial reports and agenda items for approval. Mr. Schiraldi noted that the variance in other revenue stemmed from tuition/open enrollment revenues being lower than prior year.

Treasurer's Recommendations:

(21-06-7908)

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

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.

(21-06-7909)

2. It is recommended that the board approve the final appropriations for fiscal year 2021 and direct the Treasurer to file the final amended certificate (to be submitted to the Mahoning County Auditor):

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

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

(21-06-7910)

3. It is recommended that the Board the following federal programs for the 2021 fiscal year:

572/2022 Title I 516/2022 Idea B
590/2022 Title IIA 507/2022 ESSER II
599/2022 Title IVA 507/2023 ESSER III

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

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

(21-06-7911)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the following transfer of funds:

- 300-9220 (AD Fundraisers) to 300-9225 (Athletic account \$ 5,000)
- 001-000 (General Fund) to 300-9225 (Athletic account \$ 46,870.65)

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

Mr. Dubos inquired about the athletic fund deficit. Mr. Schiraldi explained that this is common as the district's athletics usually do not make a profit and therefore, we must transfer funds to cover the deficit. Prior was about \$14,000 and this year performed worse due to COVID, although past transfers having been anywhere from \$14,000 up to \$80,000. Mr. Wharry inquired about a \$25,000 transfer that was to be for the athletic fund at the beginning of the year. Mr. Schiraldi explained that there was no transfer at the beginning of this fiscal year and that must have occurred during a previous year. Mr. Schiraldi also noted that the athletic fund is only used for necessities that allow for the sports to occur such as league dues, refs, workers, equipment and supplies only as needed. Mr. Sammartino also made note that some of the dues and wages for refs have increased and OHSAA is planning to charge an additional fee for the coming year.

Mrs. Yon inquired about jersey purchases and wanted clarification on whether the Boosters agreed to continuing buying them. Mr. Schiraldi noted that the Booster Club informed the district that they would not be purchasing jerseys this year for athletics. Mrs. Yon asked about the expenses for jersey purchases. Mr. Schiraldi explained that it varies from sport to sport, football is usually the most expensive and they are due to be purchased this year along with volleyball, golf, and bowling. Football had two options for \$10,000 and one for \$15,000 so Mr. Schiraldi gave the okay for the \$10,000 option and built it into the athletic budget for the year. Mrs. Yon inquired what else the Boosters would be handling now that they are not purchasing jerseys and Mr. Schiraldi noted that they were still in discussions over that matter.

Mrs. Yon also inquired about when Jared Van Kirk would be taking over as athletic director. Mr. Sammartino noted that he had been filling Mr. Van Kirk in on various items and slowing handing things over to him. He'd likely take over completely in August.

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

(21-06-7912)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the following renewal contract effective July 2021:

- 2021-2022 commercial property, liability, cyber, umbrella and fleet insurance through Ohio School Plan, Love Insurance Agency at an annual premium of \$28,632.00:

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

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

(21-06-7913)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution to place a permanent improvement levy on the ballot in November 2021:

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

Mr. Dubos asked what the millage rate would be. Mr. Schiraldi informed the Board that it was determined to be 4-mills.

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

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Parry updated the Board with the following:

On June 7th and 8th, our K-3, intervention and RTI teachers participated in full day professional development sessions to familiarize themselves with the new phonics curriculum, Really Great Reading. PD will continue throughout the year.

On Tuesday, June 16th we convened a dress code committee of administrators, students, parents and teachers to consider some students' requests to update the current dress code. The committee agreed on the suggested updates and so those will be sent to the board for consideration. Thank you to Frankie Lellio, Vinny Layko, Carli Vari-Coppola, Mrs. Coon, Mrs. Beeson, Mrs. Laudermilt, Mr. Antonucci, and Ms. DiRienzo

Both Literacy Boot Camp (Aug 2-13) and Success by Six (July 26-Aug 13) letters went out to qualifying students. Again, Literacy Bootcamp will work on foundational reading skills/explicit phonics instruction to help close any reading gaps due to the pandemic or other factors. Success by Six will allow incoming kindergartners to explore their new school, interact with some of their classmates and work on important kindergarten foundational skills. The goal of the program is to ensure that every child entering kindergarten in fall is on track and ready to learn.

The custodians are busy working hard to get the building ready for fall. The elementary side should be done by the end of June and the high school by the end of July. Carpets are scheduled to be cleaned the week of July 7th so the main office will be closed so they can move furniture.

Congratulations to our student athletes who qualified for state this year:

Cross Country-Sophia Yon

Girls Track- 1600 Meter Run Sophia Yon

Boys Track 4x400 Meter Relay Vinny Ballone, Kenton Peterson, Giovanna Docherty, and James Clinton.

The sports schedules for this year are complete and will be available on the website July 1.

Mrs. Yon reiterated that the school will be undergoing cleaning and thanked the custodians for their work. Also, she noted that plans and preparation for the Bootcamp are coming together nicely.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Thomas updated the Board that he met with Sunshine and Lollipops last week and they will be back for this coming school year. He also updated the Board that so far, 15 teams have committed to the 31st Annual Board of Education Golf Outing that is taking place August 1st at Bedford Trails golf course.

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc – New Bus: Dr. Thomas informed the Board that the committee met to discuss whether the district should consolidate routes or purchase a new bus. Mr. Palumbo noted that the committee met twice, and they are recommending purchasing a new bus due to the timing of available funding for the bus (ESSER). Mrs. Yon inquired about the survey that was sent out regarding bussing. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that the survey was to gauge the community's thoughts on combining older and younger students. Mr. Dubos asked how many buses we use daily. Dr. Thomas noted that the district uses all 5. There are 4 bus routes plus one goes to career tech.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Palumbo noted that the committee met twice to go over updating security cameras. A server upgrade is the most important piece of this as it hasn't been updated since 2016, the update will allow for faster camera speed, longer period for backups, and new cameras being on Access Server will allow for administrators to have access from their phones in case they are not at a computer. Mr. Sturm noted that we're looking at around 13 new cameras. Mr. Palumbo also noted that some of the trees will need trimmed to clear the view of some cameras and the district will be applying for a safety grant to help pay for these updates.

Academic: Mrs. Yon noted that the committee met and looked at a replacement for VLA, called Edgenuity. Dr. Thomas noted that this would be for grades 7-12. Mrs. Yon went on to inform the Board that the committee also reviewed and adjust student handbooks as necessary including attendance, BYOT (bring your own technology), and valedictorian standards. She noted that there will be an ad hoc committee to take a more in depth look at the BYOT policy. Mr. Wharry noted that they also removed corrective action from the handbooks and questioned what value BYOT has when the district is One-to-One with Chromebooks. Mrs. Yon noted that BYOT is a Board policy that spells out uses and needs to be enforced. The district should engage the community and inform them regarding BYOT and acceptable phone use and behavior. Dr. Thomas asked for any volunteers from the Board for the ad hoc committee. Mrs. Yon and Mr. Wharry volunteered. Mr. Dubos noted that he also reviewed the handbooks and had a few questions. Mr. Dubos asked about zero tolerance and what constitutes inappropriate behavior. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that Ohio Revised Code dictates that. Mr. Dubos noted that some items can be very subjective such as eliminating one-, three-, and ten-day suspensions and making everything subjective for the administration. He inquired how to determine major vs minor infractions and ensure fairness for all. He also questioned the difference between Principal vs Administration as listed in the handbook and questioned whether the handbook should just state Principal and Assistant Principal as they oversee discipline. He also wanted clarification on chain of command in the handbook which Mrs. Yon agreed with. Dr. Thomas noted that they could look at the principal vs administration language. Mr. Dubos also noted that he had a difficult time finding the handbook on the website and recommended adding to the main list on the left-side. Dr. Thomas agreed and said they could put the BYOT policy there as well. Mrs. Parry followed up with Mr. Dubos' concerns stating that there is a difference between equality and equity. Some items are subjective such as a 7th grader versus a senior. She noted that the changes allow for some nuance, and it is the administrations role to make those determinations. Not everything is black and white so there needs to be some subjectivity to it. She continued to state that the district wants consequences without specificity. Mr. Dubos also questioned party invites being discussed in the elementary handbook and that there should just be no invites. Mrs. Parry noted that it is a curtesy for younger kids and the teachers typically police it.

Mrs. Yon also noted that the committee agreed not to proceed with the SchoolCom audit proposal. Mr. Wharry added that they would still want to do something regarding marketability just in a different way. Furthermore, Mrs. Yon noted that the committee discussed updates on the use of ESSER funds including summer boot camp plans, RTI's, new staff computers, professional development plans, bussing, cameras, and training for OTES 2.0, PBIS, PAX, and seclusion/restraint.

Mrs. Yon informed the Board the district plans to have grades K-3 on a delayed start for benchmarking and have early release. Mrs. Parry noted that this was recommended by the county so teachers will know benchmarks upfront instead of doing the benchmarking through October as they have in the past. There is also a new curriculum that these teachers need professional development for, and they plan to imbed the mandatory training into the workday with the early release. Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Killingsworth were able to get a grant for the PAX training and tier 2 intervention. Mrs. Yon noted that the ARP was turned in. Mrs. Parry noted that Mrs. Reamer sent out math information for students of all grades as well in preparation for the school year. Mr. Dubos asked about report cards changing for K-2 and possibly 3rd grade as was discussed last year. Mrs. Parry noted that K-2 did change to standards based, but intermediate did not. Additional professional development will be needed before that change can occur.

Old Business:

Mrs. Yon mentioned recognizing certain employees who from the previous year since it couldn't be done during prior meetings due to COVID restrictions. Dr. Thomas noted that this would be done closer to the start of the school year.

New Business:

Mr. Dubos inquired about teachers having free admission to athletic events and potentially having an appreciation night for them at a game to get them more involved. Mr. Palumbo noted that at Matthews, seniors give their away jersey to a teacher for the day. Dr. Thomas said this could be looked into further.

President's Report:

None

Superintendent's Recommendation:

(21-06-7914)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve a one-year limited contract for Megan Anderson as a general education teacher for the 2021-2022 school year teacher and placed at the appropriate step of the Master Contract salary schedule:

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

Dr. Thomas and the Board congratulated her on the approval.

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

(21-06-7915)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the student handbooks for the 2021-22 school year:

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

Mr. Sturm inquired about the possibility of a school store with Rocket gear, especially with the dress code changes. Dr. Thomas noted that this would be discussed in the future.

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

(21-06-7916)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the revisions/edits to the student dress policy:

- adding the color gray to the list of permissible color tops
- permitting neatly trimmed facial hair
- permitting students to wear Rocketwear with their uniform pants throughout the week
- ~~permitting holes in jeans on dress down days~~ (Removed from vote to be discussed in future)

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

Mr. Palumbo requested additional discussion be held on the final bullet point before being voted on. The Board agreed and the bullet point was removed for purposes of approval.

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

(21-06-7917)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Building Use Requests:

- Varsity Football - Youth Camp Grades 5-8 Tuesday and Wednesday July 27th and 28th 5:30-8:00 pm (football facilities and gymnasium)

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

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

(21-06-7918)

5. It is recommended that the Board the following personnel for summer employment:

Angela Higgins	Success By6
Angel McLaughlin	Success By6
Alina Wittenauer	Literacy Boot Camp
Megan Anderson	Literacy Boot Camp
Lea Fabrizzi	Literacy Boot Camp
Stephanie Havrilla	Literacy Boot Camp
Renay Choma	Literacy Boot Camp
Cyndi Innocenzi	Literacy Boot Camp
Mary Ann Davis	Planning & Prep

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

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

(21-06-7919)

6. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Joseph Sturm, seconded by Stephanie Yon, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 7:45 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.

(21-06-7920)

7. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Regular Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

(21-06-7921)

8. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Gerald Dubos, seconded by Stephanie Yon, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 7:59 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.

(21-06-7922)

9. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Regular Board Meeting at 8:38 p.m.

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

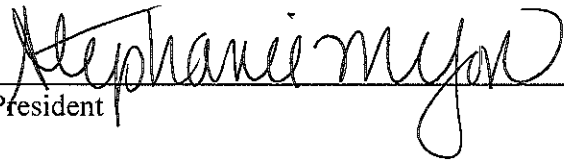
ROLL CALL: Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry -Yon - Dubos - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-06-7923)

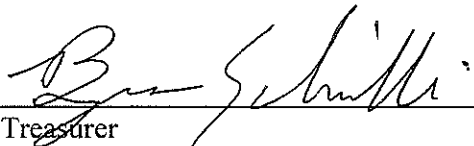
10. Adjournment:

Brian Wharry moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Seconded by Gerald Dubos.

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



President



Treasurer