

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 via Zoom; President Stephanie Yon presiding. Mrs. Yon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Minutes:

(21-03-7835)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes from the regular Board February 24, 2020 regular Board meeting and the March 10, 2021 special Board meeting: Mrs.Yon commented; great minutes.

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

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

Treasurer’s Report:

1. Review February financial reports and agenda items for approval. Mr. Schiraldi updated the Board on CARES funding that the District will be receiving. ESSER II funds were just released, and the District will receive approximately \$171,000 that can be used retroactively to March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2023. These funds can be used to offset COVID related expenses that the District incurred during the year as well as for continuing operations impacted by COVID. ESSER III funds are being made available and the State is discussing how these funds will be allocated. It is expected that these funds will be two times higher than ESSER II funding, but some will be used for learning loss. Updates will continue as more information comes out regarding ESSER III. Dr. Thomas added that he was in contact with Aaron Rausch, Director at the Office of Budget and School Funding with ODE, and it was stated that the learning recovery plan should be used as a wish list of funding needs the District has for learning recovery. Governor DeWine requested these plans but provided no guidelines for them. Mrs. Yon inquired if this would just require adjustments to the plan that was already sent to the Board. Dr. Thomas said yes.

Mr. Schiraldi also brought up a graphic that was sent to the Board showing enrollment numbers in every county throughout Ohio. The graphic showed that every county has seen a decrease in enrollment over the past year. Lowellville’s numbers stayed consistent over the same period which is a credit to the entire District for being able to retain students during periods of decreased enrollment statewide. Student retention will be an emphasis moving forward as enrollment is an important issue with all Districts. Dr. Thomas added that he sat in on an Educate and Advocate Zoom meeting that discussed school choice and what type of impact it can have on districts regarding enrollment. He also noted that large variances in CARES funding to different school districts and stated that it does not cost more money to some kids safe compared to others.

Treasurer’s Recommendations:

(21-03-7836)

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

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

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

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-03-7837)

3. It is recommended that the Board accept the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (city, village or local Board of Education):

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

Mr. Dubos asked for clarification. Mr. Schiraldi informed the Board that these are the amounts and rates used for tax levies. They are determined by the budget commission and the Board approves them annually.

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

(21-03-7838)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the reclassification of a 2014 transaction of \$18,500 from the General Fund (001) to Athletics (300-9225) from an advance to a transfer:

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

Mrs. Yon asked for clarification. Mr. Schiraldi stated that in 2014, the Board approved an advance from the General Fund to the Athletic Fund and advances are to be repaid. During the most recent audit, it was brought to Mr. Schiraldi's attention that this money has not be paid back. It was Mr. Schiraldi's opinion that this should be classified as a transfer instead meaning the monies would not have to be paid back from the Athletic Fund to the General Fund and to reclassify the transaction the Board needs to approve it. The Board agreed that this was the best plan of action.

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

Principal's Report:

- We are excited to be able to offer Success by 6 this summer. Success by 6 is an initiative funded by United Way to conduct a summer kindergarten readiness program for up to 15 children. Potential student participants will be identified as they are assessed during the kindergarten enrollment process and screening.
- We are also planning to host a literacy boot camp for those students in elementary who have been identified as needing additional reading support. This 2-week intensive program will focus on skill specific phonics instruction. Mrs. Yon asked for some additional details on the bootcamp. Mrs. Parry informed the Board that it would be 10-15 students per grade level. Grades K-4 will focus on phonics and grades 5-6 will look into math and reading.
- On Monday, March 15th Jill Palumbo and Nick Dubos presented to the seniors about the Lowellville Foundation Scholarship. We also distributed caps and gowns on this day. MCCTC caps and gowns were delivered on Friday, March 19th.
- Our spring sports teams will start competing this Saturday with softball hosting Warren JFK and varsity track traveling to LaBrae for the Joe Lane Invitational.
- The tentative All Sports Banquet is in the planning stages with the boosters and administration for Monday, May 24th.

- The following basketball players earned a spot on the Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference All-star Teams. Boys - 1st Team Vinny Ballone, 2nd Team Anthony Lucente, and Cole Bunofsky Honorable Mention. Girls - 2nd Team Sam Moore and Savannah Procick Honorable Mention
- Vinny Ballone was selected to the All-Northeast Ohio Inland District team for basketball earning Honorable Mention
- Required statewide testing in English, mathematics, social studies, and science will begin next month. Students will test in their classrooms using their district assigned chromebooks.

April 19 and 20	English language arts grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and ELA II
April 22 and 23	Science grades 5 and 8 and Biology I
April 26 and 27	Government
May 5 and 6	Math grades 3,4,5,6,7,8, algebra I, and geometry

* Elementary students on an IEP/505 requiring accommodations will test one-on-one or in a small group during the school day throughout the months of April and May. These students will not report to school on the above district testing days.

** The state removed the US History exam as a required test this year and will permit students in grades 11/12 to substitute course grades for exam scores
- VLA students will take their required state tests after school at 3:00 PM on the following days.

April 20	English language arts grades 3, 4, 5
	English language arts grades 6, 7, 8, and ELA II
April 22	Science grades 5 and 8
	Biology I
April 26	Government
April 29	Math grades 3,4,5
	Math grades 6,7,8, algebra I, and geometry
- Grades 2 and 6 whole grade gifted testing (Iowa/CogAT) has been scheduled

6th grade	May 17, 18, and 19
2nd grade	TBD
- AP has allowed a new, later testing window so we were able to move back the AP exam dates. AP exam dates are as follows:

AP Calc AB	May 24 8am	Pencil/Paper
AP Music Theory	June 4 12pm	Pencil/Paper
AP Government	June 3 12pm	Digital (at school)
- We have 10 students returning from VLA for the 4th quarter (6 elementary and 4 high school) 54 students will remain online.
- High school end of the year events scheduled so far-

April 9, 2021 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (By Invitation Only)
Lowellville Gymnasium @ 1:15 p.m.

May 7, 2021 Promenade Lowellville Gymnasium @ 5:30 p.m.

May 7, 2021 Prom Holiday Inn Boardman @ 7:00 PM
*waiting on guidance regarding outside guests

May 14, 2021 Senior Final Walkthrough @ 1:30 p.m.

May 16, 2021 Band Banquet

May 17, 2021 Spring Band Concert Lowellville Gymnasium
Grades 7 and 8 @ 6:00 PM, Grades 9-12 @ 7:30 PM

May 20, 2021 Underclassmen Virtual Awards Ceremony

May 24, 2021 Boosters All Sports Banquet

May 26, 2021 Senior Awards Breakfast the Embassy @ 8:00 AM

May 26, 2021 Graduation Practice Paul Menichini Field @ 11:30 AM

May 27, 2021 Senior Trip

May 30, 2021 Commencement Paul Menichini Field @ 2:00 PM

- Elementary end of the year events scheduled so far-
May 3, 2021 TENTATIVE Camp Fitch Day Trip for grades 5 and 6

May 20, 2021 Field Day for grades 1, 2, and 3

May 21, 2021 Field Day for grades 4, 5 and 6

May 28, 2021 Kindergarten Graduation

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Thomas announced the upcoming Reverse Raffle fundraiser for the Lowellville Foundation on 4/18/21. Mrs. Yon asked if he could expand on what the Foundation does. Dr. Thomas noted that the Foundation raises money and uses it for scholarships to Lowellville students and for teacher grants to Lowellville teachers who apply.

Dr. Thomas also discussed staffing for 2021-2022. The District plans to go from a half-time language arts teacher to a full-time position, adding a special education teacher, adding an Assistant Principal, eliminating the Dean of Students position, keeping a VLA position through the COG, having 2 additional RTI positions through the COG, and long-term substitutes will be eliminated. Mrs. Yon asked if these adjustments are based on pandemic staffing. Dr. Thomas answered, yes.

Committee Reports:

Extracurricular/Clubs: Mr. Palumbo updated the Board that the handbook has been updated and agreed upon by the committee. The Board will have to make a decision regarding coaches needing to be out of school 2 years. Mrs. Yon inquired if the handbook is shorter now and Mr. Palumbo informed the Board that yes, the handbook has been condensed. Mrs. Yon also noted that once the handbook is approved, those will be the guidelines for athletics. The committee also discussed the Paul V. Johnson award and the process for how it is awarded. The committee also discussed forming an E-Sports club and potential updates/repairs to the track. Mr. Wharry inquired about E-Sports. Mr. Palumbo informed him that many schools are forming clubs for it and colleges are even starting to give scholarships for it. There are professional tournaments where winnings are in the millions. Mr. Schiraldi noted that Mr. Sammartino presented the idea and found

out some information on costs. It probably will not be something that happens soon, but it should be on our radar. Mr. Wharry also inquired about how long we have had the track and how long it should have lasted. Mr. Dubos noted that the life of the track should be 8-10 years and it has been about 5. Dr. Thomas added that some repairs might be needed but it does not need replaced as of now. He and Mr. Sammartino did get quotes on updating the track and it will be discussed in the future. Dr. Thomas also noted that Mr. Sammartino coordinated the softball field to get cleaned up as it was covered in weeds after not being used for almost 2 years. The field is now in good shape and ready to be played on. Dr. Thomas noted that the committee determined they would add a clause to the cheer policy that allows the Superintendent to make adjustments if needed. He noted that 4-5 years ago, UCA would not work with the school but the cheer policy stated the judges had to be from UCA, so this clause would allow the Superintendent to clear up any issues that might appear such as that.

Mr. Palumbo inquired about the date for the golf outing. Dr. Thomas said it will be on August 1, 2021.

SchoolComm Ad Hoc Committee: Mrs. Yon introduced the topic and handed it over to Mr. Wharry for a quick update. Mr. Wharry informed the Board that SchoolComm is a company that assists districts with marketing and communications. They would come in and do an audit of the district and then present the district with a plan of how to improve various aspects of marketing and communication.

Mr. Schiraldi noted that he would be scheduling a finance committee meeting in the coming weeks.

Old Business:

Mrs. Yon inquired about the hot water tanks. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that they would be replaced over spring break.

New Business:

None

President's Report:

Public comment on agenda items or other school related issues - none

Superintendent's Recommendation:

(21-03-7839)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the revisions to Policy FILE: GBH Staff Student Relations:

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

Mrs. Yon asked if this meant staff and Board Members would have to unfriend anyone who is a student on social media. Mr. Wharry answered no, these are more just guidelines or best practices to follow. Mr. Sturm also noted that it is mostly regarding professionalism and being smart online.

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

Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-03-7840)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the lawn/field maintenance contract with Penn Ohio as submitted:

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

Dr. Thomas noted that there was no price increase for this year.

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

(21-03-7841)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve Toni Lanterman Substitute van driver retroactive to March 10, 2021:

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

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

(21-03-7842)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve Mandy Pachner resignation for retirement submitted March 15, 2021:

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

Dr. Thomas commended Mrs. Pachner for her work at Lowellville and thanked Mrs. Boila for stepping up into her position next year and helping with the process. Various Board Members shared personal sentiments about Mrs. Pachner and what she meant to them as they made their way through Lowellville Schools and throughout their lives.

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

(21-03-7843)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the resignation of Jenna Modelski Track - 7&8 Girls 8%:

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

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

(21-03-7844)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Building Use Applications:

National Honor Society	Gymnasium	April 9, 2021
Jr. High and HS Band	Gymnasium	May 17, 2020

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

ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - 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:

(21-03-7845)

Jenna Modelski	Track Assistant Girls HS	8%
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Mrs. Yon called for a motion to approve. Moved by Joseph Sturm seconded by Brian Wharry

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

(21-03-7846)

Pam Iarussi Track - 7&8 Girls 8%

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

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

(21-03-7847)

8. It is recommended that the Board move into Executive Session. Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Brian Wharry, resolved that the Board of Education of the Lowellville School District adjourn to Executive Session at 7:12 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: Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-03-7848)

9. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Special Board Meeting at 9:21 p.m.

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

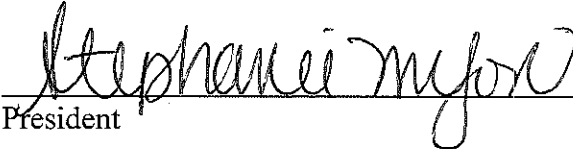
ROLL CALL: Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - Wharry - All Aye.
Stephanie Yon declared motion carried 5-0.

(21-03-7849)

10. Adjournment:

Brian Wharry moved to adjourn at 9:22 pm. Seconded by Gerald Dubos.

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



President



Treasurer