

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 In Person (BOE) & via Virtual Zoom; President Michael Palumbo presiding. Mr. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Minutes:

(20-09-7727)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting on August 26, 2020: Mrs. Yon asked if we could change how minutes are recorded. Board discussed and agreed to record audio.

Mr. Palumbo called for a motion to approve. Moved by Gerald Dubos seconded by Brian Wharry.

Mrs. Yon inquired about changing how minutes are recorded as she felt the minutes were not as accurate as they should be, and some items might be left out. The Board discussed the possibility of adjusting how to record minutes and agreed to look into typed or audio recordings.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo-yes, Sturm-yes, Wharry-yes, Yon-no, Dubos-yes.
Michael Palumbo declared motion carried 4-1.

Treasurer’s Report:

1. Review August financial reports and agenda items for approval. Mr. Schiraldi explained the new report.

Treasurer's Recommendations:

(20-09-7728)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the financial reports, bills and payroll for August 2020, as submitted by the Treasurer: Note: Various Board members and Geno received texts saying they could not hear. Fred Schriener fixed the audio.

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

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

(20-09-7729)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the addition/correction to resolution (20-07-7646) from the July 22, 2020 regular Board of Education meeting to add the title of "Educational Aide" for Steve Hunt:

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

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

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Parry updated the Board on the school year being underway and staff and students settling in. The immunization exclusion date was September 21 and there were 50 students without documentation. That number is now significantly reduced to 5 students still needing to provide documentation. Betsy [Wilson] already scheduled a shot clinic to be held here in the spring for the students who will need shots next year. Also, testing is scheduled to be held this week including Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, Diagnostics grades 1-3, and Plans for 3rd grade guarantee fall testing for the end of October. Finally, the PTO has setup and organized various events for Lowellville students. They have scheduled a Virtual Author Meet and Greet on September 23, 2020 (grades 4-6) and a Virtual Zoo Visit on October 21, 2020 (K-6). Mrs. Yon inquired about when the next PTO meeting was scheduled for. Mrs. Parry was not certain of the meeting date but did provide a reminder about their upcoming mum sale. Boosters is also planning their cow-Pickens fundraiser. Mrs. Yon noted that these fundraisers are being put on by parent organizations and not student activities.

Mrs. Parry also updated the Board on Graduation Plans and new requirements. Students will now be responsible for creating and maintaining a graduation plan from grade 9 through grade 12.

Graduation Plans:

- All grades 9-12
- Identify student academic pathway to graduation
- Invites parent participation
- Reviewed yearly for progress
- Includes criteria for identifying at-risk students
- Includes notification process for students off track
- Outlines available support services

New Graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2023:

- Students must earn 21 credits
- Must demonstrate Competency and Readiness

Competency:

- Achieve a passing score on ELA II and Algebra I exams
- OR Enlist in the Military
- OR earn a 12-point industry credential
- OR earn credit in non-remedial CCP course of that subject

Readiness:

- 12 diploma seals
- 9 state defined and 3 local seals
- Students must obtain a minimum of 2 diploma seals- 1 must be state defined.
- (Local) Community Service- 15 hours
- (Local) Student Engagement (2 seasons in a sport or 2 years in an activity)
- (Local) Fine/Performing Arts (2 credits)

Mrs. Parry also noted that these plans will be reviewed annually with students and their parents. Mrs. Yon asked if this information will be sent out to students and parents. Mrs. Parry informed her that yes, updates will be included and provided to students and parents.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Thomas updated the Board on the Transition Task Force meeting, remote learning, and future plans for the District. The Administration is working on structuring all learning to be taught by Lowellville teachers and staff. Everyone worked very hard to get technology disbursed to students and staff and they are also continually working on learning improvements. The District is also finalizing plans and putting pieces together to transition back to in-person learning.

Mrs. Yon asked since there was no curriculum meeting to go over the process, what will be the plan for transitioning students back to in-person especially regarding curriculum. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that the first step is to confirm with parents which students will be returning to in-person learning and solidifying staffing. Mrs. Yon asked if this will be done through a survey and if there was a way of getting a response from everyone. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that getting responses from everyone is difficult. The plan is to have parents call the school to confirm that their student is staying home. Mr. Palumbo inquired whether it would be possible for students to return to in-person learning before the end of the first 9 weeks. Dr. Thomas said that yes, it is a possibility but there is no guarantee that it will happen. Mr. Wharry noted that the calls from parents will be a critical factor in finalizing the transition to in-person learning. Mr. Dubos asked Dr. Thomas to expand on teacher availability after having the Transition Task Force meeting and speaking with the LEA. Dr. Thomas explained that the District will require documentation if teachers are not returning. The District will need to know if the teacher is not returning, if they are willing to teach remote, if they are able to teach above or below their grade band or online, or if they're not willing to move from their current position. Mr. Dubos asked if 100% of students return to in-person learning, will the District have sufficient staffing. Dr. Thomas noted that we need to fill some holes but are comfortable with where our staffing will be. Mr. Dubos noted that Ohio teachers are able to go up or down 2 grade bands and Mrs. Parry agreed. Dr. Thomas noted that the District is trying to make as few changes to the Master Schedule as possible regarding staffing and curriculum. Mr. Dubos noted that staffing has been worked on, an all call will be going out to parents tomorrow, and responses will be received by the 28th so the District could have an answer within a week or 2 whether they can return early. Dr. Thomas noted that a lot can change by then and there are no guarantees, but it is a possibility. Mr. Sturm asked if the all call will state that if the student is staying home, will the modality will be the current remote structure or online [VLA] curriculum. Dr. Thomas said that is being determined. Mr. Palumbo inquired as to how many teachers will not be returning. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that there are currently 4 teachers, but all are willing and able to teach remotely. Mrs. Yon noted that Lowellville teachers have been rolling with the punches since the beginning of the COVID shutdowns and asked what remote will look like with teachers and students back. Dr. Thomas said that it will depend on different variables. Cases will be viewed independently, and everyone will need to be flexible. Mrs. Yon added that Dr. Thomas previously stated there are a multitude of variables with VLA and financial variables and that the District needs to be fiscally responsible through all of this as well. Dr. Thomas agreed and noted that the District wants to ensure it uses the best or at least second-best modality for students. Mrs. Yon asked if we have enough PPE and if it is in place. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that PPE has been received and distributed throughout the building. Mr. Dubos asked about students going from VLA to remote during the first 9 weeks. Dr. Thomas noted that yes, there was a case where that occurred.

Dr. Thomas also informed the Board of a potential OSBA Board Development Work session. He has a contract in hand, and it will be around \$900 which has already been in the budget for the year. He asked the Board if they would be willing to do an upcoming Saturday session and the Board agreed to do the work session.

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Sturm updated the Board on a meeting with SchoolPointe. He noted that they currently administer our website. Mr. Sturm noted that the District currently uses various platforms for posting information and this company has a 1-stop shop for all of it. They have one app that will share

information across all platforms the District uses instead of there being multiple steps to posting information. Parents will be able to download an app and get notifications through the app. The company will also overhaul our current website.

Dr. Thomas noted that the District has met with the company before and has been able to watch the evolution of the program they are proposing. Mr. Schiraldi added that currently to make an all call there are various steps and Dr. Thomas has to send information to Fred and Larry to post on the website and Facebook, but with the Send-It app, Dr. Thomas, Mrs. Parry, and other administrators will be able to do all of that through the one app. There will be an increase in price, but the District will have the send it app, a Lowellville app parents can download, and a new website. Redesigning a website on its own can be expensive and app development can also get very pricey, so they are cutting the school a very fair deal compared to what we currently pay for all our services. The Board agreed that it would be a good program to have.

Mrs. Yon inquired as to whether Lowellville students were able to see the school Facebook page as she had concerns about some of the comments that are on the school's posts. Dr. Thomas confirmed that students did have access to and can see those comments.

Old Business:

Mr. Dubos asked whether the Board Policies were online yet. Dr. Thomas confirmed that they are on the Lowellville School website under the Board of Education. Mrs. Yon noted that she saw them on there and attempted to navigate through them all.

New Business:

None.

President's Report:

Public Request to Comment:

Angelina Piper, 44 Frank St. Struthers, OH 44471 – Angelina asked the Board to take her son into consideration while deciding to reopen the school. Her son is having medical issues from too much stress and strain from increased screen time due to remote learning. She noted that accommodations are being made, but he has seizures that have increased in number due to the additional screen time. Mr. Palumbo noted that it was good that she spoke with Mrs. Parry and the teachers to get accommodations. Mr. Palumbo also noted that the Board and District wants to get kids back in school and are continually working towards that goal.

Paul and Jessica Moracco, 49 W. Walnut St. Lowellville, OH 44436 – Paul stated that he reviewed previous meeting minutes and noticed the sale of property. He has concerns about what the sale is and noted that small children live around that area and he is concerned about any potential risks from what gets built there. Mr. Palumbo noted that this will be covered during the Superintendents Recommendation and Board members will likely state their viewpoint on the issue.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

(20-09-7730)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the "Real Estate Purchase and Sales Agreement" with the Village of Lowellville located at 2 Grant Street, in the Village of Lowellville, Mahoning County, Ohio:

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

Mr. Palumbo asked Dr. Thomas to present the background for the sale of property.

Dr. Thomas explained how the Board was approached by the Village of Lowellville to purchase Old School Park and build condominiums on the land. Land is an asset for the school, but currently we do not use the land and pay for maintenance of it. Mayor Iudiciani presented his plans to the Board which include developing condominiums valued at \$2.5 million. The District would see real estate tax revenue a couple years after development, the Village will pay \$23,000 for the land and pay to pave 2 parking lots for the school. The school also has various assurances in the sales agreement that the Village pays for appraisal fees, attorney fees, and closing costs as well as an assurance that the land will revert back to the school if the proposed project does not occur or is not done in a timely manner. Dr. Thomas noted that the Village and Mayor Iudiciani are working very hard on the redevelopment and revitalization of Lowellville. Mrs. Yon asked how much tax revenue would be generated. Mr. Dubos noted that it would be around \$20,000 to \$23,000 per year. Mr. Dubos also noted that the land has sat for 16 years doing nothing, the school is getting payment up front, and there are still various zoning meetings the Village will have to go through to finalize everything that community members will be able to attend. Mr. Palumbo noted that schools have 3 ways of generating revenue and tax revenue from new construction is an important way to do it without having to issue new levies. Mr. Palumbo informed everyone that when these talks first started, he was against selling the property. However, the school now has guarantees on the \$2+ million project or we will get the property back and that is why he is now for the sale. Mr. Sturm noted that the Village is giving us value for the land plus paving costs. Mrs. Yon noted that if they build the condominiums elsewhere in the Village then we would still get the tax revenue. She went on to ask if the Village was building the condominiums or a contractor. She questioned if the school could just sell straight to a contractor or trade land with the Village. Mrs. Yon mentioned that the Board should take more time to make their decision. They have only met with the Village 3 times and they have not had an opportunity to hear from the community. She is all for redevelopment, but she represents the community and the Board has not had an opportunity to hear from them. This vote should be postponed, and the Board and school's priority should be getting kids back in school, not the sale of property. Mr. Sturm noted that getting kids back is a top priority to all. He also mentioned that the vote could be postponed but is not sure what they would get from that. The terms of this sale are a guarantee.

Mrs. Yon asked if they could postpone the vote, but there was already a motion and second on the recommendation so the vote ensued.

ROLL CALL: Palumbo-yes, Sturm-yes, Wharry-yes, Yon-no, Dubos-yes.
Michael Palumbo declared motion carried 4-1.

(20-09-7731)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve Joseph DiMuccio as a long-term substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year:

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

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

(20-09-7732)

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

Gina DeLuca (.5) & Dominique Weldon (.5)

(Student Council Advisor (3%))

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

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

(20-09-7733)

4. It is recommended that the Board approve Nicole Firmstone for parental leave of absence effective February 15 - May 07, 2021 per the Master Contract:

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

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

(20-09-7734)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the updated graduation requirements (policies IJA & IKFC) and requirements on identifying students at-risk of not qualifying for a high school diploma and the guidelines for the three locally defined diploma seals: and the adoption:

Mrs. Yon asked for confirmation on what the 3 locally defined seals are again and listed: Community Service- 15 hours, Student Engagement (2 seasons in a sport or 2 years in an activity), and Fine/Performing Arts (2 credits). Mrs. Parry confirmed that she was correct.

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

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

(20-09-7735)

6. 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 8:13 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
Michael Palumbo declared motion carried 5-0.

(20-09-7736)

7. It is recommended that the Board return from Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 8:54 p.m.

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

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

(20-09-7737)

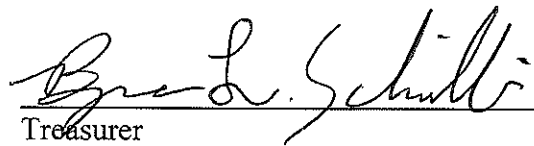
8. Adjournment:

Gerald Dubos moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Joseph Sturm.

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



President



Treasurer

NEW POLICY

GRADUATION PLANS AND STUDENTS AT RISK OF NOT QUALIFYING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The Board desires that all students are able to earn a high school diploma. Recognizing students may be at risk of not earning a high school diploma, the Board adopts the following policy.

Graduation Plans

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the District develops a graduation plan for each student enrolled in grades nine through 12 to address the student's academic pathway to meet the curriculum requirements specified by the District and to satisfy the applicable graduation requirements.

The plan is developed jointly by the student and a representative of the District and updated each school year in which the student is enrolled in the District until the student qualifies for a high school diploma. The District invites the student's parent, guardian or custodian to assist in developing and updating the graduation plan.

Graduation plans supplement the Board-adopted career advising policy.

A student's individualized education plan (IEP) may be used in lieu of a graduation plan when the IEP contains academic goals substantively similar to a graduation plan.

At-Risk Students

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop criteria for identifying students at risk of not qualifying for a high school diploma. This criteria at minimum includes a student's lack of progress on the graduation plan developed by the District in accordance with law. The criteria also may include other factors such as student absences or misconduct and other factors deemed appropriate by the administration.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures for identifying at risk students. These procedures must include a method for determining if a student is not making adequate progress in meeting the terms of the student's graduation plan. Procedures must allow for identification of students as at risk in any of grades nine through 12 and may include identification of students in other grades.

The District provides written notice to the parent, guardian or custodian of an at-risk student in each year a student has been identified as at risk. This written notice includes all of the following:

1. A statement that the student is at risk of not qualifying for a high school diploma;

CAREER ADVISING

The Board views career advising as helping students understand themselves relative to their abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, strengths and limitations. This process is meant to assist students in the development of their potential and their decisions relating to educational and career matters. **This policy is supplemented by student graduation plans developed in accordance with law.**

This policy is reviewed biennially and made available to students, parents, guardians/custodians, local postsecondary institutions and residents of the District. This policy is posted in a prominent location on the District website.

The District will do all of the following.

1. Provide students with grade-level examples linking schoolwork to one or more career field(s) through use of the State Board adopted career connections.
2. Create a plan to provide career advising to students in grades six through 12.
3. Provide additional interventions and career advising for students who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school using both research- and locally-based methods developed with input from classroom teachers and guidance counselors.
4. Train employees on advising students on career pathways, including the use of online tools.
5. Develop multiple, clear academic pathways students can use to earn a high school diploma.
6. Identify and publicize courses in which students can earn both traditional academic and career-technical credit.
7. Document career advising provided to each student.
8. Prepare students for their transition from high school to their postsecondary destinations.

Student success plans (SSP) are developed for students identified as at risk of dropping out of school. A SSP identifies the student's chosen academic pathway to graduation and the role of career-technical and competency based education and experiential learning, as appropriate in that chosen pathway. The student's parents, guardians or custodians are invited to assist in the development of the SSP. A copy of the SSP, a statement regarding the importance of a high