

**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 Regular Session on October 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Licking Valley High School Media Center. The following members responded to roll call: Mr. Drake McArtor, Mrs. Julie Stedman, Mrs. Jo Lynn Torbert, and Mr. Casey Williams. Mr. Scott Beery, Superintendent, and Mr. Andrew Douglass, Treasurer were also in attendance. Student Representative Anthony Blizzard was in attendance also.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION OR MEDITATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Scott Beery – Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Beery provided an update on the strategic plan and the communications initiative for the strategic plan that has started. He discussed some of the changes that have been made and enhancements that are being made to the district website as part of the objective. Mr. Beery shared that he has solicited feedback from parents, community members, and staff members to solicit additional feedback.

Mr. Beery also discussed the pilot of the Talking Points program which is part of the communications objective that is happening at the middle school. This pilot is to test consistent communication from the buildings and teachers.

Mr. Beery also discussed the mailing we plan to send to provide updates and connect with community members who do not have students in the schools. Mr. Williams offered to help with finding a mailing solution.

**Julie Stedman – Board Policy Report**

Mrs. Stedman provided an update on the Board Policy Committee that met prior to the board meeting. Mrs. Stedman mentioned item F from po2510 and how the committee discussed other language in the policy provided enough detail to eliminate item F in the policy. Mrs. Stedman indicated that the community standards of taste were deemed to be sufficiently addressed in the policy by the committee. Mrs. Stedman said the committee discussed the challenges with reviewing the current collections of materials and how it will be discussed further in the next committee meeting.

Mrs. Torbert said that Mrs. Stedman has chaired the committee and discussed the complexities of addressing the policy concerns and that the committee felt good and came together in the committee.

Mr. Williams said he appreciates the committee’s work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)**

None

**24-134      SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY      134**

In accordance with Policy po0145, when a vacancy occurs due to non-residence, the board will take steps to fill the vacancy.

- The Board sought qualified and interested candidates from the community through the news media, word of mouth, and contacts with appropriate organizations.
- All applicants submitted their notice of their interest in writing and by the deadline, to the Treasurer.
- The Board interviewed all interested candidates to ascertain their qualifications.

Appointment by the Board to fill a vacancy shall be by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

Mrs. Stedman moved and Mr. McArtor seconded the motion to close School Board Vacancy.

**School Board Vacancy Nominations**

Nominations to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Carolyn Kollar due to non-residence.

- Craig Nethers – Nominated by Mr. McArtor

*Discussion:*

*Mr. McArtor thanked everyone who put their name in for the vacancy.*

*Mr. Williams said the vacancy provided great perspective and understanding of how different people think in the community and it was a rewarding experience.*

*Mrs. Torbert said the board appreciates the interested candidates.*

Ayes: Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Williams, Mr. Blizzard

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**24-135      RESOLUTION TO FILL BOARD OF EDUCATION      135**  
**VACANCY (ORC 3313.11)**

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

The board voted on the nominated candidate before proceeding.

Ayes: Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Williams

WHEREAS, a vacancy has been caused on the board of education by reason of Non-Residence;  
and

WHEREAS, this board of education has the legal authority to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term thereof;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the Board of Education of the Licking Valley Local School District that Craig Nethers be and hereby is, appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Education on this school district for the unexpired term of Carolyn Kollar, ending on December 31, 2025.

\*NOTE: A vacancy may be caused by death, non-residence, resignation, removal from office, failure of member to qualify, etc. (ORC 3313.11).

*Discussion:*

*Mr. Williams explained that he abstained because Mr. Nethers is his cousin.*

Ayes: Mr. McArtor, Mrs. Stedman, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Blizzard

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Williams

Motion Carried.

**SWEARING IN OF APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER**

I, Craig Nethers, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio. I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as Board Member in and for the said Licking Valley Local School District, Licking County, Ohio to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the laws now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office and until my successor is chosen and qualified.

24-136TREASURER’S REPORT136

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. McArtor seconded the motion to approve the following:

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
It is recommended to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the October 7, 2024, Special Board Meeting.

**Amending and Filing Certificates**  
It is recommended to approve the adjusting/filing of amended certificates and appropriation codes to reflect additional incomes, transfers, advances, and expenditures through the end of the month.

**Appropriations**  
It is recommended to approve the temporary appropriations and estimated resources for FY25 (2024-2025).

**New Funds**  
It is recommended to approve the creation of a new fund: Class of 2028 (200-9591)

**Account Sponsors**  
It is recommended to establish the following accounts, sponsors, and purpose statements for the 2024-2025 school year:

200 Funds	
High School Yearbook	Sam Cox and Tiana Barnes
Class of 2028 - Freshman Class	Brie-Ann Wilson
300 Funds	
Elementary Drama Club	Aubrey Fisher
Middle School Scribbled Voices	Kellie Green

**Audit Update**  
FY 24 audit update

Discussion:  
None

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

24-137SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS137

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

**PERSONNEL**  
Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.39, and receipt of appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

Salary Adjustments

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
Caitlyn	Bailey	HS Language Arts	October 14, 2024	Bachelors Step 1 to Masters Step 1

Rescinded Contract

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
Cory	Workman	Wrestling - Middle School	September 16, 2024	Won't be able to coach this year

Crystal	Batross	Discretionary Rate Custodian (Daily)	October 14, 2024	Decided to be a call-in custodian instead of daily
Cade	Torbert	Basketball - 7th Grade Boys	October 14, 2024	Moving to Basketball - Freshman Boys
Celeste	Hinerman	Soccer - Girls Varsity Assistant	September 4, 2024	Moving to Soccer - Varsity Girls

Resignations

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ralph	Stidham	Daily Substitute Custodian	September 20, 2024

Discussion:  
None

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

24-138

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

138

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

**PERSONNEL**

Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.39, and receipt of appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

**Staff Assignments and Appointments 2024-2025**

**Classified Contracts**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Salary
John	Lane	Elementary Custodian (effective 10-7-24)	1-Year Limited	Step - 7
Jessica	Starkey	Bus Driver	1-Year Limited	Step - 0

Discussion:  
None

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

24-139

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

139

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. McArtor seconded the motion to approve the following:

**PERSONNEL**  
Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.39, and receipt of appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

**Supplemental Contracts**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Category	Salary
John	Perkins	Wrestling - Middle School	2024-25	4	Step - 0
Celeste	Hinerman	Soccer - Varsity Girls	2024-25	2	Step - 0
Anthony	Wedemeyer	Soccer - Girls Varsity Assistant	2024-25	3	Step - 2
Chuck	Horsely	Basketball - 7th Grade Boys	2024-25	3	Step - 10

*Discussion:*  
*Mr. Williams wanted to thank Celeste and Anthony for stepping into the girls’ soccer program. Mr. Williams said it was well done by both of them.*

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

24-140

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

140

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

**PERSONNEL**  
Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.39, and receipt of appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

**Staff Assignments and Appointments 2024-2025**

**Supplemental Contracts**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Contract	Category	Salary
Cade	Torbert	Basketball – 9th Grade Boys	2024-25	3	Step - 3

*Discussion:*  
*None*

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

24-141

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

141

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. McArtor seconded the motion to approve the following:

**PERSONNEL**  
Official employment for all of our new hires is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a criminal records background check as required by ORC 3319.39, and receipt of appropriate certificate or license from the Ohio Department of Education.

**Substitutes 2024-2025**

**Substitute Teacher**  
Oriana Becerra, Kenneth DeMoss, Ray Fox, Walter Gessner, Jordyne Little, Danielle Miller, Lori Seymour, Caitlin Smallwood, Jessica McPeak, Alexandra Cimini, Jennifer Dovenbarger, Chelsea Lively

**Substitute Custodian (Daily)**

First	Last	Retroactive Date
Emma	Wheeler	September 30, 2024
Elizabeth	Davis	September 30, 2024

**Substitute Custodian (Call-In)**

Crystal Batross, Kathy Busby, Jack Shinn Sr. (retroactive to October 9, 2024)

**Substitute Aide (Daily - Unit or 1:1)**

First	Last	Retroactive Date
Brian	Ramsey	October 8, 2024

**Substitute Aide (Call-In)**

Brian Ramsey (retroactive to September 26, 2024), Jennifer Dovenbarger, Annie Houston, Alyssa Hofacker

**Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Grant 2024-2025**

It is recommended to approve student instruction with our Competency-based Learning Lab using the Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Grant. The rate of \$25 per hour will be paid to the following High School teacher:  
Madison Sweeney

*Discussion:*  
*Mr. Williams asked if the additional substitutes are in addition to the ones approved at the beginning of the year. Mr. Beery said yes. Mr. Williams said we have a good pool of substitutes.*

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

24-142

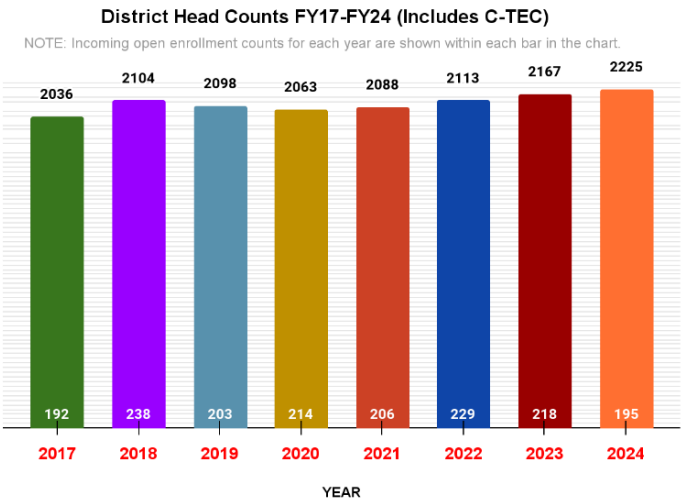
**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

142

Mr. McArtor moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to approve the following:

**STUDENTS/CURRICULUM**

Enrollment



Licking Valley Local School District Incidents of Bullying Report 2024-2025  
Board Policy: 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior  
Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device. Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being.

Licking Valley High School

Grade	Males	Females	Grade Count
09	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	0
12	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Licking Valley Middle School

Grade	Males	Females	Grade Count
06	0	0	0
07	0	0	0
08	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Licking Valley Elementary

Grades K-5	Males	Females
TOTAL	0	0

## 5038

Donation Recipient	Amount	Received From
Licking Valley Stadium - Sounds System	\$17,000.00	Licking Valley Gridiron Association
HS Panther Pantry	\$50.00	Phillip Clark in memory of Millie Clark
LV Athletics Program	\$50.00	Doug & Lynn Anders donation in memory of Doug Nethers
LV Football Program	\$250.00	Doug & Lynn Anders donation in memory of Doug Nethers
LV Golf Team	\$250.00	Doug & Lynn Anders donation in memory of Doug Nethers
HS Panther Pantry	\$265.00	Hanover Presbyterian Church
Student Lunch Balances - HS/MS/Elem.	\$460.00	Toboso United Methodist Church



HS Panther Pantry	\$75.00	James & Theresa Orenchuk in memory of Jacqueline Nethers
HS Panther Pantry	\$50.00	Larry Krugel in memory of Jim Conrad
HS Panther Pantry	\$300.00	James & Robin Hoekstra
Total	\$18,750.00	

*Discussion:*  
*Mrs. Stedman said it is an honor to be part of a school district where people have been dedicated, loving, and committed to the community and our kids and it is a blessing to see this.*  
*Mr. Williams provided his thanks and thanked Doug and Lynn Anders for the donation in memory of his stepfather. Mr. Williams said the band was phenomenal and helped the atmosphere at recent events.*

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

24-144

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

144

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

**Softball Fencing Replacement and Repairs**

It is recommended we approve the agreement with Bennett Fence, LLC. for replacement and repairs to the fence at the softball fields.

*Discussion:*  
*Mr. Williams said he understands the reserve field and the changes that are needed to the field.*  
*Mr. Williams asked about the perimeter and security portion of the business case related to the varsity field. Mr. Beery explained the layout of the field and how adding the gate would limit the access of a vehicle getting into the field area. Mr. Beery also explained the outfield fence for the varsity field is a repair to straighten the fence. Mr. Williams said it is great that the Athletic Department is kicking in funds for the project. Mr. Williams mentioned that he would like to see a fee being charged to people using our fields who are not our students. Mr. Beery said we are looking at updating our Use of District Premises documents and it is a work in progress.*

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

24-145

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

145

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

**Surplus**

It is recommended to approve the surplus list:

TAG NUMBER	ITEM	QTY	REASON
1000240	Lenovo E580 I5-8250U 256/8 W10P Laptop	50	Obsolete
N/A	Epson Powerlite 95 - ES Room 311 - Skeese	1	Broken
NA	Epson Powerlite 93 - HS Room 218 - Miller	1	Broken
N/A	Epson Powerlite 93 - HS Room 108 - Arcuri	1	Broken
06375	Victory Side by Side Freezer - MS Café	1	Broken

**RFP Process with META**

Recommended Action: Approval of the resolution and participation in the Consortium with META for a RFP for competitive electric service as provided in the backup material.

- About 130 entities in the consortium.
- Will provide us with a better rate than we would be able to get on our own.
- This only applies to the elementary building.
- We have saved \$73,862.29 (as of May) through this program from the current agreement.

**November School Board Regular Meeting Date Change**

Recommended Action: Approval of changing the November School Board Regular Meeting from November 11, 2024, to November 18, 2024, in remembrance of Veterans Day.

*Discussion:*  
*Mrs. Stedman asked when we would have our other student board member. Mr. Beery said he discussed this with Mr. Blizzard so he could attend the meeting and the new student board member should be able to be seated on November 18th at the meeting.*  
*Mrs. Torbert emphasized that we are changing the board meeting date due to the initial meeting being scheduled on Veterans Day.*

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

24-146

**BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

146

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

Recommended Action: Approval of the second reading and adopt the proposed changes/updates to the listed policies as presented.

**NEOLA Policy – (Revised) 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Policy	Title
0145	FILLING A BOARD VACANCY
1240	EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
1330	EVALUATION OF THE TREASURER
2240	CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES
2510	ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS
2623	STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES
2623.02	THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE
3120.04	EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTES
3140	TERMINATION AND RESIGNATION
4124	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT
4140	TERMINATION AND RESIGNATION
5310	HEALTH SERVICES
8510	WELLNESS
8600	TRANSPORTATION
8600.04	BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION
8640	TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-ROUTINE TRIPS
8650	TRANSPORTATION BY VEHICLES OTHER THAN SCHOOL BUSES
8660	INCIDENTAL TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

*Discussion:*

*Mr. Williams said the adoption of textbooks section "as a whole" was brought up by Mrs. Kollar in the last meeting. Mr. Williams mentioned that where he is struggling with these words is that "as a whole" is not consistent with other policies and content for things like the use of Chromebooks. Mr. Williams mentioned how he thinks we could approach the language in the policy and the language "as a whole" would allow for a due process for consideration.*

*Mr. McArtor discussed the "as a whole" section at the end is what would kick it over the controversial issues policy for evaluation and that trusting our controversial issues policy would take care of it.*

*Mr. Williams said Mr. McArtor's comment is interesting and he reads it differently and that it allows the principal, teacher, and board to determine if the material is acceptable rather than moving it to the controversial issues policy.*

*Mrs. Stedman explained some of the conversation that happened in the policy committee around the words "as a whole" during the meeting. Mrs. Stedman mentioned that she was stuck on these words, but she is also comfortable with moving forward with the policies as they are presented.*

*Mrs. Stedman said that in her mind, the intention of these policies is to protect minors and provide parents with the option to exclude their child from certain things. Mrs. Stedman discussed how a few pages could be unacceptable but how the piece as a whole could be seen as acceptable.*

*Mr. Williams said the part that he struggles with is the consistency for determining if something is appropriate or not appropriate. Mr. Williams said when you put "as a whole" in the policy then you lose the first gate to evaluate material. Having the first gate allows the process to stop for evaluation.*

*Mr. Nethers said he now understands the point Mr. Williams is trying to make and that removing "as a whole" does not prevent a teacher from going to an administrator to discuss the material to determine if it is appropriate.*

*Mr. Williams said we should have a policy that is on the side of discussion rather than simply allowing something into the district without censoring it.*

*Mrs. Torbert said that in the policy committee, there was a lot of discussion about how the material is evaluated and the awareness of the staff around the topics or controversial issues. Mrs. Torbert discussed the process.*

*Mr. Beery explained the process around gating and how some of the prior books were evaluated and that he feels that administrative guidelines take care of it.*

*Mr. Williams said if the book is not appropriate that it should not be governed by the "as a whole" phrase.*

*Mr. Nethers said he would trust a teacher and that if a teacher has to stop and think about the phrase "as a whole" then it would likely trigger the teacher to evaluate or ask the question to the administrator.*

*Mrs. Torbert said she feels like the process is working.*

*Mr. Williams said his view is that they are forcing the discussion by removing "as a whole" from the policy.*

*Mrs. Torbert asked Mr. Beery if administrative guidelines would cover this issue.*

*Mr. Beery said yes.*

*Mrs. Stedman said her concern with administrative guidelines is that it is not an external document and cannot be seen by the community or a parent.*

*Mr. Beery said he would be willing to write the administrative guidelines.*

*Mr. Williams said he would like to see them before voting.*

*Mr. Beery said he is not able to provide them before the policy is approved.*

*Mrs. Stedman said that some companies market some material that is not appropriate for our district. Mrs. Stedman said she thinks the controversial issues policy covers us.*

*Mr. McArtor said when you look at the criteria to evaluate "as a whole" he felt that those criteria provided an explanation of how "as a whole" is defined.*

*Mr. Nethers explained how he doesn't see how a textbook would have some of this obscene material when thinking about his social studies experience.*

*Mrs. Stedman explained how a situation could come up with a video in class and how it could be viewed or evaluated.*

*Mr. Beery explained how anything that is gray is going to be vetted through the parents and that the administrative guidelines would cover us.*

*Mr. McArtor and Mr. Williams discussed the content across avenues and whether it should be consistent.*

*The board discussed how books can get into the media centers and asked Mr. Beery to clarify how a book like American Psycho was able to get into the library. Mr. Beery explained that the book was part of a contemporary group of books and was not individually ordered.*

*Mrs. Stedman read the policy section in question and the corresponding criteria to evaluate materials and the "as a whole" phrase. Mrs. Stedman said the question to her is whether that last*

portion of the statement allows extremely explicit or extremely violent content to go through and be allowed in the district. Mr. Williams said he thinks it does.

Mr. Nethers said he does not agree and that “as a whole” would allow the material into the district.

Mr. Williams said he wants the policy to force the conversation.

Mr. Nethers said that speaking for himself, that “as a whole” if he is a teacher selecting material and there is a use of some language that isn’t ideal but is important to a piece of legislation, he wouldn’t not show the piece based on the language.

Mr. Williams asked if Mr. Nethers believes that anything that is up to the line that conversations would happen. Mrs. Torbert said that she thinks that it is being done and is working.

Mr. Nethers said that he thinks the controversial issue policy is working because it is being used by staff and people in the district.

Mrs. Stedman read the portion from the policy in discussion and said that if we strike the “as a whole” portion from the policy then we could decide if the material is obscene or harmful.

Mr. Williams said it would allow for more emphasis to be placed on the appropriateness of the material or content.

Mr. Beery explained that he thinks the phrase “as a whole” raises the standard for evaluation. Mrs. Stedman asked Mr. Beery to explain how he sees this. Mr. Beery provided an example of how he would evaluate something in more details as a whole, rather than based on a couple of criteria.

Mr. McArtor said that it would make more sense to take out the entire sentence rather than only removing those three words.

Mrs. Torbert said that things can always be amended if flaws are found in the process or in the policy.

Mr. Williams mentioned how it has taken 3 years to address this policy.

Mr. Torbert said she feels like we have made progress and Mr. Williams agreed but he mentioned how long it has taken us to get here and have this conversation.

Mrs. Stedman said she loves the policy and that it is more clear than what it was previously, even though she isn’t completely comfortable with the “as a whole” portion of the policy. Mrs. Stedman said she feels like we should vote if we aren’t going to table the policies.

Mr. Williams asked why we wouldn’t consider tabling the policy.

Mrs. Torbert asked what would change if we table the policy and said she wanted to move forward with a vote.

Nays: Mr. Williams

Ayes: Mrs. Stedman, Mr. McArtor, Mr. Nethers, Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Blizzard

Motion Carried.

### **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE**

Mr. Blizzard provided an update on athletics, band, and other activities happening in the district.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE**

Mrs. Stedman provided a student achievement report for the various activities happening with students and each of the buildings.

Mr. McArtor asked if we could have a presentation for the Claw Cafe. Mr. Beery said yes.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. McArtor provided a legislative update report with new and updated legislation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)**

Miss Makala Bennett, a Licking Valley High School Senior, provided information about her experience on how female athletics has been pushed aside. Miss Bennett explained how the proper chain of command had been followed and changes were not made to have improvement and accountability. Miss Bennett explained that she is coming to the board in hopes that changes are made.

Mrs. Deana Bennett explained how there is a lack of leadership and accountability in athletics. Mrs. Bennett pointed out the involvement and experiences that her daughters have had at Licking Valley. She brought concerns about Title IX violations, scheduling, access to facilities, and lack of professionalism. Mrs. Bennett provided examples of when female sports were made to move when appropriate use forms were in place. Mrs. Bennett mentioned examples when basketball facilities were not made available. Mrs. Bennett explained the large number of coach staff that have existed over a couple of seasons. Mrs. Bennett explained that safety was not addressed and emergency medical documentation was not provided and that students participated in sports without the proper emergency medical documentation. Mrs. Bennett explained that there is a lack of presence by the athletic director at female events. Mrs. Bennett said there is a lack of professionalism in the quorum and said that some students felt intimidated in the meeting that was held around a

basketball incident. Mrs. Bennett discussed a situation that happened and that an announcer was not provided for the volleyball game and Mr. McCullough had said he had not planned on having an announcer. Mrs. Bennett explained the situation in a meeting with the principal and athletic director.

Mrs. Bennett explained a situation when Makala Bennett had a joke made to her about her having a dirty drug test. Mrs. Bennett asked for an apology to her daughter. Mrs. Bennett said she had a conversation with Mr. Beery and that Mr. Beery said the joke was not a wise decision.

Mrs. Bennett expressed how she loves this district and the children and families in the district. Mrs. Bennett said she feels that a line has been crossed and a student had been put in an uncomfortable situation and neither child has been provided with the apology that she requested.

Mrs. Bennett said she has taken the appropriate steps that are outlined in the athletic handbook.

Mrs. Bennett said that her daughters deserve respect and adults need to be held accountable and that they still want to be an active part of the process.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

Mr. Nethers said he appreciates Mrs. Bennett and Makala for providing their thoughts and comments.

Mrs. Stedman said she appreciates their comments, and the board will take it from here.

Mr. Williams said he appreciates the comments and willingness to participate and sharing the experience is admirable. Mr. Williams said to answer the question about who is accountable, the five board members are accountable.

Mrs. Stedman asked if we have a robotics coach yet. Mr. Beery said no.

Mrs. Stedman asked the board members to look at the objectives happening in the strategic plan and volunteer for any objectives that they may be interested in.

Mrs. Stedman asked if they could have tours of the buildings. Mr. Beery said yes. Mrs. Stedman asked if we could also look at the impact of waiving regular class and course fees.

24-147

**ADDITION OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

147

Mr. Williams motioned and Mrs. Stedman seconded to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session for consideration of the compensation of a public employee, or official.

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

24-148

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

148

Mrs. Williams moved and Mrs. Stedman seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for consideration of the compensation of a public employee, or official.

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

Adjourned to Executive Session: 8:12 p.m.  
Returned from Executive Session: 9:14 p.m.

24-149

**ADJOURNMENT**

149

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Nethers seconded the motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Torbert closed the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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