

LIBERTY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2020 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting on Zoom
Smithville United Methodist Church
243 N Milton St, Smithville, OH 44677

President Misty Hanson called the meeting to order

2020-23 Emergency Resolution:

LIBERTY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
BOARD RESOLUTION

The Governing Board of the Liberty Preparatory School, Wayne County, Ohio, met in regular session this 7th day of May, 2020, with the following members present:

Misty Hanson Justin Chenevey Matt Brown Cameron Maneese

Helen Bartashus was absent.

Matt Brown moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D Declaring a State of Emergency concerning COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH, issued an Order banning mass gatherings bringing together more than one hundred (100) or more persons in a single room or single space at a time in Ohio in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio such as a such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or space, and subsequently amended the order first to limit such gatherings to no more than fifty (50) persons, and then indicated that Ohioans should comply with the federal government’s recommendation that no more than ten (10) people gather; and

WHEREAS, ODH Director Acton further stated that “For the purpose of clarity, a mass gathering does not include normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, or other spaces where 100 or more persons may be in transit. It also does not include typical office environments, schools, restaurants, factories, or retail or grocery stores where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another;” and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine announced that due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, he has ordered the closure of all kindergarten through 12th grade schools to students for a period of three (3) weeks effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine also announced that during the extended period of closure, school districts should work to provide education through alternative means, school district leadership may make decisions on whether to use their school buildings, and staff members should continue to report to school as directed by school district administrators; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Education has developed guidance for K-12 schools to ensure the continuity of important student services, including a strategy for providing meals to students who receive free and/or reduced breakfast and lunch through K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Governor DeWine's Order of March 12, 2020, the Administration closed the District's school buildings to students from effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020, and will provide students with instruction through alternative methods during the building closure; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has also directed teaching staff to continue to provide education to students using alternative methods and has directed non-teaching staff to continue to report to duty; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.24(B), "[w]henver due to an emergency it becomes imprudent, inexpedient, or impossible to conduct the affairs of local government at the regular or usual place or places thereof, the governing bodies may meet at those previously designated sites or places, or at any other convenient site or place, on the call of the presiding officer or any two members of the governing bodies" and "[s]uch powers and functions may be exercised in the light of the exigencies of the emergency without regard to or compliance with time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining thereto, and all acts of that body and officers shall be as valid and binding as if performed within the territorial limits of their political subdivision;" and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost issued written guidance concerning the fact that members of a public body, including members of a board of education, may fully participate in a board meeting by remote means (e.g., by telephone, by video conference) if certain requirements are met; in particular, Attorney General Yost stated that "it is reasonable to read the OMA's "in person" requirement as permitting a member of a public body to appear at a public meeting via teleconference [electronic means]. This interpretation gives effect to both R.C. 121.22 and R.C. 3701.13. It is also consistent with the United States Centers for Disease Control's recent guidance, issued in response to the national COVID-19 epidemic, to use videoconferencing for meetings when possible." and that "if a member of a public body chooses to appear via teleconference or telephone [or electronic means], it is imperative that all other requirements of the OMA be fulfilled;" and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Yost's March 13, 2020 also addresses the issue of public attendance at board meetings, and suggested that a meeting can be made open to the public by remote means, such as by live-streaming over the internet or by television broadcast; in particular, Attorney General Yost stated that "[i]f a public body gives the public access to a meeting electronically and the members of the body appear telephonically [or electronically], the body must still ensure that the public is able to hear the discussions and deliberations of *all* of the members, even those who are present via telephonic [or electronic] means."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board deems it prudent and in the best interests of the School District's students, staff, and residents to implement measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board adopts and affirms the actions taken by the Administration to comply with Governor DeWine's Order of March 12, 2020, by closing the District's school buildings to students effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020, and providing students with instruction through alternative methods during the building closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board adopts and affirms the actions taken by the Administration to direct teaching staff to continue to provide education to students using alternative methods and direct non-teaching staff to continue to report to duty, if feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the Board authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer and/or their Designees, during the time period that the School District's buildings are closed to students due to COVID-19, to take any and all actions necessary to maintain educational programming for students, comply with Federal and State Orders and Guidance issued concerning COVID-19, and provide for the safety and security of all students and staff, including, but not limited to assigning and directing students, teachers, and non-teachers, as appropriate; continuing to compensate teachers and non-teachers, as appropriate; continuing to implement curriculum and instruction, as appropriate; and ensuring the District has all the necessary services, supplies, technology, and equipment necessary for education of students through alternative methods and purchasing, leasing, and otherwise obtaining such items within the Board's current budget/financial appropriations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with R.C. §5502.24(B) and the March 13, 2020 written guidance from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, and as a result of the State of Emergency and closure of school buildings, the Board suspends its normal requirements to comply with the meeting location, notice, public attendance, and public participation requirements set forth in the Open Meetings Act (R.C. §121.22). In particular, the Board may, as it deems necessary:

A. Hold meetings at the Board Office, one of the school buildings, another location within the County, via telephone, or via other electronic means.

B. Solely post the notice of its meetings on its website.

C. Only take formal actions to address matters related to COVID-19 if the Board decides to conduct meetings remotely. The Board will act on matters related to normal operations only when the Board conducts an in-person meeting.

D. Limit physical attendance at Board meetings to Board Members and Administrators only, if the Board decides to meet in person. Staff members, parents, students, and members of the public will be permitted to attend Board meetings through electronic means. In other words, to avoid large crowds of individuals from being able to come in contact with one another, the Board will open the meeting to the public solely through remote means, such as by live-streaming over the internet or by television broadcast.

E. If otherwise not able to provide public participation by electronic means, limit public participation at Board meetings by requiring individuals to submit written questions for the Board's consideration via email to the Treasurer at least 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, for which the Board will undertake its best efforts to answer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with R.C. §5502.24(B) and the March 13, 2020 written guidance from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, and as a result of the State of Emergency and closure of school buildings, the Board also suspends:

A. Its procedures for reviewing and adopting policies in two (2) readings. Policies specifically related to COVID-19 will go before the Board to be enacted immediately as it determines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the above-referenced procedures to take effect immediately and remain in place through Friday, April 3, 2020, unless the Governor's Order concerning the closure of school buildings is extended beyond such date, and that if the Governor's Order is extended this resolution shall automatically be extended to the new end date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Cameron Maneese seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution with the vote resulting as follows:

Helen Bartashus	Absent
Justin Chenevey	Yes
Matt Brown	Yes
Cameron Maneese	Yes
Misty Hanson	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

2020-24 Maneese moved and Brown seconded the motion to approve the Treasurers Business:

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Regular Meeting.
2. Approve the March 31, 2020 and April 30, 2020 Financial Reports as Presented:

March: Monthly Revenue: \$ 65,076.06	Monthly Expenses: \$ 58,510.65
General Fund Balance: \$ 10,306.21	General Fund Reserve: \$21,422.76
All Funds Balance: \$ 33,829.64	
April: Monthly Revenue: \$ 75,214.13	Monthly Expenses: \$ 65,867.37
General Fund Balance: \$ 13,281.68	General Fund Reserve: \$21,422.76
All Funds Balance: \$ 43,176.40	Unpaid Invoices: \$ 0
3. Approve the May update to the Five Year Forecast to be submitted to the Department of Education.

Vote: Yes: Brown, Maneese, Chenevey, Hanson. Absent Bartashus.

Director’s Discussion Items:

1. Enrollment, Attendance, and Academic Report Current enrollment is 76 students with 15-22 possible graduates upon completion of requirements.
2. Brian and Jenna’s List – Brian and Jenna are still evaluating curriculum platforms for next school year. They are evaluating School PLP, Fuel Ed, and Ingenuity. Ingenuity may be the best for the price, but they are still evaluating. Maureen will forward the names of some schools she works with who have used Ingenuity.
3. Graduation Plans – a survey will be sent out to seniors and their parents to see what type of ceremony they would like to see. Drive thru, or Virtual at a drive-in theatre are choices being considered.
4. The staff continues to work with students thru the course of the coronavirus pandemic. Keeping students engaged and in communication have been difficult. We have had to withdraw a view students because they have not been attending online classes.

2020-25 Brown moved and Chenevey seconded the motion to approve the Director’s Business Items:

1. Approve the list of 2020 potential graduates pending final grades and completion of requirements.
2. Approve the list of personnel for the 2020-21 school year to be hired through Tri-County ESC pending proper certification or licensure.

Teachers 180 Days

Susan Flinger	Intervention Specialist Masters	\$42,098
Susan Flinger	Lead Teacher / Testing Coordinator 6 Extended Days	\$2,000
Carole Cocchia	Intervention Specialist / Lang Arts Title I Masters+30,	\$38,188
Chelsea Shoop	Math Title I / Biology	\$38,020

Non-Certified:

Jenice McEndree	Administrative Assistant/EMIS	
	197 Days + 6 Holidays 8.0 Hrs / Day \$18.13 per hour	\$29,443.12
Darcey Rodgers	Administrative Assistant / Attendance	
	142 Days + 6 Holidays 3.0 Hrs / Day \$12.74 per hour	\$5,733
Darcey Rodgers	Community Liason	
	6 extended days 3.0 Hrs / Day \$12.74 per hour	\$229.32

Additional hours for Epicenter as Needed

Resident Educator Mentor Stipends

Based on year of new Teachers

Year 1 \$500

Year 2 \$250

Year 3 \$175

Year 4 \$100

3. Approve the Lease Renewal with Smithville United Methodist Church for FY2021.
4. Accept the resignation of Adam Wright, effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
5. Approve the Reduction-in-Force of Special Education Aide Linda Fenn for FY21, pending FY21 IDEA funding and return of Face-to-face classes.

Vote: Yes: Maneese, Brown, Hanson, Chenevey. Absent Bartashus.

Sponsor's Report: Maureen expressed thanks from the Office of School Sponsorship to the Liberty Teachers and Staff for continuing to provide education as well as possible during this unusual time. This is staff appreciation week and the Office of School Sponsorship appreciate the efforts with staff continuing to try to engage and stay in contact with students.

2020-26 Maneese moved and Brown seconded the motion to approve the Board Business:

1. Approve the Emergency Closure – Continued/Distance Learning Plan as provided by Maria Markakis.
2. Approve the Resolution for modifying the grading scale for the 2019-20 school year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
3. Approve the resolution to discontinue blended learning for FY21.

Vote: Yes: Maneese, Brown, Hanson, Chenevey. Absent Bartashus.

Next Meeting Date: Regular June Meeting: June 18, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

2020-27 Maneese moved and Chenevey seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM.

Vote: Yes: Chenevey, Maneese, Brown, Hanson. Absent Bartashus.

President

Treasurer