



## FORT LORAMIE LOCAL SCHOOLS



Smoke  
Signals

*Administrative Bulletin to Staff*

***Daniel B. Holland, Superintendent***

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November 21, 2023

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*Happy Thanksgiving to all faculty and staff. I hope you are able to spend your time away with friends and family. We all have many things to be thankful for, and this is the season to reflect on them. Enjoy your break!*

### **BOARD BRIEFS**

The following is a summary of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on November 20, 2023.

- The Board approved minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on October 16, 2023. The monthly financial report indicated October General Fund receipts of \$1,321,347 and expenditures of \$733,516. The anticipated carry-over balance for the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$7,350,305.
- In the Elementary Principal's report, Scott Rodeheffer reported as follows:
  1. Christmas Concert will be Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the High School Gym.
  2. We will be hosting the DARE Graduation on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. We will have Botkins, Jackson Center and Houston attending the graduation as well.
  3. The 4-8 Spelling Bee will be Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the elementary cafeteria.
  4. Kids Korus and 5/6 band will have their Christmas Concert on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
  5. Our contracts will be up at the end of this school year for our Reading/ELA series. We are waiting until ODE releases the acceptable programs for the new Science of Reading mandate.
  6. The class of 2030 planted a tree in memory of Adam Schulze between the school and church.
- In the Junior/Senior High School report, Mr. Hollenbacher reported as follows:

### **US NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

FLHS has received some recent accolades from the publication, *U.S. News & World Report*. On Friday last week, they released their top middle schools in the nation and we ranked #2 in the state of Ohio. Earlier this year when they released their top high schools we ranked #26 in the state but we were the top high school in the Dayton-area to rank in the top 100.

Thank you to the staff from both buildings (success does not happen in a vacuum) and the students for their efforts in allowing us to receive this recognition.

### **SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

In December, we will be working with the Sheriff's office over three days (a half day for each grade) to educate students - in all our grades - about human trafficking and provide training in violence prevention. The violence prevention training is now a requirement by the state. However, our approach in attacking this requirement may be different than other schools, based recent current statistics.

There are more than 365,000 missing children in our country each year, Ohio is one of the ten worst states for trafficking, and while statistically our students don't fit the typical profile of children who are groomed into trafficking, the reality is that it can happen to anyone. So working with law enforcement and educating our students is one step we can take to help combat this growing problem in our country.

Along with that, for violence prevention, every student in our building will receive hands-on self-defense training. This will not only help to prevent abduction and trafficking, but sadly, 1 out of 6 females and 1 out of 9 males will experience some form of sexual assault in their life. And 90% of the sexual violence cases happen, the assailant is

someone they already know. So we can no longer just preach “stranger danger” as a deterrent. So this training, and our approach of self-defense training, will hopefully eliminate the chance our students become a statistic in this category. It’s sad and depressing that we have to consider these topics in working with our students, but it’s comforting to know we have a great partnership with the SCSO to help attack these societal problems.

## ATHLETIC PATCHES

The BOE was updated on the Athletic Department considering changing our practice of purchasing patches for team success in the future (no change is planned for this year). Currently, the department has purchased a patch if a team has won league, district, regional or a state title; along with making the playoffs (football) or qualifying for state. Currently operating in this manner costs the department well over \$2k each year (patches are now \$11 each) and each year, you have more and more students who are indifferent to receiving a patch as letterman jackets have become less prevalent. So the question has to be asked - is this money used to purchase patches being well spent? When we asked other area schools about patches, we found out that we are the only school that operates in the manner.

Note: The money spent on patches is separate from the Letters and Numerals we purchase for the students to document their individual achievements in their respective sport. Those we will continue to purchase and have no plan of changing in the foreseeable future.

- The Superintendent’s report included information on the following:
  - Discussed implementation of Find Your Grind curriculum for Career Connections.
  - Thanked the Old School History Club for the organization of the Veteran’s Day assembly.
  - Discussed lighting upgrades in the elementary classrooms and hallways.
  - Reviewed upcoming dates of importance with the Board.
- Approved a resolution to submit to the Electors the question of imposing a renewal of the current school district income tax.
- Accepted the following donations:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Item</u>
FL American Legion	\$100.00	History Club
Power of the Pen	\$450.00	Elementary Principals Fund

- Approved the records for disposal as presented.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the request for proposal for competitive natural gas service through the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council.
- Accepted the resignation of LeAnn Eiting as Assistant Treasurer effective January 31, 2024.
- Issued a limited contract to the following classified personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Length</u>
Amanda Ritter	Assistant Treasurer	1

- Approved the following as volunteer coaches during the 2023/2024 contract year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sport/Activity</u>
Brandi Clune	JH Basketball Cheer Advisor

- Approved four (4) substitute teachers as approved by the ESC for the 2023/2024 school year.
- Regular December meeting is December 18, 2023 7:00 pm.