Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2026 7:00 PM Central

Lake Bluff School District Office
121 E Sheridan Place
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

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|---|---|
| Laura Breakstone: | Present |
| Andrew Carlson: | Present |
| Richard Driver: | Present |
| Anne Hill: | Present |
| Lauren Hirsh: | Present |
| Tim Penich: | Present |
| Carrie Steinbach: | Present |

Present: 7.

1. 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Pledge was recited.

3. MISSION, VISION, MOTTO:
MISSION: Ensure academic achievement and personal growth for all students through innovative and engaging educational opportunities.
VISION: An inclusive community of motivated learners who are inspired to change the world through exploration and collaboration.
MOTTO: Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.
Student Rep, Moose D. read the Mission, Vision, and Motto.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach
No public comment.

5. ADDITION OF DISCUSSION ITEM
A board member requested an update on the 5-year capital expenditure plan. As follow up on information shared at the COSSBA conference, another board member requested scheduling a board discussion after the winter holidays regarding the 40x40 initiative (40% funding by 2040).

6. REPORTS

6.A. PTO Report - Rae Dobosh/Megan Handler
No report.

6.B. Alliance Report - Greg Watson
No report.

6.C. President's Report - Carrie Steinbach
Board President Carrie Steinbach reminded the Board and members of the public of the upcoming Town Hall meeting, which will take place on October 27 at 6:00 p.m. at LBES. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

6.D. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali announced that upcoming feedback opportunities for families include the Communication Survey, Family Climate Survey, and 5 Essentials Survey. She expressed appreciation for participation, noting that the results provide valuable actionable data for the district.

## 7. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

### 7.A. LBES Student Update Video - Kellie Bae

Principal Kellie Bae presented a video update featuring LBES students. The presentation highlighted student perspectives and reflections on their favorite Specials classes.

### 7.B. Safety and Facility Presentation - Austin Johnson, Jay Kahn

Director of Safety and Security Austin Johnson presented the annual safety update following Safety Week, highlighting key enhancements to District 65's safety program. All classrooms have been equipped with emergency backpacks and Stop the Bleed kits, supported by staff instruction on usage. To maintain consistency with Lake County response standards, the district adopted simplified emergency terminology: Hold, Secure, Evacuate, and Shelter. LBMS staff completed scenario-based training with the Lake Bluff Police Department, with elementary staff scheduled to participate on October 28. Additionally, Mr. Johnson noted that the Parent Safety Committee, comprising over a dozen volunteer parents, meets quarterly to support district initiatives and will continue to accept members. Mr. Johnson also reported that the recent Regional Office of Education inspection found all facilities to be in excellent condition.

### 7.C. Therapy Dog Program - Tracy Roehrick

Tracy Roehrick presented a new therapy dog program for LBES featuring Yoda, a MAST-certified therapy dog, and his handler, Meredith Carrera, our LBES Learning Behavior Specialist. The initiative will begin in Mrs. Carrera's classroom before gradually expanding to other classrooms. To support a smooth rollout, teachers will receive social stories and videos demonstrating proper interactions with therapy dogs, while parents will receive informational letters detailing the program, including options to opt their children in or out of participation. Key goals of the initiative include boosting student engagement—such as having students read aloud to Yoda—and fostering positive character traits. Research highlights the positive impact of therapy dogs on student sensory regulation, calming, and focus.

### 7.D. Tax Levy Basics - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn presented an educational overview of the district's property tax levy, featuring a video titled *Demystifying Property Taxes*. Property taxes account for nearly 90% of the district's operating funds. He noted a key financial milestone: debt service collections for elementary school construction bonds will conclude after the 2026 and 2027 tax years. After 2027, the only remaining tax debt will be non-referendum debt for middle school renovations through 2035. Additionally, the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTEL) caps annual tax increases on existing property at inflation, capped at 5%. Information is posted on our website with the Truth in Taxation hearing talking place in December.

### 7.E. State Project Maintenance Grant - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reported on the generosity of the Atkinson Family Foundation to provide new sound equipment for LBMS. As a result, the district withdrew its original State Project Maintenance

grant application for sound equipment and plans to reapply to allocate the $50,000 grant (with matching district funds) toward the LBES parking lot.

7.F. Student Achievement and Growth 2025-26 - Dr. Lisa Leali
Dr. Lisa Leali gave a thorough update on student achievement and growth aligned with the Route 65 strategic plan. Using state assessments, MAP testing, and individual goals, the district reported high proficiency and growth across all student groups. Preliminary 2024-2025 state assessment results showed 80% proficiency in ELA and 65% in math. When factoring in growth targets, English learner benchmarks, and IEP goals, total proficiency reached 93% in ELA and 88% in math, with 11 multilingual learners successfully exiting language services last year. Key supporting initiatives include implementing the CKLA literacy curriculum (K-4), adding three new middle school courses, establishing WIN and FLEX intervention blocks, and hiring two teaching and learning specialists. Details can be found in the board packet. This will be emailed to families and community members as well.

7.G. Board Tour Reflections

Board members shared reflections from their recent tours of the district's elementary and middle schools, thanking administrators and staff for hosting the visits. Overall, board members commended the positive culture, smooth operations, and high level of student engagement across both buildings. Key observations included impressive academic vocabulary and curriculum alignment across grade-level classrooms, structured intervention (WIN) time, calm and organized preschool environments, and effective safety measures in practice. Board members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gain firsthand insight into facility operations and daily classroom learning.

7.H. IASB and Delegate Resolutions - Dr. Lisa Leali
The Board reviewed and adopted the resolution appointing Tim Penich as Delegate and Board President Carrie Steinbach as Alternate for the 2026 IASB Delegate Assembly. By consensus, the Board authorized Penich to use independent discretion when voting on the district's behalf if new information or amendments arise. Additionally, the Board recognized Penich for being honored as an "Established" board member by the IASB.

8. ACTION (WITH DISCUSSION) ITEMS

8.A. Approval of State Project Maintenance Grant
Grant. This motion, made by Anne Hill and seconded by Lauren Hirsh, Passed.
Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.B. Personnel Report
Personnel Report. This motion, made by Laura Breakstone and seconded by Andrew Carlson, Passed.
Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.C. Consent Agenda
Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.
Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.C.1. Open Session Meeting Minutes

8.C.1.a. September 29, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

8.C.2. Treasurer's Report

8.C.3. Imprest Report - No Report

8.C.4. Bills Report

8.C.5. P Card Report

9. FOIA Requests
We had one FOIA request since our last regular board meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Carrie Steinbach
No public comment.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Adjournment 8:39. This motion, made by Richard Driver and seconded by Andrew Carlson, Passed.
Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0