DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

www.dps170.org

1335 Franklin Grove Road
Dixon, Illinois 61021

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Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent
Doug Stansford, Asst. Superintendent
Marc Campbell, Business Manager

Date: November 18, 2026
To: Board of Education Members
From: Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent & Marc Campbell, CSBO
Re: Resolution to Withdrawal from Lee County Special Education Cooperative

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Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j) allows a member district to withdraw from a special education cooperative without approval of the remaining member districts or a Regional Board of School Trustees, provided the district meets the statutory requirements for notice, planning, and continued provision of special education services. The law is intended to preserve local control while ensuring uninterrupted services to students with disabilities.

The Board of Education has historically participated in the cooperative model to expand educational opportunities for students with disabilities and to share the costs of specialized programming. Illinois law recognizes both participation in and withdrawal from special education joint agreements, provided statutory requirements are satisfied.

The withdrawal process under 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j) can be summarized as:

1. Adopt a Board Resolution approving withdrawal from the special education cooperative.
2. Provide Required Notice to the cooperative and other affected parties as required by statute.
3. Submit Required Documentation to ISBE demonstrating the District's plan for serving students with disabilities after withdrawal.
4. Demonstrate Capacity to Provide Services required under state and federal special education laws.
5. Assume Responsibility for Special Education Programs and Services upon the effective date of withdrawal.

The documents attached include:

- Resolution of Withdrawal from LCSEA
- Notice of Withdrawal to Paw Paw and ROE
- Notice of the Public Hearing

Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of administration to approve the Resolution of Withdrawal from LCSEA and set the withdrawal public hearing for December 16, 2026 at 5:30pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11-18-1A

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE AND SETTING OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE SAME

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11-18-1A

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE AND SETTING OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE SAME

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Section 10-22.31 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.31) of the Illinois School Code authorizes school boards to enter into joint agreements with other school boards to provide special educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the LCSEA was previously formed by joint agreement in 2010 by school boards of various school district; and

WHEREAS, Dixon Public Schools CUSD #170 (Dixon Public Schools) is a member of the Lee County Special Education Association ("LCSEA"); and

WHERAS, Paw Paw Community Unit School District #271 (Paw Paw Public Schools) is a member of the LCSEA; and

WHEREAS, as of the passage of this resolution Dixon Public Schools and Paw Paw Community Unit School District #271 are the only remaining member districts of the LCSEA and the sole representatives on the Board of Control; and

WHEREAS, as the students of Dixon make up 97.3% of the students served by the LCSEA, the Board of Education of Dixon Public Schools CUSD #170, has determined that it is in the best interest of Dixon Public Schools CUSD #170 to withdraw from the LCSEA and internally provide those services necessary to be compliant with state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, subsection j of the relevant school code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j)), became effective July 1, 2026, and permits Districts to withdraw from special education cooperatives upon not less than eighteen (18) months notice to the other members and completion of a comprehensive plan for special education services compliant with the Illinois School Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has duly reviewed and considered the necessity of compliance with the comprehensive plan requirements for provision of special education services and affirmatively believe that all such requirements may be fulfilled without the necessity of being a member of the LCSEA and done so in a more cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the proposed effective date of withdrawal is July 1, 2028; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DIXON COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #170, AS FOLLOWS:

TERMS

SECTION 1: The findings that the recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporate the recitals within this Resolution.

SECTION 2: Public Hearing on the intent to withdraw shall be set for December 16th, 2026. The Superintendent is directed to prepare and give such public hearing notice as may be required to effectuate the intent of this Resolution. .

SECTION 3: The Superintendent of the District is authorized and directed to take all steps necessary, to the extent required by State or Federal law, to achieve the withdrawal from the LCSEA.

SECTION 4: The Superintendent of the District is authorized and directed to prepare and submit to the Illinois State Board of Education and the Regional Superintendent, the required comprehensive plan demonstrating that Dixon Public Schools will offer special education services in compliance with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31 (g-5).

SECTION 5: The Superintendent is authorized and directed to provide notice to Paw Paw Public Schools, the Regional Superintendent, and all other interested Parties of the District's intent to withdraw from the Lee County Special Education Cooperative.

SECTION 6: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage approval and publication as required by law.

Passed by the on this 18th day of November, 2026.

_____

Board President

ATTEST:

_____

Board Secretary

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Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent
Doug Stansford, Asst. Superintendent
Marc Campbell, Business Manager

TO: Superintendent of Paw Paw Public Schools, Chris Tennyson Regional Superintendent.

FROM: Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Dixon Public School CUSD #170 Withdrawal from the Lee County Special Education Cooperative

Withdrawal Notification

On behalf of Dixon Public Schools CUSD #170 (Dixon), I am formally notifying you of our District's intent to fully and formally withdrawal from the Lee County Special Education Cooperative, effective July 1, 2028.

Supporting Statute

In the past, a district that wanted to withdraw from a special education cooperative had to have majority approval from the County Board of Trustees. Now, under 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j) an Illinois school district may withdraw from a joint special education cooperative agreement without approval from the other cooperative member districts and/or approval of a Regional School Board of Trustees, as long as the withdrawing school completes the following criteria:

- The member district's school board shall hold a public hearing on the member district's intent to withdraw at least 18 months before the member district's proposed withdrawal date.
    - Dixon Public Schools, CUSD #170 public hearing will occur at 5:30 PM on December 16th, 2026, at the District Office located at 1335 Franklin Grove Rd, Dixon IL.
- The member district must issue written notice of the withdrawal intent to all parents/guardians of students with disabilities within the district prior to the hearing.

- A written notice of the member district's intent to withdraw and the details of the public hearing shall be sent to the other member districts of the joint agreement no less than 10 days before the public hearing.
    - This letter serves as Dixon Public Schools, CUSD #170 notification to you, as the other Lee County Special Education Cooperative member district as our intent to withdrawal from the cooperative effective July 1, 2028.
- The member district must create a written plan detailing administrative policies, procedures, and evidence that the district can independently provide a full continuum of special education services and placements; and
- The member district shall adopt a comprehensive plan to the member district's regional office of education, and this plan shall be accompanied by evidence of the public hearing and a copy of the approved board of education's resolution to withdraw.

Rationale

It is the appropriate time to accomplish this objective. The current Director of Special Education for Lee County Special Education Cooperative is retiring effective June 30, 2028. Other staff have also given notice of intent to retire effective June 30, 2028. Prior to retaining a new director and hiring other staff, it is time for Dixon to withdraw and permit the capture of this cost efficiency. This will provide savings of cost to both District's.

Closing Comments

Dixon has worked cooperatively with Paw Paw, over a period of years, to continue to facilitate the activities of the cooperative. The Cooperative no longer effectively serves the purpose of Dixon Public Schools, since Dixon makes up 97% of the students serve. We are providing adequate notice to Paw Paw Public Schools so as to permit your exploration of attachment to another cooperative or District for any special education services that might be needed.

The District is committed to doing its best to make the transition as seamless and smooth as possible and would remain available, on or after July 1, 2028, to contract with Paw Paw Public School to provide special educational services on mutually agreeable terms.

Respectfully,

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CUSD #170

By:_____
Dr. Melydi Huyett

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONCERNING PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM THE LEE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DIXON COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #170 (Dixon Public Schools) LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of Dixon Community Unit District #170 (Dixon Public Schools), will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Section 10-22.31(j) of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j)) concerning the District's intent to withdrawal from the Lee County Special Education Association Cooperative.

The public hearing will be held as follows:

DATE: December 16, 2026

TIME: 5:30 pm

LOCATION: Dixon Public Schools Central Office, 1335 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon, Illinois

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide information concerning the District's withdrawal from the Lee County Special Education Association Cooperative, including the plan of the District to provide special education programs and services to students with disabilities following withdrawal, and to afford members of the public an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed withdrawal.

At the public hearing, the Superintendent and Board of Education will receive public comments regarding the intent to withdrawal, including comments concerning the District's anticipated plan for providing special education programs, services, and supports following withdrawal from the Cooperative.

Members of the public, including parents and guardians of students with disabilities, District residents, employees, and other interested persons, are invited to attend and provide comments.

Information concerning the District's proposed comprehensive plan for providing special education services following withdrawal may be reviewed at the District Office during regular business hours.

This public hearing is being conducted pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31(j)(1).

DATED this 18th day of November, **2026**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DIXON COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #170 (DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

By: _____

Secretary, Board of Education