



LAKE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Dr. Lisa Leali

Date: March 16, 2026

Subject: Strategic Proposal for 2026-2027 Community Town Hall Framework

Recommendation

Our parent body is our greatest asset, bringing passion and diverse perspectives to our school community. To better harness this energy and ensure that every family, regardless of their work schedule or comfort with public speaking, has a seat at the table, we propose a new Town Hall structure for the 2026-2027 school year.

This proposal moves toward a predictable, inclusive, and data-informed model that respects parent calendars and prioritizes the topics most important to the collective community.

Background

To allow families to plan their professional and personal lives around school engagement, we will transition to a fixed-date model:

- **Scheduled for Success:** Two primary Town Halls will be placed on the master calendar at the start of the year (e.g., September and February).
- **Predictable Rhythm:** By announcing dates months in advance, we maximize the opportunity for high attendance and reduce the "emergency" feel of reactive meetings.

To ensure these meetings are high-value for both administration and parents, we will implement a four-stage process:

1. **Community Listening (The Survey):** Four weeks prior to each Town Hall, a digital survey will be sent to all families. This allows us to identify the "pulse" of the community and discover common themes that might otherwise go unheard.
2. **Information Gathering:** Using survey data, leadership will prepare current, fact-based briefings on the top-voted topics. This ensures the Town Hall provides immediate, actionable answers.
3. **The Interactive Session:** Each meeting will feature a focused presentation on community-selected topics followed by a dedicated Q&A period for live dialogue.



Phone: 847.234.9400
Fax: 847.234.9403



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Lake Bluff, IL 60044



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4. Universal Access: To serve families who cannot attend due to work, childcare, or travel, every Town Hall will be recorded and shared via a "Community Recap" email.

This structure is designed to be fundamentally equitable. By using pre-meeting surveys and post-meeting recordings, we bridge the gap between our most involved participants and those who may have barriers to attendance. This ensures that the Board and Administration are making decisions based on the needs of the entire student body, creating a more balanced and harmonious school culture.

Draft: Community Topic Survey

To be sent via email/SMS 4 weeks prior to the event.

Subject: Help Shape Our Upcoming Fall Town Hall!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your voice is vital to the success of District 65. As we prepare for our Fall Town Hall on - , we want to ensure we are addressing the topics that matter most to your family.

Please take 2 minutes to share your input:

- 1. Top Priorities:** Of the following areas, which two would you most like to hear an update on?
 - Academic Curriculum & Innovation
 - Campus Safety & Security
 - Student Mental Health & Wellness
 - Extracurricular/Athletic Programming
 - Facilities & Campus Improvements
- 2. Specific Questions:** Is there a specific question or concern you would like the Administration to address during the presentation? (Open text box)
- 3. Format Preference:** Will you be attending in person, or would you prefer to watch the recorded recap?
 - In-Person
 - Recorded Recap

Thank you for partnering with us to make our school stronger.



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Draft: Town Hall Presentation Outline

Structure for the 60-minute session.

Title: 2026 Fall Community Update

- **Welcome & Vision (5 mins):** Opening remarks by the Board President/Superintendent emphasizing the "One Community" approach.
- **The "Pulse" Report (5 mins):** Sharing the results of the community survey (e.g., "70% of you asked about our new safety protocols").
- **Topic Briefing 1 (10 mins):** High-level data and current status on the #1 survey topic.
- **Topic Briefing 2 (10 mins):** High-level data and current status on the #2 survey topic.
- **Moderated Q&A (25 mins):** * Addressing the most common questions submitted via the survey first.
 - Opening the floor for follow-up questions from the audience.
- **Closing & Next Steps (5 mins):** How to access the recording and the date for the Spring Town Hall.



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