

Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:00 PM Central

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

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. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The 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.

Our student representative read the Mission, Vision and Motto.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Anne Hill

No public comment.

#### 5. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

##### 5.A. Growing Native Habitat - Sue Raymoure

Sue Raymoure and Ann Vertovec presented on the Growing Native Habitat Lake Bluff, a community-run organization that is partnered with the National Wildlife Federation. They were instrumental in the certification of both LBES and LBMS as Wildlife Habitats and presented plaques at the meeting. The certification is part of an awareness campaign to incorporate native plants and natural habitats into our public and private lands in order to support our native pollinators, birds and other wildlife. The New York Times bestseller, *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy was highly recommended by the presentors. The full presentation is included in the board packet. Upcoming Native Habitat LB events are September 20th at Artesian Park and October 11 at Union Church. For more information, stop by their table at the LB Farmers Market on Fridays or visit their website [growingnativehabitatlb.org](http://growingnativehabitatlb.org).

##### 5.B. New Staff Video

[New staff video can be viewed via this link.](#)

##### 5.C. Advanced Learning Services - Jackie Tivador

Jackie Tivador gave an Advanced Learning Services update. She emphasized that we are looking holistically at students and providing services for a variety of strengths and backgrounds with flexible placement, allowing options for students' growth. This also allows for blended model enrichment and targeted instruction and acceleration opportunities. We are continuing our enrichment program by teaching science and social studies standards with citizenship, critical thinking and communication. The team is working on enrichment portfolios for families to gain a better understanding of the program. A new small group pull-out instruction in ELA and Math is also in development. Families will be notified directly if their student is involved. Further details and clear guidelines can be found in the board packet.

#### 5.D. GVTC Update - Jackie Tivador

Jackie Tivador reviewed our Guaranteed Viable Transparent Curriculum (GVTC) in conjunction with our strategic plan which is detailed in the board packet. Prioritizing GVTC curriculum and understanding the 'why' of GVTC has been a district-wide collaborative process. Our district uses Understanding by Design, which starts with the end goal in mind, allowing us to back into development with tangible knowledge and skills bullet points. For teachers, our GVTC is aligned and consistent but not scripted. We value our staff's creativity and autonomy with students, teacher styles and student experiences may differ, however, the core expectations are consistent. Staff are continuously reflecting, collaborating, evaluating and shifting the work that takes place. As a starting place for parents, Jackie shared where to find curriculum details on the website. Please refer to the board packet for more information.

#### 5.E. E-Bike Safety - Principal Blackmer

Principal Blackmer gave an update on E-Bike safety. He was pleased to report that there have been no E-bike violations at school and middle school students are 99% compliant with helmets. LBMS paired with LBPD at the beginning of the school year to review the bike laws for middle school students. Principal Blackmer expressed gratitude for the additional bike racks purchased last year, as they are a huge benefit for our students.

#### 5.F. Debt Service Clean Out - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn recapped the presentation from our last meeting. The board is in consensus that this is a good idea. Formal resolutions will come at future meetings.

#### 5.G. Preview of Board Presentations/Discussions for 2025-26 - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali reminded the board that this list originated as 'special' additions to the standard annual discussions; a suggestion was made to add the annual discussions to this list to create an exhaustive board meeting list.

#### 5.H. True North Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali reported that True North will hold a meeting to discuss the new draft model being presented in the board packet. As of today, with the new plan, almost every district is committed to remaining as a member of True North. The new model we are building is based on input at numerous meetings, other cooperative structures, surveys, etc. from our current member districts, with the main goals being to reestablish trust, work on communication and assure our work is collaborative. The new model proposes one therapeutic day school where students will get exactly what they need for ages up to 22, where member districts only pay for what they use with all fees going to student tuition. From a financial standpoint, there will no longer be membership dues. However, there will be tuition costs for students that will be discounted based on Evidence Based Funding (EBF) allocations and True North would remain

competitive with projected tuition ranges. The cooperative will continue serving the 18 districts, and does not intend to operate as a separate entity. If non-member districts are interested in participating, there would be a 25% surcharge, based on availability. The draft model recommends an Executive Director versus a Superintendent. The new governance structure will still have a leadership council of one board member from each member district, but with meetings only twice a year. The executive committee will consist of the superintendents from the member districts to assure collaborative guidance, robust involvement and high-impact programming. Contract specialized services will continue to help small districts like Lake Bluff 65.

#### 5.I. Sixth Day Enrollment Report - Tracy Roehrick

Tracy Roehrick presented the 6th day enrollment report as required by the ROE.

#### 5.J. Policy Discussion - Press Packet 119 - First Read - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali reported that the policy committee met to discuss Press Packet 119 with the majority of policies under review being legal references and five-year reviews with no significant changes. For Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, the committee discussed the new language and recommended adding it.

5.J.1. 1:10 School District Legal Status

5.J.2. 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

5.J.3. 1:30 Mission Statement

5.J.4. 2:10 School District Governance

5.J.5. 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct - Answers Required

5.J.6. 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship

5.J.7. 2:240 Board Policy Development

5.J.8. 2:125-E3 Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements

5.J.9. 3:30 Chain of Command

5.J.10. 4:50 Payment Procedures

5.J.11. 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds

5.J.12. 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

5.J.13. 5:20 E-Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harrassment

5.J.14. 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment

5.J.15. 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

5.J.16. 7:90 Release During School Hours

5.J.17. 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

5.J.18. 7:140 Search and Seizure

5.J.19. 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

5.J.20. 7:325 Student Fundraising Activities

5.J.21. 8:80 Gifts to the District

5.J.22. 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - Anne Hill

No public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48pm. This motion, made by Carrie Steinbach and seconded by Tim Penich, 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