

Superintendent Report

February 18, 2026

**Motto: One district. One mission. Every student.
Every day**

We act by (norms) TRUST:

- **Trust Each Other** – Build relationships grounded in honesty and reliability.
- **Respect Each Other** – Recognize every person has value and deserves to be heard
- **Unity** – Strive to understand one another and work toward common goals.
- **Support Each Other** – Help each other grow, especially when challenges arise.
- **Transparency** – Be open and honest, while using good judgment in how we communicate

Follow-Ups:

Gun Raffle:

- I wanted to share that I conducted additional research regarding past gun raffles, with support from our Finance Department. Based on that research, there were raffles involving firearms in 2016 and 2021.
- In 2016, the Lakeland Wrestling Club conducted a sporting rifle raffle and has continued this up until now; they only use gift cards.
- In 2021, the Lakeland Booster Club held a gun raffle. I spoke with Mr. Hatcher, who was the Booster Club president at the time. He shared that the raffle was approved by the previous superintendent and high school principal with strict parameters. Mr. Hoffman was not involved in those discussions and likely would not have been aware of the

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specific conditions, which explains why he was unable to provide background information on this raffle.

- Those parameters included that firearms could not be handguns or semi-automatic weapons, and raffle tickets could not display images of the firearms. According to Mr. Hatcher, those guidelines were followed at that time.
- Moving forward, I appreciate having this historical context, as it will help inform future decisions regarding raffles within our district and community when it comes to firearms.

Jazz Festival:

- Based on an email from Mrs. Eppenstein, the festival cannot be viewed online, to her knowledge. If she receives any additional information, I will share it with the Board.
- She did mention that she may film the performance and share it with Board members if any of you are interested.

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- **Four-day School Week Committee:**
 - As you know, surveys were sent to parents, students (grades 9–11), and staff. Below are the preliminary results as of February 8, 2026:
 - Parents – 61.82% Yes | 38.18% No
 - Students – 42.67% Yes | 57.33% No
 - Staff – 73.13% Yes | 26.87% No
 - For your information, here is the remaining timeline:
 - February 13 (Friday): Surveys close
 - February 17 (Tuesday): Four-Day Week Committee reviews survey data and determines next action steps based on the results

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- **Logistics Meeting– Principals and Directors:**

- In the meeting, directors and principals had a discussion in regards to the quote: “The best way to predict the future is to create it.”-- Peter Drucker.
- With this in mind, we focused on what we would like our district to look like in three years. I look forward to having a future discussion regarding the board’s three-year vision. Below are some of the responses shared:
 - Becoming the district of choice, including the possibility of a new high school and an additional elementary school
 - Expanding school choice opportunities within our district, such as a STEM and PBL-focused school, a LJSD chartered school, homeschool options, etc.
 - Rebuilding and strengthening community support by protecting professional development time and maintaining a strong student-first focus
 - Providing adequate support for behind-the-scenes operations, including technology and maintenance support
 - I look forward to further conversations around these ideas and the direction they provide for our district.
- We also discussed possible zone changes for TWE, GE, and JBE, the state budget, the facilities levy and next year’s supplementary levy, and the four-day school week. Overall, it was a very productive meeting.

- **TRUST Meetings with Principals:**

- I continue to hold monthly TRUST meetings with our principals, and I have truly enjoyed these conversations. We discuss their health and well-being, the status of their schools, and they have an opportunity to ask me questions. When time allows, we also walk through the building and visit classrooms.

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- **Attending Many Events Around the District:**

- Meeting– Shon Hocker, CDA Superintendent
- Meeting– Four-day Week Committee @ DO
- Participated– The Shake-off, JBE
- Meeting– LEA President @ DO
- Meetings– TRUST with all Principals
- Attended– LHS Boy's JV Game
- Attended– THS and LHS Girl's District Finals