

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2026 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: Absent
Lauren Hirsh: Present
Tim Penich: Absent
Carrie Steinbach: Present
Present: 5, Absent: 2.

1. 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

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 rep read the Mission, Vision, and Motto.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach

We had one public comment from K. Niego regarding Town Hall meetings.

5. REPORTS

5.A. PTO Report - Rae Dobosh/Megan Hadler

No report.

5.B. Alliance Report - Greg Watson

No report.

5.C. President's Report - Carrie Steinbach

No report.

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

Dr. Leali was happy to report that we have 20% participation in the 5 essentials survey. Have a great spring break. Reminder that IAR testing will take place when return from break.

6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

6.A. Staffing - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali presented the 2026-2027 staffing plan, emphasizing a new shared-services IGA with D65 and D115 (starting with a physical therapist). The plan accounts for a 1.0 reduction in elementary sections—subject to change based on summer enrollment—and the addition of an increase in speech services. We are recommending two Teaching and Learning Coordinators be hired to support the district's transition to new math and CKLA curricula.

6.B. World Language Programming Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali and Principal Blackmer reviewed the option of maintaining French in our World Language Program, noting that if we were to continue the French program, a new .5 FTE French teacher would be required and a 3 year opportunity for students is the recommendation. Alternatives discussed included the Illinois Virtual School for certified remote instruction. The administration also highlighted a projected need for increased Spanish teacher 1.0 FTE in 2027-28. The Board held a discussion regarding the minimum enrollment numbers needed to sustain the French program.

6.C. Family Communication Survey Results - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali shared feedback from the Family Communication Survey, highlighting a desire for more consistent use of Seesaw at LBES. PowerSchool continues to serve LBMS parents well, with a goal of furthering expedited grading and communication. Results showed that parents prioritize detailed narratives on student progress and appreciate the practice of sending student work home. The district will use this data to refine platform usage and communication consistency.

6.D. Community Town Hall Proposal - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali proposed that Town Halls be scheduled and listed as open meetings on the Board calendar, with discussions driven by parent survey data. To ensure proactive preparation, the Board will utilize an RSVP system to prioritize specific questions in advance. Sessions will be recorded and shared with all parents/guardians. Suggested scheduling includes sessions in October and February (both following parent-teacher conferences). The Board intends to promote these events through the Chamber, the Village, and On the Bluff in addition to our regular emails and website postings. Dates will be voted on at the next Board meeting.

6.E. D115 Board Mixer and Portrait of a Learner Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

During the update on the D115 Board Mixer, our Board members in attendance reported that students shared valuable perspectives and experiences on their transition to high school. Notably, LBMS alumni felt well-equipped for the move, citing the preparation they received in D65 as a key factor in their success. The session was described as both informative and exciting, including a variety of offered courses including honors and AP. The principles established by the Portrait of a Learner founding group remain highly effective, manifesting in student-led projects that emphasize inquiry-based, real-world skill applications.

6.F. True North Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali provided an update regarding True North's recent reorganization and staffing shifts. To support employees affected by a 30% reduction in staff, True North hosted a successful job fair attended by all member districts and several external districts; the event received positive feedback. Additionally, the True North Leadership Council has been officially renamed the True North Governing Board. Laura Breakstone will serve as the District 65 representative, with Lauren Hill serving as the alternate.

6.G. Audit Engagement Agreement - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reported on the district's successful history with Baker Tilly, emphasizing the firm's competence and the district's solid financial standing. After considering whether to pursue a new Request for Proposals (RFP), the Board reached a consensus to continue with Baker Tilly, citing a high level of satisfaction and support for the proposed two-year engagement. An official vote will take place at the next board meeting.

6.H. Capital Projects and Facility Maintenance Updates - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reviewed the Capital Spending Plan which included the most recent update by Wight architects. The report highlights maintenance needs by building, utilizing a calendar-year cycle to align with summer work. Discussion followed regarding the procurement of estimates for upcoming budget cycles. It was noted that both District 65 facilities are in good condition, allowing for flexibility in project scheduling. Furthermore, the report excluded specific grant-funded technology cycles and annual capital grants, which are tracked independently of the primary facility maintenance plan.

6.H.1. LBMS Tuck Pointing

6.H.2. LBES Parking Lot

6.H.3. Wireless Access Points

7. ACTION (WITH DISCUSSION) ITEMS

7.A. Approval of tentative staffing plan for 2026-27 school year

Tentative Staffing plan. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.

Anne Hill: Absent, Tim Penich: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

7.B. Personnel Report

Personnel Report. This motion, made by Andrew Carlson and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.

Anne Hill: Absent, Tim Penich: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

7.C. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Richard Driver and seconded by Lauren Hirsh, Passed.

Anne Hill: Absent, Tim Penich: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

7.C.1. Open Session Meeting Minutes

7.C.1.a. February 24, 2026 Regular Board of Education meeting minutes

7.C.2. Treasurer's Report

7.C.3. Imprest Report

7.C.4. Bills Report

7.C.5. P Card Report

8. FOIA Requests

There have been no FOIA requests since our last regular board meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 8:24pm. This motion, made by Laura Breakstone and seconded by Lauren Hirsh, Passed.

Anne Hill: Absent, Tim Penich: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.