

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 7:00 PM Central

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

Laura Breakstone: Present
Andrew Carlson: Absent
Richard Driver: Present
Anne Hill: Present
Lauren Hirsh: Present
Tim Penich: Present
Carrie Steinbach: Present
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

1. 6:45 P.M. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER
CLOSED SESSION The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)

2. 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING
The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The pledge was recited.

4. 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, Nancy, read the Mission, Vision, and Motto.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach
Public comment sent via email read by Dr. Leali: From S. Deininger regarding the French program; K. Niego regarding report card data and math proficiency; J. Armstrong regarding math proficiency; and anonymous regarding the school improvement plan. In person, as a follow-up to an email, student Maeve D. commented on the French program.

6. REPORTS

6.A. PTO Report - Rae Dobosh/Megan Hadler
No report.

6.B. Alliance Report - Greg Watson
No report.

6.C. President's Report - Carrie Steinbach

No report.

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

Dr. Leali reported on True North board representatives and asked for an alternate to cover leadership should our current True North board rep be unavailable. Lauren Hirsh volunteered.

7. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

7.A. School Improvement Plans LBES/LBMS - Principal Bae, Principal Blackmer

Dr. Leali presented an update on the district's School Improvement Plan (SIP), highlighting a shift toward a research-driven "science of learning" framework for ELA and the recommendation of a new district-wide literacy resource. The district has also integrated accelerated learning services in ELA and Math, including new courses for 4th and 7th grades, while monitoring the state's updated Numeracy Plan for future alignment. LBMS Principal Blackmer detailed the use of the SMART method to establish goals, noting the implementation of a school-wide writing checklist and the use of Flex periods for targeted student assistance. LBES Principal Bae outlined a multi-year focus on foundational math skills and fact fluency, supported by math specialists and the adoption of SeeSaw for consistent family communication. To sustain this momentum and the district's PLC culture, the administration recommends hiring two additional staff members and implementing structured after-school supplemental instruction.

7.B. 3rd Grade Pilot and ELA Recommendation - Jackie Tivador

Jackie Tivador presented a recommendation to adopt the third edition of Amplify CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) for grades K-4, following a successful 3rd-grade pilot aligned with the Illinois Literacy Plan. The program utilizes a "knowledge-building" approach that integrates foundational phonics with reading and writing standards to ensure vertical consistency across grade levels. Ms. Tivador noted that the transition emphasizes a shift toward print-based learning and minimal screen time. To prepare for full implementation in the fall, teachers in grades 1, 2, and 4 will pilot components this spring, supported by ongoing LETRS training for Kindergarten and 1st-grade staff.

7.C. 2026-2027 Staffing Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali presented the preliminary 2026-27 staffing plan, confirming a continued target class size of 25 students. While the proposal indicates a net decrease in overall staffing due to shifting roles at LBES, these changes are designed to expand direct student supports. The plan includes a strategic reduction in District Office positions to reallocate resources toward teacher support, and the district is exploring third-party shared services to maintain essential programming following upcoming changes at True North.

7.D. Ballot Consideration County Schools Facility Tax (CSFT) - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn presented a proposal regarding the County Schools Facility Tax (CSFT), noting that the presentation was identical to the one previously shared at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. He clarified that the Board's current role is to consider supporting the placement of this question on the local ballot, thereby allowing the public to make the final determination on whether the resolution passes. Mr. Kahn noted that the Board is scheduled to vote on this matter prior to June.

7.E. Facility Use Fees - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reviewed the facility usage fees as part of the district's annual evaluation process. He reported that there are no recommended changes to the current fee schedule for the upcoming year.

7.F. Student Fees - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn presented a recommendation regarding the 2026-27 student fee schedule. He proposed that all student fees remain at their current levels, with the exception of Pre-K tuition. The administration recommends an increase in Pre-K tuition from \$5,000 to \$5,250 to maintain alignment with similar programs in neighboring districts. Mr. Kahn noted that while Pre-K programs are costly to operate, the proposed rate remains significantly lower than typical area daycare expenses.

7.G. 2026-27 BOE Meeting Calendar Draft - Second Read - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali presented the second read of the 2026-27 Board of Education meeting calendar. Following a collaborative mapping session between Board members and Dr. Leali, the draft includes a recommendation to add a meeting in September. During the discussion, a Board member suggested incorporating a capital projects overview into the schedule to complement regular budget reporting. It was noted that Jay Kahn will present a long-range planning report in April.

7.H. Press Packet 120 and Update to Policy 4:30 - Second Read - Dr. Lisa Leali

This was the second read of Press Packet 120, including an update to policy 4:30. This information is the same as that presented a couple of weeks ago at the COW.

8. ACTION (WITH DISCUSSION) ITEMS

8.A. Approval of Press Packet 120 - including 4:30 update and 6:60 question

Press Packet 120. This motion, made by Laura Breakstone and seconded by Richard Driver, Passed.

Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.A.1. 2:120 Board Member Development

8.A.2. 2:150 Committees

8.A.3. 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

8.A.4. 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

8.A.5. 4:30 Revenue and Investments - Draft Update + Policy Committee Recommendation

8.A.6. 4:80 Accounting and Audits

8.A.7. 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees

8.A.8. 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

8.A.9. 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

8.A.10. 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

8.A.11. 5:100 Staff Development Program

8.A.12. 5:190 Teacher Qualifications

8.A.13. 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

8.A.14. 5:220 Substitute Teachers

8.A.15. 5:280 Duties and Qualifications

8.A.16. 5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

8.A.17. 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day

8.A.18. 6:40 Curriculum Development

8.A.19. 6:60 Curriculum Content

8.A.19.a. Question to be answered - shown on page 50 of attached pdf

8.A.20. 6:130 Program for the Gifted

8.A.21. 6:160 English Learners

8.A.22. 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

8.A.23. 6:280 Grading and Promotion

8.A.24. 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

8.A.25. 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

8.A.26. 7:70 Attendance and Truancy

8.A.27. 7:180 Prevention of and Responses to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

8.A.28. 7:190 Student Behavior

8.A.29. 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

8.A.30. 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

8.A.31. 7:340 Student Records

8.A.32. 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

8.B. Approval of Administrative Recommendation to Sunset LBMS French Courses Fall 2026
Sunset French Courses. This motion, made by Richard Driver and seconded by Laura
Breakstone, Tabled.

Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.C. Approval of Facility Use Fees

Facility Use Fees. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Tim Penich, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,

Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.D. Approval of Student Fees

Student Fees. This motion, made by Tim Penich and seconded by Lauren Hirsh, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.E. Approval of 2026-27 BOE Meeting Calendar

BOE Meeting Calendar. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.

Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.F. Personnel Report

Personnel Report. This motion, made by Richard Driver and seconded by Tim Penich, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.G. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.

Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.G.1. Open Session Meeting Minutes

8.G.1.a. February 10, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes

8.G.1.b. February 4, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

8.G.2. Treasurer's Report

8.G.3. Imprest Report

8.G.4. Bills Report

8.G.5. P Card Report

9. FOIA Requests

We had 4 FOIA requests sine our last regular board meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Carrie Steinbach

Dr. Leali read an email from J and JP Graziano in support of the pilot ELA Amplify CKLA program.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn 9:04pm. This motion, made by Laura Breakstone and seconded by Tim Penich, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren

Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1