

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 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. REGULAR 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 new student board representative, Moose Davis, read the Mission, Vision and Motto.

4. BOE OFFICER CHANGES

According to Board Policy 2:110, Carrie Steinbach is now fulfilling the Board President role, Tim Penich was nominated and approved to serve as Board Vice President, Lauren Hirsh will remain Board Secretary.

5. PRESENTATION OF BOARD GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

We received notification that our BOE earned the IASB 2025 board governance recognition. Formal recognition will take place at the 2026 Spring Division Meetings. BOE members can pick up badge ribbons at the Joint Annual Conference this weekend to wear on their name badges.

6. PRINCIPAL VIDEO

The principal videos can be viewed on the YouTube meeting recording.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

8. REPORTS

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

Rae Dobosh reported outstanding success for both the Pumpkin Bash and Haunted Forest, noting they achieved the best turnout and fundraising results to date. The PTO is now working with the Enrichment Team to coordinate a special "experience" for each grade level. In terms

of appreciation, the Teacher Appreciation Committee recently honored the custodial staff, principals, and school psychiatrists, and provided meals during conferences. Looking ahead, a parent-sponsored coffee will be held for staff before winter break, and the PTO will distribute holiday gift donations to all staff members. The PTO is sponsoring another visit from Jesse Weinberger, a nationally recognized expert on internet safety, digital citizenship, and the online risks facing students. The PTO is also sponsoring additional activities, including a Thanksgiving pie fundraiser, classroom winter parties, and the First Graders' Traditions Fair. Following the break, the PTO plans to stock the refrigerators at both school buildings. The PTO sends a big thank you to the many volunteers who make this all possible.

8.B. Alliance Report - Greg Watson

The Alliance has welcomed Greg Watson as its new President. Greg has lived in Lake Bluff for 11 years and has children attending the district schools. The Alliance is currently wrapping up its fall grant cycle and their board will soon meet with Dr. Leali and the principals to review all submitted grant applications. Additionally, the organization is planning a Special Art Auction to be hosted on Saturday, December 6th at The Gallery in Lake Forest. The funds raised from this auction are specifically earmarked to address the audiovisual needs at Lake Bluff Middle School (LBMS), particularly for acquiring wireless microphones and improving the audio system for stage performances.

8.C. President's Report - Carrie Steinbach

Carrie Steinbach thanked Anne Hill for her amazing service as board president and expressed her gratitude to Anne for remaining on the board.

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

Reminder the Humanex Survey was sent via email to families. Please take a moment to complete the survey.

9. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

9.A. Community use of building parking lots

Dr. Leali reviewed a request for LBES parking lot usage outside of school hours. We will follow our board policy for this request.

9.B. True North Update/Intent to Remain with the Cooperative - Dr. Lisa Leali

The new True North cooperative model continues to move forward, with 17 of the original 18 districts agreeing to continue participation. The cooperative's Executive Committee is scheduled to convene in January, where the first order of business will be a discussion regarding the potential inclusion of outside districts. Dr. Leali will take on a leadership role, serving as the first chair of the newly developed Leadership Council. While this transition involves a significant change to the financial model for the full cooperative, the team is thrilled with the progress. As part of the action items, Dr. Leali is scheduled to read the updated resolution as detailed in the board packet.

9.C. Illinois State Report Card Presentation

Dr. Leali emphasized the district's reliance on multiple data points for measuring student growth, noting that the district is currently in its third year of this initiative and aims to reach and maintain a growth rate of 80% to 100% across its key metrics. The district is actively exploring additional survey opportunities that are specifically designed to be school-based, student-friendly, and appropriate for families, all with the goal of fostering continuous

improvement and higher engagement. Dr. Leali clarified the distinction between two key assessments: the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) is measured against grade-level benchmarks, while the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is an adaptive assessment. Key growth metrics are interactive and publicly available in the board packet. The district is proud to report that over 90% of 8th-grade students are meeting or exceeding ELA (English Language Arts) expectations, despite the state of Illinois adjusting the criteria for meeting and exceeding standards this year. The board also reviewed information regarding achievement gaps and noted that the Five Essentials Survey is summarized by individual school, not at the district level.

9.D. LBMS World Language

Dr. Leali informed the board that the administration is currently reflecting on the district's World Language offerings for the upcoming school years. To gauge interest, the administration will present relevant data at a future board meeting, specifically focusing on the viability of French as a language option. As part of this data-gathering process, surveys will be distributed to elementary families, and information will also be collected from both Lake Bluff Middle School and Lake Forest High School.

9.E. Annual Statement of Affairs - Jay Kahn

The board was reminded that the annual required document, as detailed in the board packet, has already been posted on the district website and published in the newspaper. No formal board approval is necessary for this item, but it remains available for public viewing.

9.F. Facilities Assessment - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reported on the most recent building assessment that is used for capital planning, with the goal of ensuring proper building maintenance and safety. The assessment confirmed that both school buildings are currently in good shape with no immediate critical needs. Future needs, as identified by Wight, are detailed and available for review in the board packet.

9.G. 10 Year Health Life Safety Survey - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reported that the 10-year Health Life Safety Survey is a state requirement. Overall, our buildings are in very good condition. Details are in the board packet.

9.H. Tentative Levy - Kevin Quinlan, Jay Kahn

Kevin Quinlan reviewed the tax levy basics, which are fully detailed in the board packet. He emphasized that property tax is the largest and most crucial source of district funding. These taxes are designated solely for operating funds and specifically exclude debt service, with the bulk of the revenue being used for daily operations. The district's levy is constrained by PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) and is calculated based on last year's median taxes. Total taxes on existing property are capped by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which cannot exceed 5%. Since Lake Bluff is a highly residential community with few large business taxpayers, the district's tax rates remain standard. Due to calculation rules, the district will intentionally overestimate tax rates. Given that the December 2024 CPI was 2.9% (with parameters available in the board packet), the administration is recommending continuing to levy the CPI rate.

9.I. State Project Maintenance Grant - Jay Kahn

Following up on the recent facilities' assessment, Jay Kahn reported that tuck pointing is necessary for the building's exterior. To help offset the cost of this essential maintenance, the district is actively applying for state matching grant funding.

9.J. LBES Generator - Jay Kahn

The district is prioritizing the Lake Bluff Elementary School building for the installation of a new generator, as the need for comprehensive backup power is significantly higher at the elementary level. This generator is intended to protect all critical electrical systems during an outage, including emergency lighting, security systems, IT infrastructure, and boilers. The Board requested a detailed cost analysis comparing the lifetime expenses of a full generator system versus relying on decentralized battery-operated lights. Also requested in the analysis is to include an explicit list of all systems that would be protected by the generator. Furthermore, the Board asked for information regarding whether area school districts currently utilize generators in their facilities.

9.K. 2026-27 School Calendar

Our Calendar Committee, consisting of staff from both buildings, recommends the 2026-2027 School Calendar as shown in the board packet. All certified staff had the opportunity for input and voting. The recommendation is to start again a little later than usual to align with Lake Forest High School. The conference weekends coordinated with Monday holidays have been well received and requested again this year.

10. ACTION (WITH DISCUSSION) ITEMS

10.A. Approval to adopt Parameters Resolution - *Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$507,000 General Obligation Limited School Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.*

Parameters Resolution. This motion, made by Tim Penich and seconded by Andrew Carlson, 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

10.B. True North Resolution Approval

True North. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Richard Driver, 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

10.C. Approval of 10 Year Health Life Safety Survey

Life Safety Survey. This motion, made by Andrew Carlson and seconded by Anne Hill, 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

10.D. Approval of State Project Maintenance Grant

Grant. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Anne Hill, 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

10.E. Approval of estimated amounts to be levied in taxes

Estimated tax levy. This motion, made by Anne Hill 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

10.F. Approval of 2026-27 School Calendar

26-27 School Calendar. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Richard Driver,
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

10.G. Personnel Report

Personnel Report. This motion, made by Anne Hill and seconded by Lauren Hirsh, 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

10.H. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Anne Hill, 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

10.H.1. Open Session Meeting Minutes

10.H.1.a. October 21, 2025 BINA Hearing Minutes

10.H.1.b. October 21, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

10.H.2. Treasurer's Report

10.H.3. Imprest Report

10.H.4. Bills Report

10.H.5. P Card Report

11. FOIA Requests

We had one FOIA request that can be found in the board packet.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38pm