

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

February 16, 2026

7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during forum time.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **2**
4. **FORUM TIME** - Comments specific to meeting agenda
5. **BUDGET REPORTS**
6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - A. Special Recognitions
 1. Elementary Character Trait Awards
 2. Student of the Month
7. **NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A. Approval of Consent Agenda Items **3**
 - B. Special Recognition Resolution Approvals
 1. Elementary Character Trait Awards **4**
 2. Middle School **5**
 3. High School **6**
 - C. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes **7**
 - D. Retirement Resolution - Waterson - Elementary Teacher **14**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Points of Pride
 - B. Discussion and Appointment of 2026 Standing Committee Memberships **15**
 - C. 2026-27 School District Calendar **16**
 - D. Professional Development Planning Committee **18**
 - E. Finance Committee Meeting - 02.13.26 **20**
 - F. Audit Approval for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - **Roll Call Vote** **21**
 - G. Operating Millage Renewal - **Roll Call Vote** **22**
 - H. MASB Region 6 Election - **Roll Call Vote** **28**
 - I. Neola Policy - 1st Reading **44**
9. **FORUM TIME**
10. **CLOSED SESSION** - to consider a periodic personnel evaluation as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8(a) - **Roll Call Vote** **53**
11. **OPEN SESSION** **54**
 - A. Superintendent Contract Resolution **55**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Approval of Agenda

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the agenda as presented."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: New Business Consent Agenda Items

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves consent agenda items: 7. A, B, C, and D."

Caring Student of the Month

Elementary 2025-2026

Austin Johnson Kindergarten	Austin shows kindness and caring to all those around him. He is always willing to lend a helping hand. Austin is great at giving compliments and making his teachers and friends feel special. ~ Mrs. Taylor
Paxton Martin 2nd grade	I chose Paxton Martin for the caring student of the month in 2nd grade. All month long (and truly, every month), Paxton has shown what it means to be caring, thoughtful, and supportive. He is a student I can always count on to encourage his peers in reading and math. He offers uplifting words and genuine support. He celebrates the successes of others, noticing the big and small wins happening around the classroom. If he sees a classmate struggling, he is the first to step in with a helping hand. If someone is left out, Paxton is quick to invite them to join and feel included. Paxton also takes time to recognize the amazing things his peers do, writing shout-outs that brighten their day. His kindness extends to me as his teacher as well—his encouraging notes always bring a smile. Everyone should be lucky enough to have a student like Paxton. His caring heart makes our classroom a better place every single day. ~ Mrs. Coombs
Jobi Herson 4th grade	Jobi has a huge heart that can brighten even the darkest of days. Jobi cares about how she makes others feel. She never brings people down and is always looking for ways she can fill someone's bucket. If Jobi sees another student playing alone on the playground, she will ask them to play with her. If a student falls and needs help getting up, she will be there. Did you know it's possible to be caring toward your very own brain? That's right, Jobi even cares how she speaks to herself. If she doesn't get an answer correct right away, she uses positive self-talk and the power of "yet" instead of telling herself she can't do it. Way to go Jobi! ~ Mrs. Withrow
Kinzley Hammond 1st grade	Kinzley is a wonderfully caring student who brings kindness to our classroom every day. She checks in on friends, includes anyone who may be alone, and is always willing to share whatever she has. Her thoughtful nature shines through in the sweet hugs she offers to teachers and classmates just because. Kinzley's constant kindness makes her an excellent choice for Caring Student of the Month. ~ Mrs. Ludwig
Donald Taylor 3rd grade	Donald is a kid who will always make sure everyone around him is good. He will check in on his friends throughout the day and help anyone who needs it. If you are sad, Donald will do what he can to cheer you up. ~ Miss Walley

Honesty Student of the Month

Robert (Bobby) Mack 4th grade	Bobby has exhibited honesty in many ways already this school year. He has served as lunch safety and is always honest about students' behavior. He also is sincere when interacting with his peers. I can always count on Bobby to make the right choices and to always give me an honest answer. Way to go Bobby! ~Mrs. Waterson
Alex Servello 2nd grade	I'm nominating Alex Servello because he is someone who consistently shows honesty both inside and outside of our classroom. He doesn't cheat or lie and he always tries to do the right thing. He is truthful about his behavior and takes responsibility for his actions even when it's hard. Being honest makes our school a better place. Thanks for being honest and kind every day, Alex! ~Mrs. Mills
Silas VanderVeen Kindergarten	Silas is a wonderful example of an honest student and I can count on him to make great choices! Silas is honest, even when it's hard, returns lost items, and is quick to apologize for mistakes when needed. Silas displays honesty in every aspect of his day here at Lawton Elementary. ~Mrs. Martin
Reina Rodriguez 3rd grade	Reina is a superb example of what the trait of honesty means. Being honest is not always easy, but it is always the right decision. Reina exemplifies honesty in the hard times and can be counted on by her teachers and peers to tell the truth. ~Mr. Weurding
Eleanor Dewey 1st grade	Eleanor Dewey is our first grade honesty student of the month. I appreciate that I can count on Eleanor to be honest in all situations, even when it is uncomfortable and the outcome could be serving a consequence. I can count on Eleanor to be honest in all situations. I find her to be reliable, dependable and a student of integrity. ~Mrs. Prior

January 2026 Student of the Month

To: Board of Education
From: David Williams
Date: February 16, 2026
Re: Middle School Resolutions

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education extends its congratulations to the following students for being Students of the Month for the month of January: Fifth Grade Eleanor Baldus, Sixth Grade Elizabeth Penny, Seventh Grade Tessa Wright, and Eighth Grade Gaige Whipple.”

Eleanor Baldus; Daughter of Jonathan and Dorothy Baldus

Ellie is an outstanding individual! Ellie is that student of the month for 5th Grade. She puts time and effort into her studies and she is curious to learn. She works very hard at all that she does and takes the time to help peers giving patience and kindness. Ellie is not only patient and kind to her peers, but she is helpful as well. She has shown so much personal growth this year by gaining confidence and showing such understanding with our ROAR expectations. Ellie will be a force to reckon with in the years to come and she represents well what we look for in receiving the title: The Student of the Month!

Elizabeth Penny; Daughter of Kayleigh Overhuel

The 6th grade staff is pleased to announce their Student of the Month selection for the month of January is Elizabeth Penny. Elizabeth consistently demonstrates excellence in all subject areas. She approaches every task and challenge with focus, perseverance, and a strong problem-solving mindset. She is highly responsible, always prepared for class, and takes pride in completing her work accurately and on time. Elizabeth is a true hard worker who never gives up, even when tasks are challenging. Her respectful attitude toward teachers and classmates helps create a positive learning environment for everyone.

Tessa Wright; Daughter of Anthony and Kathleen Wright

The 7th grade Student of the Month is Tessa Wright. Tessa is a terrific student to have in class. She works hard on every assignment and strives to learn. She’s great about getting help if she ever needs it and is also willing to help others. Tessa participates in class nicely and always follows expectations. Besides being an amazing student, Tessa also has a very nice personality. She is sweet, handles challenges well, and has a great sense of humor. Tessa is trustworthy, respectful, and always has a positive attitude.

Gaige Whipple; Son of Kyle and Jessica Whipple

The 8th grade teachers have chosen Gaige Whipple as our January Student of the Month! Gaige has grown into a great leader and has made massive gains throughout his middle school career. Gaige is kind and respectful to staff and students alike and is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone that asks. He is one of the most hardworking students at our school. Gaige truly sets a great example for other students to follow and we are grateful to have him on our 8th grade team!

To: Board of Education
From: Jon Waldron
Date: February 16 , 2026
Re: High School Resolutions

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education extends its congratulations to the following students for being Students of the Month.

Carley Tanis, daughter of Christina Tanis and Ryan Tanis:

One Teacher wrote: brings sincere effort to our training work in the weight room and she has the data to back that up.

She is also a great teacher/leader for her peers and assists as a mentor on Thursdays in the elementary school.

She also brings positive energy and sound mindsets to class each day.

Rafael Solis, son of Maria and Porfirio Solis:

One Teacher wrote: He brings sincere effort to our training work in the weight room and has the data to back that up.

He is also a great teacher/leader for his peers and assists as a mentor on Thursdays in elementary school.

He brings positive energy and sound mindsets to class each day.



LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Lawton Community Schools Board of Education Minutes of the Organizational Meeting on January 5, 2026 High School Board Room

AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the Board of Education of Lawton Community Schools was held Monday, January 5, 2026 beginning at 6:45pm in the HIGH SCHOOL BOARD ROOM.

- Board members present: Steve Carroll, Eric Smith, Bryan Cronenwett, Larissa Hunt, Walter Hitchcock, Nate Pursley, Matt Riggs
- Board members absent: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during forum time.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – done during Organizational Meeting

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Hitchcock

Support: Hunt

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the agenda as presented.”

4. **2026 ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS**

- Superintendent Bandfield entertained nominations for the office of President. Bryan Cronenwett nominated Steve Carroll. Larissa Hunt nominated Larissa Hunt. Eric Smith nominated Eric Smith. Having no further nominations, nominations were closed. A vote by ballot was done. Hitchcock voted for Carroll, Carroll voted for Carroll, Cronenwett voted for Carroll, Hunt voted for Hunt, Pursley voted for Smith, Riggs voted for Carroll, Smith voted for Smith. Steve Carroll receive the majority vote.
- Chair of the meeting was turned over to President Carroll.
- President Carroll entertained nominations for the office of Vice President. Matt Riggs nominated Eric Smith. Having no further nominations, nominations were closed.
- President Carroll entertained nominations for the office of Treasurer. Walter Hitchcock nominated Bryan Cronenwett. Having no further nominations, nominations were closed.
- President Carroll entertained nominations for the office of Secretary. Walter Hitchcock nominated Larissa Hunt. Having no further nominations, nominations were closed.

5. **DISCUSSION AND APPOINTMENT OF 2026 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Hitchcock – proposed that new President discuss this during February meeting

The following committee assignments were established:

- Facilities, Athletics & Student Activities Committee

- Matt Riggs—Chair
- Bryan Cronenwett
- Eric Smith
- Curriculum Committee
- Eric Smith—Chair
- Larissa Hunt
- Nate Pursley
- Evaluation Committee
- Larissa Hunt—Chair
- Nate Pursley
- Steve Carroll
- Negotiations Committee
- Steve Carroll—Chair
- Bryan Cronenwett
- Walter Hitchcock
- Finance Committee
- Steve Carroll—Chair
- Bryan Cronenwett
- Matt Riggs

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES FOR 2026 (CALENDAR YEAR) AND JANUARY 2027 ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Motion: Riggs

Support: Smith

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the meeting dates as presented.”

The following dates are being recommended for 2026 and January 2027 Lawton Community Schools Board of Education meetings.

The dates are designated as regular meetings or work sessions of the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education. Regular meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of each month, with the exception of the January 2027 Organizational Meeting. Regular meetings to commence at 7:00pm. Work sessions to commence as indicated.

FEBRUARY 16, 2026

MARCH 7, 2026 – Work Session 8:00am

MARCH 16, 2026

APRIL 20, 2026

MAY 18, 2026 – Work Session at 6:00pm followed by Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

JUNE 15, 2026

JULY 20, 2026

AUGUST 17, 2026 – Work Session at 6:00pm followed by Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

OCTOBER 19, 2026

NOVEMBER 16, 2026 – Work Session at 6:00pm followed by Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

DECEMBER 21, 2026

JANUARY 11, 2027 – Organizational Meeting at 6:45pm followed by Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

7. APPOINTMENT OF LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS

- The School Code of 1976 (as amended) provides that, "The secretary of a school district shall be the chief election officer of the respective district with authority to delegate election duties to a member of the district's administrative staff." (380.1001(2))
- Appointment - School Elections Administrator
Recommendation: "I, Larissa Hunt, Secretary of the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education, do hereby appoint the Superintendent and Administrative Assistant to perform the regular duties of the secretary in the administration of all school elections in the district."
- Superintendent Bandfield and Karen Carpenter took the following Oath of Office: "I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the election duties of the Secretary of the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education in all school district elections to the best of my ability."

8. APPOINT 2026 BANKING DEPOSITORIES - HUNTINGTON BANK AND MICHIGAN CLASS - Roll Call Vote

Motion: Cronenwett

Support: Riggs

Carried: 7-0

Ayes: Hitchcock, Carroll, Cronenwett, Hunt, Pursley, Riggs, Smith

Nays: None

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the use of Huntington Bank and Michigan Class as depositories for Lawton Community Schools for 2026."

9. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OFFICER AND ACH TRANSACTIONS – Roll Call Vote

Motion: Pursley

Support: Smith

Carried: 7-0

Ayes: Carroll, Smith, Cronenwett, Hunt, Hitchcock, Pursley, Riggs

Nays: None

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the electronic transfer officer and ACH transaction resolution as presented."

10. FORUM TIME

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Submitted by: _____
Larissa Hunt, Lawton Community Schools Board of Education Secretary



LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Lawton Community Schools Board of Education Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 5, 2026 High School Board Room

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of Lawton Community Schools was held Monday, January 5, 2026 beginning at 7:00pm in the HIGH SCHOOL BOARD ROOM.

- Board members present: Steve Carroll, Eric Smith, Bryan Cronenwett, Larissa Hunt, Walter Hitchcock, Nate Pursley, Matt Riggs
- Board members absent: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during forum time.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Cronenwett

Support: Riggs

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the agenda as presented.”

4. **FORUM TIME** - Comments specific to meeting agenda

5. **BUDGET REPORTS**

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. Special Recognitions

1. Student of the Month

2. Board of Education Recognition Month

7. **NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion: Smith

Support: Cronenwett

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves consent agenda items: A, B, and C.”

B. Special Recognition Resolution Approvals

1. Middle School

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education extends its congratulations to the following students for being Students of the Month for the month of

December: Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade Malachi Wold, Seventh Grade Amelia Christiani, and Eighth Grade Eve Martini.”

5th Grade Student of the Month

Malachi Wold; Son of Thomas Wold and Angel Nesbitt

Malachi embodies the qualities of a remarkable student: curiosity, discipline and engagement. For these reasons, it is our privilege to select Malachi Wold as our December Student of the Month.

Malachi Wold is an outstanding student with an amazing work ethic. He has shown himself to be an honest, hardworking, and determined young man. He is usually the first student in the room and one of the last to leave. Malachi asks tough, insightful questions, and he consistently gives his best effort on homework and tests. He actively participates in group discussions, offering insights that encourage his classmates to think critically and collaborate effectively.

Amelia Christiani; Daughter of Trent and Bianca Cristiani

Amelia exemplifies the characteristics of an outstanding 7th Grade December student of the month through her enthusiasm, responsibility, leadership, and engagement.

Amelia consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication and a strong commitment to her learning. She is a reliable, motivated, and focused student who takes pride in her work. She asks thoughtful, challenging questions and approaches assignments and assessments with care and determination. In addition to her academic strengths, Amelia is a natural leader in the classroom. She is always willing to help classmates, whether by explaining concepts, offering encouragement, or guiding group work. Her positive attitude and willingness to support others contribute to a respectful and collaborative learning environment.

Evelina Martini; Daughter of Tami Martini

For the month of December, the 8th grade team would like to nominate Eve Martini for student of the month. Eve gives her best effort on every task given to her. She is incredibly kind to staff and peers, demonstrating the ROAR principals on a daily basis. She has made great improvements with her learning, and she shows a great amount of courage and grit when challenged with something difficult. We are all very proud of the work and attitude she brings to Lawton Middle School!

C. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.”

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Points of Pride

Cronenwett – proud of Hitchcock dedicating 55 years to Lawton

Bandfield – Grow Your Own Program, will have 6-7 certified teachers by end of year

B. Facilities, Athletics & Student Activities Committee Meeting – 12.22.25

1. Committee: Facilities, Athletics, Student Activities

Date of Meeting: 12.22.25 @ 9am

Committee Members attending: Cronenwett, Riggs, Smith

Administrator(s) attending: Bandfield,

Type of committee report:

X Reporting/updating

Recommending board action

Brief background of committee issues/area reporting:

The committee met on Monday 12.22 with representatives from Triangle and TMP to discuss the Facility Assessment process.

The committee talked through some items that have been discussed among the committee members in the past for potential future projects to share their thoughts with the representatives from Triangle and TMP.

The plan remains to have a Facility Assessment completed to present to the BOE in our March work session, with the potential of the FASA committee meeting with Triangle prior to go over the report.

CHAIR DOES NOT NEED TO READ THE FOLLOWING BOARD ACTIONS AS THEY WILL BE RESOLUTIONS AFTER THE COMMITTEE REPORT

9. **FORUM TIME**

Kuhlmann – teacher at Lawton Middle School, US Marine, Risky Words survey was conducted, at least 40% hear risky words on a daily basis, concerned on where they hear it and what we can do to stop it; silence signals acceptance and he will not stay quiet and will defend his students' rights; we need to build our student culture around standing up for what's right

Allison Cirino – has teaching degree, students in the district, her 10-year old son get slurs thrown at him, vulnerable students who come to us get picked on every day; supports Kuhlmann and wants us to take into consideration suicide rates

Cronenwett – where are we with the Audit; Bandfield – we are waiting on the auditors, they have everything they need

Cronenwett – did we get the remaining money owed from embezzlement; Bandfield – the courts are handling that

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Submitted by: _____

Larissa Hunt, Lawton Community Schools Board of Education Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the January 5, 2026 Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes as presented."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution – Waterson – Elementary Teacher

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Lisa Waterson as an Elementary Teacher effective January 30, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Standing Committee Membership

It is the current practice of this Board of Education to review membership on standing committees at the January Organizational meeting. The committee structure of the Board is outlined in Policy #0155 which states:

The President is authorized to appoint, as soon after the organizational meeting as practicable, members of the Board to standing committees where they shall serve a term of one (1) year.....

A member may request (or refuse) appointment to a committee. Refusal to serve on any one committee shall not be grounds for failure to appoint a member to another committee.....

Each Board committee shall be convened by a chairperson who shall report for the committee and shall be appointed by the President.

Standing Committees include:

- Facilities, Athletics & Student Activities Committee
Matt Riggs – Chair
Bryan Cronenwett
Eric Smith
- Curriculum Committee
Eric Smith - Chair
Larissa Hunt
Nate Pursley
- Evaluation Committee
Larissa Hunt – Chair
Nate Pursley
Steve Carroll
- Negotiations Committee
Steve Carroll – Chair
Bryan Cronenwett
Wally Hitchcock
- Finance Committee
Steve Carroll – Chair
Bryan Cronenwett
Matt Riggs

2026-2027 LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CALENDAR												
Proposed		Student Days	Cumulative Student Days	Teacher Days	Cumulative Teacher Days	Half Days	TRI	PD Hrs	CONF			
8/17-8/21	8/18 Teacher PD, 8/20 All Staff Report	0	0	2	2			6				
8/24-8/28	8/24 First day all students - Full day	5	5	5	7							
8/31-9/4	9/4 No School	4	9	4	11							
9/7-9/11	9/7 No School - Labor Day	4	13	4	15							
9/14-9/18		5	18	5	20							
9/21-9/25		5	23	5	25							
9/28-10/2		5	28	5	30							
10/5-10/9	10/6 Conferences (HS/MS/LAAC 4-7, ES 4:30-8), 10/7 Conferences (HS / MS 4-7, ES 4:30-8) 10/9 - No School Fall Break	4	32	4	34					HS/MS 6 ES 7	LAAC 3	
10/12-10/16	10/12 Teacher PD - No students	5	37	5	39			6				
10/19-10/23		5	42	5	44							
10/26-10/30		5	47	5	49							
11/2-11/6		5	52	5	54							
11/9-11/13	11/12 - Full Day (HS Exams), 11/13 Students 1/2 Day AM (HS Exams) - Records PM	5	57	5	59	1	57					
11/16-11/20	Start of 2nd Trimester (HS / MS)	5	62	5	64							
11/23-11/27	11/25 No School Conf. Comp. Day, 11/26 & 11/27 No School Thanksgiving Break	2	64	3	67							
11/30-12/4	12/1 Conferences (LAAC 3-6)	5	69	5	72						LAAC 3	
12/7-12/11		5	74	5	77							
12/14-12/18		5	79	5	82							
12/21-12/25	Christmas Break - No School	0	79	0	82							
12/28-1/1	Christmas Break - No School	0	79	0	82							
1/4-1/8		5	84	5	87							
1/11-1/15	1/14 Full Day - Conferences (HS / MS 4-7) 1/15 Students 1/2 Day AM - Conferences PM (HS/MS/LAAC 1-3 ES at-risk Conf. 1-3)	5	89	5	92	1				HS/MS 5 ES 2	LAAC 2	
1/18-1/22	1/18 Teacher PD - No students	5	94	5	97			6				
1/25-1/29		5	99	5	102							
2/1-2/5		5	104	5	107			6				
2/8-2/12	2/12 Teachers PD - No students	5	109	5	112							
2/15-2/19	2/15 No School Mid-Winter Break (Potential Make Up Day)	4	113	4	116							
2/22-2/26		5	118	5	121							
3/1-3/5	3/3 - Full Day (HS Exams), 3/4 - Students 1/2 Day AM (HS Exams) - Records PM 3/5 Teacher PD - No students	5	123	5	126	1	66	6				
3/8-3/12	Start of 3rd Trimester	5	128	5	131							
3/15-3/19	3/16 - Conferences (ES 4:30-8, LAAC 3-6) 3/18 - Conferences (ES 4:30-8)	5	133	5	136					ES 7	LAAC 3	
3/22-3/26	3/26 No School Conference Comp. Day	4	137	5	141							
3/29-4/2	No School Spring Break	0	137	0	141							
4/5-4/9	4/6 State Assessments Begin (tentative)	5	142	5	146							
4/12-4/16	4/15 - Full Day - Conferences (HS/MS/LAAC 4-7) 4/16 Students 1/2 Day AM - Conferences PM (HS/MS/LAAC 1-3)	5	147	5	151	1				HS/MS 5	LAAC 5	
4/19-4/23		5	152	5	156							
4/26-4/30		5	157	5	161							
5/3-5/7		5	162	5	166							
5/10-5/14		5	167	5	171							
5/17-5/21		5	172	5	176							
5/24-5/28	5/24 No School Memorial Day , 5/28 Graduation	4	176	4	180							
5/31-6/4	6/2 Students 1/2 Day AM (HS Exams) / Records PM 6/3 Students 1/2 Day AM (HS Exam) - Records PM 6/4 No School - Potential Make Up Days 6/4, 6/7-6/11	4	180	4	184	2	57					
		180		184		6	180	30				
Note:	To offset additional evening P/T conference time for elementary teachers the afternoon of 4.16 will be comp time.											

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
RE: Approval of 2026-27 District Calendar

The proposed calendar has been reviewed by the Administration and LEA leadership and is being presented to the Board for approval.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the 2026-27 school district calendar, including the use of professional development days to be used as instructional time, as presented.”

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Professional Development Planning Committee

The Professional Development Planning Committee includes:

- **Superintendent**
Ben Bandfield
- **Building Principals**
Jonathan Waldron
David Williams
Heather Olson
- **Curriculum Director**
Tamara Webster
- **High School Teachers (2)**
Tim Eastman
Mike Meyer
- **Middle School Teachers (1)**
Tina Oles
- **Elementary School Teachers (3)**
Dana Graff
Holli Smith
Meagan Visser
- **Special Education Teacher (1)**
Mike Armbruster

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
RE: Professional Development Planning Committee Resolution

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the Professional Development Planning Committee as presented.”



Committee Report Form

Committee: Finance

Date of Meeting: 2.13.26

Committee Members attending: Carroll, Cronenwett, Riggs

Administrator(s) attending: Bandfield, Watson

Type of committee report:

X	Reporting/updating
	Recommending board action

Brief background of committee issues/area reporting:

The committee met to discuss a few items on Monday 2.13

- Hungerford was at the meeting to present on the Audit.
- Initial conversations on Business Office Changes that will be continued
- Conversations around the Operating Millage and 27L(2)
- The Finance Committee will be scheduling another meeting in the near future to continue discussions.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
RE: 2023-24 Audit Approval

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the audit from Hungerford Nichols CPAs and Advisors, as it has been accepted by the Finance Committee. Be it further resolved that, General Fund Revenues were \$15,030,446, Expenditures were \$14,194,915, and Other Financing Uses were \$181,919, with a net change in fund balances of \$653,612 and an ending balance of \$6,310,332.”

2026 Operating Millage Renewal Information

We are currently on a 4 year cycle for renewing our Operating Millage that we are nearing the need to take it back to vote.

Some history and information

- This is a millage on non-homestead properties (business, vacation homes, rentals, etc).
- Based on state funding rules districts have to levy 18 mills to receive the full foundation allowance, and must pass the millage through the election process.
- The max that we (any district) can levy is 18 mills, but we currently have a millage of and operating millage of 18.1818, but still only levy 18 mills.
- I believe prior to our last renewal we had experienced a Headlee Rollback which caused the millage rate to decrease based on increased property values. The rollback lowered us to under 18 mills so we lost a bit of funding due to the rollback.
- During our renewal vote we added a “hedge” of I believe .5 (ish) to increase us back up to above 18 so we could receive the full foundation allowance.

We have some options of when, what, and how long.

WHEN:

The options presented by our Attorneys were May, August, and November. Here is a description of each

- **May** - This really isn't an option that we want and the filing deadline is pretty soon but based on the factors I am pretty confident that this was not for us. No real upside, huge downside namely it will be expensive (Around \$60,000) for us to even get it on the ballot since I was informed that there isn't anything else on the ballot (when I checked).
- **August** - Seems the most beneficial, and much cheaper than May. This wouldn't be our last chance so if for some reason it didn't pass we could go again in November. One consideration is that we won't have the “Millage Reduction Fraction” yet. What is the millage reduction fraction you ask...I am no expert but it sounds that if we were to get rolled back to let's say 17.9 and our ballot language says 18.18, our number isn't technically true. The attorney didn't have a great explanation of the implications here but it could mean that we would be subject to the lowered reduced number. The vote is August 4th so we would know the result by August 5th and if needed be able to get in the November election.
- **November** - This is a high turnout vote with all of what is getting voted on. Some may say that a large turnout would not be as favorable for school millage stuff but I am not sure if that is accurate. This would be the last opportunity to call it a renewal.

WHAT:

Thrun shared some potential ballot language to consider which are attached to this email.

- **Option 1** - Maintains the current 18.1818 rate. Though this could be rolled back before the August or November Election and we would likely end up under 18 mills relatively soon (not be fully funded).
- **Option 2** - Maintains 18.1818 + .5 Hedge. Again the 18.1818 number could be changed if we go prior to the Millage Reduction Fraction being out. The added hedge gives us a bit of a cushion to likely be above the 18mill threshold for the duration of the millage.
- **Option 3** - This is only available during the August election, and it is essentially asking voters for a whole new operating millage but couching it as a “replacement” for the existing operating millage that expires this year (per Thrun) .It sets a new millage at 19 (or a different number...18.5, 18.72 etc)

HOW LONG:

- Each of the options are for 4 year Millages as written, which is what we commonly do.
- It can be done for any period of time under 20 years.
- I believe the factors to consider are the Headlee Rollback, how often you want to pass it in a vote, what number of years the voters would be comfortable with.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION:

In the opinion of the Superintendent (and from a Lawyer that is reluctant to give advice) I believe that doing Option 3 and selecting whatever number the BOE feels comfortable with and going to vote in August makes the most sense. While I think it will pass, I don't like the idea of giving us a buffer election just in case. Option 3 takes away the millage reduction fraction factor so we will confidently know our millage rate going to vote.

DETAILS TO DECIDE

- **When will we take this to Vote?**
- **What option do we like AND what end Millage Rate are we seeking?**
- **What period of time do we want it to cover? (Historically we have done 4 years)**

This will be added to our February BOE meeting for conversation and we have some time as the deadline to get on the August ballot is May 12 but it would be nice to have a comfortable amount of time to prepare. November Ballot Deadline (Aug 11th).

Please let me know if you have any questions that you want answers for going into the conversation at the next BOE meeting as a call to Thrun will likely be needed despite my recent re-learning of the operating millage complexities.

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18.1818 mills (\$18.1818 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Lawton Community Schools, Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 4 years, 2027 to 2030, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2027 is approximately \$_____ (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy)?

Approved: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: The above ballot proposition language is intended for review and discussion purposes only. Please review the language and, if it meets with your approval, complete the dollar figure, initial and date where indicated above, and either (a) scan and e-mail this document to Ryan Nicholson at rnicholson@thrunlaw.com and Katrina Hankamp at khankamp@thrunlaw.com or (b) fax it to Ryan Nicholson at fax# (517) 484-0041. We will then prepare and send to you the resolution that is legally required for your school board to properly approve the ballot proposition language.

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Lawton Community Schools, Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties, Michigan, be renewed by 18.1818 mills (\$18.1818 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2027 to 2030, inclusive, and also be increased by .5 mill (\$.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2027 to 2030, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2027 is approximately \$_____ (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 levy and the addition of millage which will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

Approved: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: The above ballot proposition language is intended for review and discussion purposes only. Please review the language and, if it meets with your approval, complete the dollar figure, initial and date where indicated above, and either (a) scan and e-mail this document to Ryan Nicholson at rnicholson@thrunlaw.com and Katrina Hankamp at khankamp@thrunlaw.com or (b) fax it to Ryan Nicholson at fax# (517) 484-0041. We will then prepare and send to you the resolution that is legally required for your school board to properly approve the ballot proposition language.

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will replace expiring millage and allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Lawton Community Schools, Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties, Michigan, be increased by 19 mills (\$19.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2027 to 2030, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2027 is approximately \$_____ (this millage replaces millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy)?

Approved: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: The above ballot proposition language is intended for review and discussion purposes only. Please review the language and, if it meets with your approval, complete the dollar figure, initial and date where indicated above, and either (a) scan and e-mail this document to Ryan Nicholson at rnicholson@thrunlaw.com and Katrina Hankamp at khankamp@thrunlaw.com or (b) fax it to Ryan Nicholson at fax# (517) 484-0041. We will then prepare and send to you the resolution that is legally required for your school board to properly approve the ballot proposition language.

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Operating Millage Renewal Resolution

Per the District's request, there are three proposals for the Operating Millage Renewal:

Option 1: This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy.

Option 2: This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the stator rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Option 3: This proposal will replace expiring millage and allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts Option __ of the Operating Millage Proposals _____."



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

A large, dark blue circular graphic with a white border. At the top, there are three white stars of varying sizes. Below the stars, the text "BOARD of DIRECTORS ELECTIONS" is written in white, with "of" in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom of the circle, the year "2026" is displayed in white text on a brown rectangular background.

★ ★ ★
BOARD *of* DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
2026

MASB Bylaws – Article IV – Membership

Section 2. Active Members. The board of education of any public school district in Michigan may become an active member of the Association. Active members of the Association shall be divided into eight regions. The regions shall be designated according to intermediate school district boundaries. The regions shall be as follows:

Region 1. Copper Country ISD, Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, Dickinson-Iron ISD, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD, Marquette-Alger RESA and Menominee County ISD.

Region 2. Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD, Charlevoix- Emmet ISD, Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD, COOR ISD, Iosco RESA, Manistee ISD, Northwest Education Services and Wexford-Missaukee ISD.

Region 3. Ionia County ISD, Kent ISD, Mecosta-Osceola ISD, Montcalm Area ISD, Muskegon Area ISD, Newaygo County RESA, Ottawa Area ISD and West Shore ESD.

Region 4. Bay-Arenac ISD, Clare-Gladwin RESD, Clinton County RESA, Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Midland County ESA, Saginaw ISD and Shiawassee RESD.

Region 5. Genesee ISD, Huron ISD, Lapeer County ISD, Sanilac ISD, St. Clair County RESA and Tuscola ISD.

Region 6. Allegan Area ESA, Barry ISD, Berrien RESA, Branch ISD, Calhoun ISD, Heritage Southwest ISD, Kalamazoo RESA, St. Joseph County ISD and Van Buren ISD.

Region 7. Eaton RESA, Hillsdale County ISD, Ingham ISD, Jackson County ISD, Lenawee ISD, Livingston ESA, Monroe County ISD and Washtenaw ISD.

Region 8. Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools and Wayne RESA.

Active members shall also be divided into the following seven groups based on pupil membership.

Group I All intermediate districts;

Group II School districts with a pupil membership of 0 - 1,400;

Group III School districts with a pupil membership of 1,401 - 2,500;

Group IV School districts with a pupil membership of 2,501 - 5,000;

Group V School districts with a pupil membership of 5,001 - 11,000;

Group VI School districts with a pupil membership of 11,001 - 40,000; and

Group VII School districts with a pupil membership more than 40,000.

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Note: Incumbents are **bolded**

Board of Directors' Elections – Candidate Information and Email Voting Procedures

This year, six seats on the MASB Board of Directors are up for election.

The MASB Board of Directors is comprised of 23 members, including three at-large directors. Sixteen directors shall be elected from the eight regions, with two elected from each region; and one director per group shall be elected from Groups V, VI and VII. Directors are elected by active member school boards and, each year, several seats are up for election. The MASB President will nominate a member to serve as an at-large director, subject to Board approval.

Board Limitations:

Article VIII, Section 6 of the MASB Bylaws permits only one director to be elected or appointed from any one local or intermediate school district board.

According to MASB Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8, if any nomination for the Board of Directors is unopposed, the Board of Directors shall declare the unopposed candidate elected without conducting an election for the uncontested group or region.

This year, the following seats on the MASB Board are up for election (one seat each, three-year terms unless otherwise noted): Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. If you're unsure of your district's region or group, please see the list on page 2.

- **Region 2 will continue to be represented by Kenneth Stahl, McBain Rural Agricultural School, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 3 will continue to be represented by Jill Fennessy, Tri County Area Schools, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 4 will continue to be represented by Matthew Showalter, Gratiot-Isabella ISD, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**

Voting in Regions 1, 5 and 6 will take place via an online ballot. No local district/ISD funds can be used to campaign for anyone running for a seat. To help your board make an informed decision, the following pages contain background information and statements from each of the candidates.

Each district received ONE ballot, which was emailed to the superintendent secretary on record with MASB on **Friday, Jan. 23, 2026**. These ballots **CANNOT** be forwarded to anyone else. Once your board makes a decision on which candidate it wishes to vote for, please convey this information to your superintendent secretary.

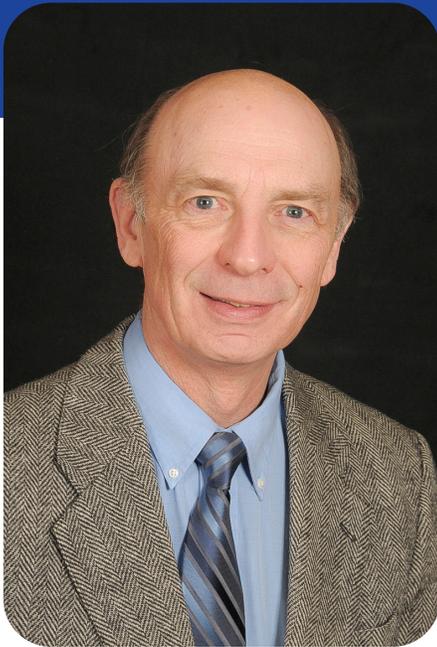
Completed ballots must be cast and confirmed by the superintendent secretary by **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.

Unofficial election results will be available by calling 517.327.5915 after 2 p.m. on the deadline date. They will also be sent out via email that afternoon. Official results will be approved at the March 20, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting, which newly elected directors should plan to attend.

To summarize:

- Ballot deadline is **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.
- MASB would like to remind all candidates for the MASB Board of Directors that no school district funds can be used for campaigning during the election. This rule prohibits a candidate from using their school district email account to send messages to other school board members. Therefore, a personal email account must be used for campaigning purposes when running for the MASB Board of Directors. If you have any questions about what may or may not constitute an expenditure of school district funds, please contact MASB's Legal Counsel **Brad Banasik, J.D.**, at **bbanasik@masb.org** or **517.327.5929**.
- An electronic file containing the physical addresses and email addresses for the voting group or region shall be made available to each candidate running for election to the board of directors. The revokable license to use the addresses shall be limited to contacting school board members to share information about the MASB Board of Directors' election.
- Have questions? Contact **Brooke Wooley** at **517.327.5915** or **bwooley@masb.org**.

Region 1 (Three-Year Term)



Brad Baltensperger INCUMBENT

Houghton-Portage Township Schools, Houghton County

**Time served
on this board:**

38 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary,
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

President's Award of Recognition

Election Statement:

The Michigan Association of School Boards is a leading voice for public education in Michigan. It provides leadership development services for school board members across the state so they can do their jobs. MASB also brings the concerns of school boards to the legislature and the media. The Board of Directors helps guide these activities.

Upper Peninsula schools struggle with many challenges—high transportation costs, teacher shortages, unpredictable funding, and multiple issues of particular concern to small and rural school districts. MASB is THE critical resource helping board members find solutions. I am proud that the organization has undertaken several important initiatives to assist UP board members in their leadership roles, including a wide range of online courses, incentives for participation in MASB events, and the Upper Peninsula Advocacy Summit this fall in Marquette.

I have served on the Houghton-Portage Township School Board for a number of years. I also helped establish the Copper Country Association of School Boards, so that area board members would have opportunities to celebrate public education and to discuss issues of mutual concern with one another. MASB is committed to strategies and policies that support student learning and help board members govern wisely to enable all students to succeed. If re-elected to the MASB Board of Directors, I will continue to speak up for the needs of UP schools so we can all respond to the challenges of our local communities in providing excellent education for our students.

Region 1 (Three-Year Term)



JJ Johnson-Reeves

Escanaba Area Public Schools, Delta County

**Time served
on this board:**

3 years

Offices held:

Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Leadership Certification

Election Statement:

Michigan’s public schools stand at a pivotal moment as districts respond to evolving student needs, workforce demands, and community expectations. I believe deeply that public education is the foundation of a thriving and equitable society. I am committed to ensuring that every district—large or small, rural or urban—has the support, resources, and vision necessary to help students succeed. This includes strengthening the systems that serve students, empowering the educators who lead classrooms, and equipping school boards with the tools, training, and advocacy needed for effective governance.

My professional background and board service have prepared me to contribute meaningfully at the statewide level as a member of the MASB Board of Directors. As the owner of a small personal-lines insurance agency serving the educational community, I have developed strong experience in budgeting, policy and procedure development, risk management, and community-centered leadership. In addition, my service as Secretary of the Escanaba Area Public Schools Board of Education has reinforced the importance of sound governance, transparency, and trust-building with families and stakeholders. These roles have strengthened my ability to listen thoughtfully, collaborate across differing perspectives, and make decisions grounded in both data and compassion—always keeping students at the center of the work. I bring a leadership mindset that is both pragmatic and aspirational, rooted in real-world experience and driven by a belief that our systems can and must improve.

The challenges facing public education in Michigan are well known: recruiting and retaining exceptional educators, addressing student mental health needs, ensuring equitable and sustainable funding, and preparing students for a rapidly changing economy. MASB plays a vital role in helping districts meet these challenges through high-quality governance training, strong legislative advocacy, and a commitment to continuous improvement. I am seeking a seat on the MASB Board of Directors to help strengthen the partnership between local boards and the statewide organization that supports them. I will bring a steady, solutions-focused voice dedicated to elevating board governance, championing public education, and ensuring that MASB remains a trusted and effective resource for every district in Michigan. It would be an honor to serve and advance MASB’s mission on behalf of Michigan’s students, families, and communities. Our students deserve nothing less than our most courageous thinking and our most determined actions.

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)



Richard Hill

Kearsley Community Schools, Genesee County

**Time served
on this board:**

30 years

**Time served on
another board:**

8 years

MASB Certification:

- Certified Boardmember Award
- Award of Merit
- Award of Distinction
- Master Boardmember
- Master Diamond
- Master Platinum
- President's Award of Recognition
- Community Relations Certification
- Data Skills Specialty Certification
- Finance Certification

Offices held:

President, Vice President,
Secretary and Treasurer

Election Statement:

For the past 30 years, I've had the opportunity to serve our local School District Board of Education, Kearsley Community Schools. After retiring from GM in April 2016, I ran and was elected to our Genesee County Intermediate School District Board of Education in 2017.

As a Board member, I'm able to work with Administration, Teachers, School Staff, Students, Parents, the community, and County to provide ongoing educational opportunities for all Students. When joining both Boards of Educations, my three goals are: provide a safe and healthy environment for all employees and students, work to drive continuous improvement with our student learning, and maintain a strong financial fund equity.

Much like our Administration and Teachers, I've been a big supporter of professional development. In 2021, I was recognized by the MASB Executive Director for achieving the MASB President Award of Recognition. I've decided to run for the MASB Board of Directors in 2026. I feel that with my experience and leadership acquired with GM and my School Board experience, I can provide value to the MASB Board of Directors. My style is simple; work cooperatively with my colleagues, listen to others, ask questions, review the data, and do what's best for our students and School Districts.

If any Board would like to meet with me, please call me. I am asking for your support to give me this opportunity. Thank You, Richard Hill

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)



James Johnson INCUMBENT

Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, Genesee County

**Time served
on this board:**

12 years

**Time served on
another board:**

5 years

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

President's Award of Recognition

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Offices held:

President, Vice President,
and Treasurer

Election Statement :

Greetings, fellow school board members, it was a pleasure and an honor to serve as your 2024–2025 State President. As your current Past President and Region 5 representative, I have embraced this role with dignity and honor, driven by an unwavering passion for the success of public education. As your Regional Director, I have served on and chaired the Government Relations committee, Resolutions and Bylaws committee and on various National School Board committees.

My leadership training, combined with years of professional and vocational experience, has prepared me to serve as your MASB Region 5 Director with focus, strength, and vision. As an Information Technology Director, I bring a unique ability to solve complex problems. A skillset that has proven invaluable in navigating the challenges facing public education today. Over the past few years, as a director, I have had challenges that cultivated new perspectives while yet remaining steadfast and resilient, ensuring that our collective voice grows stronger with every challenge. As your representative, I lead with professionalism, respect, and a spirit of collaboration. I believe in making collective progress not only effective but enjoyable. Together, we can continue strengthening your district where your student thrives, and every school board member feels empowered to lead with confidence.

As I converse nationwide on the challenges facing school boards everywhere, one truth stands out: the safety of our schools is not just a priority; it is a promise we must keep. Every child deserves to walk into a classroom feeling secure, supported, and ready to learn. In Michigan, that also includes access to clean, safe drinking water in every school. These are not luxuries; they are the foundations of a healthy learning environment. When students feel protected physically, mentally, and emotionally, they can unlock their full potential.

True board governance is not created in Lansing; it is shaped at the local board tables, where decisions directly impact students, educators, families, and communities. Therefore, I want to thank you for your leadership and fervent dedication to public education while being the voice for the children that you represent.

I respectfully request your support, and that of your board, by re-electing James Johnson as the Region 5 representative on the MASB Board of Directors, to ensure continued strong advocacy for your district. Together, we will succeed!

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



Charlie Fulbright INCUMBENT

Battle Creek Public Schools, Calhoun County

**Time served
on this board:**

7 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, and
Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Leadership Certification

Election Statement:

I am interested in being a Director of MASB for Region 6 because I believe public education is fundamental in our state and country. Especially in this last year, and the next three years, I feel it is important to have not only diversity on local and state boards, but strong leaders. I believe my experience and dedication are just that.

I have been on my local board for 7 years and on the MASB board for two years. During my time on my local board, I have been a Trustee, Treasurer, Vice President and President. I have continued my own personal learning from day one of being on the board, and I have achieved the Level 5 Master Diamond Award, as well as all five Specialty Certifications. I have also been a committee member of the Government Relations Committee and Resolutions and Bylaws Committee for MASB and in the 2025 Annual Leadership Conference I was a counter for the delegate assembly.

I am willing and able to step up when needed to better our public education community. I have attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) to expand my knowledge and growth to bring back tools and ideas for not only my local board, but MASB and our state. I feel I bring a perspective that no one else can being an out gay man. I would love to continue my advocacy, growth and leadership by being your Region 6 Director.

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



TiAnna Harrison

Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County

**Time served
on this board:**

12 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Election Statement :

My name is TiAnna Harrison, and I currently serve as Board President of Kalamazoo Public Schools. Since my appointment to the board in 2014 and reelection in 2020, I have served in every officer role, including Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

As a board leader in a diverse, urban district, I have worked alongside my colleagues to strengthen governance practices, ensure financial stability, advance equity-centered policies, and support student achievement and well-being. These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong, well-trained boards are essential to strong public schools.

I am deeply aligned with MASB's mission to promote effective governance, board member development and advocacy for local control. I believe school boards must be equipped with the tools, training and policy support needed to meet the unique needs of their communities while navigating complex statewide challenges. I am seeking a seat on the MASB Board of Directors to contribute my experience, collaborative leadership style and commitment to equity in support of school boards across Michigan. I am passionate about advancing policies that empower locally elected boards, support educators, and improve outcomes for all students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



Elizabeth O'Dell INCUMBENT

St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County

**Time served
on this board:**

28 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Election Statement:

The MASB is our collective voice on education at the state level, and it allows board members to be informed about educational issues. I think the Director for the Region's role is to ensure that our voice is heard as the MASB discusses issues and concerns.

I have been an active St. Joseph County ISD member for 28 years. I have held various positions, from member to president. Each position has allowed me to grow.

I have worked with the parent-teacher association, band, and athletic booster clubs. I have served on the special education advisory committee. I have enjoyed serving as a delegate to MASB membership meetings in my county. Through this process, I have learned what various boards are concerned about as they present resolutions and amendments to the Board of Directors, which has deepened my understanding of how our collective needs are connected.

My children and I are products of public education. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Ball State University and my graduate degree from Western Michigan University. I am not new to service, advocacy, and listening. I have and will continue to strive to assist others to make positive change. I am a retired CEO of St. Joseph County Community Mental Health, I use my time to volunteer in my church, for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, as a substitute teacher, as well as working with a variety of social action services through my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

After serving for one year, I am convinced that the position is to advocate for the needs of our small and large communities. I am a champion for public education, and with your vote, I can continue to serve this region at the next level.



The mission of the Michigan Association of School Boards is to provide high-quality educational leadership services for all Michigan boards of education, and to advocate for an equitable and exceptional public education for all students.

INFO@MASB.ORG | MASB.ORG | 517.327.5900

1001 Centennial Way, Suite 400 • Lansing, Michigan 48917-8249



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Online Voting: Enter Your Selections

Please mark your choices on the ballot below and click "Preview Ballot" when you are done.

Each district will receive ONE ballot, which has been emailed to you. Please do NOT forward this ballot to anyone else. Once your board decides on one candidate to vote for, please follow the step-by-step instructions to cast your vote.

Region 6 - Board of Director (Three-Year Term)

Please choose up to 1

Selections remaining: 1



Biography

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)

Charlie Fulbright

Battle Creek Public Schools, Calhoun County

Time served on this board: 7 years

Offices held: President, Vice President, and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Leadership Certification

Election Statement:

I am interested in being a Director of MASB for Region 6 because I believe public education is fundamental in our state, and country. Especially in this last year, and in the next 3 years, I feel it is important to not only have a diversity on local and state boards, but strong leaders. I believe my experience and dedication is just that. I have been on my local board for 7 years, and on the MASB board for 2. During my time on my local board I have been a Trustee, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. I have continued my own personal learning from day one of being on the board and have achieved I have achieved the Level 5 Master Diamond Award, as well as all 5 Specialty Certifications. Community Relations, Advocacy Skills, Finance, Data Skills, and Leadership. I have also been a committee member of the Government Relations Committee and Resolutions and Bylaws Committee for MASB and in the 2025 Annual Leadership Conference I was a counter for the delegate assembly. I am willing and able to step up when needed to better our public education community. I have attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) to expand my knowledge and growth to bring back tools and ideas for not only my local board, but MASB and our state. I feel I bring a perspective that no one else can being an out gay man. I would love to continue my advocacy, growth, and leadership by being your Region 6 Director.



Biography

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)

TiAnna Harrison

Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County

Time served on this board: 12 years

Offices held: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Election Statement:

My name is TiAnna Harrison, and I currently serve as Board President of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Since my appointment to the board in 2014 and reelection in 2020, I have served in every officer role, including Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

As a board leader in a diverse, urban district, I have worked alongside my colleagues to strengthen governance practices, ensure financial stability, advance equity-centered policies, and support student achievement and well-being.

These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong, welltrained boards are essential to strong public schools.

I am deeply aligned with MASB’s mission to promote effective governance, board member development, and advocacy for local control.

I believe school boards must be equipped with the tools, training, and policy support needed to meet the unique needs of their communities while navigating complex statewide challenges.

I am seeking a seat on the MASB Board of Directors to contribute my experience, collaborative leadership style, and commitment to equity in support of school boards across Michigan.

I am passionate about advancing policies that empower locally elected boards, support educators, and improve outcomes for all students.

Thank you for your consideration.



Biography

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)

Elizabeth O'Dell

St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County

Time served on this board: 28 years

Offices held: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Election Statement:

The MASB is our collective voice on education at the state level, and it allows board members to be informed about educational issues. I think the Director for the Region's role is to ensure that our voice is heard as the MASB discusses issues and concerns.

I have been an active St. Joseph County ISD member for 28 years. I have held various positions, from member to president. Each position has allowed me to grow.

I have worked with the parent-teacher association, band, and athletic booster clubs. I have served on the special education advisory committee. I have enjoyed serving as a delegate to MASB membership meetings in my county. Through this process, I have learned what various boards are concerned about as they present resolutions and amendments to the Board of Directors, which has deepened my understanding of how our collective needs are connected.

My children and I are products of public education. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Ball State University and my graduate degree from Western Michigan University. I am not new to service, advocacy, and listening. I have and will continue to strive to assist others to make positive change. I am a retired CEO of St. Joseph County Community Mental Health, I use my time to volunteer in my church, for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, as a substitute teacher, as well as working with a variety of social action services through my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

After serving for one year, I am convinced that the position is to advocate for the needs of our small and large communities. I am a champion for public education, and with your vote, I can continue to serve this region at the next level.

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: MASB Region 6 Election Resolution

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education supports XXX for MASB Region 6 Board of Directors."

Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
Title	Vol. 39, No. 2 - February 2025 Revised FOOD SERVICES
Code	po8500
Status	
Adopted	February 20, 1995
Last Revised	May 17, 2021

Revised Policy - Vol. 39, No. 2

8500 - FOOD SERVICES

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school facilities where space and facilities permit, and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of lunch for all students.

The Board shall also provide a breakfast program in accordance with procedures established by the Department of Education.

The food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, delivery, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages including, but not limited to, the current United States Department of Agriculture's ("USDA") school meal pattern requirements and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program.

Further, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the fiscal management of the program as well as all the requirements pertaining to food service hiring and food service manager/operator licensure and certification. In addition, as required by law, a food safety program based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point ("HACCP") system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service staff and other authorized persons.

The Board shall approve and implement nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the premises of its schools and shall specify the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold. In adopting such standards, the Board shall:

- A. consider the nutritional value of each food or beverage;
- B. consult with a dietitian licensed under R.C. Chapter 4759, a dietetic technician registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, or a school nutrition specialist certified or credentialed by the School Nutrition Association;
- C. consult and incorporate to the maximum extent possible the dietary guidelines for Americans jointly developed by the USDA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- D. consult and incorporate the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.

The District's food service program shall serve only food items and beverages determined by the Food Service Department to be in compliance with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. () Any competitive food items and beverages that are available for sale to students a la carte in the dining area between midnight and thirty (30) minutes following the end of the school day shall also comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may only be sold in accordance with Board Policy 8550 - Competitive Food Sales. Foods and beverages not associated with the food service program may be vended in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in Board Policy 8540 - Vending Machines.

The Superintendent will require that the food service program⁴⁴ serve foods in the schools of the District that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the food service program in accordance with the adopted nutrition standards and shall provide a report to the Board at one of its regular meetings, annually, regarding the District's compliance with the standards. () The Superintendent shall ensure that the District's vendors and/or food service management contractor is provided a copy of this policy and any implementing guidelines and that any pertinent agreements are consistent with this policy and any implementing guidelines.

No food or beverage may be sold on any school premises except in accordance with the standards approved by the Board.

Dietary Modifications

[DRAFTING NOTE: This section contains three (3) categories of circumstances in which a student may receive a modified meal. The first category, "Compliant Medical Documentation," is mandatory, whereas the second two (2) categories, i.e., "Noncompliant Medical Requests" and "Requests Not Based on a Medical Statement", are optional. The Board may choose either or neither of the two (2) optional categories.]

Modifications Based on Compliant Medical Documentation

An adult student or student's parent requesting special dietary accommodations for a student with a disability that restricts the diet must provide the Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a State authorized medical authority, which is a medical professional authorized in the State of Michigan to write prescriptions. The request must contain the following information:

- A. an explanation of how the student's physical or mental impairment restricts the diet;
- B. the food(s)/type(s) of foods to be avoided;
- C. the food(s)/type(s) of foods to be substituted; and
- D. additional pertinent information, if any, that will assist in accommodating the student's needs.

If a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs is incomplete, unclear, or lacks sufficient detail, the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator or Food Service Director shall request that the student or parent/guardian request that the medical authority supplement the response so that a safe meal can be provided.

A special dietary accommodation for a student who has a disability that restricts the student's diet must be supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, which should be submitted to the (x) Food Service Director who shall serve as the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator.

AJ Henderson ~~Bill Maury~~
269-624-7829
ahendersonbmaury@lawtoncs.org

~~() Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator. [END OF OPTIONS] [Insert name, address, phone, email address.]~~
[DRAFTING NOTE – at least one (1) person must be identified as responsible for coordinating compliance with disability-based dietary modifications per 7 C.F.R. Part 15b.6.]

A student with a disability may have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific instruction, services, or accommodation related to the student's nutritional needs. If a student's IEP or 504 plan contains the same information that is required on a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, then it is not necessary to obtain and submit a separate Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs.

The individual making an initial request for such substitutions must inform the Food Service Director or Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator that the student has a disability that restricts the student's diet. The School District will honor the request upon receipt of the required documentation from a State-authorized medical authority. If the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator is unable to grant a requested accommodation following receipt of the medical authority's statement, the student or parent shall be provided with an explanation of the basis for the decision. Compliant requests shall be immediately implemented.

Disability Accommodation Grievance Procedure

The following procedure is intended to provide prompt and equitable resolution to any concern or disagreement regarding the food service program's administration of meal modifications⁴⁵ made or requested on the basis of a student's disability. None of the procedures described in this policy section shall prevent a student or parent from pursuing a complaint with

any State or Federal agency, including the USDA, using the procedures described at the end of this policy.

- A. If an initial request for accommodation in the form of substituted meals is denied, the student or parent may request review of that decision by the Building Principal District's Compliance Coordinator Superintendent _____ **[OTHER] [END OF OPTIONS] [DRAFTING NOTE: The grievance procedure can be designed as appropriate for each District]** and shall provide any communications between the student or parent and food service officials concerning the accommodation request, any documentation provided by a medical authority, and any additional information the student or parent believes is pertinent to the decision. A review of the materials provided and of the initial decision shall be completed and a response provided to the student or parent as soon as practicable following receipt of the request for review. If the initial decision is reversed, including due to additional information provided on review, the dietary accommodations shall be implemented without delay. If the initial decision is affirmed, the decision is final the decision may be appealed to the Superintendent whose decision is final _____ **[OTHER] [END OF OPTIONS]**.
- B. Any other complaint or disagreement with the food service administration concerning implementation of special dietary accommodations based on a student's disability shall be presented to the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator. The student or parent shall specify the nature of the concern and any requested remedy in writing. The Coordinator shall promptly review the grievance and either contact the student or parent for any required clarification of the request or to seek to reach an agreement regarding how to best address the concern. If no agreement is reached, the Coordinator shall make a determination and notify the student or parent in writing as soon as practicable. If the grievance is affirmed in any respect, the Coordinator shall propose a plan for implementing appropriate remedial measures. If the student or parent is dissatisfied with the Coordinator's determination, the student or parent may submit a written request to the Building Principal or Superintendent for review. The administrator's determination shall be final.

[OPTIONAL PROVISION - for medical statements not compliant with 7 C.F.R. Part 15b]

~~[] Modifications Based on Noncompliant Medical Requests~~

~~On a case by case basis, substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for students who provide a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs, but which does not comply with the requirements above. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:~~

- ~~A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and~~
- ~~B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.~~

[END OF OPTION]

~~**[OPTIONAL PROVISION — Based on preferences with no medical documentation] [DRAFTING NOTE: If the Board chooses to include this category of modification, it must also choose among the options below.]**~~

~~**[] Modification Based on Student/Parental Preference**~~

~~When a request for a special dietary accommodation is not supported by an authorized Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs or included in a student's IEP or 504 plan, the School District cannot provide modified meals that are not in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Program requirements. However, the Board authorizes the following:~~

- ~~A. **Fluid Milk Substitution [DRAFTING NOTE: If selected, choose one (1) of the following two (2) options]**~~

~~The School District shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or a parent's preference for a fluid milk substitute if there is no Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs on file requiring such a substitute. However, the District will assist the student in choosing a reimbursable meal through offer versus serve ("OVS"). **[DRAFTING NOTE: This gives students the ability to decline some of the food options offered as part of the reimbursable meals. For example: five (5) components need to be offered and students need to take three (3) options. They can decline milk for example, and it is still a reimbursable meal. The intent is to give students a choice and avoid food waste. Schools have the ability whether or not they use OVS.]**~~

~~**[OR]**~~

~~The School District shall offer a Federally approved milk substitute with a written and signed request from a~~

parent that identifies the reason for the special dietary accommodation.

B. ~~(-) Religious Reason [DRAFTING NOTE: If selected, choose one (1) of the following two (2) options]~~

~~(-) The School District shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or parent's request for accommodations based on religious requests. However, the District will assist the student in choosing a reimbursable meal through OVS.~~

~~[OR]~~

~~(-) The School District will provide substitutions based on religious requests to any student, for any religious reason with a written and signed request by a parent that identifies the reason for the accommodation. A substitution for a religious request must meet USDA Child Nutrition Program meal pattern requirements.~~

C. ~~(-) General Dietary Preference [DRAFTING NOTE: If selected, choose one (1) of the following two (2) options]~~

~~(-) The School District shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or parent's general health, nutrition, or food preferences. However, the District will assist the student in choosing a reimbursable meal through OVS.~~

~~[OR]~~

~~(-) The School District will provide substitutions based on lifestyle preferences to any student with a written and signed request by a parent that identifies the reason for the accommodation. A substitution for a personal request must meet USDA Child Nutrition Program meal pattern requirements.~~

[END OF OPTIONS]

IMPLEMENTATION AND DISCONTINUATION

Review

Upon receipt of a request for a special dietary accommodation, the Food Service Director or Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator shall review the request to ensure it is supported as required by Federal law and District policy and if not, shall request additional or clarifying information from the student or parent making the request.

Implementation

When the need for a special dietary accommodation is supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a State-authorized medical authority, the District will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the student's disability. Following USDA Child Nutrition Program regulations, the School District may consider factors such as cost and efficiency and is not required to prepare a specific meal, provide a specific brand of food, or provide a meal beyond the meals provided to other students.

For students who have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific food-related accommodations, the School District shall provide the accommodation as required by law, seeking clarifying medical information, as necessary.

A special dietary request will be approved and implemented upon submission of a completed authorized Medical Statement.

Student Absence

If a student receiving a special dietary accommodation is absent or does not wish to participate in school lunch on a day an accommodation is planned, the student or parent shall contact the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator (Head Cook) by 9:00 a.m. **[or enter a time]** the same day.

Renewing A Special Dietary Request

An authorized Medical Statement does not need to be updated annually. However, the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator may annually seek clarification or updates on special dietary requests.

Discontinuation of a Special Dietary Request

A special dietary request or part of a request may be discontinued by a parent by submitting the request in writing to the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator or shall be discontinued consistent with the medical authorities' recommendation provided with the Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities. Students and all other members of the School District community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. See Policy 2260—Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

The food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, delivery, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the current USDA's school meal pattern requirements for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program. In addition, as required by law, a food safety program based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service staff and other authorized persons.

Substitutions

If determined appropriate by a student's Section 504 team, substitutions to the standard meal requirements shall be made, at no additional charge, for students for whom a healthcare provider who has prescriptive authority in the State of Michigan has provided medical certification that the student has a disability which restricts his/her diet, in accordance with the criteria set forth in 7 CFR 15(b). To qualify for such substitutions the medical certification must identify:

- A. the student's disability and the major life activity affected by the disability;
- B. an explanation of why the disability affects the student's diet; and
- C. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted (e.g., caloric modifications or use of liquid nutritive formula).

[] If determined appropriate by a team of qualified individuals including, but not limited to, the Principal, school nurse, parent, Director of Food Services, () _____, substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for a student who is not a "disabled person" but has a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:

- A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and
- B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.

For non disabled students who need a nutritional equivalent milk substitute, only a signed request by a parent or guardian is required.

Lunches sold by the school may be purchased by students and staff members and community residents in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent.

The operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the _____ and the _____. Food services shall be operated on a self-supporting basis with revenue from students, staff, Federal reimbursement, and surplus food. The Board shall assist the program by furnishing available space, initial major equipment, and utensils. Maintenance and replacement of equipment is the responsibility of the program. The operation and supervision of the food-service program shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Food Service Director. Food services shall be operated on a self-supporting basis with revenue from students, staff, Federal reimbursement, and surplus food. The Board shall assist the program by furnishing available space, initial major equipment, and utensils. Maintenance and replacement of equipment is the responsibility of the program.

A periodic review of the food service accounts shall be made by the _____. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a la carte foods purchased using funds from the nonprofit food service account must accrue to the nonprofit food service account. A periodic review of the food-service accounts shall be made by the Superintendent.

Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase or maintain food-service equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods purchased using funds from the nonprofit food service account must accrue to the non-profit food service account.

Meal Charges

Meals sold by the school may be purchased by students, staff members, and community residents in accordance with administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent. Meals may be made available, free of charge, to senior citizens who are serving as volunteers to the District.

The operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the Food Service Director_____. In accordance with Federal law, the Food Service Director_____ shall take such actions as are necessary to obtain a minimum of two (2) food safety inspections per school year, which are conducted by the State or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections. The report of the most recent inspection will be posted in a publicly visible location, and a copy of the report will be available upon request. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Schools participating in more than one (1) child nutrition program are only required to obtain two (2) food safety inspections per school year if the nutrition programs offered use the same facilities for the preparation and service of meals. Also, the requirement for two (2) inspections does not apply to schools that only offer the Special Milk Program.]**

A periodic review of the food service accounts shall be made by the Food Service Director/Business Manager_____. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program or the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods may accrue to the food service program.

Bad Debt

Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect lunch payments from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable. District efforts to collect bad debt shall be in accordance with Policy 6152 - Student Fees, Fines, and Charges.

Bad debt is uncollectable/delinquent debt that has been determined to be uncollectable no sooner than the end of the school year in which the debt was incurred () and after the Superintendent determines that sufficient reasonable effort and approaches to collecting the debt have been made. **[END OF OPTION]** If the uncollectable/delinquent debt cannot be recovered by the School Meals Program in the year when the debt was incurred, then this is classified as bad debt. Once classified as bad debt, non-Federal funding sources must reimburse the NSFSA for the total amount of the bad debt. The funds may come from the District general fund, State or local funding, school or community organizations such as the PTA, or any other non-Federal source. Once the uncollectable/delinquent debt charges are converted to bad debt, records relating to those charges must be maintained in accordance with the record retention requirements in 7 C.F.R. 210.9(b) (17) and 7 C.F.R. 210.15(b).

Negative Account Balances

[DRAFTING NOTE: USDA regulations provide local control with respect to permitting negative lunch account balances, including prohibiting it altogether. As a practical matter, a hard-line rule prohibiting any negative account balances is not recommended. Rather, permitting some limited negative balances to occur, while placing some restrictions on those situations, is likely the most appropriate. Nonetheless, this first option recognizes that each School District does have the choice to prohibit a negative balance without any exceptions].

[X] [OPTION #1]

No student will be permitted to purchase any meals for which the student does not have sufficient balance in their food service account or sufficient cash on hand to purchase the food items.

Students receiving paid or reduced-price lunch who do not have sufficient account balance or cash on hand to purchase a meal () will be provided an alternative meal (X) will not be provided an alternative meal **[END OF OPTIONS]** that meets the USDA guidelines applicable to alternative meal options. The Superintendent shall, in coordination with the District's food service, assure that any alternative meals that are provided meet the requisite USDA guidelines for alternative meals. The cost of the alternative meal will be added to the delinquent account.

[END OF OPTION #1]

[] [OPTION #2]

Students will be permitted to purchase meals from the District's food service using either cash on hand or a food service account. A student may be allowed to incur a negative food service account balance subject to the following conditions.

Students may be permitted to accumulate a negative food service account balance () not to exceed \$ _____ **[ENTER AMOUNT]** () not to exceed an amount equal to one (1) school week of regular meal price **[END OF OPTIONS]**. () Students up to grade eight (8) will be allowed to incur a negative balance not to exceed \$ _____ **[ENTER AMOUNT]**. **[END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]** **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may establish a different permissible negative balance for elementary grades to account for the students' lower level of responsibility for managing these accounts at the younger grade levels.]** A student () shall () shall not **[END OF OPTION]** be permitted to purchase a la carte items without sufficient account balance or cash on hand. () Likewise, any student who has a negative account balance may not purchase a la carte items with cash unless the student is also able to bring their account current. **[END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]**

[] A student who has exceeded the permissible negative balance amount in their account and does not have cash on hand sufficient to purchase a meal will be treated respectfully. The District will provide meals to students with unpaid meal balances without stigmatizing them, will provide parents of students who charge meals with notification when a student charges a meal and will make efforts to collect the charges incurred by the students so that the unpaid charges are not classified as bad debt at the end of the school year.

[] [OPTION A]

If a student has reached the permissible level of a negative lunch account balance, that student shall be provided a regular reimbursable meal that follows the USDA meal pattern, the cost of which shall continue to accrue to a negative lunch account balance.

[END OF OPTION A]**[] [OPTION B]**

If a student has a significant negative lunch account balance, they shall be provided an alternate meal, () at a reduced price recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, **[END OF OPTION]** the cost of which shall continue to accrue to a negative lunch account balance, and the student's parent(s) shall be contacted to collect the outstanding charges. The alternate meal will be a low-cost alternative to the regular reimbursable meal and shall meet USDA nutritional standards or the Smart Snacks in Schools Regulations so that it qualifies for reimbursement under the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program.

[END OF OPTION B]

[] Negative lunch account balances will carry over from year-to-year until paid in full or until a student enters 9th grade. Upon entering 9th grade, any negative lunch account balances will be converted to school fees. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for paying all fees in accordance with Policy 6152 - Student Fees, Fines, and Charges. Fee waivers are applied in accordance with Policy 6152.01 - Waivers of School Fees for Instructional Materials. **[END OF OPTION]**

[END OF OPTION #2]**[END OF OPTIONS]**

Students who have qualified for Free lunches are still responsible for paying off any debt that was incurred prior to qualifying for free lunches. This policy and any implementing guidelines shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the year. The policy and implementing guidelines will also be provided to all District staff with responsibility for enforcing the policies. () The policy and guideline(s) will be posted on the District website. **[END OF OPTION]**

~~Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect lunch payment from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable.~~

~~**[]** Bad debt is uncollectable/delinquent debt that has been determined to be uncollectable by the end of the school year in which the debt was incurred. If the uncollectable/delinquent debt cannot be recovered by the School Meals Program in the year when the debt was incurred, then this is classified as bad debt. Once classified as bad debt, non-Federal funding sources must reimburse the NSFSA for the total amount of the bad debt. The funds may come from the District general~~

~~fund, State or local funding, school or community organizations such as the PTA, or any other non-Federal source. Once the uncollectable/delinquent debt charges are converted to bad debt, records relating to those charges must be maintained in accordance with the record retention requirements in 7 CFR 210.9(b) (17) and 7 CFR 210.15(b).~~

~~The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an administrative guideline regarding meal charge procedures. This guideline will provide consistent directions for students who are eligible for reduced price or paid meals but do not have funds in their account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service and shall also address feeding students with unpaid meal balances without stigmatizing them.~~

~~This guideline shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the school year.~~

With regard to the operation of the school food service program, the Superintendent shall require:

- A. the maintenance of sanitary, neat premises free from fire and health hazards;
- B. the preparation of food that complies with Federal food safety regulations;
- C. the planning and execution of menus in compliance with USDA requirements;
- D. the purchase of foods and supplies in accordance with State and Federal law, USDA regulations, and Board policy (See Policy 1130, Policy 3110, and Policy 4110);
- E. complying with food holds and recalls in accordance with USDA regulations;
- F. the accounting and disposition of food-service funds pursuant to Federal and State law and USDA regulations;
- G. the safekeeping and storage of food and food equipment pursuant to State and Federal law and USDA regulations;
- H. the regular maintenance and replacement of equipment;
- I. all District employees whose salaries are paid for with USDA funds or non-federal funds used to meet a match or cost share requirement must comply with the District's time and effort record-keeping policy (See Policy 6116).

The District shall serve only nutritious food as determined by the Food Service Department in compliance with the current USDA Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. Foods and beverages unassociated with the food-service program must comply with the current USDA Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may be vended in accordance with Board Policy 8540.

The Superintendent will require that the food service program serve foods in District schools that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the food service program in accordance with the adopted nutrition standards and shall provide a report regarding the District's compliance with the standards at one of the Board's regular meetings annually.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. The District's nondiscrimination statement below is complementary to the District's nondiscrimination policies, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity and Policy 1422/Policy 3122/Policy 4122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the

complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights ("ASCR") about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. Fax:(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. E-mail:program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Legal

M.C.L. 380.1272, 1272a, 1272d et seq.
 7 C.F.R. Parts 15b, 127, 210, 215, 220, 225, 226, 240, 245, 3015
 42 U.S.C. 1758, 1760
 Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.
 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
 OMB Circular No. A 87 USDA Smart Snacks in School Food Guidelines (effective July 1, 2014)
 SP 32-2015 Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Closed Session

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education go into Closed Session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8(a)."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Open Session

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education return to Open Session."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: February 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Superintendent Contract

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education extend the contract of Ben Bandfield for an additional year and make it a three-year contract."