

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

October 19, 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. Student of the Month
 - B. State Assessment Report - Tamara Webster
 - C. SE-4094 Transportation Expenditures Report
 - D. SE-4096 Special Education Expenditures
7. **NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** **3**
 - A. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
 - B. Special Recognition Resolution Approvals
 1. Middle School **4**
 2. High School **5**
 - C. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes **6**
 - D. Hire Resolution - Bowen - Bus Driver **12**
 - E. Resignation Resolution - Weurding - Elementary Teacher **13**
 - F. Resignation Resolution - Weurding - MS Boys Basketball Head Coach **14**
 - G. Resignation Resolution - Weurding - MS Softball Head Coach **15**
 - H. Resignation Resolution - Weurding - MS Girls Basketball Assistant **16**
 - I. Resignation Resolution - Smith - Elementary Teacher **17**
 - J. Resignation Resolution - Smith - MS Softball Assistant **18**
 - K. Resignation Resolution - Elliott - Custodian/Bus Driver **19**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Points of Pride
 - B. Sherman Lake YMCA Camp Overnight Request **20**
 - C. Senior Class Out of State/Overnight Trip **22**
 - D. Facilities & Student Activities Committee Meeting - 10.01.26 **29**
 - E. 31aa School Safety Funds **30**
9. **FORUM TIME**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 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: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda Items

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves consent agenda items: 7. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K."

Student of the Month

To: Board of Education
From: David Williams
Date: October 19, 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 March: Fifth Grade River Diemer, Sixth Grade Eleanor Baldus, Seventh Grade Riley Kelley, and Eighth Grade Renesmae Compton.”

River Diemer; Son of Doug and Ashlee Diemer

The 5th grade is nominating River Diemer as our student of the month!! River is a model ROAR student. She always comes to class prepared, is ready to help a friend or teacher, and always has a smile on her face! River works hard on every assignment and is a great leader in the class. River is always a student that can be counted on and we can't wait to see where the rest of middle school takes her! Great job River & keep up the good work!!

Eleanor Baldus; Daughter of Jonathan Baldus and Dorothy Walker

Congratulations to Ellie Baldus, our Lawton Middle School 6th Grade Student of the Month for September! Ellie consistently demonstrates the qualities of an outstanding student and role model. She is respectful and kind toward both her teachers and peers, and she consistently contributes positively in all of her classes. Ellie performs exceptionally well both academically and behaviorally across all of her classes. She can always be counted on to follow expectations, make positive choices, and give her best effort. She leads by example through her actions, attitude, and dedication to doing what is right. She does not need to be the loudest person in the room to make a positive impact on those around her.

Congratulations Ellie! We are proud to nominate you as September's 6th Grade Student of the Month!

Riley Kelley; Son of Will and Kim Kelley

The 7th grade team nominates Riley Kelley as September's Student of the Month. Riley is a terrific young man! He is always responsible and trustworthy. He takes ownership of his work, has a positive attitude everyday, and is always respectful. Mrs. Ashmus says, "Riley is always prepared, participates, and is one of the kindest souls in the school!" Mrs. Hermann says, "He has been extra encouraging and helpful to some new choir members, participates with a smile, and communicates honestly." Mrs. Frank said, "Riley is an awesome person." In math, Riley completes his work thoroughly and is always willing to help others. Lawton Middle School is lucky to have him!

Renesmae Compton; Daughter of Paul and Heather Compton

The 8th grade teachers are excited to recognize Renesmae Compton for being an outstanding example of what it means to be a positive member of our school community! Nessy is kind and helpful to both her peers and teachers. She is always willing to lend a hand, support others, and contribute in a positive way. Nessy is also motivated and responsible, making sure she gets done what needs to be done and putting forth her best effort. Most importantly, Nessy is a wonderful role model of our ROAR pillars (Responsibility, Ownership, Attitude, and Respect). She demonstrates the values we strive for each day and sets a great example for those around her. **Congratulations, Nessy! We are proud of you and all that you do!**

To: Board of Education
From: Jon Waldron
Date: October 19, 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.

Morgan Haralson, daughter of Chastity Cotton and Brad Korteway:

A few kind words from Teachers:

Morgan Haralson is a valued member of our classroom who consistently demonstrates outstanding character through her kind, polite, and respectful attitude toward everyone. She is a dependable and trustworthy student who always completes her work while actively contributing insightful ideas to our class discussions.

Morgan is a dependable student whose cheerful disposition and humor brightens the classroom. She asks questions that demonstrate both engagement and a genuine desire to understand.

Morgan puts forth great effort and is a great leader in class. She stays on top of her work and is always available.

Noah Emmans, son of Sarah Emmans and Robert Emmans:

A few kind words from Teachers:

Noah does great work, puts forth great effort, and participates a lot in class.

Noah is a focused worker who uses his time wisely and is always willing to help peers.

Noah is great! He participates in class, is kind to everyone, and is just a great kid to be around!

Noah has been a standout student. He participates daily by answering questions or asking for clarification. He has been a leader as he works with others to complete class tasks in a timely manner. Noah has always been respectful and polite to his peers and teachers. He has shown concern for his learning and success in high school by always doing his best. He exemplifies what it means to be a Blue Devil!



LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Lawton Community Schools Board of Education Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 21, 2026 High School Board Room

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of Lawton Community Schools was held Monday, September 21, 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

A. **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.

Motion: Hitchcock

Support: Hunt

Carried: 7-0

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

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

C. **BUDGET REPORTS**

D. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. Master Schedules – Elementary School, Middle School, High School

1. Elementary School Master Schedule

2. Middle School Master Schedule

3. High School Master Schedule

B. MASB Annual Leadership Conference Reminder

E. **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: 7. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N."

B. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the August 17, 2026 Regular Minutes as presented."

C. Hire Resolution – Henshaw – Childcare Provider

- "RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Catherine Henshaw as a Childcare Provider for Lawton Little Learners."
- D. Hire Resolution – Tomsic – JV Sideline Cheer
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Kim Tomsic as a JV Sideline Cheer Head Coach."
- E. Hire Resolution – Mandujano – MS Boys Soccer Coach
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Martin Mandujano as a Middle School Boys Soccer Coach."
- F. Hire Resolution – Woodward – 7th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Ryan Woodward as a 7th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach."
- G. Hire Resolution – Hernandez – Title I Paraprofessional
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Selina Hernandez as a Title I Paraprofessional for the Elementary."
- H. Hire Resolution – Dykstra – Childcare Provider
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Charlotte Dykstra as a Childcare Provider for Lawton Little Learners."
- I. Hire Resolution – Slevatz – Special Education Paraprofessional
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Raegan Slevatz as a Special Education Paraprofessional for the Elementary."
- J. Hire Resolution – Williams – Special Education Paraprofessional
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Marc Williams as a Special Education Paraprofessional for the Elementary."
- K. Hire Resolution – Smith – LAAC Paraprofessional
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Starr Smith as an LAAC Paraprofessional."
- L. Resignation Resolution – O'Neal – Bus Driver
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Natalia O'Neal as a Bus Driver effective August 7, 2026."
- M. Resignation Resolution – Nienhuis – MS Girls Soccer Coach
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Addison Nienhuis as a Middle School Soccer Coach effective August 18, 2026."
- N. Resignation Resolution – Ludwig – Varsity Softball Coach
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Madison Ludwig as a Varsity Softball Coach effective August 20, 2026."
- F. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. Points of Pride
Bandfield-DJ sent favorable email about homecoming dance
Cronenwett-thank Tamara and Jon giving tour to Class of '76
- B. Renewal – Standards of Practice Document
Motion: Hunt
Support: Hitchcock
Carried: 7-0
"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education renews the Standards of Practice as a model for the effective governance of the district."
- C. MASB Voting Delegate
No vote necessary since no one is planning on going to the conference
~~Motion:~~

Support:

Carried:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education appoints _____ as a voting delegate."

D. Facilities & Student Activities Committee Meeting – 09.16.26

Committee: Facilities, Athletics, Student Activities

Date of Meeting: 9.16.26

Committee Members attending: Cronenwett, Riggs, Smith

Administrator(s) attending: Bandfield, Turner

Type of committee report:

X Reporting/updating

X Recommending board action

Brief background of committee issues/area reporting:

The committee met on Wednesday Sept 16 to discuss a number of topics.

1. Middle School Facility Assessment Review

a. Completed the MS review and now have all areas reviewed. Changes will be compiled and sent to Triangle.

2. Elementary Sewer Pipe

a. Continued exploration on any further things that can be done to prevent parking lot flooding. Monday 9.21 the district will be looking at the potential of connecting the problem area to another pipe running along the front of the building.

3. Elementary Humidity

a. Discussion around the challenges, adjustments, and remedies that were suggested and done. Suggestion to maintain awareness of humidity and HVAC concerns while in discussion of the Elementary Site Assessment and the future plans of the Elementary. The committee will explore future air quality testing

4. 8th Grade Washington Field Trip

a. Explored the Proposal submitted for the Washington DC Trip for 8th grade which is tentatively scheduled for the summer after the school year is complete. There were comments around safety, behavior, communication, and cost. Since the meeting responses from Mrs. Ashmus & Mr. Williams has been provided to the committee. The Committee moves this to the BOE for consideration.

5. Champions 101

a. The committee learned more about Champions 101 and potential implementation. This is a program for athletes, coaches, and parents that focus on the foundational mindsets, choices, and behaviors that help people become worthy of winning in sports and in life.

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

E. Washington DC – Out of State Approval

Motion: Smith

Support: Riggs

Carried: 7-0

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the out of state Washington DC trip planned for June 7, 2027 through June 10, 2027."

F. Curriculum Committee Meeting – 09.21.26

Committee: Curriculum Committee

Date of Meeting: Monday Sept 21 @ 6:00pm

Committee Members attending: Pursley, Hunt, Smith

Administrator(s) attending: Bandfield, Webster

Type of committee report:

X Reporting/updating

X Recommending board action

Feb 19 Meeting Report

The committee met on Monday September 21 for for review of the proposed Text for 8th Grade Social Studies

The committee agreed to proceed with the BOE to consider a resolution for approval.

1. Purchase of Textbook – **Roll Call Vote**

Motion: Pursley

Support: Hunt

Carried: 7-0

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

Nays: None

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves adoption of the digital and student editions of Savvas American History Beginning to 1877 for a six-year cycle. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and ending in the 2031-2032 school year. The price of this adoption would not exceed \$15,109.16.”

G. Thrun Policy Adoption – **Roll Call Vote**

Motion: Hunt

Support: Pursley

Carried: 7-0

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

Nays: None

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the purchase of Thrun Policy and Administrative Guidelines. The cost to purchase the Policy Manual and Administrative Guidelines/Forms is \$14,000 with an Annual Update Cost not to exceed \$2,750 per year.”

H. Neola Policy – Vol. 40, No. 2 – 2nd Reading

Motion: Smith

Support: Cronenwett

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education adopts the Neola Board Policies 2418, 7540.09, and 8120.09 from Vol. 40, No. 2 as presented.”

I. FOIA Appeal to Board of Education

Motion: Cronenwett

Support: Smith

Carried: 7-0

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education, in reference to the appeal the district’s denial of a FOIA request received on August 17th, has determined to issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial and directs the Superintendent to issue the written notice of the Board’s decision to the requestor.”

9. **FORUM TIME**

Carroll-congratulations to Cronenwett and Smith on the golf outing

Hitchcock-issue of board pay, negotiate with staff but should also look into what the board get paid, would like to be \$500-\$1,000 for time/gas

Hunt-discussion of cell tower

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

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

Proposed

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the September 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Hire – Bowen – Bus Driver

Jim Turner is recommending Brandon Bowen be hired as a Bus Driver. Three candidates applied and two were interviewed.

Brandon brings 9 plus years of commercial and school bus driving experience. He is already certified and ready to go, He may also be able to do our 2-hour custodial floater.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the hiring of Brandon Bowen as a Bus Driver pending successful completion of criminal background checks."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Weurding – Elementary Teacher

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Derek Weurding as an Elementary Teacher effective October 31, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Weurding – MS Boys Basketball Head Coach

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Derek Weurding as a Middle School Boys Basketball Head Coach effective September 29, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Weurding – MS Softball Head Coach

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Derek Weurding as a Middle School Softball Head Coach effective October 31, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Weurding – MS Girls Basketball Assistant

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Derek Weurding as a Middle School Girls Basketball Assistant effective October 31, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Smith – Elementary Teacher

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Holli Smith as an Elementary Teacher effective October 31, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Smith – MS Softball Assistant

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Holli Smith as a Middle School Softball Assistant effective October 31, 2026."

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resignation Resolution – Elliott – Custodian/Bus Driver

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts the resignation of Michael Elliott as a Custodian and Bus Driver effective October 16, 2026."

FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Teacher: **Bethany Jellies** School/Class: **5th grade** Request Date: **10/13/26**

Trip Date: **3/22-24/2027** Destination: **Sherman Lake YMCA Camp** Number of Students : **78**

Number of Staff/Chaperones: **5** Purpose of Trip: **To enhance our HCRR system**

Course of Study: **5th grade team building- Middle School Prep** Specific Learning Objectives to be Accomplished: **This trip reinforces our character traits of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.**

Student Behaviors that will Confirm Achievement of the Learning Objectives:

Students will have a renewed understanding of HCRR outside the classroom to be able to handle new situations that put them outside their comfort zone.

Course Objectives Related to the Learning Objectives:

These character traits are reinforced at school as part of our school wide MiBLISi goals.

Pre-Trip Lessons/Activities to be Done in the Classroom:

We related many things about preparing for middle school and how they will act/ be treated at camp. Students are given responsibilities to prepare for the trip.

Post Trip Activities/Lessons to Reinforce/Extend Learning:

Students fill out a handbook at camp after each group activity. Teachers will use that to assist a writing assignment. We also expect behavior to improve as students use HCRR in situations practiced at camp.

I have utilized the guidelines in 2340A to plan, conduct, and evaluate the trip and, upon approval of the trip, I will obtain parental permission (2340 F2 or F2A) and use the Checklist for Trips (2340 F3).

Field Trip Approval

Trip Approved: X Trip Disapproved: _____ Principal: *Da M. G. W. M.* Date: *10/13/26*

Trip Approved: _____ Trip Disapproved: _____ Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

(Over)

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Sherman Lake YMCA Overnight Approval

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approve the proposal for the overnight trip for the 5th Grade Sherman Lake YMCA Camp that is planned for March of 2027."

PROPOSAL FOR OVERNIGHT/EXTENDED STUDENT TRIPS

Type of Trip Senior Class Trip
 Proposed Departure Date May 23, 2027 Return Date May 24, 2027
 Proposer Amanda Steinke Position Class advisor + secretary
 Date by which response is needed Oct-22, 2026 Proposal Date Oct. 19, 2026

A. Purpose

1. What is the major place to be visited or event to be attended?
Kalahari Waterpark Resort + Cedar Point, both in Sandusky, Ohio
2. How is the trip related to the educational program of the District?
This is not an educational trip.
3. In what ways will the students benefit?
This will be a fun + memorable trip
4. In what ways will the District benefit?
We will show that an overnight class trip is safe & attainable.
5. How will the trip be evaluated to determine the extent to which these benefits were realized?
Chaperones can give feedback about the trip to administrators upon return.

B. Students and Staff

1. Which students, (grade, class, or organization), will be going?
The LHS senior class will all be invited, LAAC seniors will be invited based on attendance of LHS.

B. Students and Staff (cont'd)

2. How many students in total?

The charter bus capacity is 56 passengers.
I anticipate a full bus of students + chaperones, but it is too soon to tell.

3. How many students are currently experiencing academic problems?

This will not be an issue, classes will be over for seniors at this time.

4. Which staff member will be in charge?

Amanda Steinke

5. What previous experience has the staff member had in conducting overnight or extended field trips?

All day class trips w/ 2023, 2025 + 2026 to Kalahari + Cedar Point.

6. What other staff members will be going?

Mandy Merriman, Jessica Schubert + Kirsten Allison. Additional TBD

7. How many chaperones, in addition to staff members, will be going?

TBD based on how many students attend.
I know we will need a couple of men.

8. What are their names and affiliations with the students?

TBD, will start with school staff, and parents who are affiliated with the school through the Boosters, coaching, previous volunteers, etc.

9. How many school days will be missed?

One, May 24th

10. How will teachers be advised in advance that the students will be out of school?

n/a

C. School Work

1. How will missed work be made up?

n/a

2. What special assistance will be provided students with academic problems?

n/a

D. Itinerary

1. What is the destination?

Kalahari Resort + Cedar Point in Sandusky, OH

2. What will be the mode of transportation? What liability insurance does the carrier have?

Charter Bus, from Cardinal

3. Where will the group be housed and fed?

Housed at Kalahari Resort, we will have 2 meals there and all day food access at Cedar Point. We will stop at a large rest stop w/ fast food.

D. Itinerary (cont'd)

4. What enroute or supplementary activities are planned?

none

5. What arrangements have been made for dealing with emergency situations?

I'll have paper permission slips w/ emergency contacts

6. ~~If tour guides are involved, what liability insurance do they carry?~~

Both Kalahari + Cedar Point
have medical assistance/first aid staff

E. Finances

1. What is the estimated total cost and cost per student?

See back page

2. What is the source of funds?

We have been fundraising for 4 years +
will continue to raise money this winter.
we are receiving a generous donation from

3. How will the funds be collected and safeguarded?

last year's After
Funds are in our Class T+A Dram Committee
Account \$ \$1,300.

4. How will any shortfall be made up or excess funds used?

Unlikely we'll have excess funds. Shortfalls
will be paid by the students attending.

5. What provision has been made for students who are financially unable to pay any necessary costs?

None, as this is a voluntary trip.

F. Communications

1. How will you communicate to parents prior to, during, and after the trip?

I will send an info letter home in the mail, with a permission slip attached for the parents to sign & return. Other communication will be via email or a phone call.

2. List telephone numbers at destination and where group will be housed.

Kalahari Resort

877-525-2427

3. What information will be provided to the media and the community?

None

Trip Costs @ Kalahari

Charter Bus: \$4,920

4 person hotel room: \$170.13, tax included @ 7%

Security Officer 12am-5am: \$375

Cabana Rentals: \$300-\$400 depending on
Size + availability

Student Gift Cards: \$50 each which will cover
2 meals, we may do
either a pizza or
breakfast buffet option

Total cost can't be calculated yet, it all depends
on how many students attend.

Cedar Point cost

\$83.04 all inclusive, best ticket
w/ all day drinks + lots of
meals

Depending on our fundraising this winter,
Students may be asked to pay for all, or a
portion of their Cedar Point admission. They
will be given adequate notice to come up
with the money. Students will likely also have
to pay for their own arcade & extra activities at
Kalahari, Universal Islands, etc.

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
RE: Senior Trip – Out of State/Overnight Approval Resolution

This resolution recommends approval of the Out of State/Overnight trip to Kalahari Waterpark & Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio for the Class of 2027.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

“RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education approves the out of state/overnight Senior Trip on May 23-24, 2027 to Kalahari Waterpark & Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio.”



Committee Report Form

Committee: Facilities, Athletics, Student Activities

Date of Meeting: 10.1.26 @ 8:15 am

Committee Members attending: Cronenwett, Riggs,

Administrator(s) attending: Bandfield, Turner, Waldron, Webster

Other: TMP & Triangle

Type of committee report:

X	Reporting/updating
	Recommending board action

Brief background of committee issues/area reporting:

The committee met on Thursday Oct 1st for a few items

- The Team from Triangle presented the Elementary Site Assessment in preparation for a future BOE presentation
- The Committee traveled to 2 school sites (Three Rivers and Marcellus HC) to view a metal roof.

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

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:



THRUN

LAW FIRM, P.C.

MICHAEL D. GRESENS
CHRISTOPHER J. IAMARINO
RAYMOND M. DAVIS
MICHELE R. EADDY
KIRK C. HERALD
ROBERT A. DIETZEL
KATHERINE WOLF BROADDUS

DANIEL R. MARTIN
JENNIFER K. STARLIN
TIMOTHY T. GARDNER, JR.
IAN F. KOFFLER
FREDRIC G. HEIDEMANN
RYAN J. NICHOLSON
CRISTINA T. PATZELT

PHILIP G. CLARK
PIOTR M. MATUSIAK
JESSICA E. McNAMARA
ERIN H. WALZ
RYAN J. MURRAY
MACKENZIE D. FLYNN
MARYJO D. BANASIK

CATHLEEN M. DOOLEY
KELLY S. BOWMAN
AUSTIN W. MUNROE

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GORDON W. VANWIENEN, JR. (OF COUNSEL)
ROY H. HENLEY (OF COUNSEL)
BRADFORD W. SPRINGER (OF COUNSEL)

September 28, 2026

Re: Section 31aa Updates: Responses to Common Questions and Resolution Availability

Dear Retainer Client:

As we approach the beginning of State fiscal year 2026/27, school officials have questions regarding the amended State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa (“Section 31aa”). While our [July 2026 edition of School Law Notes](#) provided a litigation update and outlined the changes to Section 31aa for fiscal year 2026/27, this E-Blast addresses some common questions.

1. Does my school need to accept the statutory conditions (e.g., participation in and cooperation with an investigation and waiver of privileges) to receive the 2026/27 Section 31aa funding?

For 2026/27, the Legislature revised Section 31aa into two separate components:

- (1) a mental health portion, through which eligible schools may receive up to \$73.53 per pupil for student mental health activities, and
- (2) a student safety portion, through which eligible schools may receive up to \$147.06 per pupil for student safety activities.

The investigation and privilege-waiver requirements apply only to the student safety funding, not the mental health funding. Schools may opt in to receive the mental health funding without accepting the statutory conditions. Schools who opt in to receive the student safety funding will, however, be subject to the statutory privilege waiver.

2. Can a school accept the mental health funding but decline the student safety funding?

Yes. Because the amended Section 31aa divides the mental health and student safety funding components and requires separate applications for each, schools may choose to accept one funding stream without accepting the other.

3. If acceptance of the conditions is not required for the mental health portion, why do I see applications requiring acceptance of the conditions for a mental health grant?

Earlier this month, the Michigan Department of Education (“MDE”) reopened applications in NexSys for Section 31aa(4) school resource officer and safety dog grants and Section 31aa(5) mental health support staff grants to distribute remaining 2025/26 funding. According to MDE guidance, the reopened grant applications close at 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2026, and are available



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only to eligible entities that did not previously receive funding under the applicable grant during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Importantly, these are competitive grant opportunities arising under the 2025/26 authorization. Thus, they remain subject to the 2025/26 statutory requirements, including the investigation and waiver of attorney-client privilege conditions, applicable to both the student safety and mental health competitive grants. Schools must be careful not to confuse these reopened 2025/26 Sections 31aa competitive grant opportunities with the new 2026/27 Section 31aa grant funding.

4. How do I opt in to receive the student safety funds?

Although MDE has not yet released the 2026/27 applications, it has provided preliminary guidance regarding the anticipated process during a webinar. According to MDE:

- Applications are expected to become available in NexSys in mid-October.
- Districts must submit separate applications for the mental health funding and student safety funding.
- **Only** acceptance of student safety funding will require agreement to the statutory investigation and privilege-waiver provisions.
- Multiple opt-in windows will be available to schools. Current application deadlines are expected to occur at 5:00 p.m. on the following dates: November 9, 2026, December 7, 2026, January 4, 2027, and April 12, 2027 (final application window).
- Approved funds will be distributed through the following month's state aid payment.
- Districts need to apply only once and will receive a single funding allocation upon approval.
- Expense reports are due July 1, 2027.

Unlike last year's rollout, the multiple opt-in windows give schools additional time to consult with their boards and legal counsel before making any funding decisions.

5. Will Thrun provide board resolutions again this year?

As we did last year, Thrun Law Firm has prepared the attached sample resolutions for schools choosing either to accept or decline the 2026/27 student safety funding. Each resolution provides for acceptance of the mental health funding.



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Resolution A authorizes acceptance of the student safety funding while preserving and limiting the scope of any waiver to the fullest extent permitted by law. Although the Legislature narrowed certain aspects of Section 31aa, the attorney-client privilege waiver language remains broad, and schools will benefit from creating a clear record of the board's intent and understanding regarding the waiver.

Schools that do not accept student safety funding generally do not need a formal resolution declining the funds, although **Resolution B** has been prepared if a board wishes to formally memorialize its decision and reasoning.

Schools should not reuse last year's resolutions. The resolutions prepared for the 2025/26 funding cycle were drafted to address the statutory framework and grant opportunities that existed for that cycle. The 2026/27 funding structure differs in several important respects, including the separation of mental health and student safety funding and changes to the conditions attached to each funding stream. Our updated resolutions have been revised to reflect the current version of Section 31aa and should be used rather than last year's templates.

6. Are there any other Section 31aa updates?

As reported in our [July 2026 edition of School Law Notes](#), the Michigan Court of Appeals' April 10, 2026 decision is final on the state issues but the separate federal constitutional challenge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan remained pending. Since publication of that article, the federal court has issued a final ruling. On August 27, 2026, the court dismissed the case with prejudice, bringing the federal litigation to a close, unless the decision is appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

There do not appear to be any pending legal challenges affecting implementation of the 2026/27 Section 31aa funding provisions. We will continue to monitor developments related to Section 31aa, including any additional guidance issued by MDE, and will keep clients apprised of significant developments.

For questions regarding Section 31aa funding or assistance evaluating funding options, please contact [Mackenzie Flynn](#) at (517) 374-4529 or mflynn@thrunlaw.com.

Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

This client communication is intended to provide helpful information on school law topics and is not intended as legal advice or opinion for specific facts, matters, situations, or issues. Legal counsel should be consulted about the application of this information to a specific circumstance or situation.

***Resolution A:
Opt-In and Waiver***

[District Name], Michigan (the “District”)

A _____ meeting of the board of education of the District (the “Board”) was held in the _____, within the boundaries of the District, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____ o’clock in the ____m. (the “Meeting”)

The Meeting was called to order by _____, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. Public Act 25 of 2026 amends State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa, to allocate for fiscal year 2026/27: (1) up to \$73.53 per pupil to improve student mental health (“31aa Mental Health Funding”) and (2) up to \$147.06 per pupil to improve student safety (“31aa Student Safety Funding”) (collectively, the “31aa Funding”); and

2. To receive either or both components of the 31aa Funding, the District must agree to receive the funding in the form and manner established by the Michigan Department of Education (“MDE”); and

3. As a condition of receiving the 31aa Student Safety Funding, the District must agree in advance that, in the event of a “mass casualty event,” as defined in MCL 388.1631aa: (1) the District will be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, and (2) the District will waive any privilege that may otherwise protect related information from disclosure; and

4. The Board has been advised of and fully informed regarding the potential legal and practical implications of this waiver requirement, including that it may affect the confidentiality of communications otherwise protected by the attorney-client privilege or other applicable privileges related to a “mass casualty event”; and

5. The Board acknowledges the concerns and implications of the 31aa Student Safety Funding waiver requirements and has determined that it is in the District’s best interest to make an informed election regarding whether to accept or decline the 31aa Student Safety Funding; and

6. The Board desires to authorize and direct [name], Superintendent of Schools (the “Superintendent”), or designee, to complete any documentation necessary to implement the Board’s election below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to opt in and accept the Section 31aa Mental Health Funding for fiscal year 2026/27.

2. The Board hereby resolves to opt in and accept the Section 31aa Student Safety Funding for fiscal year 2026/27, subject to the conditions provided in MCL 388.1631aa. The Board acknowledges and affirms that it has been advised of the potential risks and consequences associated with waiving the attorney-client or other applicable privileges related to a “mass casualty event”. Subject to Paragraph 3 below, the Board affirmatively waives any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a “mass casualty event” and consents to be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, as described in MCL 388.1631aa, but only to the minimal extent legally required to obtain such funding.

3. To the extent allowed by law, any waiver or consent authorized by Paragraph 2 above shall: (a) be limited in time to State fiscal year 2026/27 or any shorter duration consistent with applicable law, and (b) not be effective unless or until a “mass casualty event” as described in MCL 388.1631aa occurs, and (c) apply only to information related to that “mass casualty event.”

4. This Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent, or designee, to notify MDE as necessary of the District’s elections consistent with this resolution and to take any actions necessary to effectuate the Board’s decision, including the preparation and submission of any opt-in forms required by MDE.

5. Nothing within this resolution, nor by the District’s participation in or acceptance of any funding under MCL 388.1631aa, shall be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the Board’s or the District’s rights to question, dispute, or challenge the validity, legality, or enforceability of any condition, requirement, or limitation imposed by that section or related administrative guidance or the breadth and validity of the related waiver referenced in Paragraph 2 above.

6. In the event the MCL 388.1631aa requirement to waive privilege is modified or removed by the Legislature, or if a court of competent jurisdiction determines that such a requirement is unlawful, it is the Board’s intent that the waiver contained in this resolution will, without action by the Board, be immediately rescinded and no longer have any legal effect.

7. This resolution and waiver stated in Paragraph 2 do not apply to any “mass casualty event” occurring before the date of this resolution.

8. The Board reserves the right to rescind or modify this resolution prior to a “mass casualty event” to conform to any subsequent change in law or interpretation by a court of competent jurisdiction or MDE.

9. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the District, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Secretary, Board of Education

MDF/keh

[District Name], Michigan (the "District")

A _____ meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the _____, within the boundaries of the District, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____ o'clock in the ____m. (the "Meeting")

The Meeting was called to order by _____, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. Public Act 25 of 2026 amends State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa, to allocate for fiscal year 2026/27: (1) up to \$73.53 per pupil to improve student mental health ("31aa Mental Health Funding") and (2) up to \$147.06 per pupil to improve student safety ("31aa Student Safety Funding") (collectively, the "31aa Funding"); and

2. To receive either or both components of the 31aa Funding, the District must agree to receive the funding in the form and manner established by the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE"); and

3. As a condition of receiving the 31aa Student Safety Funding, the District must agree in advance that, in the event of a "mass casualty event," as defined in MCL 388.1631aa: (1) the District will be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, and (2) the District will waive any privilege that may otherwise protect related information from disclosure; and

4. The Board has been advised of and fully informed regarding the legal and practical implications of this waiver requirement, including that it may affect the confidentiality of communications otherwise protected by the attorney-client privilege and other applicable privileges related to a "mass casualty event"; and

5. The Board recognizes that the waiver requirement may expose the District to legal, reputational, and operational risks and that the decision to accept or decline funding carries significant implications for the District's ability to manage sensitive information responsibly; and

6. After careful deliberation, the Board has determined that, while it fully supports initiatives to enhance school safety, it is in the District's best interest to preserve its legal privileges and make a deliberate, informed election about participation in 31aa Student Safety Funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to opt in and accept the Section 31aa Mental Health Funding for fiscal year 2026/27. The Board shall use such funds solely for purposes permitted under MCL 388.1631aa and applicable MDE guidance and authorizes and directs [name], Superintendent of Schools, or designee, to notify MDE as necessary of the District's election consistent with this resolution and to take any actions necessary to effectuate the Board's decision, including the preparation and submission of any opt-in form required by MDE.

2. The Board's acceptance of the Section 31aa Mental Health Funding ***does not*** constitute acceptance of, agreement to, or compliance with any conditions applicable solely to the Section 31aa Student Safety Funding, including any requirement relating to a comprehensive investigation or waiver of attorney-client privilege or any other applicable privilege.

3. The Board hereby resolves to ***decline*** Section 31aa Student Safety Funding in order to preserve attorney-client or other applicable privileges that would otherwise be subject to waiver under the conditions imposed by MCL 388.1631aa. This decision reflects the Board's commitment to responsible governance and the protection of sensitive information, while continuing to prioritize student safety through existing programs and initiatives.

4. This decision represents the Board's careful and deliberate exercise of its discretion, balancing the statutory conditions of 31aa Student Safety Funding with the District's responsibility to maintain operational and legal safeguards.

5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the District, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Secretary, Board of Education

MDF/keh

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ben Bandfield
DATE: October 19, 2026
SUBJECT: 31aa School Safety and Mental Health Funding Resolution

Per the District's request, there are two draft resolutions regarding Section 31aa Funding:

Resolution A authorizes acceptance of the student safety funding while preserving and limiting the scope of any waiver to the fullest extent permitted by law. Although the Legislature narrowed certain aspects of Section 31aa, the attorney-client privilege waiver language remains broad, and schools will benefit from creating a clear record of the board's intent and understanding regarding the waiver.

Schools that do not accept student safety funding generally do not need a formal resolution declining the funds, although **Resolution B** has been prepared if a board wishes to formally memorialize its decision and reasoning.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

"RESOLVED, that the Lawton Community Schools Board of Education accepts Resolution __ to _____ the 31aa funding as presented."