G.7.a.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harry L. Wheeler Community Center and Administrative Offices, located at 24076 F.V. Pankow Boulevard, Clinton Township, Michigan.

A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Mr. Al Doss, Vice President, called the Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Al Doss, Vice President
Mrs. Sharon Ross, Secretary
Mr. John Da Via, Treasurer
Mr. Jeffrey Cyprus, Trustee
Mrs. Sandra Hernden, Trustee
Mr. Shane Sellers, Trustee

Absent: Mr. Adam Lipski, President

Also Present: Mr. Keith Howell, Superintendent
Ms. Lisa Montpas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Michael Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mrs. Kathy Konon, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Community Education and Student Services
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Mrs. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Mrs. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Mr. Don Gratton, Director for Operations
Ms. Cheryl Goodall, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Employees and Patrons of the District

B. *Approval of Agenda for the August 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the August 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

C. Human Resources – Employment Recommendations

Mr. Van Camp stated he has five administrative appointments to present.

C.1 *Employment Recommendation - Director for Operations

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Mr. Patrick Ward's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation for Mr. Patrick Ward as the Director for Operations.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Ward stated he appreciates this opportunity, is excited to be involved in the Bond projects and looks forward to working in the district.

Mr. Howell stated that while we will miss Mr. Gratton, he appreciates the skills and experiences that Mr. Ward is bringing to the district and looks forward to working with him.

C.2. *Employment Recommendation - LCHS-North Associate Principal

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Mr. Mitchell Osadchuk's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mrs. Ross, to approve the recommendation for Mr. Mitchell Osadchuk as the LCHS-North Associate Principal.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Osadchuk thanked the Board and administration for entrusting him with this position.

Mr. Howell welcomed Mr. Osadchuk and stated one thing he appreciated is that he is looking to not only support LCHS-N, but also do what it takes to support the district and is looking forward to working with him.

C.3. *Employment Recommendation - Director of Burdi Early Childhood Center

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Mrs. Jeanine Beck's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation for Mrs. Jeanine Beck as the Director of Burdi Early Childhood Center.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mrs. Beck thanked everyone and stated she is passionate about early childhood and is looking forward to this opportunity.

Mr. Howell stated her knowledge in the area of early childhood is not only impressive, but what also resonated with him during the interview process was her connection with people & relationship-building skills. He stated he looks forward to working with her.

C.4. *Employment Recommendation - Middle School - Central Associate Principal

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Ms. Mary Beth Docherty's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the recommendation for Ms. Mary Beth Docherty as the Associate Principal at Middle School - Central.

Yes: All
No: None

Motion carried.

Ms. Docherty recalled that Mr. Da Via, former principal at MSN and current Board member is who first hired her into the district. She thanked everyone for this opportunity to continue to serve the district and reaffirmed her commitment to L'Anse Creuse. She stated she would work tirelessly with Mr. Steve Filiccia, principal, to make MSC a home for students and staff.

Mr. Howell stated he was impressed with her calm confidence and the fact that she is looking to bring joy to Middle School-Central.

C.5. *Employment Recommendation - Middle School - East Associate Principal

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Mr. Zachary White's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the recommendation for Mr. Zachary White as the Associate Principal at Middle School - East.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mr. White stated he was very grateful for this opportunity. He graduated from LCPS and has been working here since he graduated from college. He stated he is encouraged by the leadership in this district and thanked everyone.

Mr. Howell stated he appreciated his dedication to LCPS and he is looking forward to seeing what he accomplishes.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

Kelly McDevitt, teacher and president of the LCEA, stated she is excited for the upcoming school year and the energy that comes with new beginnings. She emphasized the importance of nurturing the whole child through academic growth, creativity, and kindness, while also celebrating diversity and fostering resilience. She reaffirmed the commitment of educators to support and challenge every student, ensuring they feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn, as they work together to build strong citizens for the future.

Michael Lynch, teacher & resident, spoke about the ongoing budget issues in Michigan's public education system, which he attributes to a lack of funding that has not kept pace with inflation since 1994. He emphasized that teacher salaries and support staff wages have not increased accordingly, leading to difficulties in hiring and maintaining quality educators. He urged the community to contact their legislators to advocate for better funding for schools, stating that the current financial challenges are not the fault of the school board or administrators, but rather a systemic issue that requires legislative attention.

Mr. Da Via congratulated Mrs. Docherty and all of the newly hired administrators.

Mr. Doss called a break at 6:58 p.m. & the meeting was reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

E. Superintendent's Report

E.1. District/Bond Update

Mr. Howell introduced Mr. Sam Esser of Barton Malow and Ms. Vicki Smith of Partners in Architecture. He stated he appreciated all the work that has been completed over the summer. He also reminded everyone there will be some minor inconveniences with some ongoing construction, but the completion of these projects will benefit the district for years to come.

Mr. Esser, of Barton Malow, provided an update on summer renovations, including successful carpet replacements at Lobbestael, Tenniswood, and Yacks Elementary Schools, with minor touch-ups currently being completed. He highlighted the restoration of original terrazzo floors which are more durable. He provided an update on progress on the tennis courts and ball fields at High School-North, with concrete work and fencing nearing completion, as well as ongoing pool renovations and roof replacements at Graham Elementary and High School-North. He stated the sidewalk replacement project is also progressing well. He mentioned that the band trailer is still in fabrication. Districtwide construction efforts are being managed to minimize disruption during the school year.

Ms. Smith, of Partners in Architecture, provided an update on several ongoing design projects, including interior and exterior upgrades at Middle School-East, Middle School-Central, Higgins, and Carkenord, which are currently in the construction document phase. She stated the estimates for site improvement packages at Pankow, Middle School-Central and Graham Elementary have been received and are being evaluated for the next design phase. Playground improvements are also underway, with plans to select new equipment, and this project is expected to proceed during late fall or winter. The District is also finalizing documents for mechanical controls upgrades and water filtration upgrades, which will include installing bottle fill stations and filters. Electrical upgrades, including a backup generator, are planned for Pankow and JAPAC.

Discussion followed.

E.2. Department Updates

Mr. Howell stated we have been working very hard to get the district prepared for the start of the school year. He mentioned that the date for the summer workshop is on September 8 at 6:00 p.m. He stated most of the department updates will be within the agenda.

Mrs. Konon, of the Business Office, stated she and her team are working on closing out the previous fiscal year, preparing for the audit and starting this fiscal year. She commended the Business Office team for their efforts. She stated she expects favorable audit results, which will be presented at a future Board meeting. Additionally, the Food and Nutrition team held a PD session today. They have successfully reduced staffing openings from 19 at this time last year, to just two openings this year. The department is fully operational after transitioning to self-management this past year.

Mr. Gratton, of Operations, provided an update on changes within the Transportation Department, announcing a return to a single supervisor model following the retirement of co-supervisor Kim Bryer at the end of the month. He stated Holly Vitale will take on the role of Supervisor, while Pam Legato will become the Head Dispatcher, with plans to post for an associate dispatcher position. This restructuring is intended to be cost-neutral for the district and will take effect on September 1.

Mr. Van Camp, of Human Resources, provided an update on staffing. He shared that 16 individuals from the teaching unit were laid off, with 12 of them recalled. In the clerical and para groups, there was one clerical position and two para positions recalled, but some individuals declined offers to return for various reasons. Additionally, due to staffing ratios at Burdi, another position in the para unit will be reduced, which will be addressed later in the agenda.

Discussion followed.

F. ** Consent Agenda

F.1. Budget Report
F.2. Payment Registers
F.3. Purchases (None this month)
F.4. Summary of Investments & Wire/ACH Transfers
F.5. Employment Recommendations
F.6. Student Travel Requests
F.7. Board Meeting Minutes
F.7.a. July 21, 2025 Committee of the Whole/Regular Meeting Minutes
F.7.b. July 24, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Roll Call Vote
Yes: Sellers, Hernden, Ross, Da Via, Doss, Cyprus
No: None
Motion carried.

G. Business Office

G.1. *Recommendation to Appoint the District Auditor

Motion by Mrs. Ross, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the recommendation to appoint Yeo & Yeo, P.C. as the district auditor as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote
Yes: Ross, Cyprus, Da Via, Doss
No: Hernden, Sellers
Motion carried.

G.2. *Recommendation for Worker's Compensation Settlement

Motion by Mrs. Hernden, supported by Mr. Sellers, to approve the settlement of Workers Compensation claim #LA0-22-000019-01 in the amount of $8,208.00 as presented.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

G.3. *Stoner Advisory Group Renewal

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the recommendation to approve the renewal for the Stoner Advisory Group as presented for Bond Projects, and also recommends the Board approve the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations the authority to execute the renewal agreement.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

G.4. *Fixed Assets and Inventory

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation for the increased fixed assets threshold of $10,000 to align with the federal Uniform Guidelines requirement as presented.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

H. Human Resources

H.1. *Layoff Resolution

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the resolution and authorize the Superintendent to notify, in writing, the staff affected by the resolution as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

I. Operations

I.1. *Purchase of Band Equipment LCHS-N

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation to award the purchase of the band instruments and associated items to A & G Central Music as listed in the bid documents and be delivered to L'Anse Creuse High School as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

I.2. *Off-Lease Bus Purchase

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the recommendation to purchase five (5) Off-Lease 77 passenger buses for a total $503,250.00 with an additional $30,145.00 allocated for cameras and two-way radios for a total of $533,395.00 as presented.

Further review of the supporting documentation showed the final price was $300 less than originally quoted. The vendor stated they would honor this price difference.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

I.3. *Vehicle Purchase (Food & Nutrition/Operations Box Van)

Motion by Mrs. Hernden, supported by Mr. Sellers, to approve the recommendation to approve an amount not to exceed $90,000.00 to be used to purchase a 2026 E-550 Box Van w/lift gate to replace the existing box van currently in service as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

J. Other Matters

J.1. Letters to Prosecutor

No further updates at this time on either letter.

K. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

None at this time.

L. Board Member Comment

Mr. Sellers wishes everyone a wonderful start to the school year. He praised praised the progress on bond projects, noting efforts to minimize disruption for students and staff as school begins. He addressed the ongoing discussion regarding the board member complaint policy and suggested that since it has been repeatedly postponed without action, it should be dropped not unlike legislation that fails to progress.

Mrs. Ross stated she is also excited for the beginning of the new school year, expressing praise for the progress made with bond projects across the district. She also expressed she is happy that the Associate Principal positions have been filled before the school year starts. She encouraged Board members to attend the Opening Day, highlighting it as a valuable welcome back event for staff.

Mr. Cyprus commended the building Principals present for their demonstration of leadership and support of the newly appointed Assistant Principals. He expressed his excitement for the upcoming school year and the fresh direction provided by new leadership. He noted the recent promotion of three teachers to leadership positions as a positive sign for the district. He also praised Mr. Gratton for his hard work on bond projects, acknowledging the significant improvements made during his tenure and wished him well in his retirement.

Mrs. Hernden congratulated coaches John Broder and Steve Hunter for being named MAC Coaches of the Year for the girls' tennis and lacrosse teams. She invited Board members to the black and gold scrimmage tomorrow at LCHS-N, highlighting it as a great event that brings together various school activities. She expressed her appreciation for the respectful and productive atmosphere at the Board meeting this evening.

Mr. Sellers also thanked Mrs. Hernden for volunteering her time in weeding at the stadium at LCHS-N.

Mr. Da Via stated he attended MASB legal workshop and has handouts to share for any Board members interested. He also encouraged attendance at the Opening Day event. He stated he also attended a school board and superintendent webinar. He also praised the new tennis courts and shared that he has received quite a bit of positive feedback about them.

Mr. Doss stated he's excited for the upcoming school year, wishing everyone good luck as they return. He highlighted the positive energy at school events and shared his enthusiasm for his child's senior year, noting his involvement as class president. He acknowledged the hard work of the Business Office and the complexities of managing various tasks and the significant effort required to keep the district running smoothly behind the scenes. He expressed his appreciation for the overall dedication of the teachers and staff in the District.

M. *Adjournment

Motion by supported by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Ross

Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education

SLR:cjg