



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Committee of the Whole Board Meeting on Monday, October 13, 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. Adam Lipski, President, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

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
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Student Services and Community Education
Ms. Beth Disbrow, Director for Finance
Mr. Pat Ward, Director for Operations
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Employees and Patrons of the District

Mrs. Hernden requested to add an item under G. Other Matters regarding an employee termination and to make this a voting meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Hernden, supported by Mr. Sellers, to make this a voting meeting.

Roll Call

Yes: Hernden, Sellers
No: Doss, Lipski, Da Via, Cyprus, Ross
Motion failed.

B. Hearing of School District Patrons

Michael Lynch, teacher and resident, addressed the Board and the public about regarding state funding for public education. He encouraged the community to advocate to legislators during the upcoming election year to prioritize public education funding, noting that inflation-adjusted teacher salaries and benefits have declined, also making it harder to attract and retain educators.

Trindin Cavalier, teacher, addressed the Board about the exceptional learning environment at High School North, highlighting the dedication of teachers who maintain high academic standards while fostering curiosity, rigor, and personal growth in students. She emphasized the school's culture of collaboration, where student voice is actively included in decision-making, creating a community of shared respect, engagement, and mutual accountability.

Kristin Carson, resident and parent in the district, thanked Mr. Howell for calling her after the last meeting. She addressed the Board regarding employee disciplinary matters. She also stated teachers should reconsider their union affiliations, citing concerns about Michigan's low educational rankings and that she would like to see district performance improved.

Mia Lupo, freshman at LCHS-N, addressed the Board in support of her teacher, Ms. Trudeau, praising her engaging teaching style and positive classroom environment. She stated that Ms. Trudeau has never shared political opinions in class and urged the board not to discipline her, emphasizing students' respect and appreciation for her as an educator.

C. Superintendent's Report

C.1. District Update

Mr. Howell addressed the Board regarding the investigation into recent Facebook comments made by a teacher, stating that a thorough review was conducted involving interviews, legal counsel, and input from the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. He emphasized the importance of professionalism and respectful communication, reminding the community that while free speech is protected, words carry responsibility and should be used to foster kindness and unity within the district. Discussion followed.

Mr. Lipski stated that recent comments may have been in violation of at least two Board Operating Procedures, 4.4.1 and 4.4.3, which direct the Board to focus on issues rather than individuals and prohibit negative public comments about employees or students. He stated it is the Board's responsibility to determine how to address these potential violations. Discussion followed.

C.2. Department Updates

Mr. Howell introduced Mr. Ward who provided an update on his first couple of weeks as Director for Operations. He stated everyone has been helpful and welcoming as he gets acclimated. He also thanked Randy Baker, Supervisor for Custodial & Maintenance, for his help during this transition period.

Mr. Howell stated the rest of the updates would be included as part of the agenda items.

D. Curriculum and Instruction Office

D.1. Student Travel Requests

Mr. Da Via thanked the department for the detail provided. No other questions or discussion.

D.2. iPad Information – Middle School Early Adopters

Mrs. Rawski, Mr. Streng and Ms. Liz Allen provided information 1:1 iPad Middle School Early Adopters program. Mrs. Christine Sampier and Mr. Zach MacIntosh both spoke about their experiences as parents being a part of the iPad initiative at the elementary school level. Discussion followed.

D.3. 35n Grant Purchase

Ms. Montpas provided information regarding the 35n Grant Purchase that will be presented for approval at the next Regular Board Meeting. Discussion followed.

E. Business Office

E.1. Consent Agenda Items

- Budget Report & Quarterly Budget
- Payment Registers
- Purchases (*None this month*)
- Summary of Investments & Wire/ACH Transfers

No questions or discussion.

Mr. Lipski called a break at 8:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

E.2. Recommendation to Accept the 2024-2025 Audit

Ms. Jennifer Watkins of Yeo & Yeo Audit Firm, presented the June 30, 2025 Single Audit for L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Konon presented additional information regarding the current status of the district budget.

F. Human Resources Office

F.1. Employment Recommendations

Mr. Van Camp provided information regarding the Employment Recommendations that will be presented for approval at the next Regular Board Meeting. Discussion followed.

G. Other Matters

G.1. Letter to Prosecutor

No further updates at this time on the letter from Mrs. Hernden.

H. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

Michael Lynch, teacher, thanked the Board and Administration for the improved budget outcome and spoke about the financial impact of the \$76 Headley Amendment rollback. He also emphasized the importance of promoting the district's successes to the community, encouraging a united front to showcase positive achievements and counteract recent negative publicity.

E. Board Member Comment

Mrs. Hernden questioned an AP Government classroom assignment featuring a political cartoon of former presidents, questioning its educational value and alignment with curriculum. She also complimented the custodial and grounds crew and stated the everyone was impressed with the appearance of the stadium.

Mr. Sellers praised the policy committee for their recent work and highlighted upcoming action items for the end-of-month meeting. He also clarified that the Headlee Amendment vote was scheduled for August—not November—and explained that the board's decision to wait was based on avoiding the potential cost and risk of a special election.

Mrs. Ross stated she feels classroom content should not stray from approved curriculum and that education should remain the primary focus, especially given students' varying levels of maturity. She also discussed the Headlee Amendment funding, stressing the importance of securing district-owned funds, and commended staff and the Board for their work in improving the budget and overall district performance.

Mr. Lipski, addressed the need for proper investigation of the document submitted by Mrs. Hernden, but noted that it should have been sent earlier so it could be added to the agenda and addressed following proper protocols. He stressed the importance of respect and civil discourse toward the superintendent and staff, praising the superintendent and his team for navigating the budget. He also cautioned that continued negativity from this Board could drive away talented personnel and students. He emphasized the need for pride and respect as opposed to the disrespect being shown to the Superintendent. He commended the students and staff at High School North for organizing a well-run Homecoming and pep rally, highlighting their pride, respect, and dedication to the school community and looks forward to attending more events.

Mr. Doss also commended Mr. Howell for his thorough, nonpartisan handling of recent issues. He emphasized the importance of maintaining dignity, decorum and professionalism as a public Board, noting that divisive behavior undermines not only the Board, but also district employees. He cited procedure and policy that the Board governs district employees through the superintendent, who is responsible for developing evaluation protocols in compliance with state law. If Board policy conflicts with a collective bargaining agreement, the agreement takes precedence. He also thanked the presenters for their excellent reports, the Technology Department's support, and the district administration for the significant reduction in the budget shortfall, and looks forward to the outcome of the AP Government political cartoon topic.

Mr. Da Via stated the definition of courage is to face and overcome the challenges that Mr. Howell has encountered in his first year and that he couldn't be prouder to be working with Mr. Howell. He noted that, based on his experience with several superintendents, Mr. Howell stands out as the most student-centered leader and commended him for his exemplary performance and commitment to this district.

Mr. Cyprus praised staff for their presentations and in achieving a significant budget deficit reduction. He affirmed the board's unanimous decision on the Headlee issue, citing the risk of the costs of the election, but the Board should move forward in unity when the issue comes up for a regular election. Regarding the political cartoon, he stated questions like this should follow proper procedure, beginning with building administration and then utilizing district staff, rather than immediately escalating to the superintendent or public criticism without context. He cautioned against reactionary responses and "gotcha" tactics, emphasizing the need to maintain Board decorum and provide the superintendent with the appropriate support and opportunity to do his job.

F. *Adjournment

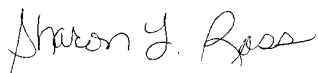
Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Sellers, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education

SLR:cjg