



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 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 Regular 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
Mrs. Sandra Hernden, Trustee
Mr. Andrew Parski, 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
Ms. Kathy Konon, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Mr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Community Education and Student Services
Mr. Donald Gratton, Director for Operations
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Ms. Beth Disbrow, Director for Finance
Ms. Cheryl Goodall, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Employees and Patrons of the District

B. Approval of Agenda for the January 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Doss, to approve the January 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

C. Presentations

C.1. Student Recognition

Emily Banfill and Maya Steffen from Middle School North were recognized for placing fourth out of over 22 teams in the Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge, put on by the Women of Aerospace Industry Association (WAIAM) to create a unique, sustainable way to solve real-world issues. They created the "HurriHelp", a drone that provides post-hurricane support.

C.2. Board Appreciation Month

L’Anse Creuse High School and L’Anse Creuse High School North students presented gifts to the Board in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. All other district schools acknowledged the Board with cards, posters, food and concluded with a video presentation from Carkenord.

Mr. Howell expressed his appreciation for the dedication and support of the Board especially over the past year. He also thanked the students and schools for all of the gifts presented to the Board. He thanked outgoing Board members Hilary Dubay and Amy Servial for their service to the Board and welcomed new Board members Sandra Hernden and Andrew Parski. He acknowledged each of the board members individually by name and is looking forward to a year of progress and collaboration in serving students, staff and the community.

Mr. Lipski stated it’s the students, staff, administration and community the Board should thank to have the opportunity to serve on the Board. He read some individual thank you notes received from students and thanked everyone for all of the gifts for the Board.

Mr. Lipski called a break from 6:43 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

No patrons addressed the Board at this time.

E. Bond Update

Mr. Howell thanked Mr. Gratton, Mr. Streng and Mrs. Konon for the work on the bond thus far. He also thanked Barton Malow and Partners in Architecture for their guidance and support on bond projects to make the district the best it can be. Mrs. Konon gave an update on the bond status and stated we are scheduled to close on February 18, 2025.

Mike Malone with Partners in Architecture introduced himself and as a resident in the district stated he was pleased to be involved with the bond projects. Sam Esser from Barton Malow introduced himself and stated it’s his second bond with the district and is pleased to be back. Vicki Smith from Partners in Architecture gave a presentation including photos and visual renderings of the flooring projects at Lobbestael, Tenniswood and Yacks.

Mr. Malone provided an update along with photos and visual renderings about the varsity baseball and softball fields at LCHS and LCHSN as well as the tennis/pickleball courts at LCHSN.

Ms. Smith provided an update on HVAC and critical need-based pavement replacement projects upcoming also.

Mr. Esser stated they are in process of bidding out work to be done. They are looking at all construction related needs to hopefully maximize savings for the district.

Mr. Howell expressed his appreciation to the team recognizing how extraordinary it is that the district is able to have this level of progress on these projects when the bond was just passed last November.

Mrs. Konon stated there are four new buses on order waiting for funding and roofing projects coming up as well.

Mr. Lipski stated there will also be links posted to the district website containing before and after renderings as projects are completed.

Discussion followed.

F. Superintendent’s Report

F.1. District Update

Mr. Howell thanked the teachers, staff and community as we have completed the first semester of the school year.

F.2. Superintendent Evaluation Training – John Kava, Collins & Blaha, P.C.

Discussion preceded and followed the presentation about the process of Superintendent Evaluation given by Mr. Kava.

G. Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Doss, to approve the following Consent Agenda items as presented:

- G.1. Budget Report
- G.2. Quarterly Budget Update
- G.3. Payment Registers
- G.4. Bid Award Recommendations
- G.5. Purchases
- G.6. Overtime Report
- G.7. Summary of Investments
- G.8. Summary of Wire Transfers
- G.9. Accounts Payable Check Register Approval Reminder
- G.10. Employment Recommendations
- G.11. Student Travel Requests
- G.12. December 16, 2024 COTW/Regular Meeting Minutes
- G.13. January 13, 2025 Organizational and COTW Meeting Minutes

Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

H. Curriculum and Instruction Office

H.1. Schools of Choice Recommendation

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Ross, to approve the Schools of Choice Recommendation as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Doss, Ross, Hernden, Lipski, Parski, Da Via
No: Sellers
Motion carried.

I. Support Services Office

I.1. Graham and LCHSN Roofing Projects

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Ross to approve the roofing projects at Graham and LCHSN.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Discussion followed.

J. Other Matters

J.1. Michigan Association of School Board (MASB) Membership

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to join the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

Discussion followed. Mr. Doss motioned to Call the Question. Discussion followed. Mr. Doss rescinded his Call the Question motion.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Doss, Da Via, Parski, Ross
No: Hernden, Lipski, Sellers
Motion carried.

J.2. Proposed changes to the Board meeting dates

Mrs. Ross stated the change to the Board meeting dates should have been discussed with all Board members prior to the last meeting as the dates are now the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, instead of the 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Mr. Lipski thanked the Board for turning in their committee assignment preferences. Two workshops that have not been held in the past six years will be removed and there will be a new temporary district committee added for Athletics. All committees will be reviewed annually to determine necessity. The assignments and schedule will be compiled and distributed to the Board. If a member is the committee chair, it is their responsibility to set the meeting dates/times with the goal of highest attendance possible.

Mrs. Ross stated that Board chairs should report what was discussed at their committee meeting at the following Board meeting.

Discussion followed.

K. Hearing of District Patrons Follow-up

No patrons addressed the Board at this time.

L. Board Member Comment

Mrs. Hernden thanked bus drivers especially with the recent inclement weather. She also thanked the students for Board Appreciation. She addressed concerns regarding the timing of her swearing in at the previous Board meeting.

Mr. Sellers addressed an additional correspondence Board members received regarding Athletics. He would like to ensure that expenditures are covered equally and would like to see this addressed at the Athletics Committee meeting. He would also like to see consistency with hiring of Athletics staff. He thanked parents and coaches that do come forward to the Board. He would like Board members to be made aware of all committee schedules. He thanked everyone for Board Appreciation.

Mrs. Ross thanked students and staff for Board Appreciation. She also thanked staff and especially bus drivers in inclement weather. She stated that while no more than three Board members can be present at a meeting, Board members can request items to be discussed at their respective committee meetings.

Mr. Lipski apologized to Mrs. Hernden and Mr. Parski for concerns about their swearing in. His understanding was they had to be sworn in prior to participating in the Organizational Meeting. He stated this was in no way intentional and had offered to repeat the swearing in at tonight's meeting. He stated all members have the right to express their concerns and he respects what was stated. He also requested more information about the "call the question" motion. He thanked everyone for Board Appreciation. He also thanked everyone for healthy conversation at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Doss thanked everyone for Board Appreciation and thanked everyone who works in educating our students.

Mr. Da Via stated he believes financial and procedural equity should be present in our Athletics programs at both schools. He expressed appreciation for all the meaningful gifts that students and staff provided for Board Appreciation.

Mr. Parski agreed on the attention needed in the Athletics program. He also thanked everyone for Board Appreciation and as a new Board member hopes to live up to the recognition.

- M. **Closed Session** – Motion to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Ross, to move into Closed Session at 8:58 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Doss, Ross, Sellers, Lipski, Hernden, Da Via, Parski

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to reconvene to Regular Session at 10:16 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Doss, Sellers, Ross, Parski, Lipski, Hernden, Da Via

No: None

Motion carried.

- N. Adjournment**

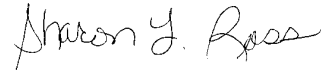
Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon L. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education
SLR:cjg