



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, April 28, 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 Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mr. Adam Lipski, President – Arrived at 8:17 p.m.
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. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
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

Motion by Mrs. Hernden, supported by Mrs. Ross, to approve the April 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented with the following changes:

Mr. Da Via requested to move item I.1. to between items C.4 after the break.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

C. Presentations

Mr. Howell introduced the following presentations:

C.1. State Wrestler Recognition

Mrs. Alysia Samborsky recognized and congratulated LCHS wrestler Nick Martinek, a.k.a. Marty, who qualified for the State Wrestling Championship and competed at Ford Field on February 28, 2025.

C.2. SkillsUSA State Conference Qualifiers

The district had six students from the Early Childhood and Criminal Justice programs at the Frederick V. Pankow Center qualify for and attend the SkillsUSA State Conference on Saturday, April 12. All

of the students did a wonderful job representing the programs, the school, and the district. Ms. Heather Turak recognized two students for their outstanding achievements in the Early Childhood category. Ms. Samantha Giambrone also recognized four students who competed in the Criminal Justice category for their outstanding achievements.

C.3. Secondary Science Olympiad State Qualifiers

Several students from Middle School-North, Middle School-East, Middle School-Central and LCHS-North were recognized and congratulated for qualifying, placing and medaling in the State Science Olympiad Competition which took place Saturday, April 26th.

C.4. L'Anse Creuse Teachers of Year

Three L'Anse Creuse teachers, one from each level, were selected to represent our district as Teachers of the Year. Their dedication to their students, colleagues, and the school community has been instrumental in building an environment that allows everyone to learn, grow, and thrive.

Ms. Colleen Furman (Principal at Atwood Elementary) recognized Ms. Ashley Berube as Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Michael Van Camp (Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources) recognized Mr. Brian MacDonald of Middle School-South, as Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Alysia Samborsky (Principal at LCHS) recognized Ms. Gail Ashburn of LCHS as High School Teacher of the Year and the 2025 High School Teacher of the Year for all of Macomb County.

Mr. Doss called a break from 7:05 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

I.1. *Bond Program Project Series Transfer (See agenda change in item B.)

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via to approve the Bond Program Project Series Transfer as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

Trindin Cavalier, teacher at LCHS-North, spoke about the achievements occurring at LCHS-North.

Michael Lynch, teacher at LCHS-North (28 years), described his positive experiences engaging with students and the importance of culture building in the school district. He used the theme of "nothing is impossible" as an example.

Kristin Carson, resident of Harrison Township, expressed desire for more transparency regarding student arrest. She also expressed concern about the district not signing the document stating our district in compliance with the executive order.

Matthew Carson, parent and former L'Anse Creuse student, expressed concerns about security and the availability of extra support in schools.

Gail Ashburn, teacher at LCHS, spoke to the expansion of the student leadership program and all they do to better student achievement and behavior. Renaissance also positively benefits school culture.

Hayley Chapman, senior at LCHS, expressed gratitude for support of the band program. She also recognized the accomplishments and benefits of band program and expressed importance of having a trailer for the band.

Mr. P. expressed gratitude for board pictures being posted on the website. He stated one of his FOIA requests was denied requesting communication records between the school district and the sheriff's office due to there being no record.

Kelly McDevitt, teacher and president of LCEA, expressed commitment to make L'Anse Creuse the top district in the state. She's continuing her series "Teacher Triumphs", highlighting the hard work and dedication of the teachers, staff, students and school community. She named several Middle School-Central teachers, referencing student score improvements and growth. These teachers identified 119 students recognized for achieving academic excellence and positive respectful behavior, which in turn is improving school climate. She thanked all for the continued support and thanked the MSC family and all teachers for all they do.

Motion by Mrs. Hernden, supported by Mr. Da Via, to extend the beginning portion of public comments.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Hernden, Da Via

No: Cyprus, Doss, Ross

Motion failed.

Mr. Doss read a statement from Mr. Lipski, Board President, indicating the Board will meet in closed session regarding the ongoing internal review of the incident at LCHS-North. The district will provide a statement to the community in the coming days and everyone's patience is appreciated.

E. Superintendent's Report

E.1. District Update

Mr. Howell presented the promotional video for L'Anse created by Michael Kaufman. He stated when he started at LCPS, the overall goal he wanted to see was being student-focused and community-minded.

F. ** Consent Agenda

Please note: Unless removed from the Consent Agenda, items identified within the Consent Agenda will be acted on at one time.

- F.1. Budget Report
- F.2. Overtime Report
- F.3. Payment Registers
- F.4. Purchases Bond
- F.5. Purchases
- F.6. Quarterly Budget Update
- F.7. Summary of Investments
- F.8. Summary of Wire Transfers
- F.9. Accounts Payable Check Register Approval Reminder
- F.10. Employment Recommendations
- F.11. Student Travel Requests
- F.12. Board Minutes:
 - a. March 31, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lipski arrived at 8:17 p.m.

Mr. Doss read an email sent to the Board of Education by the principals at both high schools, Mrs. Samborsky and Mrs. Beard regarding the Jostens/Renaissance conference indicating the numerous benefits to students and staff, along with climate and culture at the schools. They were also able to obtain a sponsorship in the amount of \$9,600.00 from Jostens to help offset some of the cost. Staff

has already gone through the appropriate process to get this conference approved and it has already been approved by the Board.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Lipski, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to call the question on the discussion of the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Lipski, Cyprus, Doss, Da Via, Ross

No: Hernden

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Cyprus, Da Via, Doss, Lipski, Ross

No: Hernden

Motion carried.

G. Technology

G.1. *Technology Firewall Support Recommendation

Motion by Mr. Da Via, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the Technology Firewall Support Recommendation as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

H. Operations

H.1. *Abatement Associated with Yacks Flooring Project

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Abatement Associated with Yacks Flooring Project as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

I. Other Matters

I.2. Letter to Prosecutor Update

Mr. Lipski stated that there is no update, it is an active case but no one has picked up the case at this time.

I.3. Legislative Update

Mr. Howell provided an overview stating the district is in compliance with Title VI, but the compliance document was not signed due to an injunction put in place by the courts that put a halt on the certification. He obtained four legal opinions who verified this as the correct action at this time until the matter is settled in the courts. This is the action being taken by many districts in the State of Michigan at this time. Courts have halted certifications and there is no risk of losing federal funding.

Discussion followed.

J. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

Public comment began at 8:32 p.m.

Patrick Corcoran, teacher at Pellerin, stated Mike Davey is retiring this year after 34 years. He expressed how he has been a mentor to him and that he leaves a great legacy of dedication to students and LCPS.

Jacob Mason, resident and former student, expressed congratulations and appreciation to teacher Gail Ashburn. He expressed frustration with the lack of support for field trips and the challenges with fundraising. He stated he would like to see more presence by Board members in the schools so they could see firsthand the benefits of the Renaissance leadership program. He stated true leadership is about being present and lifting others up.

Delilah McFadden, freshman at LCHS, marching band member expressed appreciation for support by the district and the Board for the band program.

Kelly Turri, parent, addressed concerns about safety and stated she is hurt to see teachers and the superintendent being torn down by a Board member for handling a situation appropriately and swiftly. She stated all should be standing together in unity and strength.

Mr. P, resident, stated he wants his name read as written. He made a complaint against Board member Mrs. Sharon Ross and stated her name twice. Mr. Lipski stated since she was named twice, she has the option to go into closed session with the speaker. Mrs. Ross stated she wanted to go into closed session.

A call to enter into Closed Session followed at 8:52 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Ross, Lipski, Doss, Da Via, Cyprus

No: Hernden

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via, to reconvene to Regular Session at 9:01 pm.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Cyprus, Da Via, Doss, Hernden, Lipski, Ross

No: None

Motion carried.

Michael Lynch, teacher at LCHS-North, stated school boards are elected but are not local government as defined by Michigan law. He stated the Board is given a charge and responsibility to put kids first and do what's best for them always.

Tallan Krueger, student at LCHS-North, presented a petition with 104 signatures to not displace teacher, Mrs. Carra. He stated he views LCHS-N as a family and thanked the Board and administration.

Motion by Mr. Lipski, supported by Mr. Da Via, to move item L. Board Member Comment prior to item K. Closed Session in the event the closed session runs long.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

L. Board Member Comment

Mr. Lipski thanked the Board for activities related to the Bond and approving the band trailer purchase even though it was a part of Series 2. He also thanked Mr. Doss for filling in for him while he attended to family commitments. He also thanked Mr. Howell for his time and dedication. He thanked all who spoke or wrote an email to the Board also.

Mrs. Hernden congratulated all students who received rewards and the teachers of the year. She stated incident at LCHS-North is about safety and accountability. She expressed dissatisfaction with district leadership regarding the compliance letter and with general accountability.

Mr. Da Via stated he has worked as a teacher, coach and administrator for many superintendents, and Mr. Howell is the most student-centered superintendent he's worked with in his entire career. He also shared he attended a tennis matches between LCHS and LCHS-North, and was impressed not only with their play, but with the respect, sportsmanship and honesty towards one another.

Mr. Cyprus congratulated the award recipients and the teachers of the year. He stated while he loves to hear about their accomplishments, teachers shouldn't feel the need to justify the quality of the work they do. He questioned what type of culture the Board is building. The culture starts with leadership and the Board needs to support Mr. Howell in building it. He reiterated the dedication of the group of MSC teachers that Ms. McDevitt spoke about. He also stated the safety survey was very well done and encouraged everyone to take the time to complete it. He stated as a Board, if we don't like a policy, then let's change it and not argue about it in public. He would like to see it handled in the correct way.

Mrs. Ross congratulated students and teachers who were recognized this evening. Mrs. Ross acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Davey. She also acknowledged the amount of work Mr. Howell is putting in and said it's very much appreciated. The Board as a group should be able to be respectful and do the work of the district for students and staff. Transparency needs to be from everyone including the watchdog group that is demanding transparency, yet not transparent themselves. She stated it's okay to agree to disagree. She would like to see a stop to the subversive behavior.

Mr. Doss expressed congratulations to those who received awards this evening. He also stated his appreciation to Mr. Howell for due diligence to protect the district's liability and to ensure the district is making the right decisions. Mr. Doss read an email from a parent sent to Board members this week, regarding a threat made to her student a period of time ago, and expressing how professionally, swiftly, and compassionately the staff and law enforcement responded to her student and their family.

K. **Closed Session

- K.1.** Motion to enter closed session under section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to review two attorney-client privileged materials that are exempt from disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act and 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. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via to move into Closed Session at 9:31 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Cyprus, Da Via, Ross, Hernden, Lipski, Doss

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Da Via, supported by Mr. Lipski to reconvene to Regular Session at 11:17 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Da Via, Lipski, Cyprus, Doss, Hernden, Ross

No: None

Motion carried.

M. *Adjournment

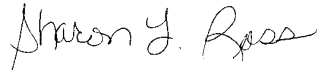
Motion by Mr. Lipski, supported by Mr. Da Via, to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon L. Ross".

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