



H.7.c.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday, May 12, 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, Voting Meeting

Mr. Adam Lipski, President, called the Committee of the Whole 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

Absent: Mr. Jeffrey Cyprus, 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
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Community Education and Student Services
Mr. Donald Gratton, Director for Operations
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Ms. Cheryl Goodall, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Employees and Patrons of the District

Mr. Lipski stated the Board will need a motion to make this a voting meeting.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to make this a voting meeting and to make item F.4. Recommendation for Kitchen Equipment Purchase a voting item.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

B. Board Member Complaint

Mr. Lipski read a letter received by Mr. Howell from a community member who spoke at the Regular Board meeting on April 28, 2025. Mr. Lipski reminded the Board to not engage with the community during public comments. He stated no further action is needed at this time, encourages public participation and looks forward to a productive meeting.

C. Hearing of School District Patrons

Jennifer Tuttle, teacher, retiring this year, has been with district as a student, camp counselor, teacher and literacy specialist for 45 years. As she is leaving LCPS, she thanked the LCPS community and recognized several other educators, administrators and colleagues who had an impact on her life. She welcomed Mr. Howell to the district and appreciates his communication and the direction he is taking the district in.

Michelle Ropp, parent and staff member, expressed dissatisfaction with communication sent by the district regarding the budget deficit.

Mr. P. recognized the school bus drivers in the district. He also spoke regarding the budget deficit and questioned where the cuts will be. He also addressed the Board Member Complaint letter written by him and while the matter was addressed, but no further action taken, he will file a civil lawsuit in Federal Court against the District.

D. Superintendent's Report**D.1. District Update**

Mr. Howell stated retirees were recognized at a celebration prior to the meeting and he appreciated hearing about their careers and their dedication to LCPS. He also acknowledged the families of those in the field of education as their loved ones sacrifice a large amount of time as well. On May 4, he attended the South River's 150 Year celebration. He stated it was a pleasure to attend this community event and meet people and learn more about what South Rover has meant to the community for so many years. The event included community members from 1974 for the opening of the time capsule. He also recognized all of the transportation staff for transportation week. Recently the annual "Road-e-o" vent took place county wide. LCPS had two teams at this event competing in a variety of events. Our drivers did a great job representing LCPS and won several awards. He thanked the bus drivers and all of the transportation staff for their hard work & dedication to this important part of our district.

D.2. Department Updates

Mr. Van Camp stated 43 new retirees totaling 1,106 years of service to L'Anse Creuse were honored at the celebration today. Listening to some of the speeches and stories shared show that when anyone chooses to work for schools, in any capacity, we are all educators, regardless of job title, choosing to make a difference in the lives of kids every day. He stated it was an honor to be able to recognize the retirees today.

Mr. Streng gave a report on behalf of Technology & Operations. He stated the district has been using the School Dude platform for several years for technology, maintenance and facility requests but price has been increasing over the years. He stated that he and Mr. Gratton have had experience with the FMX platform and are working on the project to migrate to the FMX platform which will result in approximately a \$15,000.00 reduction in software subscription fees annually.

Mr. Howell stated the rest of the department updates will take place within the agenda.

Discussion followed.

E. Curriculum and Instruction Office**E.1. Benchmark Assessment – NWEA**

Ms. Montpas stated this is an annual renewal the district has been doing for the past several years. She stated there has also been a reimbursement grant for grades K-8 in years past. The grant amount

is pending legislation but it is lower than in prior years. We expect to have this information in November or December.

Discussion followed.

- E.2. Recommendation to begin CTE Consortium with Faith Christian School (New for the 2025-2026 school year)

Ms. Montpas stated Faith Christian School approached the district asking to become a part of the CTE consortium. A former student who had a wonderful experience in the CTE program at Pankow is now employed at this school and asked their leadership if this would be something they would like to participate in. This school would be added along with all of our other consortiums, allowing participation in CTE programs at Pankow.

Discussion followed.

- E.3. Health Book Recommendation 9-12

Ms. Montpas stated a pilot survey was done. These textbooks have not been replaced since 2010. The curriculum is not changing, just the materials to be used.

Discussion followed.

- E.4. Student Travel Requests

There was no discussion.

- E.5. School Age Child Care (SACC) Tuition Rate Proposal

Dr. Sedick stated an analysis was done and the program is currently operating in the red due to new employee contracts and inflation. He detailed the plan the district is recommending for a new tuition flat-rate structure and fees to cover costs to run the program and bring it more in line with comparable programs in other districts, maintaining fiscal responsibility. The changes include an increase in the annual registration fee from \$25.00 per family to \$50.00 per child, with a maximum of \$75.00 per family, a flat rate fee system, a late fee, and a research fee.

- E.6. Tuition Based Preschool & Early Childhood Before- and After-Care Rate Increase Proposal

Dr. Sedick stated, similar to SACC it appears as though these programs have also been operating in the red for the past several years for similar reasons. He worked with the Early Childhood Director to put together some modest price increases to these programs also, stating that there have not been any increases since 2016. He detailed the changes proposed which included a non-refundable deposit of \$60.00, a \$25.00 late fee, and elimination of the 2 day program, offering only a 3, 4, or 5 day schedule.

Discussion followed.

F. Business Office

- F.1. Consent Agenda Items

- Budget Report & Quarterly Budget Update
- Payment Registers
- Overtime Report
- Summary of Investments & Wire Transfers

Discussion followed.

- F.2. *Bond Owner/Architect Contract-Partners in Architecture (PIA)

Mrs. Konon provided an overview of the contract.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Bond Owner/Architect Contract-Partners in Architecture (PIA) as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

F.3. *Bond Owner/Technology Designer Services

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Bond Owner/Technology Designer Services as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

F.4. *Recommendation for Kitchen Equipment Purchase – Double Oven, Refrigerator, Warming Cabinets

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Recommendation for Kitchen Equipment Purchase – Double Oven (MSS), Refrigerator (LCHS), Warming Cabinets (LCHS-N) as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

F.5. Recommendation for Priority Waste Contract Extension

The proposal is to renew the agreement with Priority Waste for which will extend the contract term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and reflects an increase of \$1,865 over the current fiscal year, which represents a 2.6% increase.

Discussion followed.

F.6. Resolution to Request a Truth-In-Budget Hearing

There was no discussion.

G. Human Resources Office

G.1. Employment Recommendations

There was no discussion.

H. Other Matters

H.1. Resolution for MISD Budget

There was no discussion.

H.2. *Band Trailer Bid Award

Mr. Gratton provided details regarding the two bids received for the trailer purchase and recommended the lower bid at a cost of \$223,020.99.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Da Via, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the Band Trailer Bid Award as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

H.3. Letter to Prosecutor

Mr. Lipski stated neither he nor other Board members have received any updates.

H.4. *Resolution for Designation of Electoral Representative & Alternate for the MISD Biennial Election

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve Designation of Electoral Representative & Alternate for the MISD Biennial Election for Mr. Lipski as the representative and Mrs. Hernden as the alternate as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

I. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

No patrons addressed the Board at this time.

J. Board Member Comment

Mr. Doss congratulated the LCPS retirees. He also attended the LCHS Honors program and was proud to see how many students are graduating with honors and is looking forward to attending LCHS-N's honors program.

Mr. Da Via stated he is happy for the retirees but is a bit concerned about the difficulty in replacing 1,106 years of experience. He stated he wishes the Human Resources luck in this endeavor.

Mrs. Hernden recognized two coaches inducted into the hall of fame and thanked them for their dedication. She stated the LCHS-N girls tennis team has gone undefeated this season and are MAC champs. She thanked the Transportation Department for all that they do in spite of challenges they face. She thanked Ms. Tuttle for her years of service and dedication. She stated she agrees with Ms. Ropp and hopes appropriate budget cuts and concessions are made in the district. She stated she believes federal funding is at risk for the district. She stated this is police week and thanked police officers and their families for their service. She stated this week also includes Armed Forces Day and would the members of the military for their service.

Mr. Lipski stated we have 5 presentations coming up for the next Board meeting to celebrate our students and staff and is looking forward to it. We will also be celebrating student athletes who have signed letters of intent and we will be celebrating them at the Board meeting in June. He stated it's nice to see how much the district has to celebrate including the retirees this year. He also thanked the culinary team for a job well done for the retiree celebration.

K. **Closed Session – Motion to enter closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal statute, including two written opinions of legal counsel subject to attorney-client privilege.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Ross, to move into Closed Session at 7:44 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ross, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to reconvene to Regular Session at 8:24 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

K. *Adjournment

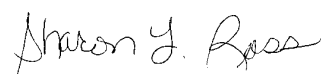
Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Ross, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon L. Ross, Secretary

Board of Education

SLR:cjg