



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 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 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
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
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Mr. Donald Gratton, Director for Operations
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Ms. Beth Disbrow, Director for Finance
Employees and Patrons of the District

Mr. Lipski stated the Board will need a motion to make this a voting meeting. Mr. Doss suggested adding 30 minutes for a total of 60 minutes to Item C., hearing of district patrons.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to make this a voting meeting and to amend the motion to add 30 minutes for a total of 60 minutes to Item C., the first section of district patron comments.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

B. Human Resources Office – Elementary Principal Recommendations

B.1. *Higgins Principal – Employment Recommendation

Mr. Van Camp gave a brief overview of Ms. Amanda Melymuka's background.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the recommendation for Ms. Amanda Melymuka as the Principal for Higgins Elementary.

Ms. Melymuka thanked the Board and the Superintendent for this opportunity and looks forward to the journey ahead at Higgins.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

B.2. *Tenniswood Principal – Employment Recommendation

Mr. Van Camp gave a brief overview of Mrs. Destiny Moore's background.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation for Mrs. Destiny Moore as the Principal for Tenniswood Elementary.

Mrs. Moore expressed her gratitude for this opportunity and thanked her family. She also looks forward to building relationships with students and staff.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Howell thanked both candidates and their families. He has met with both candidates as part of the interview process and expressed that he is looking forward to working with both of them for many years to come.

C. Hearing of School District Patrons

Hearing of School District Patrons began at 6:43 p.m.

Samantha Solomon, parent, stated her concerns with the staffing and program cuts in advanced classes in the district. She also praised Ms. Shauna, the bus driver who safely transported her children for 8 years.

Breanne Hollifield, student, stated her concerns with the reduction in classes in the choir program.

Pat Maceroni, stated his concerns with parking and traffic congestion at student pick up at LCHS-N. He stated he would also like to see additional speed bumps added on the driveway to 21 Mile Road.

Madilyn Blackburn, LCHS alumna, stated her experience in the choir program benefitted her in many ways. She stated her concerns with the experiences students would have in a larger combined class or with cutting the program.

Daisy Crawford, LCHS alumna, stated she is concerned about the condensing of the classes in the choir program. She stated the quality will go down, participation will go down due to scheduling, and the program will not be as appealing to incoming students.

Elizabeth Allen, staff member, stated she is here to make an appeal for instructional technology coaches who support over 9,000 student devices (Chromebooks and iPads) districtwide. Intentional integration of learning with technology is a necessity to foster academic growth in the 21st century. She listed several other county districts that have a much higher ratio of instructional technology coaches. When instructional technology coaching disappears, it's a step backward and is undercutting a multi-million-dollar investment, making progress unsustainable. She requested the Board to reinstate the second instructional technology coach position.

Jacob Mason, resident, stated he would like to recognize Mrs. Karen Veritz of Tenniswood and how important she is to the students, staff and school. He stated she is the heart of Tenniswood and keeping her at Tenniswood is what's best. He provided letters from staff and former students stating how much Mrs. Veritz has meant to them.

Morgan Walters, student and senior next year, stated her concerns with the cuts in the choir program to two hours next year. She stated how much the program has benefitted her and meant to her.

Mr. P, community member, stated his concerns with the rise in the needs of special needs classrooms. He also stated his concerns with vaccines being required. He stated his disagreement with Board policy. He stated he feels his rights were violated and if he did not get an apology, litigation will ensue.

John Paul Clark, teacher (18 years), stated cutting the choir program would not be beneficial as the students that are here tonight, present and former, have testified to. He stated he is retiring from public education and the district could bring in a new teacher, saving money and keeping the 3rd class along with associated shows and programs going.

Brandon Nalband, parent and coach, stated his concerns on behalf of parents about various issues with another coach in the baseball program. He stated concerns with fundraising and funding issues, including assistant coaches possibly being paid from fundraising. He stated he disagrees with how resources are being used in athletics.

Desiree Redden, student and choir president, stated choir has changed her life and expressed her concerns with reducing the choir program to two hours.

London Baffield, student, stated she feels it's important to have at least three hours of choir to maintain quality of programming.

Andrew Zaremski, resident, stated Mrs. Veritz is the heart and soul of Tenniswood and expressed how much she means to the school. He stated her leaving would be devastating and she should remain at the building.

Heather Budzynowski, staff member, resident, president of clerical union, provided the names of the clerical members laid off or displaced. She stated the importance of their roles in providing support in the buildings. She stated she is concerned about how the volume of their work and responsibilities are going to be completed.

Michael Lynch, teacher, stated after listening to the concerns about budget cuts, another place community members should also direct their energy is toward state funding. He stated the state's funding system is not adequate and to support public education. Any change in support of public education requires citizen involvement by contacting politicians and asking for support.

Hearing of School District Patrons ended at 7:45 p.m.

D. Superintendent's Report

D.1. District Update

Mr. Howell thanked everyone who spoke and stated times like this are never easy and while we've had quite a bit to celebrate, our district has also had quite a few challenges this year. He stated none of these decisions have come easily nor were taken lightly.

Discussion followed.

D.2. Bond update

Mr. Howell introduced representatives Mr. Sam Esser from Barton Malow, and Ms. Vicki Smith from Partners in Architecture. Mr. Esser of Barton Malow provided an overview of projects and communications that will be taking place. Ms. Vicki Smith also provided an overview of projects, including flooring, pool filtration, roof replacements.

Mr. Howell thanked the presenters and stated he has been impressed with the amount of work that has taken place so far with bond projects in a relatively short amount of time since the passage of the bond. Mr. Howell stated that the slide presentation would be available on the website.

D.3. Department Updates

Business Office: Mrs. Konon stated the Business Office has been extremely busy preparing the budget and preparing for the district audit in August. She stated the Food & Nutrition department is also preparing for summer activities.

Technology: Mr. Streng gave an update on the network switch upgrade that will be taking place in addition to other summer projects.

Support Services: Mr. Gratton stated that the band trailer purchase is progressing and has been ordered. He's also working on upgrading outdoor equipment. He stated he is also working on bus replacements.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Lipski called a break at 8:08 pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

E. Curriculum and Instruction Office

E.1. Student Travel Requests

No questions or discussion.

E.2. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Resolution

No questions or discussion.

F. Business Office

F.1. Consent Agenda Items

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

F.2. Truth-in-Budget Hearing

Mrs. Konon presented an overview of the district budgets.

F.3. Recommendation to Accept the Amended Budget

Mrs. Konon presented an overview of the amended district budget for this year.

F.4. Recommendation to Accept the Budget

Mrs. Konon presented an overview of the district budget for next year.

Discussion followed.

F.5. Recommendation for District's Annual Renewal for Insurance with M.A.I.S.L.

No questions or discussion.

F.6. Recommendation for Workers Compensation Insurance

No questions or discussion.

F.7. Amended Resolution to Add Middle School East as a Voting Precinct

Mr. Sellers invited Mr. Mason Brudzinski up to answer questions about the request to add Middle School East as a voting precinct.

Discussion followed.

F.8. *Barton Malow Construction Manager Agreement

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve Barton Malow contract as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

G. Human Resources Office

G.1. Employment Recommendations

No questions or discussion.

G.2. *Layoff Resolution

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the resolution and authorize the Superintendent to notify, in writing, the staff affected by the resolution.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Discussion followed.

G.3. *Non-Affiliated Contracts

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Non-Affiliated contracts for an additional one-year period, as presented.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

G.4. *Non-Affiliated Furlough Days Resolution

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the Non-Affiliated furlough days resolution as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

H. Other Matters

H.1. *Amendment to Superintendent Employment Contract

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the amendment to the Superintendent Employment Contract as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Discussion followed.

H.2. Letter to Prosecutor

Mr. Sellers stated Board members have received media correspondence and he referred the reporter back to the district's proposed budget.

H.3. Gap in Governance – Second Reading of Board Policy Recommendation

Mrs. Ross read a legal opinion from Mr. Kevin Sutton of Miller-Johnson related to Board governance related to complaints against individual members of the Board.

Discussion followed.

Mrs. Hernden stated she obtained her own legal opinion stating this is a violation of current policy. She read her attorney's legal opinion.

Mr. Doss requested that Mr. Sutton provide a written explanation of the process and reasoning on each of the policy changes.

I. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

Hearing of School District Patrons began at 9:24 p.m.

Kellie Kosuth, parent and staff member, stated her concerns about the proposed changes in the choir program.

Rhyan Walters, LCHS graduate, stated her concerns about the decision to reduce the number of choir classes offered. She stated the choir helped her feel safe, comfortable and gain confidence.

Samantha Solomon, parent, provided further comments in support of the choir program.

Kimberly Brown, parent of a recent graduate and alumna, stated her concerns about the changes in the choir program and the importance of the arts in schools.

Jacob Mason, resident, expressed his appreciation for Deputy Cowan and his many contributions. He stated he appreciated the connections he made with students and staff and stated that he will be missed.

Allison Lane, resident, stated that there are special needs students that find success through the choir program.

Mr. P., resident, stated his concerns about funds spent for sheriffs requested to be present at a previous Board meeting. He stated his rights were violated at a past meeting and a lawsuit will ensue.

Michael Lynch, teacher, explained how state funding has changed and encouraged patrons to contact legislators. He stated per pupil funding is not an ideal model for funding schools. He also expressed his support of the choir program and how beneficial it was for his son.

J. Board Member Comment

Mr. Lipski would like to work with Mr. Howell to put the choir program on the agenda for the next meeting. He also expressed thanks for the administrative concessions given. He stated there were a significant amount of fights at the end of the school year and this will need to stop. He thanked everyone for a successful year and is looking forward to district improvements.

Mr. Sellers provided an update about the Athletics Committee. He stated there is wonderful work happening in this area and commended all for their work on the goal to make sure the handbook is updated with HR and budget procedures. He asked that administration look into possible additional money from the boosters being paid to assistant coaches. He also requested to know what the vote of the DCC was and the research behind it in cutting advanced classes. Regarding choir, he stated this is the first he's heard about this and appreciates it being brought to his attention. He stated he empathizes with Mrs. Budzynowski and the position she's in. He also agreed with Mr. Maceroni regarding the parking issues at LCHS-N.

Mrs. Hernden congratulated to the girl's flag football team at LCHS-N. She thanked all who came to speak about the choir. She stated today was one of the hardest days as a Board member and understands how this feels. She stated she is displeased with how the Board interacts with legal

counsel and the use of Closed Sessions. She stated she has filed a complaint with the Macomb County Prosecutor's office against the Board.

Mr. Cyprus stated we sent 16 athletes to the Michigan Special Olympics and they brought back 20 gold medals. He attended the graduations and was impressed with the pride of the teachers and the accomplishments of the students. He also thanked the Superintendent and the Administration for taking financial concessions and appreciates the message it sends. He stated just because people work in Central Office doesn't mean they're not important and their roles are just as important in running and supporting a school district to educate students.

Mr. Da Via congratulated Mr. Gratton on his pending retirement. He stated the retirements of Dr. Beard at LCHS-N, Mrs. Trebilcock at Higgins, Mr. Clark and Ms. Tuttle will leave the district with a large gap in experience and hopes that we can attract quality candidates to fill those positions.

- K. **Closed Session** - Motion to enter closed session under 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 Mr. Sellers, to move into Closed Session at 10:08 p.m.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to reconvene to Regular Session at 10:46 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

- L. *Adjournment**

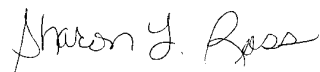
Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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