



F.7.a.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 21, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting on Monday, July 21, 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.  
Mr. Doss appointed Mr. Da Via as Secretary Pro Tem as Mrs. Ross was unable to attend.

Present: Mr. Al Doss, Vice President  
Mr. John Da Via, Treasurer  
Mr. Jeffrey Cyprus, Trustee  
Mrs. Sandra Hernden, Trustee  
Mr. Shane Sellers, Trustee

Absent: Mr. Adam Lipski, President  
Mrs. Sharon Ross, Secretary

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  
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Community Education and Student Services  
Mrs. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education  
Mrs. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education  
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology  
Mr. Don Gratton, Director for Operations  
Ms. Cheryl Goodall, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
Employees and Patrons of the District

**B. \*Approval of Agenda for the July 21, 2025 Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the July 21, 2025 Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried.

**C. Human Resources – Middle School Principal Recommendations**

**C.1. \*Middle School-East Principal – Employment Recommendation**

Mr. Van Camp stated he spoke to staff focus groups at both schools and who provided feedback about what they were looking for in leadership at their respective buildings. He stated he is very pleased with the recommendations he is bringing tonight.

Mr. Van Camp provided an overview of Mr. Zach MacIntosh's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the recommendation for Mr. Zach MacIntosh as the Principal for L'Anse Creuse Middle School - East.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Mr. MacIntosh thanked Mr. Van Camp, Mr. Howell and the Board for this opportunity. He stated he looks forward to working with everyone as the Principal at Middle School - East.

Mr. Howell stated he had a chance to also interview Mr. MacIntosh is looking forward to working with him and seeing great things happening at Middle School - East.

**C.2. \*Middle School-Central Principal – Employment Recommendation**

Mr. Van Camp gave a brief overview of Mr. Steve Filiccia's background and experience.

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the recommendation for Mr. Steve Filiccia as the Principal for L'Anse Creuse Middle School - Central.

Mrs. Hernden requested a roll call vote. She also recused herself from the vote.

Yes: Cyprus, Da Via, Doss

No: Sellers

Recused: Hernden

Discussion followed as to whether or not this constitutes a Board action. Further discussion followed regarding the interview process.

Mr. Howell thanked Mr. Van Camp and the interview committees for their hard work.

**D. Hearing of School District Patrons**

Mr. Michael Lynch, teacher, thanked the board for past financial decisions that prevented a budget crisis but warned that rising costs are outpacing state funding, which hasn't kept up with inflation. He urged continued pressure on Lansing for adequate school aid and highlighted low pay for qualified staff compared to other jobs. He also stated he was disappointed in the Board's rejection of the MSC Principal candidate recommended by trusted administrators, warning it could harm hiring in the future and attracting high quality candidates.

Mr. Doss called a break at 6:52 & meeting was reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

**E. Recommendations for Expulsion**

**E.1. \*\*Recommendation for Expulsion of Student #0420**

Motion by Mr. Da Via, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the Resolution for Expulsion of Student #0420 as presented.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**E.2. \*\*Recommendation for Expulsion of Student #0421**

Motion by Mr. Da Via, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the Resolution for Expulsion of Student #0421 as presented.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**F. Superintendent's Report**

**F.1. \*Operating Millage Replacement Proposal**

Mrs. Konon introduced Mr. Jim Crowley of the law firm Miller Canfield, to present the Operating Millage Proposal. He explained the district's need to renew its voter-approved 18-mill non-homestead property tax levy, which has been reduced by Headlee Amendment rollbacks, causing about \$700,000 in lost annual revenue. He presented two options: hold a November 2025 election to replace and extend the levy with a 4-mill cushion for 20 years (capturing \$1.4M over two years but incurring approximately \$105K in election costs) or wait until 2026 for a "free" election, capturing only half that amount. He stated the importance of acting to preserve \$20M in annual funding, avoiding repeated elections, and maintaining long-term financial stability for the district.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the second option, Operating Millage Replacement for the August, 2026 election.

Discussion followed.

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes: Sellers, Hernden, Cyprus, Da Via

No: Doss

Motion carried.

**F.2. District/Bond Update**

Mr. Howell introduced Mr. Sam Esser of Barton Malow and Mr. Mike Malone of Partners in Architecture (PIA) who provided progress updates on summer Bond construction projects. Mr. Esser provided updates on the flooring replacements at Lobbestael, Tenniswood and Yacks elementary schools, the construction on High School North's tennis courts, ball fields, roof, and pool systems, as well as the districtwide sidewalk improvements in areas that have the most critical need.

Mr. Malone stated he is very excited about progress in the design phase for various districtwide projects including mechanical system controls, playground installations, parking lot reconfigurations, water filtration upgrades possible through a state grant program, and electrical improvements. He added that they are focused on completing work before the school year, minimizing disruptions, and addressing final punch list items and issues that arise from all construction projects to ensure everything meets standards.

Mrs. Konon thanked Barton Malow and PIA for their work. She stated the district is using a mix of Barton Malow-managed and district-run projects to save on construction management fees while maintaining quality and she appreciates their graciousness and collaboration on this. She stated PIA is involved in all projects.

Discussion followed.

**F.3. Department Updates**

Mr. Howell introduced Mrs. Kim Rawski, Director of Secondary Education who stated they have been conducting a comprehensive review and update of the Student Code of Conduct. The review involved student advisory, parent advisory, administrators and other district stakeholders to gain a variety of perspectives. Activities were completed and all information, input and suggestions were compiled. Each of the groups will reconvene in the fall to review the new draft and make any final changes before it is rolled out.

Mr. Howell thanked Mrs. Rawski and everyone involved for the extensive work on this complex and important Student Code of Conduct document, noting the many components and stakeholder meetings required for a project like this. He expressed anticipation for continuing discussions and bringing a proposal to the Board around December. He stated that other department updates would be covered within the meeting agenda.

**G. \*\* Consent Agenda**

- G.1. Budget Report
- G.2. Payment Registers
- G.3. Purchases (None this month)
- G.4. Summary of Investments & Wire/ACH Transfers
- G.5. Employment Recommendations
- G.6. Student Travel Requests (None this month)
- G.7. Board Meeting Minutes
  - G.7.a. June 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes
  - G.7.b. June 23, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**H. Business Office**

**H.1. \*School Loan Revolving Fund-Annual Repayment Application**

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the recommendation for the School Loan Revolving Fund-Annual Repayment Application.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

**I. Human Resources**

**I.1. Recall Employees from Layoff**

Mr. Van Camp stated he anticipates the District being able to recall two teachers at this time, one Kindergarten teacher at South River and one 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Lobbestael. He's stated he anticipates being able to recall more staff members as the summer progresses.

**I.2. \*LCESPA Letter of Understanding**

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the LCESPA Letter of Understanding.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried.

**J. Technology**

**J.1. \*Technology iPad MDM Subscription Recommendation**

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the Technology iPad MDM Subscription Recommendation.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried.

**K. Other Matters**

**K.1. Letters to Prosecutor**

Mr. Sellers stated there has been no update on his letter.

Mrs. Hernden stated her letter is under review and the timeline for further action is 6-8 months.

**K.2. \*Personal Communication Device Policy Update/Resolution**

Mr. Howell provided an overview of the policy update/resolution.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the Personal Communication Device Policy Update/Resolution as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried.

**K.3. Summer Workshop**

Mr. Sellers stated there will be three topics for the Summer Board Workshop:

1. Superintendent Goals Update
2. Overview of Assessment in Curriculum
3. Safety Audit Summary

The following dates were in consideration with a proposed start time of 6:00 p.m.:

- September 8
- September 9
- September 22
- September 30

Discussion followed and a tentative date of Monday, September 8 was set. Mr. Sellers stated he would follow-up with the two members not present and a calendar invite would be sent.

**L. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up**

Mr. Lynch, teacher, reiterated the implication of the millage amendment and stated he is surprised that this has not been addressed. He expressed concern about the understanding of the property tax renewal among Board members, emphasizing that the 18 mills is part of Proposition A, which affects all non-residential properties statewide. He stated that the Headley Amendment limits school funding based on inflation, leading to significant financial losses for districts like L'Anse Creuse, where students

receive \$70 less per year compared to those in neighboring districts. He urged the Board to support the tax renewal, highlighting that failure to do so could result in a drastic funding shortfall, ultimately impacting the education of students in the district.

Mr. P., resident, thanked Mr. Lynch for his comments and Mrs. Hernden and Mr. Sellers for their efforts. He stated he would like more specifics to be able to write legislators regarding the district need for more state funding. He stated the Board should revise its terminology to reflect that attendees are members of the public, not patrons. He called for the resignation of Board members Mrs. Ross and Mr. Doss so he does not have to proceed with a recall.

**M. Board Member Comment**

Mr. Cyprus expressed disappointment over the delay in appointing a principal for Middle School Central, stating that this puts the school at risk in terms of success as in the past if the earliest approval date is August 18. He stated that the operating millage renewal is necessary to reset the tax rate back to 18 mills, clarifying that this is not an increase but a correction after years of being under that rate. He urged support for the administration's efforts to secure funding, arguing that micromanaging decisions undermines District leadership and ultimately affects the students' education. He stated he only voted yes to the motion to prevent an unnecessary smear campaign for the millage.

Mr. Hernden explained why she recused herself from the vote for the Middle School-Central Principal recommendation as she knows the candidate. She stated she did not feel that it was wise to pursue the millage at this time, citing a tax tribunal appeal. She stated she was not in support of spending funds on a millage vote and stated the Board does not know how to manage money and would be risking the state coming in to manage the district.

Mr. Da Via stated he would like to propose a special meeting to vote on the new Middle School-Central Principal so that someone can be in place in order to best serve the students and staff, to allow for an Associate Principal to be brought in, and so that proper planning can take place at Middle School-Central for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Doss stated he appreciated Mr. Lynch's comments regarding the millage funds. He also stated District staff and Mr. Howell have done their due diligence in recommending administrators of his caliber, and hopes the Board can correct this.

**N. \*Adjournment**

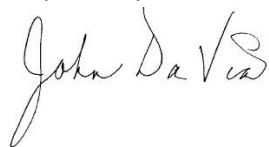
Motion by supported by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



John Da Via, Secretary Pro Tem  
Board of Education

JD:cjg