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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 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, September 15, 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 Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 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
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Student Services and Community Education
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Employees and Patrons of the District

Mr. Lipski appointed Mr. Da Via as Secretary Pro Tem for this meeting.

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

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to make this a voting meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Lipski stated there was a request to add a closed session to discuss the student reinstatements and stated he would like to move agenda item "D. Student Reinstatements" to after item "I. Other Matters".

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to add the closed session and to move item D. to after item I. as requested.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

B. Hearing of School District Patrons

Mr. P stated the death of Charlie Kirk was tragic, describing his impact on people. He raised concerns about a staff member's social media conduct and suggested that the district consider implementing psychological evaluations for employees. He stated the importance of respectful dialogue, referenced scripture, and would like to see staff to handle disagreements in social media more appropriately.

Michael Lynch, resident and teacher, thanked the Board for being responsive to community input. He highlighted the importance of advocating for students at the state level. He expressed concern that Michigan's school funding has not kept pace with inflation since Proposition A in 1994, limiting the district's ability to hire staff, pay teachers, and provide resources. He urged the Board and community to oppose diverting \$2 billion from the school aid fund to colleges, stressing that K–12 students deserve this funding and support.

Michael Rayner, resident of Chesterfield, spoke regarding a program called the "Adopt a Stop" program as a community service opportunity for high school students to maintain nearby public bus stops by cleaning and caring for them throughout the year. He also stated he would like to see the students and the community better prepared to vote.

Heather Budzynowski, resident, employee and president of clerical union, voiced concerns about reduced media tech clerk staffing, noting that clerks were given only two and a half days to prepare thousands of student devices, leading to overwhelming workloads, decreased morale, and frustration. She stated that the current system is unsustainable for staff and burdensome for families, urging the district to reevaluate this decision to ensure adequate support for students, teachers, and parents.

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

Mr. Howell thanked the Board and Administration for the work and time spent on a productive Summer Workshop last week, highlighting the importance of using data to make thoughtful, value-driven decisions. He also announced that the district received an \$850,000 Michigan Section 35M grant, the 12th highest in the state, to support the CKLA science reading program, with teacher training already in progress.

He also attended the recent L'Anse Creuse High School vs. L'Anse Creuse High School-North football game, which showcased the district's strong community and team spirit.

He stated his goals are in the final stages of completion and even though he hasn't been with the district a full year yet, suggested scheduling the final superintendent evaluation in October to align future evaluations with a standard annual cycle. Several dates were discussed and Mr. Howell stated he could send a list of dates for the Board to review to better accommodate scheduling.

C.2. Department Updates

Human Resources: Mr. Van Camp provided a staffing update. While the district is currently fully staffed in the Food and Nutrition and Transportation departments, there are significant shortages in the Special Education department, including teachers and para-educators, with ongoing efforts to recruit candidates. He acknowledged the additional challenges of increased workload and stress on current staff due to these shortages. Additionally, he noted a shortage in grounds personnel, which is impacting maintenance, and reiterated the district's commitment to finding qualified applicants despite the requirements for certifications and training.

Mr. Van Vamp also shared positive news regarding the district's recruitment efforts, announcing that there are currently 10 student teachers this fall and four additional students in field placements. He

stated he has a meeting with Wayne State University to establish a "teacher lab," which aims to support future teachers and enhance recruitment efforts for the district. Discussion followed.

Business Office: Mrs. Konon provided an update on the audit stating they are finalizing the audit for the last fiscal year and will present the report at the upcoming October committee meeting. She highlighted concerns regarding the state of Michigan's budget, which has not yet been passed, creating uncertainty for school funding. Since the district relies on state aid for 82 to 85% of its funding, the delay means they could go several months without state payments, which complicates financial planning. She stated she will keep the Board updated on developments regarding the ongoing challenges posed by the state's budgetary decisions and the impact on the district.

Technology: Mr. Streng provided an update on the district's bond planning for technology. He highlighting three main components of upcoming projects: emergency alerting systems, PA systems, and classroom audio systems, which are interconnected. He's finalizing the details and expects to issue a bid in October, aiming to begin work in January. The department is in the early stages of planning to replace the security camera system, with a target for a request for proposals (RFP) in January and anticipated work to be completed over next summer.

E. Curriculum and Instruction Office

E.1. Student Travel Requests

Mrs. Hernden thanked Ms. Montpas for the comprehensive information provided in the document for student travel.

E.2. *35m-Funded Elementary Pilot Program Materials: Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the 35m-Funded Elementary Pilot 8 Program Materials: Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

F. Business Office

F.1. Consent Agenda Items

- Budget Report (*No report this month due to audit*)
- Payment Registers
- Purchases (*None this month*)
- Summary of Investments & Wire/ACH Transfers

No questions or discussion.

G. Human Resources Office

G.1. Employment Recommendations

Discussion followed.

H. Operations

H.1. Macomb/Oakland Fuel Consortium Recommendation

No questions or discussion.

I. Other Matters

I.1. Letter to Prosecutor

No further updates at this time on the letter from Mrs. Hernden.

I.2. Board Policy & Operating Procedures

Discussion followed.

D. Student Reinstatements

****Closed Session – Motion to enter closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student if the public body is part of the school district, intermediate school district, or institution of higher education that the student is attending, and if the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed hearing.**

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to enter into closed session at 7:18 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to reconvene to regular session at 7:49 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion carried.

D.1. *Reinstatement of Student #0348

Motion by Mr. Cyprus supported by Doss, to approve the conditional Resolution for Reinstatement of Student #0348.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

D.2. *Reinstatement of Student #0422

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Sellers, to approve the conditional Resolution for Reinstatement of Student #0422 online as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

D.3. *Reinstatement of Student #0423

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the conditional Resolution for Reinstatement of Student #0423 as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

E. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

Mr. P, resident, read a letter from an anonymous parent expressing concerns about the social studies curriculum at Green Elementary that includes content about diverse family structures, specifically

mentioning "two moms and two dads." He questioned the approval process for the curriculum and is concerned about its alignment with DEI training.

Michael Rayner, resident, stated there is a lack of community engagement in school matters, noting that parents often only become interested when issues directly affect them. He also inquired about preparations being made to educate students on the upcoming elections, specifically regarding voter registration and absentee ballot requests, emphasizing the importance of informed voting.

F. Board Member Comment

Mr. Sellers stated he was excited to see improvement in both football teams' performances, noting the closer scores compared to previous years and praised the head coaches for building pride in the program. He expressed disappointment in the condition of the football stadium, highlighting ongoing issues with cleanliness, including trash, weeds, and a bee infestation. He stated these issues need to be addressed, emphasizing the need for better staffing and management of custodial duties to maintain the facility, especially during and after events.

Mr. Da Via reminded the Board that MSE is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this week, noting his personal connection as a former middle school principal in LCPS. He highlighted that this year also marks the 50th anniversary of LCPS adopting the middle school concept, emphasizing the district's historical significance in this movement as a charter member of the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators and the National Middle School Association. He suggested the Board consider recognizing this achievement throughout the year, as the philosophy of middle schools differs significantly from that of junior high schools, and it deserves acknowledgment.

Mrs. Hernden expressed sadness over the assassination of Charlie Kirk, emphasizing the importance of open debate in a democratic society. She addressed concerns about curriculum content in social studies and stated parents have a right to access educational materials. She stated if Mr. Lynch puts together a petition to change state funding, she would sign it and help collect signatures. She praised the recent performance of the L'Anse Creuse North football team. She also expressed concern with poor maintenance of school facilities, particularly the cleanliness of the stadium. She emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean environment for students, families and visitors.

Mr. Lipski thanked the Board for their patience during his recent absence due to a work promotion and he expects to be back on track by October. He stated he has been working with Mr. Howell to address concerns about the grounds. He assured everyone that progress is being made.

G. *Adjournment

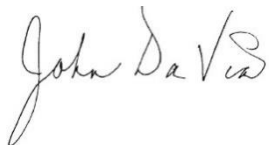
Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



John Da Via, Secretary Pro Tem
Board of Education

JD:cjg