



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 31, 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 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
Mr. Shane Sellers, Trustee

Also present: Mr. Keith Howell, Superintendent
Ms. Kathy Konon, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Ms. Lisa Montpas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Beth Disbrow, Director for Finance
Mr. Donald Gratton, Director for Operations
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director of Elementary Education
Employees and Patrons of the District

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the March 31, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented with the following changes:

- Remove J.3. – Swearing-in of the New Board Member due to no notary
- Remove M. – Closed Session Section 8(1)(h) due to illness

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

C. Presentations

- C.1.** Mr. Howell welcomed Mr. Richard Stumpf, Teacher at the Frederick V. Pankow Center, along with students from the Pankow Auto Collision and Refinishing Classes, and acknowledged them for placing 1st at the Detroit Autorama in March 2025 for their submissions of their TR-1 Stinger and 1994 Harley Davidson projects. Mrs. Christine Sampier, Associate Director, presented each of the students with certificates, on behalf of the Board of Education and Mr. Howell, for their accomplishments.

Mr. Doss congratulated the students in this program and encouraged them to continue putting forth the effort into their field, noting the knowledge they will gain is invaluable.

- C.2.** Mr. Howell welcomed two students from the L’Anse Creuse High School and L’Anse Creuse High School – North Bowling Teams. Mr. Howell indicated that the student from L’Anse Creuse High School is the first female bowler in L’Anse Creuse High School history to make it to States. He also congratulated the L’Anse Creuse High School – North student for qualifying and competing in a State Tournament and receiving 9th place. The Board and Mr. Howell presented the bowlers with certificates for their accomplishments.

Mr. Howell welcomed the L’Anse Creuse High School – North Basketball team, and congratulated the team on a great season and making it to the Elite Eight Division 1 State Quarterfinals. The Board and Mr. Howell presented the team with a certificate for their accomplishments.

Mr. Sellers congratulated the team for well representing the L’Anse Creuse High School – North Athletics program. He further congratulated the head basketball coach for his efforts in leading the team through a successful season.

Mr. Lipski called a break from 6:44 – 6:50 pm.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

Ms. Kelly McDevitt, President of the L’Anse Creuse Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the special graduation event on March 12, 2025 for two L’Anse Creuse High School – North students and acknowledged all staff that helped make the event a success.

Mr. Michael Kaufman, Teacher at the Frederick V. Pankow Center, addressed the Board regarding student successes.

Mr. Mark Deldin, resident of the district, addressed the Board regarding his candidacy for the vacant Board of Education Trustee position.

Mr. John Parkinson, resident of the district, addressed the Board regarding Board photos, Board policy and the Board vacancy.

Ms. Pam Sape, resident of the district, addressed the Board regarding the district’s budget.

Mr. Brad Bilen, parent and resident of the district, addressed the Board regarding the need for a new trailer for the band program.

E. Superintendent’s Report

E.1. District Update

Mr. Howell March commented on March is Reading Month being a success and noted that literacy is the foundation of every subject. Throughout the month of March, Mr. Howell shared he was able to read to classes and attend a number of celebrations and assemblies. He shared his appreciation to the district staff for making literacy a top priority.

Mr. Howell acknowledged Gail Ashburn, Teacher at L’Anse Creuse High School, for being nominated as the Macomb County Outstanding Teacher of the Year, noting that Ms. Ashburn attends numerous events and is always supporting students and colleagues, and what an accomplishment this recognition is.

Mr. Howell shared that he and his daughter attended various recent district events, including the L’Anse Creuse High School – North Basketball playoff game and L’Anse Creuse Idol and Career Night at the Frederick V. Pankow Center. Mr. Howell commented on the level of talent, excitement, and involvement he experienced at the L’Anse Creuse Idol event. He further noted that at the Career

Night event, it was great to see so many industries supporting and providing guidance to students surrounding different career opportunities.

E.2. Discussion of Budget Workshop Date

Mr. Howell provided an update regarding the Budget Workshop, noting that Cabinet, Administration and Leadership Teams continue to meet. Around the middle of May, a Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will be held at the State level, which will provide a better understanding of the revenues school districts might expect to receive in the coming fiscal year. Mr. Howell suggested the Board hold a Spring budget workshop on one of the following dates: May 15 at 6:00 pm, May 19 before the Regular Board Meeting, or May 20 at 6:00 pm, to present information regarding the proposed budget and rightsizing the district. Mr. Howell also shared that at the June 9 Committee of the Whole meeting, the proposed budget will be presented to the public and the adoption of the 2025/26 budget will be presented for approval at the June 23 Board Meeting. Between the months of July – September, Mr. Howell noted that the Board and Administrative Team will be monitoring the State budget, which will be finalized by the end of September. Adjustments will be made to L’Anse Creuse’s budget accordingly, if needed. During September – October, Administration will begin to identify the process for addressing the following year’s budget.

Discussion followed and the Spring Board Workshop was scheduled to take place on May 20 at 5:00 pm.

F. Bond Program Update

F.1. Athletic Field Bid Approval

Mr. Don Gratton provided information regarding the Athletic Field Bid Award Recommendation for the Board’s consideration, in the amount of \$9,293,790, plus a contingency of \$1,164,493, totaling \$10,458,283.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Al Doss, to approve the Athletic Field Bid Award Recommendation.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

F.2. Pool Filtration Bid Approval

Mr. Don Gratton provided information regarding the Pool Filtration Bid Award Recommendation for the Board’s consideration, in the amount of \$784,400, plus a contingency of \$78,400, totaling \$862,800.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Pool Filtration Bid Award Recommendation.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

G. Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

1. Budget Report
2. Quarterly Budget Update
3. Payment Registers
4. Purchases
5. Overtime Report
6. Summary of Investments
7. Summary of Wire Transfers
8. Accounts Payable Check Register Approval Reminder
9. Employment Recommendations
10. Student Travel Requests
11. Board Minutes
 - a. February 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes
 - b. February 25, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. March 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes
 - d. March 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion Carried

H. Business Office

H.1. Amended Resolution to Add High School – North as a voting precinct.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Doss, to approve the Amended Resolution to Add High School – North as a Voting Precinct.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

H.2. Recommendation to Adopt the Original 2025 School Bond Series 1 Budget

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Ross, to approve the Recommendation to Adopt the Original 2025 School Bond Series 1 Budget.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

H.3. Mid-Year Recommendation to Adopt the Amended General Fund 2024-2025 Budget

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Doss, to approve the Mid-Year Recommendation to Adopt the Amended General Fund 2024-2025 Budget.

Discussion followed.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

I. Other Matters

I.1. Superintendent Goals

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Superintendent's Goals, with the following amendment:

- Add to 2.2: Develop baseline data for the Spring 2025 MSTEP test

Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

I.2. Reading of Policy for Community Awareness

Mr. Lipski shared an overview of how to access Board Policy. He publicly read the Board Policy on Community Awareness, specifically related to weapons, which is section 5, page 51.

I.3. Second Reading of Board Policy Recommendation

Mrs. Ross indicated the Policy Committee met and made changes to the Board Member complaint process and further noted that an alternative proposal was shared by Shane Sellers with the Committee at 2:30 pm on March 31, 2025 for review. Mrs. Ross asked Mr. Sellers which changes he'd like to see as there was no delineation of changes proposed.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to table agenda item I.3. for further review by the Policy Committee.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion Carried

I.4. Letter to Prosecutor Update

Mr. Lipski inquired with Mr. Howell if there were any District updates with regard to a letter that was written to the Macomb County Prosecutor. Mr. Howell shared that there were no updates to provide at this time.

Mr. Lipski called a break from 8:15 p.m. – 8:25 pm.

J. Board Vacancy

Mr. Lipski took a moment to thank the nine candidates that applied to the Board vacancy. He also acknowledged the four candidates that moved forward for deliberation and thanked them for their time and effort.

Mr. Lipski briefly reviewed the process for deliberation and voting.

Discussion followed.

J.1. Deliberation

Mr. Lipski opened the table up for deliberation on the four candidates (Dale VanDeWater, Jeff Cyprus, Mark Deldin, Dane Ramsden) that moved forward from the March 19, 2025 Special Board Meeting.

Discussion followed.

J.2. Board Vacancy Vote

A roll call vote took place for each candidate to fill the Board vacancy.

Dale VanDeWater:

Roll Call Vote

Yes: None

No: Sellers, Da Via, Lipski, Doss, Ross, Hernden

Jeff Cyprus:

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Ross, Hernden, Lipski, Sellers

No: Doss, Da Via

Mark Deldin:

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Ross, Doss, Da Via

No: Sellers, Hernden, Lipski

Dane Ramsden:

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Hernden

No: Da Via, Sellers, Lipski, Doss, Ross

The Board voted for the final candidate. Mr. Jeffrey Cyprus received the most votes of the four candidates.

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Lipski, to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Cyprus to the Board vacancy as a Trustee until December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote

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

No: None

Motion Carried

J.3. Removed from agenda – Swearing-in of the New Board Member due to no notary; See agenda item B.**K. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-Up**

Mr. Keith Weiland, Teacher at L’Anse Creuse Middle School – South, addressed the Board regarding budget and student test scores.

L. Board Member Comment

Mrs. Ross reminded the Board that the Macomb County School Board Association Leadership Dinner meeting will be on Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 pm at the MISD. She offered to RSVP for any Board Member interested in attending.

Mrs. Ross also provided a follow-up from the Macomb County School Board Association Legislative Committee meeting, which took place on March 11, 2025. During this meeting, school budgets were discussed; specifically, budgetary shortfalls throughout the county. She shared that higher education continues to receive money allotted for K-12 education. She shared a reminder as it relates to the timeline in which the State approves its budget on an annual basis, stating that the State does not have to turn their annual budget in until September, whereas school districts are required to approve theirs annually in June. Further, preliminary per pupil allowance numbers were provided; however, those numbers are not always an accurate representation of what districts actually receive. Mrs. Ross continued to share that increases in MSPERS and Health Care are directly impacting the district's bottom line.

Mrs. Ross indicated that the Policy Committee met on April 19, 2025 and will continue to review policy in the coming weeks. She then expressed appreciation to all candidates who applied to the Board vacancy and congratulated Mr. Cyprus on being named the new Board Trustee.

Mr. Doss welcomed Mr. Cyprus to the Board of Education. He shared his appreciation for those that went through the interview process. He also congratulated the Pankow Auto Collision class, as well as the athletes that were recognized earlier in the meeting at the high schools. Mr. Doss shared that on April 10, 2025 at 4:00 pm, the Lisa Downey Legacy Field dedication will take place at the L'Anse Creuse High School softball field. He also wanted to note that the district's audit takes place after each fiscal year ends by an insured bonded company and shared the reminder that budgets are approved annually in June.

Mr. Sellers thanked Mr. Doss for being part of making the Lisa Downey Legacy Field come to fruition. He further thanked Mr. Weiland for providing feedback during public comment, stating that his concerns will be taken seriously. Mr. Sellers shared his commitment to ensuring bond funds are spent in alignment with the specifications of each series and then went on to welcome Mr. Cyprus to the Board of Education. He spoke regarding the recent resignation of the L'Anse Creuse High School – North Varsity Football Coach. He looks forward to the District Athletic Committee establishing hiring protocols and interview committees to get this position filled. He also shared that recently, a neighboring district put a no cell phone policy in place and indicated he would be in support of the District's Policy Committee creating a similar policy. He shared the benefits associated with a policy such as this, which includes social-emotional benefits to students.

Mr. Da Via thanked all candidates running for the Board vacancy during these challenging times. He congratulated Mr. Cyprus and made mention that the process followed for the Board vacancy was appreciated. Mr. Da Via noted that today is the last day of March is Reading Month and gave a shoutout to Mrs. Hessel's 5th Grade classroom at Marie C. Graham Elementary and Mrs. Carr-Medina's 1st Grade Class at Francis A. Higgins Elementary for allowing him to read in their classes.

Mrs. Hernden congratulated the bowling athletes from L'Anse Creuse High School and L'Anse Creuse High School – North, the Auto Collision students from the Frederick V. Pankow Center and the L'Anse Creuse High School – North Basketball team. Mrs. Hernden noted that another Macomb County district also has a no cell phone policy. As a School Resource Officer, Mrs. Hernden stated she would support a no cell phone policy, noting that cell phones are too prevalent and students having them prevents teachers from teaching. Mrs. Hernden shared that the resignation of the L'Anse Creuse High School – North Varsity Football Coach was a loss to the district, sharing that the Coach had made a positive impact on her, her child and the entire football team. Mrs. Hernden welcomed Mr. Cyprus to the Board and thanked others for applying for the Board vacancy, noting she would like to see those names on the ballot during the next applicable election.

Mr. Lipski shared he was working diligently with the Superintendent to address a district-wide vaping issue and confirmed the district adheres to policy as it relates to students that are caught vaping. He thanked Mr. Howell for his efforts in working to address this problem. Mr. Lipski thanked Kelly

McDevitt, President of the L'Anse Creuse Education Association for making it a point to publicly share information on the special graduation ceremony held at L'Anse Creuse High School – North. Mr. Lipski shared that it was an emotional, yet fantastic event. He shared he is looking forward to all graduation ceremonies and this was a great way to kick off graduation season.

- M. **Closed Session** - Motion to enter closed session under section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to review attorney-client privileged materials that are exempt from disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

(See agenda item B. – Letter M. removed)

- N. *Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Ross, supported by Mr. Sellers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon L. Ross", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education

SLR:ad/cg