Center Cass District 66
January 14, 2026 Board of Education
News Release

By Maria Gannon

The regular Center Cass 66 Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Brian Liedtke at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Lakeview Jr. High LRC.

The Board approved the following consent agenda consisting of:

- BOE Minutes from the December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting and Levy Meeting
- District Monthly Financial Statements for December
- Monthly Board Bills Payable for December
- Hire of Christina Hollingsworth, EL Teacher Maternity Leave, Elizabeth Ide
- Hire of Douglas Murphy, District Bus Driver & Maintenance

Dr. Wise shared that the Lakeview gymnasium one update will begin over Spring Break, with an anticipated completion date of August 1, 2026. To assist with the cost of the renovations the District wrote a $50,000 grant to help with the cost of the gym floor, and received a $20,000 donation from TEAM 66 to assist with new video boards to replace the original scoreboard. The Board expressed their appreciation of TEAM 66, and all the parents that volunteer and donate to school fundraisers.

The Board discussed whether walk zones and/or a transportation fee was still needed since the District was able to hire two drivers over Winter break. While walkzones are not necessary at this time, there was some interest in a transportation fee to ensure the transportation fund was self-reliant. The Board asked Dr. Wise to come up with data on what is necessary, what other districts charge, and what other fees look like for the 26-27 school year, so a discussion and decision can be made.

Dr. Wise provided the latest information on the proposed Woodridge Tax Increment Financing. Each Board member shared a few thoughts, but in summary, aside from the concerns on whether the proposed TIF was necessary or legal, the Board of Education was seeking some assurances from the Village that the District would be reimbursed to educate and house new students from the TIF. Dr. Wise would communicate the District's needs for financial protections at the upcoming public hearing.

Board President Liedtke and Board Member DuPass shared an update from a recent Administrative Subcommittee meeting focused on Goal One. Information was given on curriculum, practices, systems, and the formation of a new Strategic Plan committee, coming together at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

A draft 26-27 school year calendar was provided. Comments/concerns were provided by the Board, many of which revolved around District 66 and District 99 not having the same days

off during the school year. Dr. Wise explained when D99 is not in attendance, D66 is usually not in attendance, however, since District 66 has more non-attendance days during the course of the year for students, District 99 students end school earlier, even though both calendars start times are similar. The District will continue to take into consideration the D99 calendar in the development of future calendars.

Lastly, Dr. Wise shared the rise in student needs and not being able to meet those needs because we are sharing one Student Services Coordinator between two buildings. The Board authorized Dr. Wise to post for another Student Services Coordinator.

The Board approved the following action items:

- School Maintenance Grant Application
- Board Policy Revisions to 2:120, 2:240, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 5:10, 5:280, 5:90, 6:130, 6:40, 6:60, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, and 7:340
- Motion to enter Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss student discipline, the appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity, and/or litigation or collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning safety schedules for one or more classes of employees.

The Board approved the following action items:

- Mrs. Carrie Fitzgerald as the Principal of Elizabeth Ide for the 26-27 school year
- Dr. Kim Liles as the Principal of Lakeview Junior High for the 26-27 school year
- Title Change from Director of Learning to Assistant Superintendent for Learning for the 26-27 school year
- Title Change from Director of Student Services to Assistant Superintendent for Services for the 26-27 school year

The Board congratulated Dr. Liles, Principal Fitzgerald, and Dr. Rhoads on their new job titles and thanked them for their service.

Adjournment was at 9:31 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center of Lakeview Junior High.