# Center Cass District 66
# February 4, 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 Wednesday, February 4, 2026, in the Lakeview Jr. High LRC.

**The Board approved the following consent agenda consisting of:**

- BOE Minutes from the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting
- District Monthly Financial Statements for January
- Monthly Board Bills Payable for January
- Financial Consulting Agreement with PMA in the amount of $15,000
- Agreement for the Panorama Renewal for SY 26-27 in the amount of $21,478
- Hire of Megan Tack, Paraprofessional, Prairieview
- Hire of Olivia Mitchell, District Help Desk Technician
- Hire of Bakhita Cunningham, BACC Aide, Prairieview
- Resignation of D. Schueneman, Prairieview Teacher
- Retirement of J. Balinski, Paraprofessional, Elizabeth Ide, effective June 3, 2026

Lakeview students, Sebastian Espinosa, Joey Frytz, Dominic Getchel, Max Heavrin, Leo Papadopoulos, J'yoti Rodriguez, Vinny Urias, Jacob Serafin, Coco Serafin, and Ilija Simov presented their Wrestling Program Proposal for the 26-27 school year. The Board thanked the students for their desire to start a new club and then asked the Administration to work with the students to see if they could get a program up and running at Lakeview next year.

Dr. Liles and Principals shared a student learning update including mid-year assessment results. Data revealed that approximately 82% of students at Elizabeth Ide were reaching benchmarks in reading and mathematics on their AIMS Web assessment, with 18% progressing still working toward those goals. Prairieview and Lakeview assessment data showed that approximately 65% of students were scoring at the 60th % or higher on the challenging mid-year MAP assessment in reading and math. Encouraging was that the majority of grade levels were showing positive growth from Fall to Winter assessments. The Board complimented students, teachers, and administrators for their focus on learning.

Dr. Wise informed the Board that he would be asked to vote the following day (Thursday), along with other taxing bodies, on the eligibility of the Woodridge Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District pursuant to Illinois School Code. While the vote is largely ceremonial—since the Village Board may still approve the TIF regardless of the Joint Review Board's (JRB) vote—he wanted to ensure the School District was responding appropriately to the question being posed. He explained that the JRB vote is not intended to reflect whether a taxing body believes the TIF is fair or whether it supports the TIF.

Rather, the JRB is asked to determine whether the proposed TIF meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the TIF Act.

Dr. Wise stated that while he does not agree with the inclusion of the golf course in the TIF area, as the golf courses are not blighted, its inclusion as part of the overall TIF district is likely legal. As such, a vote by the District stating that the area outlined in the TIF is not eligible would likely be inaccurate. He advised the Board that the most prudent course of action would be to abstain from voting to avoid going on record with a potentially incorrect position.

Although the Board has expressed concerns regarding the TIF, members did not disagree with the approach recommended by Dr. Wise, or by other superintendents. He noted that he and other Board representatives have attended and shared concerns at Woodridge public meetings over the past year. He also expressed appreciation to Woodridge Village administrators for working with the District to develop an intergovernmental agreement that helps mitigate potential revenue losses from the TIF.

Draft registration fees for the 26-27 school year were presented to the Board. No increase in current registration fees is being recommended for next year. However, the Board continues to look at ways to increase revenue in the transportation fund, as the State's financial contribution to our regular education transportation program has decreased to its lowest levels, currently collecting $8,000 per year in our regular transportation account. Since we are not required to transport students who do not require special transportation, we should not expect State revenue in this area to increase. Board members requested a recommendation on a small increase to discuss at the next meeting.

The Board thanked those who attended and sponsored Parent University last week. They also encouraged parents to attend the presentation by Dr. Rebecca Winthrop, co-author of the Disengaged Teen, and Director of Education at the Brookings Institute, on Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 6:30 pm in the LRC at Lakeview Junior High.

Lastly, the Board heard information of Lakeview facility improvements, copiers, next year's school calendar, personnel, and interview process for the Assistant Superintendent of Learning. It was noted that the Strategic Planning Committee would be coming together at the start of the next school year, and that a deeper dive would occur at that time on all topics pertaining to the 27-28 school year and beyond.

**The Board approved the following action items:**

- SY 26-27 School Calendar
- Bid for Lakeview Gym Floor Replacement of $100,000 to Consolidated Flooring
- Proposal for District Printers (Multifunction Devices) in the amount of $3750/month for 60 months to Konica Minolta

Adjournment was at 8:14 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center of Lakeview Junior High.