Center Cass District 66
November 5, 2025 Board of Education
News Release

By Maria Gannon

The Center Cass 66 Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Brian Liedtke at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, in the Lakeview Junior High LRC.

The Board approved the following consent agenda consisting of:

- BOE Minutes from the October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting
- District's Monthly Bills for October
- Hire of Holly Janotta, Kindergarten Maternity Leave, Elizabeth Ide
- Hire of Anjali Glowacz, Paraprofessional, Prairieview
- Resignation of Jacquie Caniano, Paraprofessional, Prairieview
- Resignation of Joe Fraticola, District Bus Driver
- Pitney Bowes Lease Agreement for Postage Equipment

The Board heard a presentation from Autumn Liedtke and Ava Sage about their experiences on the Washington D.C. trip. Sincere thanks were expressed to Jennifer Maass for organizing and chaperoning, as well as to Annie Diver, Teagan Halik, Yulissa Zagal, Will Kettelkamp, Ali Beseth, and Mallory Shealy for their support.

Jaxon Culver and Dylan Spiegel, representing Lakeview's Baseball Team, reported their team's recent success winning the school's first IESA Regional Championship. Both boys received the IESA sportsmanship awards as well. Both students expressed their gratitude and appreciation to their coaches.

Prairieview teachers, Theresa Strong and Tracy Spakausky shared some insight on the Prairieview SEL/Sunshine Committee. They plan and organize lessons around cultural awareness for staff to use with their students. Currently, they are collecting items for the Prairieview Food Pantry Drive starting November 12 through the 21st.

Kyle Hendrickson from Gorenz and Associates presented the audit. The District received a clean opinion with no findings. Mr. Hendrickson also shared that as a result of the District's financial stewardship, the District's financial profile score has improved each of the last three years. Dr. Wise thanked the Board for their commitment to restore financial health, as well as office staff for their hard work and keeping and producing accurate data.

Director Tiede presented conceptual drawings of walk zones for Prairieview and Lakeview. Walk Zones are areas within walking distance to school in which schools do not provide school bus transportation. The information shared was in response to recent and projected bus driver retirements with no applicants to fill the positions. Simply put, the District does not have enough bus drivers to pick up all students, and something has

to change in the very near future to avoid significant delays and route changes. While no vote was taken, there was a sentiment to explore all options first, before implementing walk zones. Board members are asking if anyone is interested in driving a school bus, to please contact Transportation Director Tiede.

Dr. Liles, Director Roberts, and Dr. Wise shared a recap of the process to increase efficiencies and save costs by moving to an all in one system which handled the District's academic, student, personnel, and financial needs. As a result of the process, Skyward was selected in 2022 and the implementation of each piece was implemented successfully, except the very last piece which was the Standards Gradebook. The Admin Team shared that although the Standards Gradebook component provided to the District was not programmed as asked, the District has corrected errors and the system is functioning. Dr. Liles shared she will meeting with Lakeview students in their classrooms this week and next week to ensure they have a grasp of the feedback system provided in the handbook. Dr. Liles will be sending home the presentation to parents next week so they can reinforce the practices with parents. Some Board members expressed disappointment with Skyward and the communication over the last two months, but the Board in general expressed support of teachers and efforts to improve the learning environment.

Dr. Wise presented the tentative levy reflecting an approximate 4% increase. Due to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) or otherwise referred to as tax caps, the District is unable to capture the 8% growth in assessed value of the area. The District is allowed to capture the Consumer Price Index as well as apply the rate to any new property inside the District's boundaries. It was noted that new revenue is needed to keep up with the rising cost of public education. He also added that they continue to receive less federal funding each year, and this past year, only 2% of funding was federal, yet over a quarter of budget goes to funding laws created by the federal government. Lastly, he thanked the community for their funding of public education, and wished that the District would receive a larger portion of the state and federal allocation, which would reduce reliance on local sources.

Discussion took place on a proposed housing development at the current Zigfield Troy 9 hole golf course, which would produce over 200 dwellings, and resides inside the potential 75th Street Corridor Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. A TIF freezes the tax extension for the taxing bodies inside the TIF zone, and then the Village/City receives the annual increase in taxes, instead of the taxing bodies inside the TIF (ie.. School District, Fire Departments, etc..). The Village then uses those proceeds to help develop the area outlined in the proposal (75th Street Corridor). The TIF can remain in place for up to 23 years.

While TIF's generally hurt school districts, Dr. Wise shared that Mayor Cunningham, Village Manager Stonrich, and Village Planner Clarke have expressed interest in helping the school district with capital needs. This support is in response to the increased enrollment resulting from the 200 dwellings replacing the current 9-hole golf course at Zigfield Troy. Although there are no plans at the moment for Woodridge to turn Village

Greens into residential, the 120+ acres that comprises the 18 hole course adjacent to Zigfield Troy, would be a prime location for single family homes to attract young families wanting a quality school district. Since Village Greens is also inside the TIF, without an intergovernmental agreement in place to address capital needs and educational needs of new students, the District could be left trying to house and educate new students without the funds to do so. The Board agreed that a special meeting might be needed prior to the regular December meeting to discuss.

In other news, the Board shared their appreciation to Principals and Directors as their special recognition day occurred during October. Development, Veterans Day, and Summer projects were discussed. Dr. Wise shared his appreciation for the Board and wished them a happy Board Member Appreciation Day.

The Board approved the following action items:

- SY 24-25 Audit
- Tentative Levy for December 2025
- Lakeview Roofing Retrofit Bid Process for Summer 2026

Adjournment was at 9:32 pm.

The **next regular scheduled** Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:30pm in the Learning Resource Center of Lakeview Junior High School. A special levy Truth in Taxation Hearing will be held at 6:20 pm prior to the Regular Board meeting.