

LAINGSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approved MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

January 6, 2026

Middle School Media Center

The regular meeting was called to order by President Michels at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shane Brink, Mark Burley, Renee Gutzman, Jason Michels, Christian Ragsdale, Michael Rourke, Maggie Sayles

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Matt Shastal, Krissy Pratt

Motion by Sayles to table the minutes from the January 6, 2026, special board meeting.
Seconded by Burley. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rourke to approve the December 2025 Treasurer's reports.
Seconded by Ragsdale. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ragsdale to approve the December 2025 Warrants:

1. December Accounts Payable	\$219,851.00
2. December EFT/ACH Transfer(s)	\$ 63,139.86
3. December Payroll	\$898,100.99
4. December Building and Site	\$ 6,263.34

Seconded by Sayles. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal # 38

Motion by Sayles to approve the appointments of the board to serve on the committees as follows:

- Finance, Curriculum, Policy – Entire Board
- Building and Facilities – Sayles-Chair, Rourke, Burley
- Extra-Curricular – Michels-Chair, Gutzman, Ragsdale
- Scoutten Scholarship – Sayles-Chair, Brink, Rourke
- County School Board – Rourke
- Rep. for other RESD Comm/Functions – Ragsdale
- L.E.A.F. – Ragsdale
- School Improvement Committees – Michels (H.S.), Burley (M.S.), Rourke (E.S.)
- Community Relations Committee – Rourke-Chair, Gutzman, Brink

Seconded by Gutzman. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Proposals

From Delegations and Visitors

- LEAF Presentation by Julie Nosek, they have awarded \$42,764.66 back to the school in grants. The annual LEAF fundraiser is on February 28th.
- Cindy Doyle questioned the dates of the board meetings.

From Non-Staff Communications and Reports

- Received a letter from Shiawassee Community Foundation regarding the Margaret Scoutten and Raymond O'Nash Memorial Endowment Scholarship

From Superintendent and Staff

- Superintendent Shastal acknowledged that January is School Board recognition month. He welcomed Shane Brink. He thanked the board for their modest and humble service to the school district. The decisions they make have a profound impact on thousands of current students, staff, the community, and future students.

- Superintendent Shastal updated the Board on the 2025-26 budget. In November, the deficit was (\$956,882). They will look to amend the budget in February or March.

- Superintendent Shastal gave an update to the Board on the 2026-27 preliminary budget. The January Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will be held on January 16th. The goal is to maintain small class sizes and all student support and programs.

- Superintendent Shastal gave a Legislative Update.

- Superintendent Shastal gave a strategic goal planning update. He shared information from PFM.

- Kerri DeVault, ECEC assistant Principal: They had the NWEA testing on Math and Reading. They transformed the ECEC into the Polar Express in December by decorating it like the North Pole.

- Sheila Freeman, Elementary Principal: They celebrated December with every day being a dress-up day and having their holiday parties. Each week, a student was able to earn lunch with the principal, and that was a lot of fun for her. They have an animated Olaf that brings a lot of laughs to the office. The 5th grade was awarded a LEAF grant for Jr. Achievement, where they get some career experience.

- Tara Hengesbach, Middle School Principal: The dance in November was great; there wasn't a lot of dancing, but the students had fun. They had their band concert and did an amazing job. She pointed out that half of the 6th-grade class is in band. They are also having their NWEA testing. The boys' basketball is done, and now the girls are starting. They are bringing back popcorn Fridays.

- Brandon Woodworth, High School Principal: They were able to celebrate the end of the semester with Laingsburg Live. They will begin prepping for the SAT and end of year testing. They are going to try something new and separate by math level. The winter band concert was great as always. Robotics starts Saturday, and they have the dance coming up on February 28th.

From Board Members

Wall of Fame-Jason Michels will take the lead with the help of a couple of other board members.

Board Committee Reports - None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

Personnel:

The Board acknowledges the resignation of Morgan Currier, Lead Preschool Teacher, Effective January 16, 2026.

Proposal # 39

Motion by Sayles to hire Jennifer Talbott, Paraprofessional. Seconded by Ragsdale. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal # 40

Motion by Burley to hire Judy Ditmer, Food Service. Seconded by Rourke. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal # 41

Motion by Gutzman to hire Julie Ripley, Food Service. Seconded by Burley. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal # 42

Motion by Rourke to approve Letter of Agreement with the Laingsburg Education Association to amend Appendix C: 2025-2026 Calendar. Seconded by Brink. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Business

Meeting Dates

Regular Meeting – February 9, 2026

Regular Meeting – March 18, 2026

Preview of Topics for Future Agendas

2025-26 General Fund Budget

2026-27 General Fund Preliminary Budget

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendation

High School Graduation Thursday, May 21st at 7 pm

Motion by Rourke to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Seconded by Brink. Motion carried unanimously.

Renee Gutzman, Board Secretary