EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MINUTES
February 17, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Room
1240 State Road 930 East
New Haven, IN 46774

At a meeting (a hybrid in person and virtual meeting) held at the Administration Building, located at 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at 5:30 p.m. on February 17, 2026.

Board members present:
Mr. Timothy E. Hines, President
Mr. Steven M. Screeton, Vice President
Ms. Jennifer L. Blackburn Secretary
Mrs. Cynthia L. Diehl
Ms. Pamela G. Dukes
Mrs. Beth A. Wood

Board members absent:
Mr. Todd C. Buckmaster

EACS Administrators and Association Presidents also in attendance:
Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Superintendent
Dr. Robby Goodman, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Dr. Patrick McCann, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Cassie Lepper, Executive Director of Special Services
Mrs. Patty Prosser, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Angie Thompson, Director of Development and Federal Programs
Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Information Officer
Mr. Tim Wiegand, Executive Director of Alternative and Career and Technical Education
Mr. Chris Baker, Director of Facilities
Mrs. Emily Keirns, Director of Title III
Mr. Dan Krleski, Director of Food Services
Mr. Michael Starewich, Director of Technology
Mrs. Renita Peters, Principal, Cedarville Elementary School

1.0 ROUTINE ITEMS

1.1 Call to Order

President Tim Hines called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Lydia Zimmerman's 2nd grade class from Cedarville Elementary School led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance (pre-recorded and virtually).

1.3 Approval of Agenda

The agenda for February 17, 2025 was approved as presented with an addendum to Consent Item 3.1 - Human Resources Report.

1.4 Recognition

The Indiana High School Coaches Association (IHSAA) annually identifies high school student athletes that have excelled in the classroom, in addition to their performance in a fall sport. This award has been around for more than two decades. The criteria to be an Academic All-State student athlete are: Must be a junior or senior; must be listed on the team's varsity sectional roster; and must meet the grade point average criteria.

The following Leo High School student athletes have been named as 2025 Fall Academic All-State Athletes in their respective sports:

Cross Country (Boys) **-** Sam Fowerbaugh

Football - Isaiah Coolman, Landon Foster, and Sam Snaufer

Soccer (Boys) - Cooper Abel, Weston Bleeke, Caden Christner, Isaac DeVries, Hudson Douglas, Jaxson Gerig, Owen Graves, Niko Pontecorvo, Sash Pontecorvo, and Anthony Schwalm

Soccer (Girls) - Alexandra Gates, Loralei Nighswander, Emma Swygart, Eva Wagner, and Addyson Wenger

Boys Tennis - Sawyer Bleeke, Kasey Kissner, Jonah Lagrange, Brysen Maurice, Tanner Reynolds, Greyson Snyder, and Evan Winters **Note: The entire team was named Academic All-State Athletes!**

Volleyball - Makayla Bastress, Isabella Hensley, Jayda Hyde, Leah Shappell, and Emersyn Weaver

2.0 PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3.0 CONSENT ITEMS

Superintendent Hissong requested the Board's approval for the Consent Items as presented as follows:

3.1 Human Resources Report and Addendum
3.2 Financial Reports
3.3 Meetings and Conferences
3.4 Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 3, 2026

Motion: That Consent Items 3.1 through 3.4 be approved as presented.

Motion: Wood Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
3.1–3.4 - Aye: Blackburn, Diehl, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

26-0217-4.1 Contract with Sunbelt Staffing, LLC

26-0217-4.2 2027 Budget Schedule

Motion: That Action Items 26-0217-4.1 and 26-0217-4.2 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Diehl/Wood

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.1–4.2 - Aye: Blackburn, Diehl, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

26-0217-4.3 Award 2026 Roofing Projects

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board and answered Mr. Screeton's question.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 26-0217-4.3 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Dukes

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.3 - Aye: Blackburn, Diehl, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

26-0217-4.4 Grant of Utility Easement – Leo Jr./Sr. High School

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board and answered Mrs. Diehl's question.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 26-0217-4.4 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Blackburn

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.4 - Aye: Blackburn, Diehl, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood (Motion carried 6-0)

5.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Application and Receipt of Funds for Title I-A, Educational Flexibility Program (Ed-Flex Waiver)

Mrs. Angie Thompson presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.2 Award 2026-2031 Network WAN Bids – eRate Category 1

Mr. Michael Starewich presented information to the Board. No questions.

5.3 Award 2026 Network Upgrade Bids – eRate Category 2

Mr. Michael Starewich presented information to the Board. No questions.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

The East Allen Educational Foundation held a Bourbon and Bags Bingo Night for their annual fundraiser last week, making just shy of $15,000, up $5,000.00 over last year's event. Thank you to Mrs. Angie Thompson and her team for coordinating this event. Thank you to the Board members and EACS staff who attended and either helped or participated. It was a great success!

Congratulations to our five EACS wrestlers who are advancing to the State Wrestling Tournament this weekend. From Heritage High School - Jaxton Litchfield; from Leo High School – Isaiah Coolman and Paul Woods; and from New Haven High School –Sean Harris and Malachi Thullner. Good luck at State!

The official February count date numbers have been finalized. We are down 153 students from last fall. We had a lot of early graduates.

Tomorrow Superintendent Hissong will attend the UWVSSC's Legislative Day in Indianapolis. She is appreciative of board members Ms. Jenny Blackburn and Mr. Tim Hines who went to the State House in Indianapolis today and spoke with our legislators on current issues.

Mrs. Hissong publicly thanked Google for their generous donation of $10,000.00 which will be used by our Technology Department to purchase 142 MiFi's to be used by our students.

Happy Birthday to Mr. Tim Hines who will be celebrating a birthday prior to our next board meeting!

7.0 BOARD COMMENTS

Name	Topic
Ms. Jenny Blackburn	She and Mr. Hines went to the State House today with the ISBA delegation. The Cell Phone Bill (SB78) is getting much focus. They shared their concerns with Senator Tyler Johnson. Ms. Blackburn publicly thanked Senator Johnson for his time and for listening to their concerns. Props to the ISBA for their advocacy at the State House.

Ms. Pamela Dukes	Congratulations on the success of the Bourban and Bags Bingo event; Congratulations to the Leo student athletes who were recognized tonight; Thank you to Mr. Hines and Ms. Blackburn for going to Indianapolis today. Glad they had a safe trip.
Mrs. Beth Wood	Thanked Mr. Hines and Ms. Blackburn for going to Indianapolis today; It feels like spring, but it's not!
Mrs. Cindy Diehl	Congratulations to the Leo High School athletes and their parents; Thanked Mrs. Angie Thompson and all who worked on the fundraiser. It was a huge success! She loved seeing our schools/staff attend. You are building a tradition!; Thank you to Mr. Hines and Ms. Blackburn for going to Indianapolis today. She is fully supportive of the cell phone ban.
Mr. Steve Screeton	Good luck to all our state-bound wrestlers; It's great to see the crowd of people supporting our Leo High School athletes.
Mr. Tim Hines	Thanked the parents of the recognized Leo student athletes for their support of their students; Great job to Mrs. Thompson on the fundraiser. It was a great time!; Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Full audio minutes are available on the East Allen County Schools website, under the School Board tab, at www.eacs.k12.in.us.

The next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the EACS Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on March 3, 2026.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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President Secretary