

January BOE Meeting

The Board of Education held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Below is a summary of key business items, updates, and discussions. For the complete agenda and supporting documents, visit the [Paperless Board Meeting](#) link.

January Board Spotlight

Items For Action:

April 2026 No Tax Rate Increase Bond Issue: The Board of Education has prioritized expanding career exploration opportunities, including woodworking, agricultural education, and the creation of a Lawson FFA Chapter, which have attracted strong student interest and growth. To support this, the Board approved placing a No Tax Rate Increase Bond question on the April 7, 2026, ballot. If approved, the bond would generate \$3,000,000 to construct a 4,000 sq. ft. agricultural learning lab with shop space for agricultural construction, carpentry, woodworking, and metalworking, renovate existing classrooms for additional lab and classroom space, and complete paving of the home football and student parking lots, further enhancing career education and district facilities.

Items For Information

Food Service Update: Betsy Hays – OPAA Director of Nutrition Service provided the Board with an update regarding our food service program with OPAA Food Service, including student participation and ongoing strategies for the continued growth of student participation in the district school breakfast and lunch programs.

2026-2027 Academic Calendar Update: Dr. Stephenson presented the Board with the current draft of the 2026–2027 Academic Calendar, developed collaboratively with the District Advisory and Administrative Teams and informed by staff feedback. The proposed start date is about one week later than usual to comply with state law requiring schools to begin no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day. The district is monitoring potential State Board of Education actions, as school districts across the state have requested earlier start dates to better balance semesters and align with historical year-end timelines. The calendar will return to the Board in February for approval.

April 2024 Bond – Final Update: In April 2024, voters approved a \$6,000,000 No Tax Rate Increase Bond. Through strategic investment of bond funds and the use of approved preschool expansion grants, the district was able to extend the original \$6,000,000 to \$6,516,000 in completed work, an increase of \$516,000, or 7.9%. This allowed the district to complete all planned projects and fund several additional projects, thanks to the financial strategies executed over the past two years.

Board Candidate Filing Update: Candidate filing for the April 2026 Lawson Board of Education election has officially closed. The district had three (3) candidates file for the three (3) open three-year terms (2026–2029):

- Taylor Akey, Incumbent
- Ashley Sullard, Incumbent
- Bill Gamber

David Allgaier decided not to seek re-election after serving on the Lawson Board of Education since 2008. Mr. Allgaier's 18 years of dedicated service to the students, staff, and community of the Lawson School District are sincerely appreciated, and the district is grateful for his long-standing commitment and leadership.

Because the number of candidates who filed matches the number of open seats, the candidates would typically be declared elected by acclamation. However, given the Board's intent to place a No Tax Rate Increase Bond issue on the April 2026 ballot, an election will be held. As a result, the three candidates listed above will appear on the April 2026 ballot, along with the statutory option for a write-in candidate.

Superintendent Update: Dr. Stephenson updated the Board on various topics relevant to the district's success, which can be viewed using the provided paperless board meeting link.

Closed Session Announcements:

The Board is pleased to announce the following hire:

- Laura McClard — High School Counselor 2026-2027

Additional Announcements:

Next Regular BOE Meeting is Wednesday, February 18, 2026