



LAWSON R-XIV School District

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June 2026 BOE Meeting

The Board of Education held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 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.

[June 2026 Board Spotlight \(All-State Winter 2026 Athletes\)](#)

[June 2026 Board Spotlight \(All-State Spring 2026 Athletes\)](#)

Key Action Items

Budget to Actuals: The Board approved amending the 2025-26 budget to reflect actual expenditures and revenue as of June 30, 2026. The amendment serves as regulatory compliance needed to properly close out the 2026 fiscal year.

Payment of Remaining Bills: The Board approved the payment of outstanding FY26 bills. It is standard practice for the Board to allow payment of the remaining bills for a fiscal year at the June Board Meeting. This enables the district to close the books and finish our ASBR (Annual Secretary of the Board Report). The remaining bills will be reviewed in July. Additionally, in July, the Board will receive a budget summary showing end-of-FY26 performance and balances.

2026-2027 Preliminary Budget: A crucial step in our financial planning, the Board approved the preliminary FY27 Budget to meet bill payment requirements starting July 1, 2026. The district will continue refining the budget numbers and finalize the version for presentation to the Board in September.

2026-2027 Handbooks: The Board approved recommended updates to the district's 2026–2027 Elementary, Middle School, High School, Activities & Athletics, and Employee Handbooks. These handbooks are important resources that provide students, families, staff, coaches, and sponsors with clear, consistent information on school operations, academic and behavioral expectations, participation requirements, eligibility standards, employment practices, benefits, and district procedures. The approved handbooks will help ensure that all stakeholders have access to the information needed for a successful and productive 2026–2027 school year.

Key Updates

Summer School 2026: Summer School Director Mrs. Marissa Schmidt provided the Board with an update on the district's 2026 Summer School program. Mrs. Schmidt reported that student participation and attendance have remained strong throughout the summer, with students engaging in a variety of academic enrichment and learning opportunities. The final day of the 2026 Summer

School session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The Board expressed appreciation to the staff, students, and families who contributed to another successful summer learning experience.

Legislative Update: MO House Rep. Terry Thompson provided the Board with an overview of the Spring legislative session and shared information about the upcoming August election. Rep. Thompson will host a community informational meeting in Lawson on July 20, 2026, at 6pm at Lawson City Hall.

MSHSAA Activities and Athletics – Report: District Activities Director Mrs. Lisa Glenn provided the Board with an update on MSHSAA activities and athletics, including participation levels and highlights from the spring sports season. Mrs. Glenn reported that student-athletes performed exceptionally well across all spring sports, continuing the district’s tradition of strong athletic achievement and sportsmanship. A highlight of the spring was the High School Girls Track Team’s continued success, securing its 7th consecutive KCI Conference Girls Track Championship, an outstanding accomplishment that reflects the dedication of student-athletes, coaches, and support staff.

New Course Offerings 2026-27 – Update: Middle School Principal Mr. Travis Zahl and High School Principal Mr. Daniel Petet presented an update to the Board on new course offerings for the 2026–2027 academic year. The expanded offerings will include Math and Reading Intervention Courses and an Exploratory Literature course for students in grades 7–8. In addition, students in grades 7–12 will have access to a Science Exploration course developed in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. These additions are designed to strengthen academic support, spark student interest, and provide expanded learning opportunities beyond core subject areas.

Strategic Plan (2024-2029) – Review: The Board revisited the district’s Strategic Plan to assess progress toward long-term goals and ensure ongoing alignment with current needs and emerging challenges. Discussions centered on key priority areas, including academic achievement, technology integration, student wellness, and community engagement. The review reaffirmed the district’s commitment to a clear vision and focused action in support of its mission.

Dr. Stephenson, along with building-level administrators, provided the Board with an update on the 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, including the identified Areas of Focus and feedback gathered from the Annual Community Input Meeting held on June 4, 2026. It was communicated that the district continues to demonstrate strong, measurable progress toward established goals. At the same time, there remains a clear commitment to continuous improvement and forward planning to further enhance educational opportunities and student academic achievement across the district.

A summary of community feedback from the June 4, 2026, input meeting is as follows:

- **Communication and Family Engagement:** Stakeholders emphasized the importance of continuing to strengthen communication by streamlining district messaging platforms and expanding opportunities for parent-teacher conferences to better support student progress and increase family engagement.
- **Student Experience and Opportunities:** Suggestions were made to enhance the student experience by offering healthier meal options, expanding extracurricular activities, and maintaining access to regular outdoor activity throughout the school day.

- **Instructional Focus and Screen Time:** Participants expressed concerns about excessive student screen time and urged the district to maintain a strong emphasis on traditional, high-quality academic instruction and learning experiences.
- **Program Support and Continuation:** Strong support was expressed for sustaining successful district programs, particularly FFA, early childhood education, and other initiatives that offer meaningful opportunities for student growth and development.

Overall, feedback reflected a collaborative commitment among stakeholders to supporting student well-being, maintaining high professional standards for staff, and ensuring the district continues to meet the evolving needs of students and families.

Professional Development Goals and Objectives (2026-2031) – Review: Dr. Stephenson explained that the plan aims to elevate educational quality and student achievement through four primary pillars: social and emotional support, teacher efficacy, cognitive engagement (new for 2026-2027), and technological integration. By focusing on these areas, the district aims to create a nurturing environment in which educators use data-driven methods and collaborative practices to meet the needs of diverse learners. The framework emphasizes continuous improvement, professional mentorship, and responsible digital citizenship to prepare students for a changing world. The PD goals and objectives align instructional growth with state standards and foster a cohesive school culture that attracts and retains high-quality staff.

Spring 2026 Bond Update: Dr. Stephenson reported that the Ag Learning Lab project continues to progress on schedule, with the following timeline established for key milestones:

Project Timeline

- Completion of project design plans: July 17, 2026
- Finalization of design and bid packet: July 31, 2026
- Project released for bid: August 14, 2026
- Bid opening: September 11, 2026
- Bid approval: September 16, 2026
- Construction starts: Fall 2026
- Project completion: Summer 2027

Superintendent Update: Dr. Stephenson provided the Board with an update on several district-related topics. One item of particular importance was [Missouri Amendment 5, the Income Tax Phase-Out Proposal](#). **Dr. Stephenson noted:**

Announcements:

- **July BOE Meeting:** Wednesday, July 15, at 6pm in the Southwest Elementary Commons.