L'Anse Creuse
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harry L. Wheeler Community Center and Administrative Offices, located at 24076 F.V. Pankow Boulevard, Clinton Township, Michigan.

A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Mr. Adam Lipski, President, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:
Mr. Adam Lipski, President
Mr. Al Doss, Vice President
Mrs. Sharon Ross, Secretary
Mr. John Da Via, Treasurer
Mr. Jeff Cyprus, Trustee
Mrs. Sandra Hernden, Trustee
Mr. Shane Sellers, Trustee

Also present:
Mr. Keith Howell, Superintendent
Ms. Lisa Montpas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Kathy Konon, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Dr. Tony Sedick, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Dr. Major Mickens, Director for Student Services and Community Education
Ms. Beth Disbrow, Director for Finance
Mr. Pat Ward, Director for Operations
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Employees and Patrons of the District

B. *Approval of Agenda for the October 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Mr. Doss, supported by Mr. Sellers, to approve the October 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

C. Presentations

C.1. LCHS Student Academic Recognition

Mr. Howell recognized LCHS student Anya Periappuram who achieved a ranking of "commended student" in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program by scoring in the top 3% nationwide on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test out of over a million students across the country. Mrs. Alysia Samborsky, principal at LCHS, also praised Anya for her academic excellence and leadership. She stated Anya is also active as a swimmer, co-president of the student council, National

Honor Society member, and ambassador for the Renaissance and Leadership program, making her a role model at the school.

C.2. *Audit Presentation – Yeo & Yeo

Ms. Jennifer Watkins of Yeo & Yeo Audit Firm, presented the June 30, 2025 Single Audit for L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the district audit as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

Michael Lynch, teacher and resident in the district, addressed the Board regarding a social studies political cartoon brought to the last Board meeting. He stated that Michigan's social studies standards require exploring political topics from multiple perspectives and support balanced, critical-thinking instruction. He stated teachers should not be unfairly accused of bias without due process and encouraged the Board and community to allow teachers to explain how lessons align with curriculum rather than an incorrect assumption being made.

Kelly McDevitt, teacher and president of the LCEA, addressed the Board regarding upholding the same standards of professionalism, collaboration, and respect expected of district staff. She stated Board micromanagement, personal agendas, and negativity damage staff morale and the district's reputation. She called for a renewed focus on positive leadership and student-centered decision-making, along with celebrating the district's achievements. She stated she would like to see the Board work collaboratively with educators to advance the success of students and the school community.

John Pavlik, parent in the district, addressed the Board regarding a behavior issue in the 4th grade at South River.

April Malak, parent in the district, addressed the Board regarding a behavior issue in the 4th grade at South River.

Pam Sape, grandparent in the district, addressed the Board regarding several concerns with the district.

Trindin Cavalier, teacher in the district, addressed the Board regarding the recent passing of two students at LCHS-North, Arianna and Aubrey, that has deeply affected the LCN community. She commended the compassion and unity shown along with the comprehensive response by administration, staff, and students, including providing therapy dogs, support services, and ongoing emotional support to those affected. She stated these two students touched the lives of many and they will always be remembered.

E. Superintendent's Report

E.1. District Update

Mr. Howell stated the past week has been very difficult with the recent loss of Arianna and Aubrey at LCN. He expressed his gratitude to staff, administrators, and teachers for their compassion and professionalism in supporting grieving students and families. He stated times like this serve as a reminder that while running a school district, it's important to keep perspective and remember the most meaningful work we do is caring for each other and lifting each other up. He also acknowledged those that came to speak regarding South River and stated the necessary protocols will be followed. He also addressed a recent non-credible bomb threat at LCHS and thanked everyone involved for the swift and coordinated response. He stated these false threats must end and that law enforcement is working to hold responsible parties accountable.

Mr. Howell also mentioned several positive things happening including the district's recent leadership meeting, which emphasized the importance of relationships, intentional support, and remaining student-centered. He shared positive experiences from building visits, mentioned impressive student academic and extracurricular achievements, and stressed the value of celebrating and sharing the district's successes throughout the school community. He thanked teachers, staff and students for the work they're doing. Additionally, he stated the LC Foundation teacher grants will be awarded soon.

Mr. Lipski stated he received an email from a community member about the student issue at South River and that he and Mr. Howell have had several discussions regarding the matter. He affirmed his trust in Mr. Howell and his team to address the concerns. He also thanked Mr. Howell and Middle School-Central principal, Mr. Steve Filiccia who attended the volleyball quad tournament last weekend to support the students.

Mr. Doss also added positive feedback about the volleyball tournament.

F. Student Expulsion

F.1. *Recommendation for Expulsion of Student #0425

Motion by Mr. Cyprus, supported by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Resolution for Expulsion of Student #0425 as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

G. **Consent Agenda

Please note: Unless removed from the Consent Agenda, items identified within the Consent Agenda will be acted on at one time.

G.1. Budget Report *(No report this month due to audit)*
G.2. Payment Registers
G.3. Purchases *(None this month)*
G.4. Summary of Investments & Wire/ACH Transfers
G.5. Employment Recommendations
G.6. Student Travel Requests
G.7. Board Meeting Minutes
- G.7.a. August 18, 2025 Combined Committee of the Whole/Regular Meeting *(amendment)*
- G.7.b. September 29, 2025 Regular Meeting
- G.7.c. October 6, 2025 Special Board Meeting
- G.7.d. October 13, Committee of the Whole Meeting

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Da Via, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote
Yes: Sellers, Da Via, Lipski, Cyprus, Hernden, Doss, Ross

No: None
Motion carried.

H. Curriculum and Instruction Office

H.1. *Middle School iPad Purchase Recommendation – **Bond**

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mrs. Hernden, to approve the Middle School iPad Purchase Recommendation as presented for a total of $1,323,322.00.

Description	Vendor	Amount
2,440 iPad Bundles (2,250 for students, 190 for teachers)	Apple	$1,251,598.00
1,032 Power Adapters & Cables	Apple	$39,216.00
172 Charging Lockers	Vivacity Tech	$32,508.00

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

H.2. *35n Grant Purchase

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Cyprus, to approve the 35n Grant Purchase in the amount of $61,400.00 as presented.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Lipski called a break at 7:19 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

I. Other Matters

I.1. Letter to Prosecutor

No further updates at this time on the letter from Mrs. Hernden.

I.2. November Committee of the Whole/Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Lipski stated the Board is going to combine the November 10 Committee of the Whole meeting and the November 24 Regular meetings to one meeting on November 10. The Special meeting regarding the Superintendent's goal setting will be on November 5 at 6:00 p.m.

I.3. U.S. Government Curriculum

Mr. Howell addressed the Board regarding curriculum questions. Discussion followed.

I.4. Policy Committee

I.4.a. First Reading: Conflict of Interest and Employee Leave Provisions

Mr. Doss stated that necessary and routine changes were made to this portion of policy to comply with state law. Discussion followed.

I.4.b. First Reading: Subsection 3.7 of Section 3

Mr. Doss provided an overview and Mr. Lipski read the verbiage changes in this section of the Board Operating Procedures. Discussion followed.

I.4.c. *Board Member Complaint Policy

Motion by Mr. Sellers, supported by Mr. Doss, to approve the Board Member Complaint Policy as presented. Discussion followed.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

J. Hearing of School District Patrons Follow-up

Michael Lynch, teacher and resident, thanked the Board for their budget management and right-sizing, noting the district is now in a stronger financial position than a decade ago, despite the loss of COVID funding and other factors. He encouraged the Board to begin community outreach and due diligence regarding the upcoming Homestead millage election to ensure strong community support as this funding is greatly needed. He also shared the positive news that LCN's SAT scores surpassed both state and national averages.

K. Board Member Comment

Mrs. Ross provided a summary of the Macomb County School Board Association Legislative Committee meeting. She stated that over $1.4 billion is being transferred from K-12 education to universities and new state requirements attached to school safety and mental health funding could risk local control and confidentiality in the event of school emergencies. She stated there is a projected $380 million deficit for next year and that funding through gas tax and lottery revenue may not benefit schools as intended. She also expressed her opinion that new state health education proposals are inappropriate for young children and encouraged community members to contact their elected officials.

Mr. Sellers wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

Mrs. Hernden stated there was an upcoming Senate hearing in Lansing about education policy. She acknowledged the parents who spoke regarding the student issue going on at South River and the challenges faced with supporting children who have disorders. She stated the importance of parents being included in the accountability process along with teachers and cited state policy regarding parents' rights in their children's education. She also congratulated Anya on her academic achievements.

Mr. Doss praised Mr. Filiccia, the principal of MSC, and noted the positive atmosphere at the recent parent-teacher conferences and unprecedented teacher excitement and parent engagement since his time at the school. He stated MSC's recent fun run raised $48,000, which also shows the strong community support for what's happening there. He encouraged having faith in the District administration and the District processes for those in the South River community who are feeling frustrated.

Mr. Da Via, stated he would like to thank Mrs. Konon, Ms. Disbrow and District administration for their handling of the budget and for placing the District on a path for greater financial stability. He expressed he hopes to see it continue in spite of funding challenges occurring at the state level.

Mr. Cyprus stated the band is competing on Saturday at Ford Field and wished them luck. He also thanked the South River parents for voicing their concerns and encouraged trust in District administration to address the issues. He also praised the District's compassionate response to the recent loss of two students. In addition, he also complimented the positive, supportive environment at MSC, especially noting dedicated teachers and successful student teacher mentorships taking place there, and stressed the importance of acknowledging the District's many positive developments.

Mr. Lipski thanked Mr. Sellers and Mrs. Hernden for scheduling building visits in the South End on Friday, November 7 and encouraged all Board members to participate and see the positive initiatives happening in the schools. He praised the effective handling of the recent bomb threat hoax at LCHS and staff and administration's response. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the policy committee. He also clarified board policy, confirming all members—including the president—can make and second motions. He thanked Sharon for providing snacks for the Board during late, long meetings, stating this in an example of doing small things to help one another. He also thanked Mrs. Cathy Ciolino, principal at South River for her leadership and presence in addressing concerns. In addition, he stated his son and daughter both had a chance to participate in a students vs. parents volleyball game, noting that Mr. Filiccia was present at this event also, not only playing, but reffing too.

J. *Adjournment

Motion by M. Lipski, supported by Mr. Doss, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Yes: All
No: None
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Ross

Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education

SLR:cjg