

LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The Lancaster School Board met in regular session on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Supt. Office. The following members were present: Lacey Lupien, Matt Nordin, Justin Peterson, Jim Scalese, Brittany Swenson, and Mike Whitlock. Also present were Superintendent Nicole Thompson, Dean of Students/Activities Director Mark Bernstrom, Teacher Rep Cory Waling, Kittson County Enterprise reporter Anna Jauhola, Kristi Weberg, and Mendy Coffield.

Chairperson Nordin called the meeting to order and took roll call.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Cory Waling provided a recap on the Senior Class Trip.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Swenson, the agenda was approved as presented.

On a motion by Whitlock, second by Scalese, the consent agenda was approved as presented.

*The minutes of the April 23, 2025 regular meeting were approved.

*Trial Balance Month-End Balance: \$1,831,680.39.

*Payroll EFTs in the amount of \$136,869.62.

*Monthly bills for the regular and the activity account in the amount of \$63,283.86.

*Check numbers 43643-43971.

*Credit Card EFTs were \$6,983.59.

*Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) in the amount of \$141,879.30.

*The Budget Comparison and Treasurer's report was reviewed.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Nordin, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, grants the Business Manager permission to make year-end transfers and pay accounts payables as of June 30, 2025.

The following resolution was moved by: Lupien and seconded by: Peterson:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property to maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Lancaster Public School, ISD 356, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Donor	Item	Designated Purpose (if any)
LEFSA	\$5,000	Front entrance cement renovation project

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Lacey Lupien, Matt Nordin, Justin Peterson, Jim Scalese, Brittany Swenson, and Mike Whitlock

Nay: None

Absent: None

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: /s/ Matt Nordin, Chair By: /s/ Lacey Lupien, Clerk

The entire front entrance total cost estimate was \$13,140.50; the district will pay the difference.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Swenson, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the Dean of Students/Activities Director Contract and Job Duties for Mark Bernstrom, as presented for the 2025/26 school year.

On a motion by Scalese, second by Whitlock, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the adjustment of Heather Anderson's contract from nine to twelve months per year.

Supt. Thompson attended a Literacy workshop with Andrea Sele on Tuesday. Given the new READAct/Literacy requirements, Sele will need to move to more of a Literacy Lead/Reading specialist Title position and will not have the time to see all of her current caseload. Thompson proposed to add a part-time Title person to teach mainly math starting in the fall. This position would be .50 FTE. Supt. Thompson also noted that approval was received on the ADSIS program, which will provide additional funding for our title program.

On a motion by Lupien, second by Swenson, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the addition of a Part-Time Title Teacher position effective for the 2025/26 school year.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Scalese, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, hires Heather Rodin as Summer Rec. Assistant beginning effective June 2, 2025.

On a motion by Nordin, second by Whitlock, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves Summer School Contracts for Macy Cosley, Emma Sjostrand, Lemuel Licup and Alaura Janse van Rensburg.

Reading curriculum was discussed. When Supt. Thompson and Sele were at their workshop on Tuesday, the decision was made to stay with Reading Wonders for at least one more year and also begin to use the UFLI program that was recently purchased. Grades 7-12 will need to use a new free screening tool called ROAR and also a secondary tool called Capti for those who do not pass the ROAR screening. Reading curriculum for elementary and high school were reviewed.

On a motion by Swenson, second by Scalese, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the following students: Zander Anderson, Kyleigh Campbell, Grace Faken, Edy Hilman, Rachel Levenhagen, Veronica Martinez, Neveah Nicholson, Brooks Nordin, Mylie Olson, Lily Peterson, Miranda Peterson, Kaden Seurer, Joie Stenmark, Berlyn Strege, Jack Whitlock, and Lauryn Whitlock, upon successful completion of their coursework, be granted a high school diploma.

On a motion by Scalese, second by Nordin, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the final reading of the 2025/26 Student Handbook, as presented.

On a motion by Nordin, second by Swenson, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the adjustment of five missed student contact days for state volleyball and weather closings to the 2024/25 school year calendar, ending with 167 student contact days.

On a motion by Whitlock, second by Scalese, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the Membership Renewal with the Minnesota State High School League for the 2025/26 school year.

Supt. Thompson provided details on a new Foreign Travel Club Student Activity Fund. This will be a trip during March of 2026 and will also allow students to attain college credit for attending.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Nordin, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the addition of a new Student Activity Fund account for the Foreign Travel Club.

Supt. Thompson presented a proposal from Advantage System Group for the fire panel emergency calling system. The previous free system through the Sheriff's Department is no longer available. The cost will be \$47.50 per month, plus a \$585 installation fee.

On a motion by Whitlock, second by Swenson, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, accepts the Advantage Systems Group proposal for the fire panel emergency calling system. The monthly cost would be \$47.50, plus a one-time installation fee of \$585.00.

Supt. Thompson provided details on the current fire alarm system annual inspection costs. Johnson Controls Fire Protection division charges \$2,552.78 per year. Advantage System Group's proposal for the same service is \$750 per year.

On a motion by Swenson, second by Whitlock, and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, accepts the proposal from Advantage Systems Group for the annual fire alarm system inspection at a rate of \$750.00 per year.

Concrete Designs out of TRF refinished the west gym boys' shower floor last summer. The east gym locker rooms also need to be redone. An estimate of \$3,695 has been received. We will proceed with securing Concrete Designs.

ETS Health provided an estimate for restoration of the four bathroom floors and the kitchen floor. All five areas will have professional tile and grout restoration completed this summer. The custodial staff will be able to see how this process is done.

At the last meeting, the lack of payment to the Kittson County Ambulance was brought to our attention. Kittson Central has been paying them for their home games, but Lancaster has not. Kittson Central considers them a "game worker." We have added this fee to our game worker pay schedule going forward. Kittson Central paid for both sites in May for the fall football 2024 season.

The City of Lancaster has declared June 3 and 4 as their Community Wide Clean-Up Day to prepare for the 105th celebration. We will also consider this time our Athletic Complex clean-up day. We have not received word on what time each night. The Athletic Complex has been "cleaned up" heavily the past few summers. The time for the clean-up has not been set.

Bernstrom presented the Dean of Students/Activities Director Report:

- School Happenings were reviewed for the week.
- The 6th grade Thank You from their St. Paul Field trip was shared.
- Spring playoffs for the sports season are underway.
 - o Girls' Golf did advance to state as individuals this year.
 - Grade 3 will be planting two trees tomorrow with their Earth Day fundraiser money.

Thompson presented the Superintendent Report:

- 25/26 High School Registration numbers were shared.
- All seniors are set to graduate; Chair and Clerk were asked to stay after and sign diplomas.
- The Audit is set for July 8th and 9th.
- The June board meeting date is June 18th.
- Certified Negotiations will be held on June 18th at 6:30 p.m.
- The July board meeting date is set for July 16th.

Chairperson Nordin adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Matt Nordin, Chairperson

Lacey Lupien, Clerk

(June 26, 2025)