

LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The Lancaster School Board met in regular session on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 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, Teacher Rep. Michael Peterson, Kittson County Enterprise reporter Jack Waters, and Mendy Coffield.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

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

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

*The minutes of the February 11, 2026, regular meeting were amended to include checks 44397, 44400-44406 with an overall monthly total of \$58,192.44 instead of \$49,827.71, and to amend the Trial Balance month-end figure to be \$1,805,285 rather than \$1,796,920.

*Trial Balance Month-End Balance: \$1,769,487.75.

*Payroll EFTs in the amount of \$149,834.63.

*Monthly bills for the regular and activity account in the amount of \$76,150.54.

*Check numbers 44398-44399, 44407-44435.

*Credit Card EFTs were \$8,482.68.

*Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) in the amount of \$213,484.88.

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

On a motion by Whitlock, second by Nordin and carried: 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:

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.

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 FMLA/MN Paid Leave Request of Macy Cosley for September 1, 2026, through December 14, 2026.

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 MN Paid Intermittent Leave Request of Trent Jerome from February 12, 2026, through May 1, 2026.

On a motion by Swenson, second by Nordin and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the MN Paid Leave Request of Autumn Schindele from March 30, 2026, through May 23, 2026.

On a motion by Nordin, second by Peterson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the MTSS (up to 3 days) and I Love You Guys (1 day) summer staff development to be paid out at \$20 per hour for the training hours or offer the hours as "other" leave to be used during the 26/27 school year as directed by District Administration.

Supt. Thompson reviewed the Seniority List and informed the Board that no one is up for tenure/continuing contract this year. There are two on the Tier I List: Taylor Langen and Jennifer Hostrup; both are working on the schooling process towards acquiring licensure.

Supt. Thompson reviewed the proposed Essential, Salary and Hourly Non-Certified pay scales and contracts.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Whitlock and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the 2026/27 and 2027/28 Business Manager/Transportation Director Contract for Mendy Coffield as presented. Abstaining: Lupien.

On a motion by Nordin, second by Peterson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the 2026/27 and 2027/28 Food Services Director/Administrative Assistant Contract for Alana Scalese as presented. Abstaining: Scalese.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Scalese and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the 2026/27 and 2027/28 Non-Certified contracts as presented.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Swenson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves adjusting the 2026/27 and 2027/28 LHS Extra-Curricular Pay Schedule to include the Concessions and Fundraising Advisor position, removing the Advisor salaries for Concessions/Jr Class, Sophomore and 7th grade and replacing each with \$60 event stipends, as presented. The local LEA discussed and approved to move forward with the change.

On a motion by Lupien, second by Whitlock and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the 2026/27 and 2027/28 Concessions and Fundraising Advisor Contract for Alana Scalese, as presented.

The reading curriculum should be determined by the April meeting; estimates and further details will be provided at that time. This will comply with the READ Act.

Mike Peterson provide an overview of the work-based learning program. Board members inquired about liability, cell phones, end of day as well as work and instructional settings. More information will be available as Mike Peterson com-

pletes the remainder of the program training.

On a motion by Scalese, second by Swenson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the Work Based Learning plan as presented by Michael Peterson for the 2026/27 school year.

On a motion by Nordin, second by Peterson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the Memorandum of Agreement for College in the High School (CIHS) with the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) for Spring 2026.

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 Single Reading of Policies: (Technical Updates): #211 Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee or Student, #401 Equal Employment Opportunity, #404 Employment Background Checks, #405 Veteran's Preference, #406 Public and Private Personnel Data, #418 Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School, #420 Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions, #427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers, #520 Student Surveys, #604 Instructional Curriculum, #613 Graduation Requirements, #616 School District System Accountability, #618 Assessment of Student Achievement, #619 Staff Development for Standards, #620 Credit for Learning, #807 Health and Safety Policy, as presented.

On a motion by Whitlock, second by Nordin and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, approves the Single Reading of Policies: (Substantive Updates) #410 Family and Medical Leave Policy, #503 Student Attendance, #515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, #530 Immunization Requirements, #615 Testing Accommodations, Modification, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students, #701 Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget, #721 Procurement Policy, as presented.

On a motion by Peterson, second by Swenson and carried: Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of Independent School District 356, accepts the resignation of Josh Rynning, KCC Head Hockey Coach, effective immediately.

Stephen-Argyle is interested in cooping in Hockey. More information will be available in the future. No action taken at this time.

Clarification was provided on the Eddie Weleski Scholarship from last meeting; it will be awarded to a different graduating senior each year for the next four years.

Supt. Thompson provided an update on various items:

- Kitchen Repairs: the garbage disposal has been installed; the fan for the hood has been ordered.

- A certified architect will be hired to provide a drawing for the proposed entry remodel.

- The new boiler continues to have issues; Johnson Controls has been working with Mike Peterson and continues to provide updates on the progress. Warranty is definitely a concern as we come to the close of our heating system.

- The bus garage west door repairs will be happening soon. A survey has also been ordered for the possibility to extend the east bay so bus #1 can fit and the

door can be closed.

- The baseball field project has had some behind the scenes work over the past few weeks with gathering estimates, finding contacts for various pieces, surveys and grant writing.

Supt. Thompson presented the Dean of Students / Activities Director Report for Bernstrom:

- Quarter 3 has come to the end; the honor roll will be out next week.

- Parent Teacher Conferences are this Thursday; jmc sign-up is available for parents.

- Knowledge Bowls are coming to a close.

- Grade 4 had their Historical Heroes presentations earlier this month.

- The Young Author's Conference was another great experience for grades 5&6.

- Unified Swimming had a fun swim day at the TRF water park.

- FCCLA visited the State Capital and are heading to the State Convention later this week.

- Lancaster, Kittson Central and Tri-County students in grades 7-12 attended a Lion's Head presentation in Hallock on March 20th.

- Bernstrom attended a Meet and Greet at UND to showcase our school.

- The Book Fair met their goal last week. The Used Book Sale went well too. The Challenge Day will be scheduled soon.

- The Foreign Travel Club departs on April 2nd and will be gone through the 10th.

- GBB ended the season #3; BBB #6. Hockey was eliminated in the first round.

- o GBB Awards: Kaydence, Greta, Afton and Hanna

- o BBB Awards: Kellen, Brody and Eli.

- Spring Sports are in full swing with practice scheduled for all groups.

- Elementary Basketball Night was well attended; the highlight being grades K-2.

Superintendent Thompson presented her report:

- The LEFSA Annual meeting and fundraiser went well. Lifetime memberships have been in abundance this year!

- The 26/27 high school schedule is in the works; more information will be available next month.

- There are three paras who missed some of the onsite training provided by Andrea Sele this year for the Science of Reading. Make-up dates with the NWSC have been secured and they will be certified by the end of the year.

- March 19th was ACT/PreACT Day. The Juniors were very thankful to be able to go home following their testing; Supt. Thompson noted they seemed to take the testing more seriously. McNeill, Steen and Jerome monitored the PreACTs.

- CPR certification for a portion of staff was completed on March 20th. There are two who did not complete the hands on and will schedule with the Ambulance to finish up.

The board set April 15th at 6:00 p.m. for a Strategic Planning meeting to complete the two goals on cell phones and school safety.

The next regular meeting is set for April 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Inclement Weather date: April 22, 2026.

Nordin adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Matt Nordin, Chairperson

Lacey Lupien, Clerk

(April 8, 2026)