

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 7:00 PM Central

Lake Bluff School District Office
121 E Sheridan Place
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Laura Breakstone: Present
Andrew Carlson: Absent
Richard Driver: Present
Anne Hill: Present
Lauren Hirsh: Present
Tim Penich: Present
Carrie Steinbach: Present

1. 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

3. MISSION, VISION, MOTTO:

MISSION: Ensure academic achievement and personal growth for all students through innovative and engaging educational opportunities.

VISION: An inclusive community of motivated learners who are inspired to change the world through exploration and collaboration.

MOTTO: Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

Board President, Carrie Steinbach read the Mission, Vision, and Motto.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

5. ADDITION OF DISCUSSION ITEM

A board member suggested adding follow-up from the presentation in March regarding school improvement plans. The superintendent confirmed this item is already scheduled for February, explaining that the timing allows for a first trimester snapshot.

6. REPORTS

6.A. President's Report - Carrie Steinbach

The board president announced that two to three board seats will be open for the 2027-2028 school year. Petition circulation dates run from August 25th through November 23rd, 2026, with signature paperwork filing required between November 16th and November 23rd.

Required documents are available on the Lake County Clerk's office website. A public candidate forum is tentatively scheduled for November 10th and 11th in the multipurpose room at LBES.

6.B. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lisa Leali

The superintendent welcomed everyone back and outlined back-to-school activities. Over 30 guest teachers attended the annual orientation, which was well-received. New teachers and

mentors will participate in mental health first aid training provided by the Jocelyn Center through a Northwestern Medicine grant. New teachers and paraprofessionals will continue orientation Thursday and Friday while Institute days are scheduled for August 24-26, opening with speaker Luis Cruz from Solution Tree discussing collective efficacy and leadership. Meet-the-teacher events begin August 26th for pre-K and grades 1–5 with the first day of school August 27th, kindergarten starting August 28th, and pre-K beginning August 31st. The superintendent thanked maintenance and custodial staff for preparing buildings despite challenges including power outages, heavy rain, and construction.

7. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

7.A. Summer Book Club Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

The superintendent reported on the third annual community book club with participants from Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, and Knollwood. Over 50 community members participated this year. The format included summer readings, reflections, and optional in-person meetings at summer's end, with seven parents attending the final conversation. The book *Never Enough* was well-received. District 115 board member Gail Gamrath is leading a similar book club starting in fall for parents who missed the summer session. The superintendent is accepting suggestions for next year's book selection.

7.B. Preview of Board Presentations/Discussions for 2026/27 - Dr. Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali reviewed the suggested presentations for the 2026-27 board meetings. Our board president and vice president spent time with Dr. Leali creating an outline of topics. The outline is fluid, open to suggestions.

7.C. True North Program Update - Tracy Roehrick

Following True North's reorganization, the district successfully filled all specialized staffing roles previously provided by the organization. Speech and language pathologist Emily Anderson completed summer professional development to take on augmentative communication coaching, while occupational therapist Anjie Rawhoof expanded to full-time to handle assistive technology. The district hired physical therapist Adriana Przybyla as a shared service with Districts 67 and 115, and Merdith Carrera joined as learning behavior specialist. All five wellness teachers agreed to become adapted PE certified, with ongoing virtual professional development. The district contracted with Open Doors organization, which employs many former True North coaches, to provide continuity of services through training, co-teaching for middle school staff, and coaching for teachers working with students requiring extensive specially designed instruction.

7.D. 403B Plan Update - Jay Kahn

Jay Kahn reported that our 403B plan (savings plan for employees) has implemented new regulations. This is simply to update new laws. There are no major changes for our employees.

7.E. County Schools Facility Tax (CSFT) Update - Dr. Lisa Leali

The board discussed the county schools facility tax (CSFT) that may appear on the November ballot. If passed, the projected \$900,000 annual revenue would be used to reduce bond payments by approximately \$400,000 annually, which would lower the tax rate by about 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, saving a \$600,000 home approximately \$100 annually in property taxes. The remaining \$500,000 would fund capital needs without requiring future referendums. If passed in November 2026, the tax would become effective July 1, 2027, with

first distributions approximately 90 days later. Approximately 50% of sales tax revenue comes from outside the county, effectively offsetting property taxes with external funding.

8. ACTION (WITH DISCUSSION) ITEMS

8.A. Personnel Report

Personnel Report. This motion, made by Lauren Hirsh and seconded by Tim Penich, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.B. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Richard Driver and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.
Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea,
Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.B.1. Open Session Meeting Minutes

8.B.1.a. June 23, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

8.B.2. Treasurer's Report

8.B.3. Imprest Report

8.B.4. Bills Report - July and August

8.B.5. P Card Report - June and July

9. FOIA Requests

We had 12 FOIA requests since our last regular board meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

7:38pm Meeting Adjourned. This motion, made by Anne Hill and seconded by Laura Breakstone, Passed.

Andrew Carlson: Absent, Laura Breakstone: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1