

Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 7:00 PM Central

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

Laura Breakstone: Present
Andrew Carlson: Present
Richard Driver: Present
Anne Hill: Present
Lauren Hirsh: Present
Tim Penich: Present
Carrie Steinbach: Present
Present: 7.

1. 6:45 P.M. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER
CLOSED SESSION a) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)
Closed session was held.

2. 7:00 P.M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Pledge was recited.

4. 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 Vice President, Tim Penich, read the Mission, Vision and Motto.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach
No public comment.

6. ADDITION OF DISCUSSION ITEMS
No addition of discussion items.

7. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

7.A. Community Wellness Task Force Kindness Initiative - Kristin Thieme
Dr. Leali recapped the guiding values of the Community Wellness Task Force (CWTF). The CWTF brings together local leaders, schools, and community organizations to build a vital safety net. Its working mission focuses on shifting from good intentions to trusted connections, ensuring no individual has to navigate their hardest moments alone. Feedback from area 8th through 10th graders at the spring Youth Summit revealed that students

experience overwhelming academic, social, and extracurricular pressure, highlighting a need for greater understanding from adults. In response, the task force is launching the Kindness Initiative, which comes from a place of learning versus teaching. Dr. Leali introduced Kristin Thieme from Lake Forest Childhood nonprofit who is heading the Kindness Initiative. In conjunction, the CWTF is surveying youth caregivers and parents along with teachers and other community members to gather insights, assess community needs, and foster long-term resilience.

7.B. New Staff Video

Always a beginning of the year highlight, video was shown of our new staff introducing themselves.

7.C. Board Retreat Debrief

Dr. Leali reviewed the goals established during the Board and Administrative Leadership Retreat, which focused on deepening strategic work and aligning with Future Ready Competencies. Dr. Luis Cruz, a thought leader, coach, and author with over 30 years of educational experience, led the retreat. Central to the session was a midpoint review of the strategic plan, evaluating progress across five core goals: student achievement, staff excellence, community partnerships, fiscal stewardship, and learning environment. Key achievements ("Glows") highlighted sustained performance growth in ELA and math, high teacher retention, and expanded support for multilingual learners. Areas identified for continued growth ("Grows") include enhancing collaborative teacher planning through PLCs, integrating "Portrait of a Learner" competencies, and expanding community feedback loops. Additionally, the board introduced an "Adopt-a-Grade" initiative, assigning each board member a grade level (Pre-K through 5th) to observe curriculum implementation, attend special events, and share regular updates at board meetings.

7.D. ELearning Calendar Discussion - Dr.Lisa Leali

Dr. Leali opened a discussion regarding E-Learning Days explaining that other area districts are coming back to E-Learning. The board discussed evaluating a transition toward utilizing E-Learning days during severe weather or emergency closures to prevent extending the school year into additional weeks in June. Under consideration is a hybrid approach that would utilize 2 to 3 traditional snow days before transitioning to E-Learning, ensuring that unexpected makeup days do not impact summer schedules. As next steps, a formal presentation and public hearing are planned for September 29th at 6:45pm. An E-Learning presentation will be reviewed and proposals from building principals will be presented as well. Should the board approve, a proposal will be sent to the ROE who will issue a 3 year waiver for E-Learning.

7.E. Eduplanet Tour - Jackie Tivador

Jackie Tivador presented an overview of the district's Guaranteed Viable Transparent Curriculum (GVTC), emphasizing that it is continuously updated to reflect evolving student needs. She demonstrated how to access the online GVTC portal, which details grade-level subjects, learning standards, key understandings, and actionable skills designed to ensure instructional consistency across all classrooms. The presentation highlighted the immense value of dedicated grade-level teacher collaboration time in delivering this curriculum. To assist families, a screencast guiding parents through the GVTC portal will be included in this Friday's principal update.

7.F. Review Policy Committee Recommendations for Press Packet 122 - first read - Dr. Lisa Leali

2:30 School District Elections

2:120-E3 Exhibit - Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly

2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

3:40 Superintendent

3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent

3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal

3:70 Succession of Authority

4:120 Food Services

4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

5:70 Religious Holidays

5:110 Recognition for Service

5:140 Solicitations By or From Staff

5:185 Family and Medical Leave

5:240 Suspension

6:70 Teaching About Religions

6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues

6:190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

7:30 Student Assignment

7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

Dr. Leali noted that the Policy Committee reviewed recommended updates for Press Packet 122, which primarily consist of legal reference adjustments and routine five-year policy reviews. The committee recommends all for adoption. Dr. Leali noted the inclusion of a formal resolution to appoint a delegate to the IL Associate of School Boards Delegate Assembly. Although filling the delegate role hasn't been a concern in the past, adopting the formal resolution in 2:120-E3 Exhibit will establish a consistent procedure moving forward. A second reading will take place at the next meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT - Carrie Steinbach

No public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:57pm. This motion, made by Anne Hill and seconded by Andrew Carlson, Passed.

Laura Breakstone: Yea, Andrew Carlson: Yea, Richard Driver: Yea, Anne Hill: Yea, Lauren Hirsh: Yea, Tim Penich: Yea, Carrie Steinbach: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.