

**REGULAR MEETING of the SCHOOL BOARD of EDUCATION**  
**Lester Prairie Public Schools**  
**Monday, September 15, 2025 5:45pm**  
**Lester Prairie School Media Center**

Roll call was taken and the following board members were present: Keith Christen, Jeff Engen remotely from Hutchinson, MN, Brian Heimerl remotely from St. James, MN, Rebecca Heimerl, Candice Anderson and Dan LaMott. Administration present: Dr. Melissa Radeke and Ross Scheevel      **Guests:** Terri Schuft-Helland and Mark Wawrzyniak

**Call to order**

- Meeting called to order by Board Chair Keith Christen
- Welcome to the public and guests
- **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LaMott to approve the Agenda as presented and or modified
  - **Vote: 6 for, 0 against.**

**Recognition of Communications since Last Meeting:**

- Communication - none
- Open dialogue - none

**Minutes and Bills**

- Motion by LaMott and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve consent agenda, the meeting minutes of the Regular Board meeting on August 18, 2025 and payment of bills in the amount of:
  - o Total amount: \$542,249.79
- **Vote: 6 for, 0 against.**

**Administrative Reports**

**Mr. Lee K-12 Principal Report (presented by Dr. Radeke):** - highlights

- Good start to the new school year
- STAR and Fastbridge testing is almost complete - Ryan Sinda will provide information later in the meeting regarding data from last year
- Several crisis drills have been completed
- Bus and pedestrian safety training have been completed

- Provided a tour for the class of 1990 on Saturday, September 13
- Will be attending a Law Workshop on Friday, September 19
- Learning Walks with NTC(New Teacher Center) next Wednesday, September 24
- AVID Trainings and MnMTSS Meetings upcoming in September and October
- Will be providing a school tour for the class of 1985 on Saturday, September 20

**Ross Scheevel AD/DoS - highlights**

- Will attend MSHSL all area meeting Tuesday in Mankato. Yearly required meeting. 9<sup>th</sup> grade governance issue will be a big topic
- Will be posting for Winter activities this week. Some basketball positions still need to be filled
- Schedule for next fall will look a bit different with late Labor Day, last week of regular season will be Oct 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a week later than MEA.
- Finalizing schedules for the winter season
- Starting to work on scheduling for fall 2026
- Fall activities are just about to mid season
- Homecoming week Sept 29 - Oct 3
- Some communication with the City - main issues are baseball/softball cages, possible joint purchase, also working on managing schedules, i.e. watering and weed control

**Dr. Melissa Radeke Superintendent Report: - highlights**

- Enrollment update: Current enrollment is at 408 students - unchanged from last month
- With PreK numbers being low(28 students), PreK is now 3 days/week allowing Helen Lester to sub on Tues/Thurs. Also ECFE hours are completed during that time
- With late Labor Day in 2026 & 2027, Legislature has approved districts to start before Labor Day. Calendar would not support starting after Labor Day and ending before Memorial Day. 2 options, start before Labor Day and end before Memorial Day or start after Labor Day and end after Memorial Day. Options will be presented for the board to decide and approve
- Later in the meeting, recommendation is to approve maximum levy. Final levy amount to be set in December. Preliminary numbers show levy down 4.35% from last year. Service Cooperative lease costs up due primarily to the New London Educational Learning Center and General Ed revenue down almost \$400,000 due primarily to declining enrollment. District is held to the amount certified so will approve maximum amount which can be reduced if appropriate.
- 32 policies up for approval. Most are minor changes such as definitions, statutory changes or updating legal references. All annual policies are up-to-date
- Currently the District does not have a policy for accepting donations. MSBA Policy 706 Acceptance of Gifts established guidelines for the acceptance of gifts and donations. Policy first reading this month with 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in October with potential for approval. November would be first resolution for any donations. Going forward, resolutions would be done monthly as needed per recommendation from Lauren Syrup - business manager.

## **Lauren Syrup - Business Manager**

- No report

## **School Board Committee Reports**

- Community Ed. - none
- PTO - approved funding for planned class parties, library materials, phonics and some calculators
- Facilities/Maintenance- none
- Facility Planning - none
- Tech/Media - none
- Activities Committee - none
- Negotiations - Certified - mediation scheduled
- Negotiations - Non-Certified - none
- Negotiations - Administration - none
- Meet and Confer - none
- Policy - 32 policies up for approval
- Legislative - none
- City Council - Katie Helmbrecht (park board) provided a maintenance plan - will continue to work on details of the maintenance plan.

## **New Business**

- Ryan Sinda - Success Coach presented District Data for Reading and Math proficiency for 2024 and previous years
- Mark Wawrzyniak provided a presentation on the proposed Senior Class Trip to Boston
- Terri Schuft-Helland provided a presentation on the proposed Senior High Band Trip to Chicago
- Motion by Anderson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LaMott to approve Senior Class Trip to Boston as presented.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve Senior High Band Trip to Chicago as presented.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

## **Old Business**

- None

## School Finance

- Annual **Truth in Taxation** meeting is set for December 15, 2025 at 6:00pm
- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LaMott to approve certification of proposed 2025 Payable 2026 Property Tax Levy at the maximum amount with final amount to be given at the December School Board meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

BH - Yes	RH - Yes	KC - Yes
CA - yes	JE - Yes	DL - Yes

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by LaMott and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve following fundraisers
  - **Football:** Clothing Store Roundup
  - **National Honor Society:** Airplane Toss
  - **Student Council:** Homecoming bracelets/buttons; concessions; donuts/hot chocolate; flower & candygrams; ice cream sales

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

## Policy Administration

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LaMott to approve all policies as presented.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- First Reading of **Policy 706 Acceptance of Gifts**

## Personnel

- Motion by LaMott and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve lane change request for **Mary Wensich** from BA+30 step 2 to MA step 2.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by Anderson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LaMott to approve lane change request for **Wes Kapping** from MA +10 step 11 to MA +20 step 11.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve lane change request for **Danny Mages** from BA +0 step 6 to BA +10 step 6.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by LaMott and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve the following contracts:
  - **Terri Helland:** National Honor Society & HS Student Council Advisor
  - **Beth Sawatzke:** JH Volleyball Coach
  - **Nicole Kleve:** JH Volleyball Coach

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

**Other Items for the Board**

- None

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM**

*Jeff Engen, Clerk ISD #424*