

**Lansingburgh Central School District  
Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, November 23, 2020**

**This meeting was held virtually, recorded and is posted on the District website for public viewing.**

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/iuw-ktud-bfd](https://meet.google.com/iuw-ktud-bfd)

Board President, Jason Shover at 6:00 p.m., called the meeting to order. **CALL TO ORDER**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board of Education Members, Kelley Bristol, Marie Cole, Michael Cusack, Rob Morris, Daniella Richards, Jason Shover, James Spear and Michele Speanburg were present. Jeffrey White was absent. **ROLL CALL**

Others present include Angela Mauriello (on behalf of the LTA), Bob Schongar, Matt Van Dervoort, Tom Hopkins, Carrie Phelan, Ian Knox, Rebecca McGrouty, Shaun Paolino, Joe Otter, Linda Klime, Lisa Kyer, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams.

In total, 55 people attended virtually.

Mr. Shover read the District Mission Statement: **MISSION STATEMENT**  
*Our mission at the Lansingburgh Central School District is to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment where high expectations, rigor, life-long learning and civic responsibility are developed and encouraged.*

No visitors addressed the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Speanburg: **RESO #1-11/23/2020  
Approve Agenda**

The Board of Education hereby approves the meeting agenda.

Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 **Motion Carried Unanimously**

There were no questions or discussion regarding the consent agenda items.

Mrs. Bristol stated that the District’s Claims Auditor, Roland Guilz, attending this evening’s Audit Committee Meeting. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

informed the committee that he is very impressed with the protocols we have in place for claims auditing purposes and he stated we are 100% in compliance. He and Lynn Hayner discovered that Amazon had been charging the district sales tax on shipping charges. Lynn Hayner was able to get more than \$2,000 refunded and we thank her for her great work.

There were many budget transfers due to COVID related expenses.

Approximately \$1 million in uncollected school taxes were sent to Rensselaer County for collection. This amount is typical with past years.

Motion by Mr. Morris:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Transfers and Monthly Financial Report submitted by the Audit Committee.

**RESO #2-11/23/2020  
Approve Financial  
Reports**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Speanburg

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 26, 2020 and the Special Meeting held on November 9, 2020.

**RESO #3-11/23/2020  
Approve Minutes**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Mary Legnard from a .8 FTE Physical Therapist to a full-time Physical Therapist (district-wide) position, effective September 8, 2020.

**RESO #4-11/23/2020  
Appoint Full-Time  
Physical Therapist –  
Mary Legnard**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints the following STEAM Club

**RESO #5-11/23/2020  
Appoint STEAM Club  
Advisors**

Advisors for the 2020-2021 school year with stipends from the Title IV Grant as set for below:

LHS - \$3,000: Adam South  
KMS - \$3,000: Courtney Hynes  
TES - \$3,000: Maureen Mahoney  
RPES - \$1,500 each: Peter Allen and Joseph Roman

Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #6-11/23/2020  
Approve Unpaid Leave  
– Kathleen Dayton**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Kathleen Dayton, Teaching Assistant, for an unpaid leave of absence commencing November 2, 2020 and ending January 3, 2021.

Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #7-11/23/2020  
Accept Resignation –  
Deborah Battaglia**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the resignation of Deborah Battaglia, Typist at Turnpike Elementary School, effective November 16, 2020.

Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #8-11/23/2020  
Approve  
Reinstatement of  
Furloughed Staff**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves reinstatement of the following furloughed staff:

Michael Martian, Custodian, effective 10/19/2020  
Kenneth Retell, Building Maintenance Mechanic, effective 11/02/2020  
Michele Dunning, Custodial Worker, effective 11/09/2020  
Stephen Pasinella, Custodial Worker, effective 11/09/2020  
Joseph Lewis, Custodian, effective 11/09/2020  
Nickolas Haugney, Custodian, effective 11/09/2020  
Colleen Thomas, Typist, effective 11/16/2020  
Linda Lynch, Typist, effective 11/16/2020

Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

**ACTION ITEMS**

Motion by Mr. Morris:

**RESO #9-11/23/2020  
Accept Donations**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,  
the Board of Education accepts the following donations:

In Memory of Ayshawn Davis

Joseph Shaver	50.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Christina Williams	50.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Bodaile Estates	60.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Sam Speanburg	100.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Friends at R&E May School	150.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Averill Park Teachers Assoc.	165.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Rebecca & Pat McGrouty	250.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Rotterdam Eagles #3610	500.00	LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship

Second: Mrs. Bristol

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #10-11/23/2020  
Authorize  
Participation In  
Cooperative Energy  
Purchasing Service  
(NYSMEC) For  
Electricity**

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

WHEREAS, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

WHEREAS, Lansingburgh Central School District (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Lansingburgh Central School District to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Linda Klime Business Administrator to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for electricity on its behalf; and







<b>Mentoring</b>	New Teacher meetings are being held at the end of quarter 1. These meetings are designed as a check-in for on goals and to reset goals for the following quarter if necessary. We will also plan to meet with Year 2 and 3 teachers in December and January as well.
<b>Professional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shifting to remote for Turnpike PD</li> <li>• Trauma Sensitive Teams PD with Rebekah Magin</li> <li>• Liz Mirra is working with both RPES and KMS, LHS</li> <li>• November - ELA work continues with TES RPES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erik Lepis - remotely</li> <li>○ Michelle Stone -</li> <li>○ Kirsten Widmer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Math - Brian Rayman</li> <li>• Foundations virtual training</li> </ul>
<b>APPR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations are being completed both in-person and remotely</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum Development and Implementation</b>	
<b>Assessments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January Regents exams canceled</li> </ul>
<b>Integration of Technology as an Instructional Tool</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers have prepared for remote instruction and 2nd grade transitioned smoothly using Google Classroom and meets to interact with students.</li> <li>• Updates to Google Meet (breakout rooms) have allowed teachers to increase their collaborative activities and provide differentiated instruction.</li> <li>• We are creating a library of technology integration resources aligned to writing units in Turnpike.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	APs allies K12 Insight Survey

By Dr. Abitabile:

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT**

- There will be a change to the December workshop. LHS will provide their curriculum and technology update. The Board will continue to work on our vision. Thanks extended to Sam for providing the information she found. It will be shared with the Board in my Friday notes.

- We purchased an Employee Assistance Program for all staff members at a cost of approximately \$8,000 (for our 400 employees). This program provides free services upon request such as legal advice, financial advice, mental health assistance, etc. We hope that any employee who needs help will utilize this program.
- In listening to the Governor’s COVID update today, it appears as though he wants to keep school open, especially K-8.
- We had three separate COVID incidents happening at the same time stemming from outside the building. Contact tracing and quarantine have gone beyond what we expected. The Rensselaer County Health Department is overwhelmed with all the cases and does not have the staff to do it in a timely manner. It is taking anywhere from 4-5 days for contact tracing. We have started to do our own with the help of Sean Colfer, Rebecca McGrouty and Lisa Kyer. Our thanks is extended to them.
- A holiday season memo will be sent out to all employees with a reminder that their activities outside the building can affect us all. We need to stay mindful of the COVID safety protocol put in place by New York State.

Motion by Mr. Morris:

**RESO #16-11/23/2020  
Executive Session**

Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Second: Mrs. Speanburg

Ayes – 8      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Speanburg:

**RESO #17-11/23/2020  
Adjourn**

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 7:40 p.m.

Second: Mrs. Bristol

Ayes – 8      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams  
Clerk to the Board of Education

## Knickerbacker Middle School 11.23.20 Report

Area of Focus	ELA	Math	SEL- Respect/Climate/ Culture	Attendance	Parent Communication
<b>Group</b>	ELA Department, AIS Department, SpEd Department	Math Department	Climate Committee	Attendance committee	Family Advisory Committee through Shared Decision Making Committee
<b>Initiatives/ Actions</b>	<p>PD with Kirsten Widmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on incorporating more independent reading</li> </ul> <p>Prioritizing units -determining best units to teach remotely -determining how to incorporate both reading and writing within the prioritized units -brainstorming the best ways to utilize asynchronous learning</p>	<p>PD with Brian Rayman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on inquiry based learning</li> <li>Determining best way to use questions to push thinking</li> </ul> <p>Changing AIS support services for math for MP2, so that math AIS students get 1 hour-1 ½ hours of extra math instruction a week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Step push-in lessons in all grade levels. Each week a different grade level.</li> <li>District wide monthly Counselor/Social Worker meeting to work as a team to help students.</li> <li>30 minute Guidance Check in google meet for students 4 days a week</li> <li>Individual student google meets to support students.</li> <li>Ally Program created. Staff check in with their student Allies weekly.</li> <li>Buddy system created, student buddies work with the school counselor to support new entrants.</li> <li>Virtual clubs/activities poster created and posted to district website, Facebook page.</li> <li>Guidance Facebook page created and shares information regularly.</li> <li>Information shared through district website and through batch emails to students/families</li> </ul>	<p>Continued phone calls home for absences</p> <p>Home visits from Support Staff for those deemed chronically absent</p> <p>Attendance videos created by Support Staff to emphasize the importance of attending school</p> <p>Guidance Facebook page highlighted resources for parents in how to motivate students to attend during remote learning Attendance roundtable, and conference on November 16th</p> <p>Door jams used when a home visit is done and families are not there.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first of 4 Family Advisory Committee Meetings was held</li> <li>Created and Shared KMS November Newsletter with Staff to complete, and it will be shared with families digitally</li> <li>Re-shared the "Get to Know your Child" Surveys with families. New Data will be shared with Faculty and Staff</li> <li>Quarter 1 Ongoing Survey was shared with parents digitally Results will be shared with faculty and staff</li> <li>Administration has checked in with teams during meetings</li> <li>Faculty is continuing to update Parent Communication Logs</li> </ul>
<b>Benchmark</b>	68% of grade 6-8 students will score a 70%	By January 2021 60% of students in grades 6, 7,	By January 2021, 85% of student will	<b>20% or less of KMS students will be</b>	<b>77% or more of our families will</b>

	or higher on the January Common Grade Level Benchmark	and 8, will achieve an overall score of 70% or higher on the common grade level benchmark.	respond yes to the statement, "There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member that I can talk to at school about any problem	chronically absent in January 2021 than were chronically absent the year before.	respond, "Yes" to: "Staff members seek my input on how to best meet my child's needs."
<b>End Goal</b>	<b>In 2020-2021 the school will achieve an ELA Academic Achievement Index of 95.1.</b>	In 2020-2021, the school will achieve a Math Academic Achievement Index of 79.9.	<b>By June 2021, the goal is for 90% of the student's respond yes to the statement "There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member that I can talk to at school about any problem."</b>	By June 2021 23% or less of our students will be chronically absent.	<b>80% or more of our families will respond, "Yes" to: "Staff members seek my input on how to best meet my child's needs."</b>

Other items: Positive Referrals, Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences, Climate Committee videos

### KMS Remote Schedule MP2 Changes

**6th Grade:**

- Designated iReady time
  - AC Days 30 mins Reading
  - BD Days 30 mins Math

**6th/7th Grade:**

- Adding TILT elective
  - 11-11:40
  - 2 groups (20 students each) AC/BD days

**6th/7th/8th Grade:**

- Teacher check-in for independent work time
  - 10 mins
  - Reminders to complete work in google classroom
  - Reminders to complete attendance form in google classrooms
- Independent Work Time will now list specific subjects to work on
  - Example: ELA Google Classroom Work
- Math AIS
  - Moving to a lab
    - 30 mins every other day with AIS students
    - This is in addition to the math class
    - AIS teacher will no longer push-in to the AIS math groups during the block schedule
- Attendance for "OFF" day classes
  - Teachers will post a google form in their google classroom
  - Students will fill out the attendance form during independent work time
  - Teachers will use the responses from the form to take attendance for that "off" class

## Rensselaer Park Elementary School Updates

### 1. **School Leadership: Absenteeism**

- a. 89.6% Attendance for November- 91.15% Overall Attendance
  - Students monitored at weekly SST
  - Transiency and COVID impact on attendance
    - Students/Families do not feel they “need” to inform when they move.
    - Students staying on our enrollment and negatively affecting attendance percentages.
- b. 100% Survey Responses
  - Over 40 Home Visits performed (Thanks Mr. Carr, Mrs. Watts, Ms. Sacco, Ms. Foster, and Mrs. Santarcangelo). We used visits to get results but also check in on chronic absentee students.

### 2. **Curriculum and Instruction:**

- a. I-Ready Diagnostic & F&P Assessments in September/October
  - Forming Academic Intervention Services and scheduling based off needs
  - Adaptions made to RTI plans based off of skill need
- b. Pop-In/Observation
  - Using Pop In feedback to generate “best practices banks
  - Teachers use weekly plan times to update and add resources and practices for virtual learning
- c. Professional Development
  - Eric Lepis (ELA) 11/4-11/5 - Building on our Writers Workshop Model
  - Michelle Stone (ELA) 11/4 - Working with teachers on Balanced Literacy (Building on Eric Lepis and Writer’s Workshop)
  - Liz Mirra (science) 11/16-11/17 - Unit Development

### 3. **Social-Emotional Learning**

- a. Engaging Families- A Trauma Informed Approach to TSS Teams 11/19
  - Develop and promote a coherent messaging strategy to staff, students, families & the community about the TSS initiative
- b. Staff and Student Support Subcommittee (for Potential Reopening)
- c. Transitional Days Planning
  - Support transition to in-person instruction
- d. Emotional Support Team
  - Virtual Calming Corner
  - Digital Support Services
- e. Behavioral Support Team
- f. Academic Support Team
  - No prep folders of emergency lessons

### 4. **Parent and Student Engagement**

- a. PTA-STEM Night was held 11/21. Over 100 families participated. The activities and videos can still be viewed [here](#)
- b. Next FAC meeting 12/10

## Lansingburgh High School Update

### Shared Decision Making:

- Our focus has been on student engagement. We found that some students are logging into their remote classes, but not always participating. We have reached out to parents, but believe we need to talk to the students directly. Some students are struggling with remote learning. We hope that by speaking with them directly, they will be encouraged to attend their classes.

### Attendance:

- Attendance is currently at 83%. It was at 89% at this time last year. Mr. Carr and the PPS staff have been working hard on tracking down families that may have moved, but are still enrolled in our district.

### Progress Reports:

- We have found that some parents are still awaiting progress reports not realizing they can be accessed through the portal. We sent a mailing out with Quarter 1 progress reports and included specific instructions on how parents can access the portal.

### Student Shared Decision Making:

- Graduation packets and Class of 2021 masks were delivered to the seniors.

Embedded Science and Social Studies PD continues.

Senior Pictures have been set up in the building by appointment only. It is great to see the kids when they arrive for their appointment.

Congratulations to the Lansingburgh High School Robotics Team for receiving \$3,500 in grant funding from the Capital District Engineers Week Committee. This will be used to support future Annual Robotics Tournaments (known as "Bots Take Burgh") and the three Lansingburgh Robotics Student Teams. Our Technology Education Teacher, Adam South, applied for this grant back in February 2020.

The Capital District E-Week focuses on promoting the engineering profession. In support of its goals, E-Week has financially supported organizations and events that have an underlying theme to promote some aspect of engineering to the younger community, such as the Lansingburgh Robotics Program and Teams.

"One of our goals with our technology education programs and the robotics team is to provide information on what engineering is about so Lansingburgh students have the resources to decide whether entering that field is for them," said Mr. South.

## Turnpike Elementary School Update

First, want to thank the custodial staff for everything they are doing to keep our school clean and safe. Their job can be the most difficult and thankless ones and I know I speak for everyone when I say we could not do it without them, especially over the last two weeks.

Also, want to thank Sean Colfer for his work over the past few months. Sean has been steadfast in his new role as the Covid Coordinator and we could not have done what we have over the last two months without him.

To the second grade team for responding instead of reacting at the beginning of our second grade quarantine

Lastly to all of the families who continue to have trust in us to educate and take care of their kids each and every day and to the teachers and staff for showing up for our students during these unpredictable times.

Thanksgiving meals: Donated by CapCom, Transfiguration Parish (Speigletown site) & Sheriff's department

1. 26 families had meals delivered by Sara Plummer, Michelle McLaughlin, Officer Streeter, and Tony Faraci
2. Feeding over 130 people in the Lansingburgh Community
3. Breton's sponsored two families and supplied them with Christmas gifts for five children

### Attendance: 10/19/20 - 11/20/20

1. UPK: 89.40%
2. K: 82.92%
3. 1: 87.05%
4. 2: 89.40%
5. Overall: 87.11%

Focus on extreme cases (especially remote) and coordination with other buildings (siblings) to focus on technology support since most of our "absent" students are remote.

### Curriculum and Instruction

1. Google Classroom Work
  - a. Preparedness for closure
2. PLC share outs by grade level
- . Kindergarten highlight

Special shout out to all of remote teachers for the incredible job they are doing and the second grade team for stepping up and having a seamless transition to remote learning last week

### Social and Emotional Learning

1. Staff Wellness Check - In Survey
  - a. Resources available
  - b. Self-Care
  - c. Emotional well being
  - d. Self-Report
  - e. Thank you Joe otter and the entire TSS team for putting this together
2. 2nd step still meeting during second grade remote

### School Leadership

1. Welcoming back students
  - Welcomed back around 60 students (1 section of each grade level)
2. Second grade quarantine
3. School Culture
4. Looking towards December
  - Staffing
    - All 2nd grade staff (11/30/2020)
    - TA's, Related service providers, Self-Contained (12/4/2020)
  - Potential movement to remote learning
  - FAC December 8th at 6pm