

Minutes  
Lostant Community Unit School District #425  
Thursday,  
April 30, 2025  
5:30 p.m. FY 25 Regular Meeting - Board Reorganization

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – REGULAR MEETING**

Greg Ruff, B.O.E. President, called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Chambers, Kozak, Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, and Wiesbrock.

Present via Zoom: None

Present via Telephone: None

Absent: Kelly Wiesbrock, Shayla Chambers, Nicole Kozak

Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent

Audience Members: Courtney Kobuchar, Dr. Sandra Malahy, Missy Einhaus, Gary Chrisman

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION**

- a. John Ourth Winners - Payton Lawless & Boston Zachary

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1** Approve minutes from the March Regular Board Meeting, and Executive Session.

**4.2** Approve the Treasurer's Report.

**4.3** Approve Activity Account Report.

**4.4** Approve Imprest Account Report.

**4.5** Approve \$90,176.31 for April Disbursements.

**4.6** Approve March 2025 Payroll.

**4.7** March FOIA: Ten FOIA requests from ad.cuius.bonum@bonum@proton.me. All requests responded to.

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Mertel to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**5. REVIEW OF CANVASS OF ELECTION VOTES**

**6. SEATING OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Oath of Office read by new members

**7. BOARD ADJOURNS “SINE DIE”**

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to adjourn the April 30 2025 board meeting Sine Die.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**8. REORGANIZATION MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER**

- a. Roll Call taken

**9. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT AS PRESIDENT PRO-TEM**

- a. appointment of Secretary Pro-Tem

**10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- a. President - Greg Ruff
- b. Vice-President - Bob Lawless
- c. Secretary - Lisa Cooper

**11. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR MEETING DATES AND PLACES**

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to adopt the regular board meeting calendar: July 2025-June 2026 with meeting to start at 6 pm.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**12. APPOINTMENT OF OTHER BOARD OFFICES**

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Ruff and seconded by Mertel to appoint Cooper as the IASB Governing Board Representative.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, . Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**13. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

- a. Finance - tabled
- b. Safety - tabled
- c. Negotiations - tabled

**14. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**14.1 Fund Activity**

The district is 75% through the school year. Revenues are 98.47 % and Expenditures are 76.27%.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
10	Education	97.92 %	76.11%
20	Operation & Maintenance	126.02%	78.57 %
30	Debt	100.89%	93.66 %
40	Transportation	70.41 %	69.30 %
50	Social Security & IMRF	96.63 %	69.49 %
60	Capital Projects	0.00%	0.00%
70	Working Cash	100.89 %	0.00%
80	Tort	100.94%	60.35%
90	Fire / Health Life Safety	101.95 %	0.00%
	Total	98.47 %	76.27 %

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the financial report.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

No Discussion

## **14.2 Fund Transfers**

## **15. REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **15.1 Principal's Report**

Mrs. Klobucher highlighted events from April and an upcoming field trip. The Excellence in Education dinner and staff members attending were discussed as well. Curriculum updates were mentioned as moving forward. The 2026 SIP goals were also discussed. Questions were asked regarding the STEM day being an annual event as how summer school transportation being funded. Another question included the location of the 8th grade trip.

### **15.2 Athletic Director's Report**

Scholastic bowl regional tonight and track meets are nearing an end.

### **15.3 Employee Reports**

Nothing this month.

### **15.4 PTO Report**

Nothing this month.

### **15.5 Facility Usage**

Nothing this month.

### **15.6 Committee Reports**

Nothing this month

### **15.7 Informational Item**

Dr. Malahy briefed the board on the building roof issue.

## **16. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **16.1 2025-2026 Student Parent Handbook - 1st Reading**

Discussion included the revisions of the handbook and language edits used and the reasoning for them. Mrs. Klobucher mentioned recent legislation on cell phone ban and how that will impact the handbook. Mrs. Klobucher reported that Mrs. Popplewell and staff members were involved in handbook revisions.

### **16.2 2025-2026 Extracurricular Co-Op Handbook - 1st Reading**

No questions.

16.3 IASA Joint Annual Conference - Mrs. Cooper led a discussion on this conference to generate interest of board members interested in attending. Questions included the cost of the conference, what expenses the district covers, and what value is gained from attendance.

## **17. ACTION ITEMS**

### **17.1 2025-2026 District Calendar**

#### **ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Lawless to approve the 2025-2026 District Calendar

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

17.2 District Consolidated Plan

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Lawless to approve the District Consolidated Plan

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

17.3 2025-2026 IESA Dues

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the 2025-2026 IESA Dues

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

17.4 Learning Technology Center Contract

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Lawless to approve the 2025-2026 Learning Technology Center contract.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

17.5 2025-2026 School Improvement Goals

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Popplewell to approve the 2025-2026 School Improvement Goals

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

17.6 Permission to spend between July 1 and the adoption of the FY 26 budget

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to give the Superintendent permission to spend between July 1 and the adoption of the FY 26 budget.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to adjourn to closed meeting at 6:46 pm to discuss:  
Ayes 4-0.

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

A motion by Popplewell and seconded by Mertel to reconvene into open session at 7:10 pm. Roll call.  
4-0

**19. ACTION ITEMS AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**19.1 ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement's with Tonica CCSD 79 to share an art teacher

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**19.2 ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Popplewell and seconded by Merttel to approve an increase of 3.25% in the salaries of non-certified employees.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel. Aye: 4; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

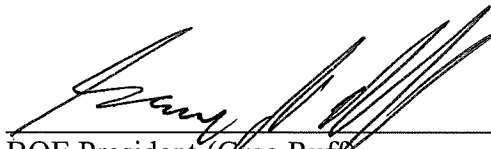
Motion passes.

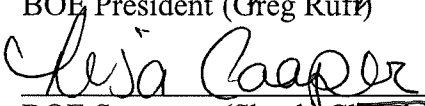
**20. DIRECT SUPERINTENDENT TO REPORT TO BOARD**

Transportation as a future agenda item leading up to the end of the current contract  
Look into hiring out the mowing in summers.

**21. ADJOURN**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to adjourn at 7:14 pm  
Ayes 4-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOE President (Greg Ruff)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOE Secretary (~~Shayla Chambers~~)

LISA COOPER

5-29-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

5-28-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date