September 24, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes
Lostant Community Unit School District #425
Wednesday
September 24, 2025
5:50 p.m. FY 26 Public Hearing

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
   Greg Ruff, B.O.E. President Ruff called the public hearing to order at 5:50 pm.
   Present: Chambers, Ruff, Cooper, Popplewell, Lawless, Mertel, and Freitag.
   Present via Zoom: None
   Present via Telephone: None
   Absent:
   Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent
   Audience Members: Dr. Sandra Malahy, Courtney Klobuchar, Missy Einhaus, Tricia Haynes
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **MOTION TO OPEN THE FY 26 BUDGET HEARING**

   ACTION ITEM
   A motion by Chambers and seconded by Popplewell to open the FY 26 Public Hearing at 5:50 pm.
   Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Motion passes.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   a. Visitors are asked to please sign in and indicate your residence status in the Lostant School District Boundaries. Indicate if you wish to address the Lostant Board of Education and topic. The Board has set a time limit of 30 minutes for public comment. The Lostant Board of Education may enter into an executive session pending the subject or topic as outlined by the Open Meetings Act.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING FY 26 FISCAL YEAR SCHOOL BUDGET**
6. **MOTION TO ADOPT THE FY 26 FISCAL YEAR SCHOOL BUDGET**

   ACTION ITEM
   A motion by Lawless and seconded by Chambers to adopt the FY 26 Fiscal Year School Budget.
   Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Motion passes.

7. **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 24 PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:52PM**

   ACTION ITEM
   A motion by Freitag and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the September 24 Public Hearing.
   Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Motion passes.

September 24 2025 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes
Lostant Community Unit School District #425
Wednesday
September 24, 2025
6:00 p.m. FY 26 Regular Meeting Agenda

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – REGULAR MEETING**
   Greg Ruff, B.O.E. President Ruff called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
   Present: Chambers, Ruff, Cooper, Popplewell, Lawless, Mertel, and Freitag.
   Present via Zoom: None
   Present via Telephone: None
   Absent:
   Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent
   Audience Members: Dr. Sandra Malahy, Courtney Klobuchar, Missy Einhaus

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION**.
   3.1 Mr. Ketcham recognized Mrs. Klobucher and the LGS staff for their work in getting the 25-26 school year started.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   ACTION ITEM
   A motion by Chambers and seconded by Cooper to approve September 24 updated agenda.
   Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Motion passes.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   5.1 Approve minutes from the August Regular Board Meeting, Executive Session
   5.2 Approve the Treasurer's Report.
   5.3 Approve Activity Account Report.
   5.4 Approve Imprest Account Report.
   5.5 Approve $57,480.17 for August Disbursements.
   5.6 Approve August 2025 Payroll.
   5.7 Approve CD Interest
   5.8 FOIA: Owen Wang, Illinois Valley Times - Names of graduates and where they will attend High School. Request granted.
   5.9 FOIA: Owen Wang, Illinois Valley Times - Copies of collective bargaining agreement and Principal Contract. Request granted.

   ACTION ITEM
   A motion by Freitag and seconded by Popplewell to approve the consent agenda
   Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Motion passes.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Fund Activity

The district is 16% through the school year. Revenues are 57.09 % and Expenditures are 25.24 %.

Fund	Category	Revenue	Expenditure
10	Education	54.13 %	29.25 %
20	Operation & Maintenance	67.54 %	25.73 %
30	Debt	69.88 %	0.00 %
40	Transportation	38.60 %	0.87 %
50	Social Security & IMRF	65.52 %	16.87 %
60	Capital Projects	0.00%	0.00%
70	Working Cash	70.07 %	0.00%
80	Tort	69.48 %	36.88 %
90	Fire / Health Life Safety	69.59 %	0.00%
	Total	57.09 %	25.24 %

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Chambers to approve the financial report and fund transfers. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None. Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

No Discussion

6.2 Fund Transfers - The fund transfers are a result of Mr. Lawless wanting new account codes to separate the high school tuitions. We already paid the bills and then he asked for the new codes.

7. REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Principal's Report

Mrs. Klobucher elaborated on key aspects of her report regarding reading scores and mentioned potential strategies to support. She also mentioned that math scores looked good and discussion included trends from year to year. School pictures were also discussed.

7.2 Athletic Director's Report

Mrs. Haynes reported that 3 out 4 of our fall coaches have expressed interest in returning to coach next year. Also provided a brief update on winter sports. Questions on communicating schedules and cancellations were included.

7.3 Employee Reports

Nothing this month.

7.4 PTO Report

Over or around 200 mums were sold

7.5 Committee Reports

Nothing this month

7.6 Business Manager Report
Dr. Malahy reported about moving money to two CD's. Discussion included information about various rates at different institutions.

8. OLD BUSINESS
8.1 Transportation - no new discussion

9. NEW BUSINESS
9.1 Gym Floor Logo

10. OTHER DISCUSSION
10.1 FY 26 School Maintenance Grant - Mr. Ketcham reported that he anticipates this grant opening in October to be submitted by December/January. He reminded the board that the grant is a 50/50 grant with a $100000 ceiling. He reported that he would be working with the district architect on any items on the 10 year health life safety survey as well as other projects as necessary.

11. ACTION ITEMS
11.1 Contracts Exceeding $25000

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Popplewell and seconded by Freitag to approve the list of contracts exceeding $25000
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.2 Board Policy 7:180

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Cooper and seconded by Freitag to re-affirm support for board policy 7:180.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.3 Risk Management Plan

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Chambers and seconded by Mertel to approve the district risk management plan.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.4 Baseball & Softball Rate

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Lawless and seconded by Chambers to approve the increase in the baseball & softball officials rate to $70.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.5 Transportation

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve a transportation agreement with Tonica to provide transportation to SOAR Academy.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.6 ALOP Program

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the contract with ROE 25 for ALOP program
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.7 Checking Balance

ACTION ITEM
A motion by Freitag and seconded by Popplewell to approve keeping the checking balance at $200,000.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.8 Savings Balance
ACTION ITEM
A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve keeping the savings balance at 1.5 to 2 million.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

11.9 CD
ACTION ITEM
A motion by Popplewell and seconded by Chambers to approve opening two CD's of $500,000 at 12 months.
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Cooper, Lawless, Mertel, Chambers, Popplewell, Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Motion passes.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to adjourn to closed meeting at 7:08 pm to discuss: Ayes 7-0.

> 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 Lawless and seconded by Mertel to reconvene into open session at 7:33 pm. Roll call. 7-0

13. ACTION ITEMS AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.1 No action items as a result of executive session

14. DIRECT SUPERINTENDENT TO REPORT TO BOARD

15. ADJOURN

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Freitag to adjourn at 7:34 pm.
Ayes 7-0.

BOE President (Greg Ruff) — Date: 10-29-25

BOE Secretary (~~Lisa Cooper~~) Pro-temp — Date: 10-29-25