

DRAFT

**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, September 23, 2024
Turnpike Elementary School - Cafeteria**

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Andrea Fairhurst at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Fairhurst read the District's Mission Statement:

MISSION

Our mission at the Lansingburgh Central School District is to create for all students a productive, challenging and safe educational environment. Our students will acquire civic values and learning skills and strategies through a dynamic partnership between the schools and community. These experiences will inspire a lifetime of learning and self-sufficiency.

Board of Education Members, Catherine Curtis Michael Cusack, Andrea Fairhurst, Jillian Manupella, Talia Pallozzi, Daniella Richards, Jessica Vartigian, and Thomas Zakrzewski were present. Jason Shover was absent from the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Others present include Angela Mauriello, Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Matthew Van Dervoort, Carrie Phelan, Melissa Santarcangelo, TES Principal, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were 8 others present.

Mrs. Linda O'Malley had questions regarding the online threats last week. She feels the district waited too long before following up with the parents. Dr. Abitabile indicated that even if untrue, we take every potential threat of violence in our schools very seriously. We always inform the Troy Police Department and thoroughly investigate each instance with them to determine credibility. No matter how non-descriptive or vague a threat might be, we will always investigate it to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We report back to parents as information from the Troy PD is received.

**Visitors Address the
Board**

Investigating the credibility of a threat is made much more difficult when individuals choose to share it online instead of bringing it to the district's attention immediately or directly to the Troy Police Department's attention. When rumors like the ones that circulated last week are shared countless times online, it only causes understandable anxiety and often panic with our students and their families.

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Penny Tobias distributed a letter to the Superintendent and Board of Education regarding health services policies and procedures in the district. She is disappointed with the use of student nurses; the number of nurses for summer programs; the student to nurse ratio at all school buildings; and vaccination protocol. Mrs. Tobias did not take any questions or comments from the Board and left the meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for September 23, 2024.

RESO #1-09/23/2024
Approve Meeting
Agenda

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Vartigian

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Ms. Fairhurst reported for the Audit Committee.

- A new software program, Account Tree, has been purchased to manage our Student Activity Funds. The software offers essential functionalities such as Reporting, Check Writing, and Account Reconciliation.
- Our garbage removal expenses have gone up by \$26,000 that had not been previously budgeted for.
- The Auditors will be here next month to present their findings.

FINANCIAL
REPORTS

Mr. Cusack was appointed two weeks ago to the Troy IDA. He will be reporting back to the Board of Education regularly.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

RESO #2-09/23/2024
Approve Financial
Reports

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 26, 2024 and the minutes of the special meeting held on September 9, 2024.

RESO #3-09/23/2024
Approve Minutes

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

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PERSONNEL – CONSENT AGENDA

RESO #4-09/23/2024

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the following resignations:

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
Kimberly Ravena	Elementary Teacher	RPES	Retirement	June 30, 2025
Shi'Nyaah Cooperwood	Teaching Assistant	KMS	Resignation	September 13, 2024
Stephanie West	Teaching Assistant	KMS	Resignation	September 27, 2024

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints the following instructional staff:

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Masters	Credits
Allison Jaillet	8th Grade Science Teacher	KMS	Science	Probationary	10/21/2024 - 10/20/2028	Step O	Y	52
Mary Danahy	Long Term Substitute	TES	N/A	Temporary	09/01/2024 - 10/07/2024	\$255.86/day		

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following people be paid for up to 10 hours at their contractual rate for the Teaching Assistant Coaching Program through Title II:

TES:

Barrett, Patricia A
Carlo, Erika
Cruz, Jennylee
Dolan, Britney

RPES:

Whalen, Lauren
Carter, Audrey
Chaundry, Kiran
Echandy, Iyana

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Catherine Stockton	Facilitated Bus Tour for New Staff Orientation	8/29/2024	5	contractual	Title II
Justin Simon	Serving from the Inside Out: The Restorative Practice Path Toward Greater Connection, Curiosity, and Confidence	8/26 & 8/27	12	\$30	Project Aware
Katie Secore Dixon Mary Leak Kelsea Royce Margaret Rabben Abby Higgins Margot Tanner Christina Limson-Harvey	Youth Mental Health First Aid	8/26	8	\$30	Project Aware

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following additional assignments:

Name	Position / Purpose	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Compensation
Katie Lozo	Tutor	RPES	Temporary	Up to 10 hours / September 2024	\$30 per hour
Joe Sousa	Tutor	RPES	Temporary	Up to 10 hours / September 2024	Hourly Rate
Tim Hepp	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	9/17/2024 - 09/30/2024	\$30 per hour
Isabella Fanning	Varsity Girls Volleyball - Volunteer Assistant Coach	LHS	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	N/A (Volunteer)
Darwin Carr	Varsity Boys Basketball - Assistant Coach	LHS	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Contractual Stipend
Lisa Puckey	LGBTQ Club	LHS	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Contractual Stipend / Split
Stephanie Moryl	LGBTQ Club	LHS	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Contractual Stipend / Split
Kennedy Teta	Movement Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour

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Marydalia Coriano	Movement Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Nicole VanCott	Movement Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Olivia Williams	Korean Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Olivia Williams	French Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Jessica Sisti	Ukelele Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Jessica Sisti	Afterschool Band	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Dave Hamilton	Lacrosse Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Dave Hamilton	Grade 3 Math Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Dave Hamilton	Gardening Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Emma Closson	Dance Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Jason Blackmur	Grade 5 Math Enrichment	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Annette Hopkins	Math Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Caitlin Bourke	Math Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Annette Hopkins	SS/Current Events Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Caitlin Bourke	SS/Current Events Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Kristen Pasinella	IDEAL Jr. Book Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Erica Wittman	IDEAL Jr. Book Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Colleen Moak	IDEAL Jr. Book Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Tracy Krom	Card Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Melissa Watts	Grief Counseling Group	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Elizabeth Jamison	Book Cooks	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour

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Elizabeth Jamison	Grade 5 Library Ambassadors	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Darlene Walzer	Puzzle Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Anna Zibro	Cursive Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Jen Laustrup	Cursive Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Adam Gregoire	Morning Gym	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Mindy Foglia	Morning Gym	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Elizabeth Hanna	Craft Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Elizabeth Hanna	Lego Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Daniella Micallef	Soccer Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Daniella Micallef	Homework Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Briana Brady	Homework Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Briana Brady	Book Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Elizabeth Jamison	Book Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Chelsea Mason	Homework Club	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$30 per hour
Casandra Bariteau	Nurse - School sponsored events (fill in as needed)		Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Hourly Rate
Dawn Hamel	Nurse - School sponsored events (fill in as needed)		Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Hourly Rate
Debra Tietjen	Nurse - School sponsored events (fill in as needed)		Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Hourly Rate
Luz-Marina Lilchin	Nurse - School sponsored events (fill in as needed)		Annual	2024-2025 School Year	Hourly Rate

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

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PERSONNEL – NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESO #5-09/23/2024

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints the following non-instructional staff:

Name	Position	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Effective Date
Elizabeth Jensen	Substitute Nurse (RN)	District	Temporary	2024-2025 School Year	Step 1 - \$31.17	09/23/2024
Alex Dudley	Noon Aide	RPES	Annual	2024-2025 School Year	\$17.04 per hour	09/20/2024

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves an Agreement with Employee #1623, effective September 6, 2024.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves an Agreement with Employee #2104 effective September 9, 2024.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Vartigian:

RESO #6-09/23/2024
Accept Donations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the following donation:

<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
District Employees	\$374.00	Anything is Possible Scholarship In memory of Ayshawn Davis

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Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the CSEA Lansingburgh Unit #8620-00, relating to the newly created position of “clerk”, dated August 27, 2024.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Lansingburgh Teachers Association, relating to the Unified Sports Coaching position, dated September 20, 2024.

Second: Mrs. Pallozzi

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the first reading of the following policies:

1120	School District Records	Required
1120-R	School District Records Regulation	
1500-E.4	Athletic Field Fee Schedule	Local
4001	Concurrent Enrollment Programs	Local
4773	Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities	
5500-R	Student Records Regulation	
5550	Student Privacy	Required

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

TES Report by Ms. Cataldo – See page 12-13.
RPES Report by Mrs. Santarcangelo – See page 14-15.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See page 16-17.
LHS Report by Mr. Van Dervoort – See page 18.

Principal’s Reports

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By Mrs. McGrouty:

**Assistant
Superintendent
Report**

Sage Literacy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnership with Sage - grad students 2:1 tutoring from October - May. Students in grades 1-5• 20 students• Targeted literacy skills
TA Mentoring Program	Year 1 of this program after the need was expressed to give our teaching assistants and aides the direct skills that they need to work with our diverse students. This is the first of the program within Questar III.
Summer PD	Teachers completed of 1,000 hours of Professional Learning, including curriculum mapping, to ensure they were ready to start the year
Classroom Academy	Entering Year 4 of Classroom Academy. This program is the first in the nation that culminates in state teacher licensure and provides graduate candidates with an exciting opportunity to apply their academic coursework in a paid two-year residency placement- combining the on-the-job experience under the guidance of an expert lead teacher. We have two candidates this year who will spend two years with us Maureen McLoughlin and Megan Hupfl.

By Dr. Abitabile:

**Superintendent
Report**

- SROs – We still do not have a formal written contract. A draft was received last week that was edited and sent back to the city.
- Mandatory Training for Board Members: Christina attended an annual workshop at NYSSBA last week and was told about new mandated annual training for board members. These include:
 - Child abuse in an educational setting (§1132(2); 8 NYCRR § 100.2(hh)(2)(ii))
 - Annual data privacy and security awareness training (8 NYCRR § 121.7)
 - Annual sexual harassment prevention training is recommended as well.

All of our staff participate annually in these trainings. We will work with Donny Miller to provide access to online training for our board members.

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- Capital Project – The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at Rensselaer Park at 6:00 p.m. followed by a workshop.
- RFP for Architects – We received 7 bids. We still need time to review and evaluate the proposals.
- Aftercare Program - We were caught off guard over the weekend when an email was received from the YMCA indicating they are having staffing issues so they will not be providing aftercare for our PK students. Tiffany immediately sent a message to the affected families. We have sent out an email to staff to let them know of the staffing shortage in hope that someone may be interested in the aftercare program.
- Online Threats – We have received notice of 4 threats of violence since Friday that were non-descriptive or vague. None of the online threats have been determined credible by the Troy Police Department.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #8-09/23/2024
Adjourn

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 7:05 p.m.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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Turnpike Elementary School
BOE Report

Tiffany Wysocki, Principal
September 2024

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	September	YTD, 2024-2025
UPK	92.9%	92.9%
K	90.9%	90.9%
1	89.9%	89.9%
2	93.1%	93.1%
TES	91.7%	91.7%

District Goal	
SEL & TSS	<p>We are committed to fostering a supportive environment for all students. Each classroom is equipped with calming corners and tools designed to help students manage their emotions and enhance their focus. Our guiding principles—“Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Your Best”—reflect our shared commitment to creating a positive school culture known as the "Knight Way."</p> <p>On September 17, 2024, we held our first TSS committee meeting. We are excited to announce that we now have five sub-committees under the TSS umbrella, each focusing on critical areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restorative Practices• Character Education• Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)• Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)• Building Beautification

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<p>Family & Community Engagement</p>	<p>Additionally, we successfully conducted UPK and Kindergarten orientations prior to the start of the school year, welcoming our youngest learners and their families.</p> <p>Our first PTA meeting took place last week, with 34 attendees. We had one representative from each grade level, who provided updates to the community. We are looking forward to our Open House this Wednesday, which will further strengthen our connection with families.</p> <p>This year, we will also collaborate with RPES through our Family Advisory Committee (FAC), with our first meeting scheduled for October 17th. The agenda will include updates on building safety, our educational goals, and upcoming events.</p> <p>To ensure our most vulnerable families receive necessary support, we are holding bi-weekly meetings with Lansingburgh Connects to provide “wrap-around” services.</p>
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>We have prioritized data-driven decision-making to enhance our instructional practices. All first and second-grade students have completed their iReady Diagnostics, along with additional reading subtests. Our teachers are currently analyzing this data to inform instructional strategies in both Reading and Math, ensuring that we meet the diverse needs of our students effectively.</p>

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Rensselaer Park Elementary School
BOE Report

Melissa Santarcangelo, Principal
September 2024

Area of Focus	Action/Initiatives
Chronic Absenteeism	3rd - 91% 4th - 93% 5th - 92% Overall - 92%
Data Collection Curriculum & Implementation to Drive Curriculum & Instruction	RPES School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) Commitment 1: Teaching and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This school is committed to having high expectations for all students and ensuring students are provided with a variety of learning opportunities based on their individual strengths and areas of growth.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments in ELA and Math have been administered to all students.○ Our Academic Intervention Services team is reviewing the diagnostic data and forming targeted skill groups based on identified areas of need.○ Classroom teachers are reviewing the diagnostic data and forming targeted skill groups for both remediation and enrichment
Social and Emotional Learning and Trauma Sensitive Practices	RPES School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) Commitment 2: Teaching and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is committed to ensuring students have the skills necessary to navigate social relationships.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Weekly Second Step Social Emotional Learning lessons in every classroom○ Televised RPES Morning show each morning which highlights the character trait of the month (Community)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ REACH Tickets (Respect, Responsibility, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Cooperation, Hard Work)○ Common language: “I feel...I need...I want...”
Family & Community Engagement	<p>RPES School Comprehensive Education Plan</p> <p>Commitment 3: Family Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is committed to making this a warm welcoming environment for students and families.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Rensselaer Park Record<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/35981602○ Bilingual Liaison

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Knickerbacker Middle School
BOE Report

Carrie Phelan, Principal
September 2024

Area of Focus	Action/Initiatives
ELA	This year we continue to have ELA and Math seminars so that all students have an extra period of ELA and Math support.
Math	<p>Our ELA seminar teachers are beginning training on Morpheme Magic in order to begin incorporating morphology lessons into their curriculum. This will enhance students vocabulary and essentially their comprehension.</p> <p>Math teachers will spend time in PD analyzing last year's NYS test results. This work will lead to incorporating more higher-level questioning within specific units to increase student success.</p>
SEL/School Climate	<p>Administration held team meetings for every team/grade to discuss expectations for the school year.</p> <p>The student council has had two freeze pop sales so far this year. There will be an informational meeting next week for any students interested in joining. We will be discussing doing a student council community service event in November of picking up trash around the neighborhood.</p> <p>School Climate is planning out the annual KMS team building day occurring October 18th during the half day.</p>
Attendance	<p>6th-90%</p> <p>7th-93%</p> <p>8th-90%</p> <p>Overall-91%</p> <p>We have a total of 2 students who have not shown and are unaccounted for.</p>

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Parent Engagement	<p>Find Your Way Day was held the Tuesday before students started back, there were over 100 sixth graders that came to meet their teachers, find their classrooms and practice opening their lockers. This was the same day as the clothing drive, which also had a huge turnout.</p> <p>KMS Open House took place last Tuesday 9/17 evening from 6-7:30pm. This was a great opportunity for our families to meet and talk to our middle school teachers and hear about what exciting activities they have in store for the school year.</p>
21st Century Program	<p>The 21st Century Program began last week. We already have over 100 students enrolled at KMS! We are working on expanding programming at LHS this year. At KMS we are encouraging students to work on their academics as well as participating in the wide variety of enrichment programs that are available for them Monday- Friday.</p>

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Lansingburgh High School
BOE Report

Matt Van Dervoort, Principal
September 2024

Attendance:

9- 86

10-86

11-90

12-92

Average: 88

Clearing rolls and homeschooling students BEDS Day Oct 9

27 down to 11 (16)

PD

All departments working with PD developers are aligning curriculum maps and all assignments in them to Next Gen Standards.

ELA (Grade 11) will work with Questar to develop units of study and lessons that are aligned with the Next Gen Standards.

All 11th graders will be taking the ELA Regents in January

New ELA regents June 2026

Math - Geo and Algebra II will work with Questar - Next Gen Standards - they will tweak assignments and units to drive instruction for the 24-25 school year and going forward.

GEO Regents June 2025

Science - working with Liz Mirra on new science standards - new exams and investigations. Primary focus is BIO and Earth and Space Sciences.

DATA: each department will use June 2024 to evaluate goals from last year and create/continue for this year. 10/18 will be used to unpack the data.

SEL

Ryan Kelly - Project aware is doing a 7-week program with all 10th graders training them on Teen Mental Health First Aid. Pushing into ELA classes. Going well so far.

Rebekah Magin - Will begin M-Power Program (10 week) with 9 graders in October. 10th graders will do a six-week program beginning in January and 11-12 graders will do 4 sessions throughout the year (seminar style)

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Community-

Back to school Knight was held.

Class of 75 toured the building

Senior Sunrise

Home Coming week.