

Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools
Regular Board Meeting – January 22, 2024 - 6:30 PM - LRMS Cafeteria
Board Study Session 6:00 PM - LRMS Cafeteria

LIND

Flag Salute

1. Call to Order and Verification
2. Approval December 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. General Fund Accounts Payable - \$69,555.23
 - b. Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$40,173.72
 - c. Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$675.67
 - d. Capital Project Fund Accounts Payable - \$3,445.99
 - e. Payroll for January 31 , 2024 - \$374,330.32
 - f. Accept Recommendation of LES Paraeducator - Whiski Hilzer

RITZVILLE

1. Call to Order and Verification
2. Approval December 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. General Fund Accounts Payable - \$60,974.31
 - b. Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$40,173.72
 - c. Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$5,539.57
 - d. Payroll for January 31, 2024 - \$405,930.27
 - e. Accept Resignation of RGS Principal - Cindy Deska

JOINT ITEMS

5. Legislative Update
6. Reports to the Board
 - a. Students & School Program
 - i. Transportation Supervisor
 - ii. Student Representatives' Report
 - iii. Principals' Report
 - a. Above & Beyond
 - b. National FFA
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Public Comment
9. Policy Review & Emerging Issues
 - a. Annual Review of School Calendar Options
10. Finance
 - a. Pre-Approval of State Wrestling Hotel
11. Other Reports
12. Board Member Reports
13. Executive Session for reasons stated in RCW 42.30.110
14. Adjournment

Items for the next meeting:

Annual Review of Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Agreements

Approval of 2024-2025 School Calendar

**RITZVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160-67 and LIND SCHOOL DISTRICT #158
JOINT BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2023**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ritzville School District #160-67 and Lind School District #158 was held in the Lind-Ritzville High School Commons on December 14, 2023. The following members were in attendance:

Ritzville School Board Members:	Reid Philips	Tia Kubik
	Scott Carruth	Erin Repp

Lind School Board Members:	Adam Labes	Greg Schmunk
	Jim Weidemann	Kevin Starring
	Breanne Williamson	

Ritzville Chair Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ritzville Chair Phillips called the Ritzville School Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Ritzville Director Repp moved to approve the November 27, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Carruth seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of item 9.d. Resolution 2023-004. Ritzville Director Repp seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$71,563.58; Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$49,305.45; Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$5,436.35; Capital Project Fund Accounts Payable - \$2,229.66; Payroll for December 29 , 2023 - \$411,087.66; Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2024; Board Designation of Official Media - Adams County Ritzville Journal. Ritzville Director Repp seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Chair Labes called the Lind School Board meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Lind Director Schmunk moved to appoint Lind Board Candidate Jim Weidemann to Lind School District Position #1. Lind Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

An administration of Oath of Office, was given to Jim Weidemann as Lind School Board Director Position #1 by Lind-Ritzville Business Manager, Kris Robbins.

Lind Director Starring moved to approve the November 27, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Schmunk seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Weidemann moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 9.d. Resolution 2023-004. Lind Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Schmunk moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$52,460.74; Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$49,305.45; Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$194.15; Payroll for December 29, 2023 - \$368,013.88; Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2024; Board Designation of Official Media - Adams County Ritzville Journal. Lind Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Joint Items

Legislative Update

Superintendent Vanderholm shared that the EWQSC continues to advocate and work with state representatives. He also shared that the Governor budget was released this week, with increased funding for Special Education, school construction support and relief for green energy.

Reports to the Board

Students & School Programs

Principals' Report

RGS Principal Cindy Deska presented an "Above & Beyond" award to RGS Paraeducator Carol Ewing.

LRMS Principal Don Walker reported that the LRMS LEGO Robotics team qualified for state competition in January at Eastern Washington University.

Principal reports from RGS Principal Cindy Deska, LES Principal Sarah Dinkins, LRMS Principal Don Walker and LRHS Principal Kevin Terris were distributed to the Board of Directors in the board packets this month. Each report gave a snapshot of the activities in their building during the month of December.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vanderholm shared grant news, LRHS received a \$75,000 grant for sustaining college in the classroom.

Mr. Vanderholm gave an update on enrollment, noting there have been several families moving out of both districts. As a result, Lind is down one student and Ritzville is down four students since September. Since September, LR Academy is up to eight students, six of those students are enrolled in LR Connects program. He shared that seniors, in their fifth year of high school, are doing well in the Academy.

Superintendent Vanderholm updated the board on facilities, sharing that the Lind Bus Garage heating unit needs replacement. He also shared that the \$44,000 repair grant application for repairs at LES has been submitted.

Mr. Vanderholm shared that influenza cases are on the rise in Adams County and disinfection protocols are in place in the buildings and buses.

Other items discussed, great crowds at winter sports, the addition of school contributions to communities in district newsletters and great turnout for Candy Cane Lane and the Lind Christmas parade.

Superintendent Vanderholm shared some highlights from the annual End of Year Report with the boards, which follows Policy 2106 - Program Compliance Report. He shared that both Lind and Ritzville Districts have received the status of full certification for the 2023-24 school year, and we have all the required courses, offerings and activities needed for compliance.

Public Comment - Marsha Smith shared concerns regarding transgender use of facilities. Superintendent Vanderholm recommended that she set-up a time to meet where he can explain the district's policies and procedures and answer questions.

Policy Review & Emerging Issues

After the second reading, Ritzville Director Carruth moved for Approval of Policy 6610- Video Surveillance. Ritzville Director Kubik seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present members voting Aye. The motion carried.

After the second reading, Lind Director Weidemann moved for Approval of Policy 6610- Video Surveillance. Lind Director Schmunk seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present members voting Aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved for Approval of Resolution #2023-003 - Cancellation of Stale Warrants. Director Repp seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

In adherence to the annual reorganization of the Ritzville School Board of Directors, Director Carruth nominated Director Phillips to serve as Board Chairperson for 2024. Director Repp seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard one ayes, two nays, motion failed. Director Kubik nominated Director Rep to serve as Board Chairperson for 2024. Director Phillips seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Erin Repp as Chairperson for 2024, with all present members voting aye. Director Repp nominated Director Kubik to serve as Vice-Chairperson for 2024. Director Carruth seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Kubik as Vice-Chairperson for 2024, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Director Kubik nominated Director Repp as the WIAA representative for 2024. Director Phillips seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Repp as the WIAA representative for 2024, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Directors Phillips and Carruth were appointed to serve as the representatives to the REA Negotiations Committee, with Director Kubik being an alternate, while Directors Repp and Kubik will serve as the representatives to the PSE Negotiations Committee, with Director Carruth being an alternate.

In adherence to the annual reorganization of the Lind School Board of Directors, Director Starring nominated Director Labes to serve as Board Chairperson for 2024. Director Weidemann seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Adam Labes as Chairperson for 2024, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Director Starring nominated Director Schmunk for Vice-Chairperson for 2024. Director Weidemann seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Schmunk as Vice-Chairperson for 2024, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Director Starring nominated Director Williamson as the WIAA representative for 2024. Director Labes seconded the nomination. A voice vote was heard to elect Director Williamson as the WIAA representative for 2024, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried. Directors Labes and Schmunk were appointed to serve as the representatives to the LEA Negotiations Committee, with Director Starring being an alternate, while Directors Williamson and Weidemann were appointed to serve as the representatives to the PSE Negotiations Committee, with Director Starring being an alternate.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved for Approval of Resolution #2023-04 - Reapportionment of Ritzville Districts into three dedicated districts and two at-large. Director Repp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Financial Reports - LRCS Business Manager, Kris Robbins explained that due to the earlier board meeting date, the Avista bill had not been received and therefore requested the Lind Board to pre approve payment to Avista, not to exceed \$10,000. Lind Director Weidemann moved to approve. Lind Director Schmunk seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Other Reports – Nothing to report.

Board Member Reports - Nothing to report

At 7:40PM, there was an Executive Session called for an appeal hearing for a HIB complaint with no action to follow.

The Lind and Ritzville School Board meeting was adjourned at 8:42PM.

Chairman/Date

Chairman/Date

Secretary to the Board

I am recommending Whiski Hilzer for the Special Education paraeducator for a high needs student at Lind School District. Whiski has experience working with special needs children and adults. Prior to this she has worked in child care centers and assisted living homes. Over the years she has learned some effective strategies to care for students with special needs. For the past few weeks she has had the opportunity to sub in our building and is a positive addition to our staff. She always has a positive attitude and is dedicated to helping students be successful.

January 18, 2024

Dear Mr. Vanderholm and Lind Ritzville School Cooperative School Boards,

My time in the Lind and Ritzville School Districts has been some of the best of my 44 years in education. It is time for me to look beyond work and move forward to new experiences.

I appreciate the years I have spent working with the staff and students in Lind and Ritzville, but am looking forward to my retirement from my Principal/Cooperative State and Federal Programs Director position at the end of my 2023-2024 contract, June 30, 2024. I will be happy to transition with a new administrator, when one is hired.

I have always felt supported by the school board members and superintendents, during my time in the districts. Thank you for your confidence and support over the years.

I know the future is bright in the district and I will continue to support education in any way possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Deska". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Cindy" and last name "Deska" clearly legible.

Cindy Deska

LES January 2024 Board Report

With winter data collected, now is a great time to reflect on our district vision and building goals. At Lind Elementary we are on track for demonstrating EOY growth and achieving student success. My building was pleasantly surprised by our mid-year data. In years past we tested in January and it usually displayed low or no growth. Now we test the first of December before all the holiday activities and winter break and teachers have been given more PLC time on Fridays to dig deep into their student data, targeting individual student needs so they can make regular adjustments to interventions. We also brought back 2nd - 5th grade after school tutoring 4-6 times a month. When looking at our mid-year data we looked specifically at different pull out programs (special education, tier 3 interventions, migrant, and second language learners) and discovered most of them made larger gains than their classroom peers. This is wonderful news, since these students are typically one or more grade levels behind their classmates.

As a building, we have focused more on student goals, reflection and celebrating success. Classroom teachers incorporate student goals and reflection into their morning meetings, dismissal meetings, and lessons. New this year we started a monthly perfect attendance award that has contributed to less absences. Students strive to be at school each day in order to be recognized. Parents have also expressed appreciation for this award, telling me they no longer have to fight their child to go to school. Over the next few months we are going to dive into academic rigor and improve engagement in our lessons.

January Board Report for Ritzville Grade School

Ritzville Grade School has been looking at our recent assessment results from NWEA and math screeners and have recently made adjustments to our intervention groups.

Our data indicates that we continue to make more progress in math. The staff feels this is a direct result of the Bridges curriculum. We had 92% of our students show improvement on NWEA from fall to winter, with 60% of our students “on level”.

In reading we had 79% of our students show improvement on NWEA, with 49% of students “on level”. Broken down by grade level, our beginning readers (many of them repeating) are still at a below level for reading. Our lowest students are receiving teachers’ instruction and intervention twice a day with our new UFLI program. We are continuing to closely monitor their progress. We have also started using UFLI for our special education students.

UFLI targets foundational skills necessary for proficient reading. UFLI focuses on:

- Phoneme blending and segmentation
- Accuracy and automaticity of grapheme-phoneme
- Decoding automaticity of words with previously learned concepts
- Explicit introduction of new concepts
- Decoding and encoding practice
- Reading and spelling irregular words
- Reading and spelling connected text

LRMS January School Board Report

Don Walker <dwalker@lrschools.org>

Thu, Jan 18, 2024 at 1:37 PM

To: Jamie Nichols <jnichols@lrschools.org>, Don Vanderholm <dvanderholm@lrschools.org>

Jamie and Don,

Below is my board report:

Thank you to all of you on the school boards for your invaluable contributions towards our students. You'll find a student made poster, with positive comments from staff and students to further our thanks. In addition, a plate of my wife's cheesecake chocolate chip cookies as a thanks. This month, I provide an overview of my views of our school's current standing concerning the cooperative vision and mission, emphasizing the positive aspects and addressing areas to further improve.

Everyone likes the positive news first, so I observe a notable improvement in engagement, driven by tailored learning experiences that align with the dynamic changes in our world. This positive trend is closely intertwined with our evolving school culture. The continuous enhancement of staff and student culture has been evident since the implementation of our theme, "Lead by Example, Relentlessly Motivated, which all leads to Success," and the introduction of weekly Bulldog Periods. These periods not only educate students about careers but also empower them with a voice in our forums, which has led to the creation of innovative electives, and having assemblies to foster friendly competitions among classmates. This initiative plays a pivotal role in shaping our school's identity. While acknowledging its imperfections, it remains a significant component in realizing LRMS's envisioned future.

Additionally, we are making strides in academic skills, particularly in mathematics and reading. We are currently concluding round 2 of I-Ready diagnostic testing for mathematics and reading. I am pleased to report substantial student growth. Our most significant achievers have demonstrated up to two years of academic progress over the semester and fewer students than last year have lacked growth. This achievement underscores our commitment to propelling students towards meeting or surpassing learning standards.

With everything good, there is always room for improvement, I acknowledge two areas where engagement could be further enhanced. Firstly, there is a need to improve engagement with families. The staff is actively working to be more proactive in engaging with families and disseminating positive news about students, moving beyond solely hearing about the negative aspects. Additionally, we are addressing a lack of relentless motivation in certain cases, stemming from the excitement students find in their learning activities. Efforts are underway to enhance learning activities and foster student engagement in lessons in line with our mastery-based approach to learning. Having students clearly understand the purpose of learning and how to achieve a certain level of learning is our emphasis moving forward. The ongoing push for additional Project-Based Learning activities will contribute to our continuous improvement of having engaging learning activities for students in all classes.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask.



Don Walker

Principal

dwalker@lrschools.org

509-677-3408 x5210

507 North E St, Lind, WA 99341

Kevin's Board Report

1. Where are we as a building performing well and excelling?

- **IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT** by creating customized, innovative learning experiences with high academic standards and relevance to the changing world.
 - Even prior to our Covid years, we began the mission to build in systems that provided flexibility for students who are exceeding expectations in school. We now offer accelerated learning pathways through our CTE department, our offerings through numerous college in the high school course, directed studies through iCEV, paid work experience learning, and blended scheduling for students who want the Running Start experience and still take courses on our campus. Students who are pursuing a four-year university pathway have many options as do students who are going to a trade school or entering the workforce.
- **INVESTING RESOURCES** by engaging in relevant, aligned, and practical professional development in order to optimize student achievement and promote caring relationships.
 - Through various grants I and the high school building leadership team have provided our staff with continuous learning opportunities around instruction and learning. Our efforts to adopt better grading practices, forms of assessment, and habits of work, our students are proving they are learning in meaningful ways.
 - In addition to this, we are providing our core teachers with opportunities to be more equipped to teach challenging courses, add course offerings, and more.
 - Examples of this work include grants to improve our computer science pathway, add health sciences courses, provide students with Advanced Placement courses in Calculus and Chemistry, and revamp our construction course so it is a Core Plus Construction certified course.

2. Where do we have room to grow?

- **DEMONSTRATING GROWTH** by ensuring students consistently meet or exceed learning standards, graduate from HS, and experience measurable postsecondary success.
- **TENACITY** to stay positive and follow-through
 - We have students, more so than in the past, who regularly fall short of showing proficiency or exceeding it, on first or second attempts. This is possibly due to lack of preparation and enthusiasm for what they are learning. My staff is

consistently providing additional interventions, parent contacts, and slower pacing. They have adopted project based learning techniques. We see this as a collective problem that will require a collective effort from our staff to reinforce stronger study habits, enthusiasm for learning, and alignment of what we teach to what students are preparing to do post-secondary.

DRAFT #1 Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools 2024 - 2025 School Calendar

AUGUST 2024						
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August 12 - Secretaries Return
August 20 - Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL
August 21 - ALL LRCS Staff In-Service - NO SCHOOL
August 26 - First Day of School (1st -12th grade)
August 29 - First Day of Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten
August 30 & September 2 - Labor Day Break - NO SCHOOL
October 4 - Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL
October 24 & 25 - Fall Conferences - NO SCHOOL
October 28 - End of Midterm 1
November 11 - Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
November 27 - Thanksgiving Break - EARLY RELEASE
November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
December 20 - Winter Break - EARLY RELEASE
December 23 - January 3 - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr Day - NO SCHOOL
January 15 - End of Semester 1
February 17 - Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
February 18 - All LRCS Staff In-Service - NO SCHOOL
March 26 - End of Midterm 2
March 27 & 28 - Spring Conferences - NO SCHOOL
March 31 - April 4 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
May 26 - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
May 31 - LRHS Graduation
June 6 - Last Day of School - EARLY RELEASE
June 9 & 10 - Snow Days (if needed)

176 School Days
 4 Teacher/Staff In Service Days
 4 Conference Days
 41 Days in First Midterm
 85 Days in First Semester
 47 Days in Second Midterm
 91 Days in Second Semester

Approved Date:

DRAFT #2 Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools 2024 - 2025 School Calendar

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JUNE 2025						
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June 6 - Last Day of School - EARLY RELEASE
June 9 & 10 - Snow Days (if needed)

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 4 Conference Days
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 85 Days in First Semester
 47 Days in Second Midterm
 91 Days in Second Semester

Approved Date: