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**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, February 24, 2025
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

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

ROLL CALL

Others present include Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Alez Zakrzewski (LHS student), Donny Miller, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were no others present.

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.

Motion by Mrs. Vartigian:

**RESO #1-02/24/2025
Approve Meeting
Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the revised meeting agenda for February 24, 2025.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Ms. Richards reported for the Policy Committee. We will have a first draft of revisions coming to the Board at our next board meeting. They include Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX; School District Records; Ex Officio Student Member of the Board; and Extreme Heat Condition Days.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Shover reported for the Audit Committee. We saw some large transfers for the purchase of air filters and ice melt, and tutoring needed for a student. Federal Medicaid is not accepting any claims at this time due to a software issue.

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Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts committee reports for February 24, 2025.

**RESO #2-02/24/2025
Accept Committee Reports**

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

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

**RESO #3-02/24/2025
Approve Financial Reports**

Second: Mrs. Vartigian

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 27, 2025.

**RESO #4-02/24/2025
Approve Minutes**

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

PERSONNEL – CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

**RESO #5-02/24/2025
Accept Resignation**

| Name | Position | Building | Action | Effective Date |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| Iyana Echandy | Teaching Assistant | RPES | Resignation | February 17, 2025 |

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

**RESO #6-02/24/2025
Appoint Instructional Staff**

| Name | Position | Building | Tenure Area | Appointment Type | Term | Salary Step | Masters | Credits |
|------|----------|----------|-------------|------------------|------|-------------|---------|---------|
|------|----------|----------|-------------|------------------|------|-------------|---------|---------|

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|----------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|----|
| Nikki Santiago | Teaching Assistant | TES | | | Effective 2/3/2025 | \$1,000 added to base (prorated) | | |
| Nicole Cotugno | Teaching Assistant | KMS | | | Effective 1/24/2025 | \$1,000 added to base (prorated) | | |
| Kristin Conte | Teacher | LHS | Special Education | Probationary (3 yr) | 3/27/2025 - 3/26/2028 | Step L - \$69,043 | Y | 47 |

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the February 2025 Graduate Credit Report, submitted by the District Clerk; and further authorizes additional compensation in accordance with the LTA salary schedule effective February 1, 2025 for the following staff:

**RESO #7-02/24/2025
Approve Graduate Credit Report and Authorize Salary Adjustments**

| Name | Effective Date | Graduate Credits Awarded | Masters Awarded | Transcript Received |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Alyssa Lyman | February 1, 2025 | 12 | | Y |
| Samantha Casale | February 1, 2025 | 33 (total) | Y | Y |
| Natalie Russo | February 1, 2025 | 30 (total) | Y | Y |

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves an Agreement with Employee #2019, dated February 10, 2025.

**RESO #8-02/24/2025
Approve Agreement**

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

**RESO #9-02/24/2025
Appoint Non-Instructional Staff**

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| Name | Position | Building | Appointment Type | Term | Salary Step | Effective Date |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Jeffrey Pasinella | Weight Room Advisor | LHS | Annual | 2024-25 School Year | \$3,850 | January 1, 2025 |
| Jonathan Pravel | Weight Room Advisor | LHS | Annual | 2024-25 School Year | \$3,850 | January 1, 2025 |
| Warren Lansing | Substitute Noon Aide | TES | Temporary | 2024-25 School Year | \$17.04/hr. | February 3, 2025 |
| Alexis LeClair | Student Worker | District | Annual | 2024-25 School Year | \$15.50/hr. | February 24, 2025 |

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #10-02/24/2025
Approve Additional
Assignments

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

| Name | Position / Purpose | Building | Appointment Type | Term | Compensation |
|----------------|--|----------|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| David Merrill | Tutor / Student with Medical Condition | LHS | Temporary | 01/27/2025 - 06/26/2025 | \$30 per hour / 2 hours per school day |
| Mary Haydock | Homework Club | RPES | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | \$30/hr. |
| Jennifer Talma | Fiber Art Club | LHS | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | \$30/hr. |
| Darlene Walzer | Homework Club | RPES | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | \$30/hr. |
| Rachel DeDonna | Sub Nurse | | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | Hourly pay - 21st Century Grant |
| Dallas Foard | Head Coach - Varsity Boys Outdoor Track & Field | LHS/KMS | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | Contractual Stipend |
| Monica Jerry | Head Coach - Varsity Girls Outdoor Track & Field | LHS/KMS | Annual | 2024-2025 School Year | Contractual Stipend |

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves an Addendum to the Contract of the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Antonio Abitabile, dated February 24, 2025; and authorizes and directs the Board President to execute the Addendum for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.

**RESO #11-02/24/2025
Addendum to
Superintendent
Contract**

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board adopts the 2025-2026 School Calendar.

**RESO #12-02/24/2025
Adopt 2025-2026
School Calendar**

Second: Mrs. Vartigian

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board authorizes the Purchasing Agent to dispose/transfer of the following items from the District Office:

**RESO #13-02/24/2025
Dispose Assets**

| <u>Manufacturer</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Model</u> | <u>Asset</u> | <u>HD?</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Dell | Monitor | 1707FPC | 202115 | NA |
| HP | Chromebook | 14G1 | 212965 | Deprovisioned |
| HP | Desktop Computer | G1 | 211134 | Removed |
| HP | Desktop Computer | G1 | 211199 | Removed |
| HP | Desktop Computer | G1 | 211182 | Removed |
| InFocus | Projector | | 200571 | NA |
| Lenovo | Chromebook | N22 | 212976 | Deprovisioned |
| Smart | Document Camera | SDC-280 | 201563 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201760 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201737 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201738 | NA |

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|---------|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201734 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 202639 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201792 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 201731 | NA |
| Smart | Document Camera | DC-330 | 202637 | NA |
| Toshiba | Laptop Computer | L50A | 211238 | Wiped |
| Toshiba | Laptop Computer | L50A | 211247 | Wiped |
| Toshiba | Laptop Computer | L50B | 215489 | Wiped |
| Toshiba | Laptop Computer | L50B | 212898 | Wiped |
| Toshiba | Laptop Computer | L50B | 215504 | Removed |

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 9-11.
RPES Report by Mrs. Santarcangelo – See pages 12-13.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 14-15.
LHS Report by Mr. Van Dervoort – See pages 16-17.

Principal's Reports

By Mrs. McGrouty:

Assistant Superintendent Report

KMS - ELA and Math bootcamp will begin in March, this will help prepare students for the NYS assessments.

TES - AIS math and reading teachers maintain a bi-weekly meeting schedule with classroom teachers. These meetings serve as a crucial opportunity to collaboratively review student data, including recent assessment results, classroom performance, and progress monitoring data. Based on this data, the teams work together to plan and adjust intervention groups, ensuring students receive targeted support in math and reading.

AIS Reading - 103 Total (22%)

- Grade 3: 32 students
- Grade 4: 33 students (12 receiving Just Words)
- Grade 5: 38 students (21 receiving Just Words)

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Tier 3 Students - 26 Total (5%)

- Grade 3: 11 students
- Grade 4: 5 students
- Grade 5: 10 students
- Tier 3 to Tier 2: 5 students
- Tier 2 to Tier 1: 3 students

Grades 1-2 AIS Math (Tier 2): 2 providers

- Overall: 147 students have received pull out Tier 2 intervention
- Grade 1: Kerry has worked with a total of 76 students throughout the school year thus far. Groups/students are fluid based on assessment data.
- Grade 2: Amy has worked with a total of 71 students throughout the school year thus far. Groups/students are fluid based on assessment data.

Tier 3 Math Totals:

- 2 students (Kerry)
- 5 students (Amy)
- 2 students have gone from Tier 3 to Tier 2

Grades K-2 AIS Reading (Tier 2): 5 providers

- Overall: 186 students
- Grade K: 68 students
- Grade 1: 54 students
- Grade 2: 64 students
- 26 students have gone from Tier 2 to Tier 1

Grades K-2 Tier 3 Reading Totals:

- Grade K: 1 student
- Grade 1: 3 students
- Grade 2: 5 students
- 4 students have gone from Tier 3 to Tier 2

By Dr. Abitabile:

Superintendent Report

- The former Leonard Hospital property may be turned into a tiny home community.
- Over the break, Ms. Zibro's furniture came in. I sent Aaron Bogert over to take pictures that will be shared with the school community on social media.
- RPES Capital Project – Bob Schongar did a walk through with the architects to make sure everything has been done to our specification. There is a low spot in the sidewalk that is causing a water drainage issue. They will be repaired when the weather cooperates.
- Our Boys Varsity Bowling Team won the Section 2 Class B Boys Bowling Championship for the second year in a row yesterday. The team is heading to Syracuse on March 16th for the New York State Public High School Athletic

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Association Bowling Championships. I spoke with Coach Faraci today and he and the team are very excited.

- PTA Annual Fundraiser is scheduled for March 14
- Mary Fund Fundraiser is scheduled for March 28
- The posting for the RPES Principal position went live today. I hope to have a recommendation to the Board of Education at the April meeting.
- Mike Robbins is working on the Athletic Co-Curricular Rules/Regulations that will be in effect beginning the 2025-2026 school year. One particular change will be that if a student is not meeting the academic requirements, they may still practice, but will not be able to play in games.

By Ms. Fairhurst:

- The Rensselaer County Land Trust Board is looking for representation from the Lansingburgh School Board. If any board member is interested, please contact Andrea Fairhurst.

Draft #3 of the 2025-2026 School Budget was distributed. Using a 0.5% tax levy increase and some adjustments made, we are still looking at a deficit of \$1.2 million. After discussion, the Board requested two more drafts using some reserve fund options and options of areas to cut to make up the deficit. The next discussion will take place at the March 10 workshop.

2025-2026 Budget Discussion

Motion by Mrs. Vartigian:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss real estate negotiations.

RESO #14-02/24/2025 Executive Session

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 7:12 p.m.

RESO #15-02/24/2025 Adjourn

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richard

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

| Turnpike Attendance | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------------|
| Grade | February | YTD, 2024-2025 |
| UPK | 84% | 90.2% |
| K | 81% | 88.3% |
| 1 | 83% | 89.2% |
| 2 | 85% | 91% |
| TES | 83% | 90% |

| District Goal | |
|---------------|--|
| Attendance | <p>Positive Attendance Initiatives</p> <p>At the start of the school year, classroom groups were held to emphasize the importance of regular attendance and goal setting—academic, social, and behavioral. Using Whistle for Willie, students engaged in discussions and activities centered on working toward their goals.</p> <p>In mid-November, a second round of classroom groups utilized The Pigeon Has to Go to School, introducing an Attendance Dot Activity. Students track their attendance by placing a sticker or coloring a dot each day they are present. Prize intervals are built in at key milestones (days 46, 78, 118, 161, and 180), ensuring recognition for consistent attendance while acknowledging the challenges of perfect attendance in a primary setting.</p> <p>To further encourage attendance, an Attendance Bus, created with the help of our art teacher Ms. Borden, travels through the building carrying prizes students have earned.</p> <p>This week, we launched random prize giveaways—rewarding students simply for being present. On February 12th, all 2nd-grade students in attendance received Superhero tattoos. These surprise incentives add an element of excitement and reinforce the importance of coming to school daily.</p> |

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| | <p>Our focus remains on fostering a positive school culture where attendance is celebrated, and students feel motivated to be present and engaged.</p> |
| <p>SEL & TSS</p> | <p>Character Education Subcommittee - Our character trait for the month of February is KINDNESS. Teachers were given Kindness Resources to help them discuss and practice showing kindness with their class throughout the month. Classes are also making a Great Wall of Kindness with kind things that are happening around our school outside of our main office!</p> <p>Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Subcommittee - This subcommittee is currently developing the next set of resources to support teachers in integrating DEI topics in their classrooms.</p> <p>Building Beautification Subcommittee - We keep coming up with more great ideas to make our front vestibule welcoming for all of our families and students! Stay tuned!</p> <p>Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Subcommittee - We are continuing to encourage our students to follow the common area expectations and celebrating them when they do! We had some very fun Silver Spoon Award Celebrations this week for those classes that did a great job following our cafeteria expectations. It was amazing to see how happy and proud the students were!</p> <p>Restorative Practices Subcommittee - The weekly Restorative Practices Newsletter has started going out to teachers and staff! The newsletter is starting off with explaining the origins of using a restorative approach and why it is so beneficial.</p> |
| <p>Family & Community Engagement</p> | <p>Building strong connections with our families and community is a priority at Turnpike Elementary. This month, we hosted a successful Bingo Knight, where over 130 students, families, and staff came together for a night of fun, laughter, and prizes. The turnout was incredible, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and support from our school community.</p> <p>Looking ahead, we are excited to partner with Rensselaer Park Elementary for our upcoming Skate Knight at Guptill's at the end of the month. This joint event will provide another great opportunity for students and families to come together outside of the school setting. We look forward to another fantastic evening of engagement and connection.</p> |
| <p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p> | <p>Professional Development Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlene Anderson and Jodi McNutt provided professional development for all SPED teachers on IEPs |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nichole Manatas continued her work to update 2nd Grade Science Curriculum Maps. She will be coming February 26th to model a lesson for all 2nd grade teachers• Jessica Decker and Kim Inglee continue to push into first and second grade classrooms to model lessons, provide coaching and debrief with classroom teachers <p>AIS math and reading teachers maintain a bi-weekly meeting schedule with classroom teachers. These meetings serve as a crucial opportunity to collaboratively review student data, including recent assessment results, classroom performance, and progress monitoring data. Based on this data, the teams work together to plan and adjust intervention groups, ensuring students receive targeted support in math and reading.</p> |
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RENSELAER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Attendance

| Grade | February, 2025 | YTD, 2024-25 |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 3rd | 86.1% | 90.8% |
| 4th | 88.8% | 90.2% |
| 5th | 84.7% | 90% |
| RPES | 86.2% | 90.3% |

| District Goal | |
|---------------|--|
| Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student absence has increased due to the flu and other student ailments. Attendance has also been impacted by the cold weather as well as changes in the regular school day schedule due to the weather and on half days of school. This continues to be a concern for the faculty and there has been an increase in communication with the parents of students with excessive unexcused absences.• However, there have been days when the school's daily attendance goal of 92% has been reached. |
| SEL & TSS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Emotional Learning<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The monthly Character Education Assemblies continue to be held. At these assemblies the Social Emotional Character Trait is introduced, and a supportive presentation is provided. Students who have strongly demonstrated a character trait are recognized at the next month's assembly.• Trauma Sensitive Schools<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussions continue to be held to address the role that trauma, especially homelessness, may be having on students' learning difficulties at school. |

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| Family & Community Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An initiative from the RPES Student Council, weekly theme days continued for the month of February. The themes were <i>Jersey Day</i>, <i>Twin Day</i>, <i>Red or Pink Day</i>, and <i>Crazy Hair Day</i>. This has proven to be a fun activity for the students and the faculty.• Regular use of Parent Square continues to be a resource for the faculty to communicate with the students' parents. This has been a great tool for timely two-way communication for the parents and the faculty.• The after-school clubs are going well at RPES and student participation is high. |
| Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the results of the January administration of the I-Ready Math and ELA assessments, 35 students have been invited to participate in this year's ELA and Math Boot Camp. This after-school activity is designed to provide additional focused ELA and Math support to the students who have been identified.• In addition to the students initially invited to participate, additional students were invited based on teacher recommendations. |

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KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

| Building Goal | Action/Initiatives |
|--|--|
| Curriculum and Instruction | <p>ELA and Math boot camp will begin in March; this will help prepare students for the NYS assessments. This runs as part of the 21st century program.</p> <p>As we enter March, KMS will have our final PD sessions for ELA, Math and Science. We will utilize this time to look over midterm data and determine instructional needs to address from now until state testing.</p> <p>ELA will have embedded PD focused on guided practice in the middle school classroom.</p> |
| SEL/School Climate | <p>6th grade students are learning about emotions, where emotions “live” in their brain, and emotion management/regulation this month for their SEL lessons with Ms. Sacco.</p> |
| Chronic Absenteeism | <p>Attendance YTD</p> <p>Grade 6-87%</p> <p>Grade 7-92%</p> <p>Grade 8-88%</p> <p>Overall-89%</p> <p>At the beginning of the month, Carrie and Mrs. Sacco-Lepannen attended the second half of the attendance workshop from the fall titled, Reflecting on Attendance Data and Action Planning Through an Equity Lens. Carrie will be presenting a portion of this information with the teachers and staff at the March 2025 faculty meeting. The KMS student support team will be creating an updated plan with additional interventions. Mrs. Dixon will be starting attendance improvement groups with Mr. Simon.</p> |
| Parent Engagement and Community Engagement | <p>The January half day parent teacher conferences were a success. Teachers met both remotely and in person with families to discuss any concerns or celebrations pertaining to their student.</p> |

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21st Century Program

The 21st Century Program continues to grow with over 200 students enrolled in program at KMS and LHS.

Some of our veteran culinary students have started an advanced culinary club. This club is a select group that has participated in culinary/healthy eating clubs and was looking for more independence and responsibility in the kitchen. Students pick the recipe, make a shopping list, and follow the directions (as well as clean up the kitchen after). The students have made: empanadas, lasagna and homemade cookies.

We will be adding additional programming from the Arts Center: photography and mixed media and The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall: illustration (cartooning) and music production.

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LANSINGBURGH HIGH SCHOOL

Attendance

- 9th- 82%
- 10th 82%
- 11th 85%
- 12th 78%
- LHS Year to Date 84%

Factors- two hour delay, KMS half day, mid term finishing

SEL:

- M-Power Program with Rebekah Magin began 1/27 and runs for 6 weeks with the 10th graders - working Tuesday and Wednesday each week.
- Project Aware (Ryan Kelly) conducted a Universal Mental Health Screener with the 10th grade students on 2/11/25. These students completed the teen Mental Health First Aid Program in the Fall.
- Students completing the Ally Survey

Academic Data Tracking - LHS

- Teachers are collecting data on standards successes in classes based on Regents scores from June 2024. They plan to update them for the 3rd quarter and do a data analysis of midterm exams to drive instruction for the second semester.
- Updates were made and data points will increase for 3rd quarter

Civic Seal Committee:

- Met on 1/22/25
- Students in Civics Class on track
- Looking at dates for the [poster presentations in the Spring

Cell Phones:

- Working on continuing to enforce the policy

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Parent Communication

- Many teachers working on parent communication (parent meetings being set up to keep them on track)

Bootcamp

- Seniors back on track