LEBANON R-3 SCHOOLS

RELATIONSHIPS | EXPERIENCES | FUTURE FOCUS



Visit our Website

School Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the School Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.
You can view all Board meeting agendas and minutes here.

RECOGNITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRiME Center Growth Awards

Lebanon Middle School recently received a prestigious award from the PRiME Center at Saint Louis University for its outstanding efforts in promoting student growth during the 2023-24 school year. The award, *Beating the Odds for Mathematics Growth*, recognized the school for fostering academic progress and celebrated its success in driving growth among students from high-poverty backgrounds. This honor acknowledged Lebanon Middle School's commitment to ensuring every student—regardless of their socioeconomic status—has the opportunity to succeed. The award highlights the dedicated work of educators and staff in creating an environment where all students can experience meaningful academic growth.



Lebanon Education Association (LEA) Update

Lebanon Middle School LEA representatives, Kacey Duke and Krenda Wade, shared updates and a video on Lebanon Middle School's events and celebrations. At LMS, "learning is loud" for students and teachers. The focus has been on proficiency scales, goal-setting, and ensuring there's clear evidence of student learning. The school's goal is to create an environment that's always in motion, and both staff and students are making great strides in achieving that.

Progress is already visible as the school works towards its student reading and math goals, based on Mid-Year data. LMS has also revamped its Jacket Time support to better meet student needs, while the Swarm program is being used more effectively to fill gaps in learning. Students are increasingly signing up and engaging in these sessions to address their specific needs. Though much has been accomplished, LMS is just getting started. Every day, the school is learning and implementing new

strategies, continuing to grow and evolve as a building in motion!

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following items:

- Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting: January 14, 2025
- Minutes of Board of Directors Study Session: January 29, 2025
- Monthly Financial Report
- LIFT Device Lease Contract
- 2025-2026 School Calendar
- Cox Health GOCAPS MOU
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gasconade School District for Early Childhood Special Education
- Success Ready Student Network Data Sharing Agreement

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board voted unanimously in closed session to approve the **personnel report** and approved an extension to Dr. Schmitz' contract through the 2027-28 school year.

ACTION

Lease/Purchase Financing of Buses

Mr. Dameron presented bids for the financing of 2 new buses, each equipped with a lift. Bids were opened on February 4, 2025. The total amount financed is $306,540 to be paid in five equal annual installments through October 2029.

The motion to approve bus lease/purchase financing as presented was approved in a 7-0 vote.

INFORMATIVE/REPORT ITEMS

CSIP 1.1.3 - Skills and Dispositions

Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Mobley, champions from **CSIP** team 1.1.3, presented an update of progress made towards the District's Strategic Plan. The strategy outlines a five-year plan to enhance student success by developing and promoting LR3 skills—Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication—and dispositions—Grit, Integrity, and Responsibility. Year 1 (2023-24) focuses on defining, communicating, and integrating these skills into student learning, while also providing professional development for staff. Year 2 (2024-25) expands efforts through professional training, publication of the "Portrait of a Graduate," and the development of a digital learner profile. Year 3 (2025-26) prioritizes data collection and assessment tools to measure student performance on these competencies. Year 4 (2026-27) involves refining communication strategies and expanding the Learner Profile to all students. Year 5 (2027-28) ensures continuous improvement through regular evaluation and updates to the Learner Profile, maintaining alignment with best educational practices. This plan systematically builds a culture of learning that prepares students for future success.

2024 State of the District Report

Dr. Schmitz and members of the Executive Leadership Team presented the 2024 State of the District report, which provided an overview of the District in the areas of stakeholder input, finance, operations, student learning, and strategic planning. The 2024 State of the District report also included achievement data as well as information on the district's Annual Performance Report.

The Lebanon R-3 School District continues to make strides in student achievement, community engagement, and operational excellence as highlighted in the 2024-25 State of the District report. With a mission to inspire a passion for learning through positive relationships, personalized experiences, and future-focused initiatives, the district has seen notable improvements in student performance, including a 5% increase in math proficiency and a 3% rise in ELA proficiency. Community perception remains strong, with over half of survey respondents recognizing improvements in district quality over the past five years. Financially, the district maintains a stable operating budget while prioritizing investments in salaries, benefits, and infrastructure, including Proposition Lebanon Schools initiatives. College and career readiness remains a key focus, ensuring all students graduate with a clear post-secondary plan. Through strategic planning and a commitment to continuous improvement, Lebanon R-3 remains dedicated to empowering all learners for future success.

Mid Year Academic Progress (iReady/NWEA)

Mrs. Evans and building leaders presented middle of year performance and growth data from iReady and NWEA. Students in grades K-11 are assessed three times a year to measure student performance and growth in reading and math. Primary goals of both assessments include measuring student growth and comparing student performance to peers throughout the nation. Mrs. Evans shared celebrations as well as next steps for improvement.

A total of 2,246 students participated in the i-Ready assessment, and the K-8 reading and math scores have shown a 16% and 15% increase since the fall. Since last year, math scores have increased 6% overall, and reading scores have increased 5% overall.

The District celebrated student progress in both math and reading as strong growth toward proficiency was evident in each school.

Despite these achievements, the administration team is committed to further growth. This entails a continued commitment to appropriate tier 1 instruction, enhancing access to high-quality instructional materials beyond ELA, continued developing proficiency scales, and assessment work.

MSBA Policy 2024D Update

As a member of the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA), the Lebanon R3 School District has purchased policy review services to ensure compliance with current law changes. MSBA attorneys review current legislation to make sure the District's policies comply with changes, which often come in three to four updates throughout the year. Dr. Brownfield presented the MSBA 2024D policy updates for a first reading.

- BBBB-1: School Board Ballot Issues
- BDC: Closed Meetings, Records, and Votes
- DFI-1: Setting Tuition for District Programs
- GCBA: Professional Staff Compensation
- IGBI: Home Schooling
- IGCDA: Full-Time MOCAP Virtual Courses
- JEA: Compulsory and Part-Time Attendance
- JED: Student Absences and Excuses
- JHDF: Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- JED-AP(1): Student Absences and Excuses - (Grades K-8), JED-AP(2): Student Absences and Excuses - (Grades 9-12)

Tuition Rates for 2025-26 School Year

Per Board Policy JECA-1, tuition rates shall be determined annually on the basis of the per-pupil cost for the preceding year for the operation, maintenance and debt service of the schools, as prescribed by state law.

Mr. Dameron reviewed information related to the District's per-pupil costs for grades K-8 and 9-12. This information provided key data in the determination of tuition rates for non-resident students. The District partners with Gasconade C4 School District and Joel E. Barber C5 School District for grades 9-12, which represents approximately 150 students.

Mr. Dameron also reviewed information related to Tuition Rates for the Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC).

Finance and Operations Update and FY 2025-26 Budget Development

Mr. Dameron presented an update on the District's finances and operations through January 2025. Operating Fund revenue has decreased $4,071,623 over FY 2023-24. This includes a $33,515 increase in Proposition C (Sales Tax) revenue, a $160,230 increase in Basic Formula revenue, a $2,581,010 decrease in State revenue, and a $1,769,183 decrease in Federal revenue. The reduction in state revenue is primarily due to the one-time Jordan Valley Early Childhood Fusion Grant funds received in January 2024, and the reduction in federal revenue is primarily due to the one-time ESSER III funds that were received in August 2023.

Operating Fund expenditures have decreased by $3,512,461 over FY 2023-24. This includes budgeted increases of $191,406 for curriculum adoption, $139,959 for Launch, and $1,095,887 for payroll increases. The total decrease is mainly due to last year's construction expenditures for the Early Childhood Center and the Boswell FEMA project. The Early Childhood Center project accounts for $3,427,105 of the decrease, and the Boswell FEMA project accounts for $1,249,767 of the decrease from last year.

The Operating Fund balance through January is 29.22% compared to 33.03% last year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schmitz continues to advocate for legislation affecting our schools and seeks the Board's support in these efforts. Legislation such as Senate Bill 87 threaten to reduce local revenue by approximately $1.1 million, while House Bill 711 creates the possibility of statewide “open enrollment”. Open enrollment creates many challenges for local school districts as students could transfer between school districts, leading to funding challenges and widespread impacts on local communities.

The upcoming election on April 8th will see the expiration of Scott McCowan and Amy Waterman’s seats.

At the next Board Study Session on February 26th, the Board will review salaries, budgets, and long-term projections.

In March, the Board will discuss the Facility Master Plan for Activities, with Sapp Design Architects providing more details. A presentation on this plan will be made at the March 19, 2025 Board Study Session.

Lebanon R-3 School District
224 West Commercial St.
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone: (417) 657-6001
Fax: (417) 532-9492

Connect with us!

Lebanon R-3 School District | 224 West Commercial St. | Lebanon, MO 65536 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!