



Lower Merion School District
301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399
www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors September 15, 2025, Business Meeting Highlights

For a complete agenda, visit the [BoardDocs section](#) of the District website.

Closed-captioned [meeting videos](#) are available on the District website within five days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sautner opened the meeting by noting that it is Constitution Week and that Constitution Day is upcoming, adding that she believes a strong public education system is the cornerstone of Democracy.

In his update, Dr. Ranelli shared that the school year is off to [a great start](#) and congratulated the 17 students from Lower Merion High School and ten students from Harriton High School who were named [Semifinalists by the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program](#). They will be recognized, along with the Commended students, at the October Board meeting. He also noted that [BusPatrol enforcement](#) had begun, with Lower Merion Police approving 172 citations and Narberth 10 between August 1 and September 11, 2025. He also thanked the Nutritional Services team for offering [Grab-and-Go breakfast bags](#), making it even easier for all students to get a free school breakfast.

Next, he welcomed Ms. Stout, principal of Black Rock Middle School, and students from Black Rock and Harriton to share information about the upcoming [YO! Book Fest](#).

Sana Garner, newly elected president of the Education Foundation of Lower Merion, shared a presentation about EFLM's new mission to fundraise in support of student wellness by improving LMSD's outdoor spaces. Anyone interested in joining the EFLM Board can email EducationFoundationOfLM@gmail.com.

Finally, Dr. Ranelli reiterated that there are dates set for [community input sessions](#) for LMSD's upcoming strategic planning process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(All committee meeting videos are available for one month [on the District website](#))

- BJ Uzzell, Harriton High School Student Representative, shared that Ram Day, when all the clubs shared information with interested students, was a success. Fall sports are underway, including the new LM/H combined water polo team. There's also a new practice in place for students to

keep their phones in caddies during classes. Finally, he noted that the Homecoming Dance is set for October 4, 2025.

- Shaila Anolike, LMHS Student Representative who will share the role with her twin sister, reported that the year kicked off with students participating in the Senior Sunrise and an ice cream social fundraiser. She also mentioned the National Merit semifinalists and the multiple fall sports underway, including the boys' soccer team, which [garnered academic honors](#). The LM Activities Fair will be Wednesday, and the Fall Food Truck Fest will be Friday. Finally, she noted the [Third Annual Sean A. Hughes Memorial 5K and Fun Run](#) will be held on November 9, 2025, with proceeds supporting building an outdoor learning and performance space on the campus in memory of the late principal.
- Ms. Schafmeister reported on the September 5, 2025, Policy Committee meeting, where priorities for the upcoming year, as well as Policies on tonight's agenda were discussed. There was also a presentation by the Nutritional Services Department, as Policies related to the work of the department were reviewed.
- Ms. Kalish reported on the September 8, 2025, Curriculum Committee meeting, where the educational contract on tonight's agenda was reviewed. There were also presentations on AI and the District focus areas for the upcoming year, as LMSD works toward developing a five-year strategic plan.
- Mr. Herman reported on the September 11, 2025, Facilities and Purchasing Committee meeting, which included review of the following items: the list of bills, the contracts and the purchasing report items listed on tonight's agenda, as well as a presentation from HSA, the architects contracted by LMSD to evaluate current elementary school playgrounds and make recommendations for updates.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

During audience recognition, District residents commented on the following topics, in-person and via the chat feature on Zoom.

- District response to concerns about antisemitism
- Facilities rental request for a Lunar New Year celebration
- Concerns about the LMSD Comprehensive Plan
- Student safety in light of a verbal threat
- Full-day kindergarten and early interventions
- Gratitude to the Board for positive accomplishments
- Zoom event on the IHRA definition of antisemitism and work with the Dialogue Institute
- Dissatisfaction with LMSD legal counsel
- Kudos for Dr. Albanese and Merion Elementary staff
- Support for BCMS staff and Board for building a sense of belonging for all students
- Support for the District being inclusive
- Opposition to the Equity Policy

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and were approved by the Board:

- Acceptance of the following donations:
 - \$2200 from the PWES HSA to support PBIS assemblies
 - \$3300 from the BHES HSA for water-bottle filling stations
 - \$260.33 from the CYES HSA for art supplies

OLD BUSINESS

The Board adopted:

- Policy 257 Parent and Family Engagement
- Policy 827 Conflict of Interest

The Board voted to approve the items below via a Consent Agenda:

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved:

- Personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Board noted the passing of Wesley O. Doughty who was a biology teacher at LMHS, who worked for LMSD from 1958 until his retirement in 1989.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved:

- Student Services Agreements for students receiving non-District educational services.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board approved:

- The following field trips
 - LMHS - Cross Country Team - 9/12/25 - 9/13/25 - Huntsville, AL
 - LMHS - Cross Country Team - 10/17/25 - 10/18/25 - Boston, MA
 - HHS - Girls Basketball Team - 12/19/25 - 12/21/25 - Norfolk, VA
 - LMHS - Girls Basketball Team - 12/26/25 - 12/30/25 - Wildwood, NJ
 - HHS - Music Department - 2/26/26 - 3/2/26 - Orlando, FL
- SchoolMint/Hero Ready renewal for five secondary schools

BUSINESS OFFICE

The Board approved:

- List of Bills
- August 2025 LMSD Financial Reports

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved:

- Contracts for high-voltage cable and conduit repairs at MRES, document management copier services at BRMS and Districtwide cellular service
- Contracted drivers and aides list
- District contracts for August 2025 internet security
- Quote for Presidio Gigamon Renewal
- Quote for Zoom
- Quote for ChatGPT EDU license

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved:

- Yo! Bookfest event to be held October 25, 2025, at BRMS

SUNSHINE ACT

Mr. Roos, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, noted the Board met in executive session on September 15, 2025.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings will be held at in the DAO Board Room at the times listed:

- Monday, October 20 Regular Business Board Meeting @ **7:00 PM**

Committee Meetings will be held in the DAO Board Room (and livestreamed) unless noted otherwise:

- October 3 Policy @ 9 AM
- October 13 Curriculum @ 7 PM
- October 16 Facilities/Purchasing @ 9:30 AM **via Zoom**

LMSD BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS is distributed to the community and staff of Lower Merion School District to highlight actions taken at Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the meeting minutes. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings. For information, visit [LMSD.org](https://www.lmsd.org).