



**LITTLEFIELD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #9  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Administrative Services Site  
3490 East Rio Virgin Road  
Thursday, September 11, 2025  
5:00 P.M.  
(Doors Open at 4:45 p.m.)**

**Mission Statement**

The Littlefield Unified School District is committed to excellence. Therefore, we are committed to providing opportunities for all students to learn and develop socially, emotionally, and academically. We are committed to providing resources to our students, parents and teachers in an ongoing effort to help students transition from childhood to adulthood.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Fagnan called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. There were approximately twenty-five (25) people in attendance and Board Secretary Hogan was absent from the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mike Fagnan, Board President  
Mark Cobb, Board Member  
Sean Hogan, Board Secretary  
Karen Johnson, Board Member

Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal  
Kevin Murray, Elementary Principal  
Edward Dickie, Business Manager  
Sheree Goessman, Human Resources Director

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

3. Pledge of Allegiance: By invitation of Board President.

**AGENDA**

4. Consideration of approval of the September 11, 2025 LUSD9 Board Meeting agenda.

Board President Fagnan corrected item #18 on the agenda and said it should be Bank of Nevada and not Nevada State Bank.

**Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**



## **SPECIAL ITEMS**

5. Presentation of Diploma to Mason Carter.

Jyll Okelberry shared that Mason attended school in Northern Utah, and when he came to our school he completed all of his junior and senior credits. She expressed how incredibly proud she is of him. He visited MAPS yesterday and will be joining the Air Force. Mr. Heaton presented him with his diploma, confirming that he has met all the requirements set by the State Board of Education.

6. Presentation by Sergeant Stock regarding the SRO Grant.

Sergeant Stock explained that previous administrations have inquired about having a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the area. Typically, the position is funded by the school district, which then contracts with the Sheriff's Office to assign an officer. However, it's also possible to apply for a grant-funded position and hire a deputy in an off-duty capacity. If a grant covers the costs, that officer could serve in the off-duty role.

Board Member Cobb asked who would be responsible for writing the grant. Troy responded that he could ask Mrs. Brown to look into it. He noted that it might fall under the State Safety Grant, through which the district currently funds two positions. He added that the district previously chose to fund social workers instead of SROs, partly because of the nearby substation, and determined that investing in social workers was a better use of funds.

Sergeant Stock mentioned that if the program involves a once-a-week class, it could be possible to have the same officer attend each week. He also emphasized that the Sheriff's Office remains responsive and will continue to provide support when needed. Mr. Heaton agreed, noting that the Sheriff's Office has been excellent in their assistance—especially considering the large area they cover—and they have always been available when called upon.

Board Member Cobb shared that the substation will be relocating to a two-story building on Fleet Street, expected to be completed by January. Mr. Heaton added that Deputies Anderson and Lundell frequently visit the school and remain actively engaged with the campus.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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At this time, the public may speak to the Governing Board on topics of concern with the public body's jurisdiction, even if the topic is not specifically included on the agenda. The public must state their full name for the record and will be allowed up to three minutes to address the Governing Board. No action will be taken as a result of public comments. The Board expects that citizens who address the board will present concerns regarding the activities in question rather than make personal attacks upon Board Members, District Personnel or other persons in attendance or absent. In addition, questions or comments on matters that are currently under legal review will not be accepted.

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7. Public Comment.

### **Books in the Dumpster**

Annette Carlson, a District employee speaking as a concerned community member, raised questions during public comment about why brand new books are being thrown away at the elementary school. She noted that she has observed this happening at the Elementary School this year and asked why the books are not being donated. She also provided a sample of the books she found. Mr. Heaton explained that he would look into the matter. He clarified that the books appeared to be sample books. Mr. Heaton noted that each year, when textbooks are reviewed and selected, the district receives multiple sample copies.



Once a selection is made, the remaining samples are typically discarded. Mr. Heaton confirmed he would investigate further and report back.

Mr. Heaton mentioned that the Board could formally instruct him to look into the matter, and he would provide an update. Board President Fagnan noted that he would like to speak with Mr. Murray and suggested they could do so together.

### **Bus Driver and School Zone Concerns**

Gloria Etter, driver of Bus #103, shared that while she was at Panguitch Lake, she learned the district only had two available bus drivers. She volunteered to drive and has been assisting as needed, including managing student behavior when children become extremely noisy.

Gloria also raised a concern about the school zone speed signs, which read “When students are present.” She questioned whether the signage is contradictory, as students are often indoors or on buses.

Board Member Cobb explained that the speed limit is 35 mph, dropping to 15 mph when students are present. He agreed that the signage could be confusing and said he believes the 15 mph limit should apply for that portion of the road. He noted that it is unclear whether the county highway department or the school is responsible for the signage but said he would find out.

Board President Fagnan commented that staff often wears multiple hats. Mr. Heaton noted one of the Maintenance Workers usually places the signs out in the morning, with assistance from bus drivers. Board Member Cobb suggested that when buses arrive, drivers could stop the bus, move the signs while their lights are on, and then park, ensuring safety and visibility.

There was also a discussion about liability when staff uses personal vehicles to move the signs. Mr. Heaton clarified that employees are covered for school-related activities, whether on or off the clock. Board President Fagnan emphasized that his main concern is addressing permanent signs that may be contradictory or confusing.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

8. Edward Dickie, Business Manager
  - a. Student Activity Balance.
  - b. Food Service Financial.
  - c. Budget Update
  - d. Other

Ed Dickie reviewed the Student Activity Funds and stated he will look into the Class of 2025 account to confirm whether the bus fees have been deducted. He also reviewed the Food Service Report.

Mr. Dickie provided a budget update, noting that some coding errors have been identified—approximately \$62,000 should have been coded to one of the grants. He is currently reviewing several grants and cleaning up the accounts, working closely with Mike at the county.

Mr. Heaton shared that during the recent law conference, it was mentioned that the state is withholding some Title funds, likely due to expectations of a reduced federal contribution. He believes those funds will be released later in the year. Mr. Heaton also reported that ASBA recently won a lawsuit regarding the underfunding of Arizona’s rural school districts.

Board Member Johnson asked if the District has someone responsible for writing grants. Mr. Heaton



explained that his sister, who has extensive experience in grant writing, has been assisting the District and has successfully obtained several grants. She does not charge the District unless a grant is awarded, as her compensation is written into the grant itself.

9. Kevin Murray, Elementary Principal

a. School Update

- i. September 10, 2025 – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Club @ 3:00 p.m.
- ii. September 11, 2025 – Spirit Shirt Day
- iii. September 17, 2025 – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Club @ 3:00 p.m.
- iv. September 19, 2025 – Spirit Day Shirt
- v. September 24, 2025 – Picture Re-takes
- vi. September 25, 2025 – Spirit Shirt Day

b. Other

Board President Fagnan noted Mr. Murray could not be in attendance and read the provided department report:

As of September, our current enrollment stands at 207 students. Teachers have begun instruction in ELA and Math, administered Beginning-of-Year benchmark assessments, and are using the results to guide small-group instruction and set grade-level goals.

A special recognition and note of appreciation—the school received an anonymous donation of \$15,000 to support capital improvements at the elementary school. While a sunshade was initially considered, the cost exceeds the donation amount. Therefore, the funds will be used to purchase new desks and chairs, providing an immediate benefit to our students.

10. Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal

a. School Update.

- i. September 15-20, 2025 – Homecoming Week.
  - a) Monday, September 15, 2025 – Pep Assembly @ 11:25 a.m.
  - b) Tuesday, September 16, 2025 – Back to School Activity on the Football Field @ 12:26 p.m.
  - c) Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – Parade @ 1:00 p.m. and Carnival @ 3:00 p.m.
  - d) Thursday, September 18, 2025 – Homecoming Volleyball Game @ 3:00 p.m.
  - e) Friday, September 19, 2025 – Homecoming Football Game @ 6:00 p.m.
  - f) Saturday, September 20, 2025 – Homecoming Dance @ 9:00 p.m.
- ii. September 23, 2025 – Visit from University of AZ @ 10:00 a.m.
- iii. September 24, 2025 – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Fieldtrip – Utah Tech @ 7:30 a.m.
- iv. September 30, 2025 – ASVAB testing for 11<sup>th</sup> grade @ 9:00 a.m.

b. Other.

Mr. Heaton noted that Homecoming Week is scheduled for next week and reviewed the planned events. The Homecoming Dance will be held at the high school. He also mentioned the district's goal to administer the ASVAB assessment, which helps students explore career pathways based on their individual interests.

Mr. Heaton reported that he and Board Member Hogan attended the ASBA Law Conference. They returned early, and Board Member Hogan participated in the Delegate Assembly online. During the conference, Board Member Hogan asked Mr. Heaton to deliver a letter to Senator Mark Kelly, which he



did. Mr. Heaton emphasized that funding issues remain a significant state-level concern, noting that charter schools are not always required to follow the same regulations as public schools. His letter to Senator Kelly addressed the ongoing inequities in public school funding.

Board Member Johnson asked if sharing more information with the public could help raise awareness about these issues. Mr. Heaton agreed that increased community involvement could make a difference. He noted that suburban districts often have an easier time passing overrides, while for our district; each override election costs approximately \$5,000, regardless of the outcome.

Mr. Heaton also shared that the District Office will need to be relocated to the high school due to mold and structural issues in the current building. Since the affected facility does not house students, the School Facilities Board (SFB) will not provide financial assistance for repairs.

Board Member Johnson asked about strategies to better inform the community, and Board President Fagnan recalled that during the last override effort, many taxpayers without children in the district were not supportive. Board Member Johnson suggested that writing letters and increasing outreach efforts might help. Both the board and administration agreed that greater community engagement will be important if another bond or override is considered. Board President Fagnan added that if the district plans to pursue another override, preparations should begin soon.

Board Member Cobb asked about the Mohave County Board of Supervisors and their role in education. Mr. Heaton responded that the Board of Supervisors primarily oversees county and road matters, while education falls under the authority of state representatives. Board Member Johnson mentioned she had received an invitation to a meeting in Kingman with Representative Gosar, but unfortunately received it two days after the event. Mr. Heaton added that the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) continues to be a strong advocate for public schools and was the organization that filed the lawsuit against the State of Arizona for underfunding rural districts. He believes the state settled the case partly due to uncertainty about the incoming governor's position.

Board President Fagnan reported attending a recent meeting with Mr. Heaton and the high school teachers. Discussion focused on cell phone use in the classroom. Teachers shared that many students listen to music with ear buds during class. Only five teachers supported the use of Faraday bags for all students, but all were in favor of using them as a disciplinary measure.

One teacher explained that she treats phone compliance like a job requirement — if a student refuses to turn in their phone, the student receives an unexcused absence. Board Member Johnson asked whether the proposed “three strikes” rule had been discussed. Mr. Heaton confirmed he will be drafting a regulation addressing phone use and discipline for board approval. Board President Fagnan added that Board Member Hogan mentioned the Mesa School District plans to share their cell phone policy, which includes the use of Faraday bags.

11. Board Reports.
  - a. ASBA Law Conference
  - b. ASBA Delegate Assembly
  - c. Other

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Routine Orders of Business. Documentation concerning the matters on the Consent Agenda may be reviewed at the Littlefield Unified School District Office, located at 3490 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona. Any Board Member may request an item be pulled off the agenda for further discussion.



**Board Member Cobb made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

- 12. Consideration of approval of the August 14, 2025, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes.
- 13. Consideration of approval of Vouchers and Stipends:
  - a. LUSD9 Payroll Vouchers: 04/2604 and 05/2605.
  - b. LUSD9 Vouchers: 2652.
  - c. Stipends - None

(Members of the public may view the content of the vouchers 24 hours prior to the board meeting in the district office.)
- 14. Consideration of approval of the following staff resignations, retirements, and terminations:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Dickie, Misty	School Aide	09/11/2025
Vigon, Maddisen	School Aide	09/11/2025

- 15. Consideration of approval of the FY 2025/2026 Certified Personnel, Classified Personnel, Substitutes, and Coaching Staff as outlined in the attached list:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Solveig Espera, Louise	Elementary Teacher	10/01/2025

- 16. Consideration of approval of LUSD/Beaver Dam Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy.
- 17. Consideration of approval of the LEA Family and Community Engagement Policy.
- 18. Consideration of approval of donations received by the District per Policy KCD.
  - a. Anonymous - \$15,000 donation to the Elementary School for a playground shade structure and benches.
  - b. Mesquite United Methodist Church – headphones to the Elementary School.
  - c. Nevada State Bank – School Supplies to the Elementary School.
  - d. Mesquite Elks Lodge #2811 – School Supplies to Beaver Dam High School.
  - e. Maverik - \$250 in materials for the High School Science Lab.

## **ACTION ITEMS AND/OR DISCUSSION**

- 19. Consideration of second reading and adoption of Policy Advisory #909-#914.
  - a. Policy EB: Environmental and Safety Program.



- b. Policy GCQF: Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members.
- c. Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements.
- d. Policy JCL: Student Health Services and Requirements.
- e. Policy JCLD: Medicines/Administering Medicines to Students.
- f. Policy JLF: Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection.

**Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of Policy Advisory #909-#914, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

20. Consideration of first reading of Policy Advisory #915-#916.
- a. Policy GDFA – Support Staff Qualifications and Requirements.
  - b. Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements.

**Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Advisory #915-#916, seconded by Board Member Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

21. Consideration of approval of Extracurricular Fee of \$350 per semester for homeschooled students wanting to play sports.

**Board Member Cobb made a motion to approve the Extracurricular Fee of \$350 per semester for homeschooled students wanting to play sports and authorize the Superintendent to waive the fees as deemed fit, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

Board Member Johnson asked if parents could be paid to do homeschooling. Mr. Heaton said it depends on if you apply for a voucher. Board Member Johnson asked if there is accountability at the end of the year that the kids can take an end of level test. Mr. Heaton said the organizations do have state standardized testing.

22. Consideration of approval of a request by Ronald Briggs to waive the liquidated damages fee of \$2,500 per the Certified Teacher Contract.
- The Employee may request this item be discussed in Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(1).

Board President Fagnan stated that the employee did not request an executive session. He then shared his opinion, noting that the employee signed a contract, and when an employee seeks to break that contract, it is up to the Board to decide whether to enforce it. Since 2019, the district has pursued contract



enforcement for some teachers who resigned to accept higher-paying positions. His understanding is that this employee is leaving for a better-paying job.

Board Member Cobb agreed with the assessment.

**Board Member Cobb made a motion to deny the waiver request, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes**  
**Board Secretary Hogan: Absent**  
**Board Member Cobb: Yes**  
**Board Member Johnson: Yes**

23. Suggestions for Future Board Meetings.

- Consideration of approval of a new District Organization Chart
- Second Reading and adoption of Policy Advisory #915-#916.
- Consideration of approval of the Annual Financial Report for FY 2026. (if needed)
- Discussion regarding the Governing Board Self Evaluation per Policy BAA.
- Discussion Regarding the Superintendent Annual Evaluation per Policy CBI.
- Consideration of approval of the Pay for Performance Plan (301 Classroom Site Funds).

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

24. News articles about the schools.

25. Upcoming Governing Board Conferences:

- a. ASBA-ASA Annual Conference – December 17-19, 2025 – JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa.

26. School Calendar 2025/2026

27. Football Schedule

28. Volleyball Schedule

29. Next Meeting – October 13, 2025

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION ( For Item #22)**

The Board may move to discuss items in an Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1), (3) and (4), which authorizes discussion and consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the District.

1. Call to Order

2. Confidentiality Statement: All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session. To do so is a violation of ARS 38-431.03 unless pursuant to a specific statutory exception.



3. The Governing Board will discuss the request to waive the liquidated damages per the Certified Teacher Contract.
4. Adjourn Executive Session and reconvene regular meeting. (This motion must be done in Open Meeting).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Board Member Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board President Fagnan: Yes  
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent  
Board Member Cobb: Yes  
Board Member Johnson: Yes**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Mike Fagnan, Governing Board President

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Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Sheree Goessman  
Human Resources Director