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**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 24, 2025
Turnpike Elementary School – Knights Corner**

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, Theadora Hines, Jillian Manupella, Jason Shover, and Thomas Zakrzewski were present. Student Board Member Emma Turley was also present. Michael Drinkwine and Daniella Richards were absent from the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Others present include Angela Mauriello (on behalf of the LTA), Carrie Phelan, Lexi Nelson, Mike Robbins, Kelly DeLeon, Donny Miller, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were 12 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 Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #1-11/24/2025
Approve Meeting
Agenda**

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

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Kylene Fitsik of Bonadio & Company was present to report the findings of the independent audit of the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025 and the independent audit of the extraclassroom activity funds financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025. Bonadio & Company issued an unmodified opinion which is the highest level. They found no weaknesses in internal controls and no non-compliance. The district ended the school year with a 3.2% fund balance. Ms. Fitsik thanked Linda Klime and the business office staff for their assistance in providing all that was needed to complete the audit.

**2024-2025
Independent Audit**

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- Mrs. Fairhurst stated that the audit committee had received a detailed report from Kylene Fitsik on the 2024-2025 independent audit.
- There was no policy committee meeting held this evening.
- Mr. Cusack gave his report on the Troy Planning Board at the end of this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Shover:

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

RESO #2-11/24/2025 Approve Financial Reports

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2025, and the minutes of the special meeting held on November 12, 2025.

RESO #3-11/24/2025 Approve Minutes

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

PERSONNEL – CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Kelly DeLeon, who has successfully completed the required probationary period in the tenure area of School Building Leader, effective January 2, 2026.

RESO #4-11/24/2025 Grant Tenure – Kelly DeLeon

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Rachael Barber, who has

RESO #5-11/24/2025 Grant Tenure – Rachael Barber

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successfully completed the required probationary period in the tenure area of Elementary Education, effective January 31, 2026.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon April Kilmer, who has successfully completed the required probationary period in the tenure area of Elementary Education, effective January 31, 2026.

**RESO #6-11/24/2025
Grant Tenure – April
Kilmer**

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

**RESO #6-11/24/2025
Accept Resignations**

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
Andrew Sheehan	Assistant Principal	LHS	Resignation	November 21, 2025
Michael Robbins	Athletic Director	District	Resignation	November 25, 2025
Jennylee Cruz	Teaching Assistant	TES	Resignation	December 12, 2025
Shalea Hull-Jones	Teaching Assistant	TES	Resignation	December 19, 2025
Joseph Sousa	Teaching Assistant	TES	Resignation	December 19, 2025

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

**RESO #7-11/24/2025
Appoint Instructional
Staff**

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Masters	Cred
Bailey Murphy	School Counselor (Long-term Substitute)	RPES	N/A	Temporary	12/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	\$258.42/day		

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Kathleen OMelia	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	11/10/2025 - 11/9/2029	Step 11 + \$1,000 Level III Incentive		
Darlene Bechand	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	11/3/25 - 6/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant		
Katharine Asenbauer	Art Teacher	TES	Art	Probationary	12/15/25 - 12/14/29	Step C	N	N
Nicole Grimes	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	11/13/25 - 6/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant		
Kelly Borden	Art Teacher	KMS	Art	Employee transfer from TES to KMS				
Michael Robbins	Assistant Principal	LHS	School Building Leader	Probationary	11/25/25 - 11/24/29	\$96,000		

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #8-11/24/2025
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
Katie Lozo	After school tutoring	District	Temporary	10/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	Up to 5hrs a week at \$30/hr.
Cathleen Peter & Schlane Borthwick	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	11/18/2025 - 12/08/2025	2 hrs. per day / \$30 per hr.
Carly Betts	Tutor	KMS	Temporary	11/19/2025 – 12/08/2025	2 hrs. per day / \$30 per hr.
Robin Delaney	Odyssey of the Mind	RPES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual stipend
Kelly Borden	Sixth period assignment	KMS	Annual	12/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	Contractual rate
Peter Allen	Assistant Coach - Varsity Girls Basketball	District	Temporary/ Seasonal	SY 2025-2026	Contractual stipend

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Edda Sacco	School Counseling Mentor	RPES	Temporary	12/01/2025 – 05/15/2026	Up to 2 hrs. per day / \$30 per hr.
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Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #9-11/24/2025
Approve Unpaid
Leaves of Absence

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following unpaid leaves of absence:

Name	Position	Building	Term	Note
Samantha Kulzer	Teacher	TES	10/20/25 - 12/1/25	Unpaid LOA
Mollie Walsh	Teacher	TES	11/3/25 - 12/15/25	Unpaid LOA

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #10-11/24/2025
Approve Salary
Adjustments

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following salary adjustments:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Notes
Kristie Keary	Teaching Assistant	November 10, 2025	Extra \$1,000 for Level III TA certification
Chelsea Mason	Teaching Assistant	November 24, 2025	Extra \$1,000 for Level III TA certification
John Pelletier	Teaching Assistant	November 24, 2025	Extra \$1,000 for Level III TA certification

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #11-11/24/2025
Accept Resignations

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

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Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date	Notes
Tammy Fruscio	Typist (12 month)	District Office	Resignation	11/3/2025	Title change
Dana Thornton	Typist (12 month)	District Office	Resignation	11/10/2025	Promotion to Secretary 1
Kathleen OMelia	Aide	TES	Resignation	11/10/2025	Promotion to certified TA
Brianna Patrick	District Treasurer	District Office	Resignation	12/12/2025	

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 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 #12-11/24/2025
Appoint Non-Instructional Staff

Name	Position	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Effective Date
Dana Thornton	Secretary 1	District Office	Non-Competitive Probationary (NY HELPS)	26 week probation 11/10/25 - 5/8/26	Step 4	11/10/2025
Tammy Fruscio	Secretary 1	District Office	Non-Competitive Probationary (NY HELPS)	26 week probation 11/3/25 - 5/1/26	No change	11/3/2025
Joseph Welch	Student worker - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 SY	\$15.50 per hour	
Kendra Losee	Student worker - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 SY	\$15.50 per hour	
Lesley Gross	Substitute School Nurse (RN)	District	Annual	2025-26 SY	\$32.11 per hour	11/10/2025

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Manupealla:

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

RESO #13-11/24/2025
Accept Donations

From	Amount	Purpose
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 175.00	Girls Soccer Booster
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 210.00	Girls Soccer Program
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 770.00	Drama Club
Hannaford Helps Schools	\$2434.00	RPES
Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary	\$1500.00	Dress a Knight

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motino by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #14-11/24/2025
Adopt Policies**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the second reading and hereby adopts the following policies:

- 1120-R, School District Records Regulation
- 4001, Concurrent Enrollment Programs
- 4751, Class Rank and GPA
- 5500, Student Records
- 5500-R, Student Records Regulation
- 5550, Student Privacy Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment
- 8635, Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification
- 8635-R, Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification Regulation

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #15-11/24/2025
Accept First Reading**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- 4321.12-R - Timeout and Physical Restraint Regulation
- 5300.55 -Corporal Punishment

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #16-11/24/2025
Authorize Disposal of
Assets**

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

- Tag # 212341, Motorola XPR 6550 Radio
- Tag # 202000, Motorola 6550 Radio

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Shover

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #17-11/24/2025
Accept 2024-2025
Independent Auditors
Report**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts the Independent Auditor's Report and the Extra classroom Activity funds Financial

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Statement, conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLC, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Corrective Action Plan in response to the recommendations from the 2024-2025 External Auditor’s Report.

RESO #18-11/24/2025
Approve Corrective
Action Plan

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 12-14.
RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 15-17.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 18-19.

Principal’s Reports

By Emma Turley:

Student Board
Member Report

By Mrs. McGrouty:

Assistant
Superintendent
Report

Event: LCSD Conference Day — November 10, 2025

- Structure: Multiple concurrent sessions (Session 1, 2, 3) covering topics across instruction, special education, behavior supports, related services, technology/AI, and wellbeing.
- Attendance: Wide district participation (many staff names listed across sessions).

Overall feedback

- Overall experience highly positive — majority rated the day 5/5; many 4/5 and a few 3/5.
- Most sessions were rated “Strongly AGREE” or “Agree” for being useful/practical and increasing capacity to improve practice.
- Frequent praise for presenters (clear, engaging, knowledgeable) and appreciation for hands-on time and templates.

High-level takeaways (common themes)

- AI & tech: Strong interest and appreciation for AI workshops (AI Literacy, AI for Differentiation, AI Tools for Teachers, Canva/SchoolAI) and practical tech tools (Nearpod, Google Sites, Book Creator, Trivia Maker, Padlet). Many want more AI follow-ups or deeper Canva/Canva AI sessions.
- Behavior & classroom climate: Positive responses to Behavior Management, Using Behavioral Data, TCI/de-escalation, Zones of Regulation — many asked for more time or follow-up training.

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- Play & engagement: “Creating a Community of Care and Belonging through Play,” Brain Breaks, and gamification sessions were well received; attendees want more play-based strategies across grade levels (including preschool).
- Special education & related services: Sessions on IEPs (Indicator 13 / transitions), Exploring the IEP, Special Education processes, OT/PT/School-Based PT and School-Based OT were valued; attendees asked for more district-wide training and application examples.
- Small-group instruction & literacy: Planning for small groups, UFLI phonics, KLEWS/Data Puzzles, literacy for Regents received strong interest; staff want additional literacy-focused offerings.
- Practical workflows: Frontline/hour tracking, “Let’s Make Things Easier,” and assessment practices (test corrections, iReady) were appreciated for their immediate utility.
- Wellbeing / classroom climate: Sessions on executive functioning, supporting students of concern, and resilience were highlighted as practical and implementable.

Requests for follow-up Lansingburgh Academy offerings (frequently requested)

- More AI/Canva workshops and deeper hands-on AI tools classes
- Behavior Management / TCI training and Using Behavioral Data
- Zones of Regulation and Executive Functioning strategies
- Play-based learning / Brain Breaks
- Nearpod, Book Creator, Google Sites (parent communication)
- Related services (OT/PT, School-Based PT) and IEP transition training
- Story Champs / early language interventions and UFLI phonics

Representative positive comments

- “Excellent information” / “Loved it” / “Great presenters” / “Very helpful and practical” appeared repeatedly.
- Many appreciated hands-on time, templates, and practical takeaways they can use immediately.

Opportunities / constructive feedback

- Some sessions felt rushed or too content-dense — attendees asked for longer or follow-up sessions.
- A few attendees noted sessions were less relevant to their specific grade level (e.g., preschool) and requested differentiation.
- A small number of “Neutral” or “Disagree” responses scattered across sessions — overall satisfaction remained high.

Suggested next steps for organizers (based on responses)

- Offer several Lansingburgh Academy follow-ups focused on highest-demand topics: AI tools (including Canva deep-dive), Behavior Management/TCI, Zones of Regulation, and related services (OT/PT).
- Provide deeper, longer-format workshops where commenters felt content was too dense.
- Create ready-to-use templates and shared resource folders (presenters’ slides, templates, lesson/activity files).
- Consider cross-role sessions (TAs + teachers together) and preschool-specific adaptations for play-based PD.

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- Promote sessions that many wanted but could not attend (e.g., Nearpod, Frontline, VR field trips).

Bottom line: The conference day was well received, highly practical, and generated clear interest in follow-up professional learning — especially in AI applications, behavior supports, play-based engagement, and related services. Organizers should prioritize deeper workshops on these topics and share presenter resources and templates for immediate classroom use.

By Dr. Abitabile:

- Linda Klime, Donny Miller and Kevin Darigo will be visiting another school to see their food service operation. They will also be attending a Farm to Table Conference in February 2026.
- The high school is working on publicizing college offerings.
- This morning I attended the Questar III Superintendents Council Meeting held at Hudson Valley Community College. We met with Dr. Michael Brophy, the President of HVCC, along with key members of his staff. Following that meeting we visited the STEM High School. It was noted that Lansingburgh was represented in all of the HVCC offerings for high school students.
- Governor Hochul may be visiting the district on Monday, December 1st. She would like to hold a roundtable discussion on the implementation of the cell phone policy for schools. We were asked to have an administrator, teachers and students available to attend with representatives from 3-4 other districts.

Superintendent Report

By Mr. Cusack:

- At the last meeting, we received a report on who is making late payments on their PILOT Agreements totaling about \$485,000.
- The Hedley Building has been under a PILOT Agreement since 1995 and for the first time is having tenant retention issues and may be looking for an extension to their PILOT Agreement. I will need some direction from the Board of Education if this matter goes to a vote.

Troy Planning Board Report

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education hereby enters into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent’s evaluation.

RESO #19-11/24/2025 Executive Session

Second: Mr. Shover

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 7:10 p.m.

RESO #20-11/24/2025 Adjourn

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

BOE Report

November 2025

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	November	YTD, 2025-2026
UPK	90%	92%
K	90%	90%
1	92%	92%
2	90%	91%
TES	90%	91%

District Goal	
SEL & TSS	<p>Trauma-Sensitive Schools & SEL Update</p> <p>This month we continued our work around building supportive, inclusive school communities.</p> <p>Character Education</p> <p>October’s trait was Gratitude. Teachers used shared resources to help students practice showing thanks in meaningful ways. Our November 21st assembly will celebrate students who demonstrated gratitude, and a few veterans will join us to receive handmade thank-you cards from our students.</p> <p>Restorative Practices</p> <p>We met with staff who are already using restorative circles to hear what’s working and to share ideas. These teachers will help lead our first staff circle on December 15th, where we’ll focus on simple ways to build daily community-building circles into the school day.</p>

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	<p>Student Support</p> <p>We're preparing to roll out Check-In/Check-Out as a new Tier II intervention. We're finalizing a form, staff guidelines, and a family handout so we can launch with consistency and help students stay connected and supported.</p> <p>DEI</p> <p>The DEI subcommittee shared Diwali resources and crafts with classrooms to help students learn about and appreciate this important celebration.</p> <p>SEL Instruction</p> <p>Second Step lessons continue in kindergarten and first grade. First grade finished the Empathy unit and moved into Emotion Management, with Home Links sent home to help families practice strategies together. Kindergarten wrapped up Skills for Learning and is now learning about Empathy, with family resources sent home as well.</p> <p>Mindfulness</p> <p>We held our first Ally Event Day, where all classrooms used MindYeti lessons to practice mindfulness. Students learned simple ways to calm their bodies, focus their attention, and show kindness—skills that support our trauma-sensitive work across the building.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	<p>Harvestfest – October 30, 2025</p> <p>Harvestfest drew approximately 550 attendees who enjoyed crafts, games, food, and the Trick-or-Treat Courtyard. Generous community donations—including 300 pumpkins and all candy/snacks—helped make the event a success. The Scholastic Book Fair also remained open for families throughout the evening.</p> <p>Cookies and Canvas – November 13, 2025</p> <p>The PTA's annual Cookies and Canvas event welcomed 220 participants for a family art night facilitated by Ms. Borden. Due to consistent capacity limits, the PTA is considering adding a second session later this year.</p> <p>Cookie Dough Fundraiser</p> <p>The annual Cookie Dough fundraiser was highly successful, with order pickup scheduled for December 18 during Winterfest. The PTA is working to broaden Winterfest's representation of diverse holidays and cultural traditions to support inclusivity.</p>

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	<p>PTA Headphone Purchase</p> <p>To support classroom learning, the PTA purchased and distributed 130 pairs of student headphones on November 18 for students who needed them.</p> <p>Dress-a-Knight Program</p> <p>TES staff once again participated in the Dress-a-Knight winter clothing initiative. Thanks to generous contributions from faculty, staff, and community partners, 28 students received winter essentials tailored to their individual needs.</p> <p>A total of 26 staff volunteers shopped and packed clothing bags, and the Nurse’s Office was restocked with emergency clothing. Appreciation is extended to Brunswick Walmart, Lansingburgh Hannaford, community donors, TES faculty/staff, and custodian Jerrod Martin for coordinating and delivering all clothing bags.</p> <p>This annual effort reflects our strong school–community partnership and ensures students are warm, supported, and ready to learn throughout the winter months.</p>
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>Our cohort of new teachers has successfully completed a series of peer observations across various grade levels and subject areas. This key professional development initiative was designed to provide them with a crucial, practical understanding of our district's curriculum in action.</p> <p>By observing veteran educators, our new staff gained valuable insights into effective instructional strategies, pacing, and how to successfully differentiate lessons to meet the specific learning goals outlined in the curriculum. This experience fosters collaborative growth and ensures a strong start for our newest team members, directly contributing to high-quality student learning.</p>

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RENSSELAER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BOE Report

November 24th, 2025

RPES Attendance		
Grade	November (so far)	YTD, 2025-2026
3	91.88%	92.96%
4	93.09%	92.84%
5	92.46%	93.11%
Overall	92.07%	92.4%

District Goal	
Attendance	Tardy Letters <p>To support improved attendance and reduce chronic tardiness at Rensselaer Park Elementary, our attendance committee is launching a new initiative that includes sending “tardy letters” home to families each trimester. Tardiness has been a consistent concern, and in collaboration with our attendance team, we identified this as an appropriate first intervention to increase family awareness and promote timely arrival. Beginning with Trimester 1, any student with a tardy rate of 10% or higher will receive a letter sent home and provided again to families during parent–teacher conferences alongside report cards. This communication will continue in Trimesters 2 and 3 and is intended to reinforce the importance of consistent routines and maximize instructional time.</p> <p>We are also entering the next six-week cycle of our new attendance incentive, continuing to track student attendance and preparing for our second round of grade-level raffle winners. As we move forward, we look forward to recognizing even more students who are building strong, consistent attendance habits.</p>
SEL & TSS	Character Education <p>We are concluding this month’s focus on <i>growth mindset</i>. Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 25th, we will celebrate this trait during our monthly</p>

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	<p>assembly, where we will also connect the theme to gratitude in honor of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.</p> <p>In the past, teachers were assigned to different months to recognize <i>Shining Knights</i>, but based on teacher feedback, each month teachers will now have the opportunity to recognize a <i>Shining Knight</i> of their choice. This new approach will be implemented starting with the November assembly, giving students the chance to be celebrated for their efforts and positive character all year long.</p> <p>Second Step SEL Lessons</p> <p>This month’s Second Step lessons have focused on helping students develop a <i>growth mindset</i> and set personal goals. Students are learning how to reflect on their efforts, embrace challenges, and take steps toward achieving their objectives, aligning with our character education focus on growth and perseverance.</p> <p>TSS</p> <p>Our social worker, Ms. Watts has been working closely with community partnerships to support our families in need with Thanksgiving dinners. All families who requested assistance have received meals, and we are especially thankful to Ms. Watts for personally delivering them to families.</p> <p>Clothe a Student</p> <p>We held a fundraiser on Superintendent’s Conference Day, November 10th, to support our <i>Clothe a Student</i> initiative. A special thank you to Patricelli’s for partnering with us to make this event a success!</p>
<p>Family & Community Engagement</p>	<p>RPES Library</p> <p>Good Books for Good Works - A fundraiser held to support the RPES library and help purchase additional books, thanks to the efforts of our librarian, Ms. Jamison. A percentage of all sales at the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza from Thursday, November 20th, 4–8 PM, will be donated directly to the RPES Library to enhance our students’ reading opportunities.</p> <p>PTA Bingo Knight:</p> <p>The event took place on November 21st, with students and families enjoying snacks, bingo, and prizes! It was a free event and provided a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, have fun, and strengthen connections between families, students, and staff.</p>

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	<p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 25th: Picture Re-Take Day• December 10th: PTA Meeting• December 17th-18th: Holiday Shop• December 18th: Movie Knight• December 18th: Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-Up
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>Curriculum & Data: The last day of Trimester 1 is November 25th. Data meetings to review Tier 2 and Tier 3 students are occurring before the Thanksgiving break to help adjust student groupings and instruction for Trimester 2. Last week, grade-level content meetings (Math, ELA/Arts & Letters) were held to align instruction and plan upcoming adjustments. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for December 4th and 5th to discuss academic progress, behavior, and attendance, including tardies.</p> <p>Student Engagement – Third Grade Global Journey: On October 6th, all third graders began a <u>virtual journey</u> from Troy, NY, to Kenya, tracking their progress online and on a classroom map. Students earn “travel miles” for each i-Ready lesson they complete, with the goal of reaching Kenya to support a donation to the Kenya Child Fund. When the goal is reached, students will receive i-Ready goodies. This project also aligns with the NYS Social Studies Civics Readiness Initiative and supports the upcoming Kenya Unit in Social Studies. Students have traveled 305 miles so far!</p> <p>Next Steps: Teachers will continue analyzing assessment data and adjusting instruction based on student needs.</p>

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KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOE Report

November 2025

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	November	YTD, 2025-2026
6	90%	92%
7	88%	90%
8	89%	90%
KMS	89%	90%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	The KMS Student Support Team continues to work with students who are not meeting the attendance requirements. This support may come in the form of check-ins, connecting families to resources, periodic meetings, phone calls home, or parent conferences. Morning PE and our 21st Century Program have also provided incentive opportunities for students to get to school on time and to come to school consistently.
SEL/School Climate	<p>This month, during classroom Second Step lessons, school counselors are focusing on helping students recognize the difference between a conflict and bullying. Students will be able to identify the difference between minor and major conflicts.</p> <p>We are so proud of our Quarter 1 Knight Way Award winners, who have shown outstanding character as well as academic performance in the classroom. The students were recognized with a certificate and a picture. They also enjoyed some donuts during the first period.</p> <p>KMS is also proud to announce that for the first marking period, we had 163 students make the high honor roll and 96 students make the honor roll.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	Sixth-grade teams held quarter 1 conferences on Thursday, November 20th, in the afternoon.

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	<p>Some of our students participated in planting trees along the boulevard on Sixth Avenue. This was in coordination with Capital Roots and the City of Troy. Students planted 70 trees along Sixth Avenue.</p> <p>The student council has started advertising for the food drive in hopes of having more food donated.</p>
Curriculum and Instruction	<p>Both ELA and math teachers participated in embedded PD this month. We are now beginning to analyze the 2025 NYS assessment data in order to plan targeted instruction. Science and social studies teachers will be giving a November benchmark to collect data and determine areas of need for each class.</p> <p>Social studies teachers have been focused on informational reading strategies to assist students in transferring specific reading skills across content areas.</p>
21st Century Program	<p>At the beginning of the month, the 21st CCLC Program and the LEAPS After School Program held a combined Advisory Board Meeting. We discussed programming in LCSD (K-12), reviewed the findings of the Family Needs Assessment that was given to families, discussed the QSA, and the great need for after-school programs. Students will be signing up for new clubs (or keeping their same schedule) in December. Any student who is failing a class or needs additional support with academics will attend the study spot daily .</p>