

# DRAFT

**Lansingburgh Central School District  
Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, December 15, 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 Drinkwine, Andrea Fairhurst, Jillian Manupella, Jason Shover, and Thomas Zakrzewski were present. Student Board Member Emma Turley was also present. Michael Cusack, Theadora Hines, and Daniella Richards were absent from the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Others in attendance include Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Lexi Nelson, David Hamilton, Donny Miller, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were 30 others in attendance for the Just Run presentation.

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.*

Mr. David Hamilton was present with students to talk about the Just Run program. They thanked the volunteers who help with the program – Mrs. Walzer, Ms. Monagan, Ms. LaJoy, Mrs. LaBella, Mrs. Juliano, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Watts. They also thanked the Hudson Mohawk Runners Club for donating more than \$500 in funding the provided the students with t-shirts and an after party at the end of the season.

**PRESENTATION**

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

**RESO #1-12/15/2025  
Approve Meeting  
Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for December 15, 2025.

Second: Mrs. Curtis

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0



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Kelli Genthner	Teaching Assistant	KMS	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	11/24/2025 - 11/23/2029	Step 10
Kennedy Morrissey	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Return from Leave of Absence	Effective 11/19/2025	
Olivia Hepp	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	12/1/2025 - 11/30/2029	Step 6
Jenna Root	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	12/3/2025 - 12/2/2029	Step 7
Olivia Van Dervoort	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	12/04/25 - 6/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Karen Koblensky	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	12/8/2025 - 12/7/2029	Step 8
Shianne Morris	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	1/5/2026 - 1/4/2030	Step 7
Grace Shover	Teaching Assistant	LHS	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	1/12/2026 - 1/11/2030	Step 7 + \$1,000 Level III Stipend
Caileigh Monegan	Long-term Substitute	RPES	N/A	Temporary	2/1/2026 - 6/30/2026	\$258.42/day

Second: Mr. Drinkwine      Ayes – 5      Nays – 0      Abstain – 1 (Shover)

Motion Carried 5-0-1

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #6-12/15/2025**  
**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
Jennifer Reinert	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	11/21/2025 - 12/03/2025	2 hrs. per day / \$30 per hr.
Corrina Pelkey	Book Club	TES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	\$30 per hr.
Martha Flacke	Additional MD Classroom Services	District	Temporary	12/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	2 additional hrs. per week / hourly rate
Margot Tanner	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	12/1/2025 - 1/31/2026	Up to 18 hrs. per week / \$30 per hr.
Schuyler Baker	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	12/1/2025 - 1/31/2026	Up to 18 hrs. per week / \$30 per hr.

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Alexa Molinelli	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	12/08/2025 - 12/19/2025	2 hrs. per day / \$30 per hr.
Cody Fitzgerald	Tutor	KMS	Temporary	12/02/2025 - 03/02/2025	1 hr. per day / \$30 per hr.
Michelle Cosselman	Teacher - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 School Year	\$30.00 per hr.
Kelly Borden	Teacher - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 School Year	\$30.00 per hr.
Quran Gathers	Student Worker - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 School Year	\$15.50 per hr.
Danica McGee	Student Worker - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	2025-26 School Year	\$15.50 per hr.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

## PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #7-12/15/2025  
Accept Resignation**

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

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date	Notes
Kelli Genthner	Teacher Aide	KMS	Resignation	11/24/2025	Promotion to certified TA

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #8-12/15/2025  
Accept Donations**

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

From	Amount	Purpose
Hannaford Helps Schools	\$438.00	TES
Hannaford Helps Schools	\$456.00	LHS
Warren Fane, Inc.	\$550.00	Dress a Knight

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

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Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

**RESO #9-12/15/2025  
Approve MOA with  
Teaching Assistant  
Unit**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the CSEA Teaching Assistant Unit, dated November 14, 2025, amending Article VI, Section II of the collective bargaining agreement.

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #10-12/15/2025  
Authorize Disposal of  
Assets**

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

- Tag # 212371, Farberware Microwave

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #11-12/15/2025  
Adopt 2026-2027  
Budget Development  
Timeline**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby adopts the timeline for the 2026-2027 school budget development and public vote.

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 8-10.  
RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 11-12.  
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 13-14.  
LHS Report by Mr. Van Dervoort – See page 15.

**Principal’s Reports**

By Emma Turley:

**Student Board  
Member Report**

Spirit Week in the Middle School & High School

HIGH SCHOOL :

Monday: *Winter Pajama Day*  
 Tuesday: *Winter/Holiday Headwear Day*  
 Wednesday: *Holiday Movie Character Day*  
 Thursday: *New Year New Me - Dress as your New Year’s Resolution*  
 Friday: *Ugly Sweater Day / Tacky Winter Outfit Day*

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Monday: *Holiday PJ Pant Day*  
Tuesday: *Tinsel Toe Tuesday- Wear Festive Socks*  
Wednesday: *Holidays Around the World- Dress in Holiday Colors  
Red & Green (Christmas) , Blue & White/Silver  
(Hanukkah) , Red, Black & Green (Kwanzaa) , Red &  
Gold (Chinese New Year)*  
Thursday: *Ugly Sweater Day*  
Friday: *Candy Cane Day- Red & White*

## Misc.

- Academic Data Tracking  
Teachers are continuing to track data in their courses to drive instruction. Both formative and summative assessments are being used.
- January Regents / Midterms have a super packed schedule with Regents exams for courses that either end with a Regents Exam, and ½ year HVCC courses only
- Cell Phone Policy  
Pouches are still working effectively. Working out the kinks with parents/guardians coming to pick up phones.
- Parent Communication  
Teachers are still working on parent communication (parent meetings are being set up to keep students on track).
- SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)  
Rebekah Magin will finish 9th grade program this week  
10th grade program will begin in January  
11th/12th grade seminars had first sessions 12/8 and 12/12 discussing Executive Functioning of the Brain with positive feedback

## Athletics

- Highlight: Two weeks into the competitive season, AJ Fredericks, Jah'zara Battiste and Dean Taitt have all three already qualified for the Indoor Track Section 2 State Qualifier Meet in February for their respective events.

By Mrs. McGrouty:

- Parent/Teacher conferences were held the first week of December for elementary students.
- Arts & Letters Pilot – I met with each teacher piloting the program and with them at grade level meetings. We discussed what is going well and what is not going well. The conversations are going great. Writing progression is impressive, but we do have some kinks to work out.

**Assistant  
Superintendent  
Report**

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## Superintendent Report

By Dr. Abitabile:

- Thank you to everyone involved in the incredible effort of the toy drive. To date, 2355 toys have been collected.
- Rensselaer County 4H was in to provide presentations with our elementary students.
- I attended a threat assessment meeting last week. This was a team approach with 30-40 people in attendance. This is relatively new to Rensselaer County and it is going well.
- Thanks extended to Jennifer Nelson for bringing in weatherman Tim Drawbridge for a careers luncheon. We had a full house.
- We are so proud of our students and staff who participated in New York State's Distraction Free Schools roundtable discussion at Turnpike Elementary School. Governor Hochul's office contacted Lansingburgh shortly before Thanksgiving, asking if our district wanted to host a roundtable discussion with local school districts' students and staff and members of the NYS teachers' union. The purpose was for the governor's office to hear directly from schools about how the new policy has been working since going into effect. NYS Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley was in attendance on Governor Hochul's behalf. Lansingburgh was represented at the roundtable by our Class of 2026 Seniors Emma Turley & Jahnia Venson, Knickerbacker Middle School Principal Dr. Carrie Phelan and Lansingburgh High School Teacher Leighann Biddle. All four Lansingburgh representatives spoke about the positive effects they've seen so far this year, noting more communication and engagement between students and their peers, as well as with their teachers and administrators. After the roundtable ended, Emma and Jahnia were also interviewed by local news outlets that were in attendance.
- LHS is piloting Securly. This is an electronic version of a hall pass. It allows us to quickly account for students in an emergency and set limits on pass usage to prevent student meet-ups in the bathrooms and hallways. It also allows us to know who is out of class at all times and why. We can place limitations on pass usage to minimize out of class time.
- On Wednesday I will be hosting a Christmas lunch for our District Office employees. Mr. Donny Miller will be opening up our "gratitude grams" to see what everyone is grateful for this year.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 6:41 p.m.

**RESO #12-12/15/2025  
Adjourn**

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 6      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams  
Clerk to the Board of Education

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## TUNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	December	YTD, 2025-2026
UPK	87%	91%
K	89%	91%
1	87%	91%
2	86%	91%
TES	87%	91%

District Goal	
SEL & TSS	<p><b>Character Education:</b> Monthly character trait assemblies continue, with community partners participating. October featured the Troy Fire Chief, November highlighted local veterans, and RPES’s choir will visit TES on December 19 to support our December trait, responsibility.</p> <p><b>Restorative Practices:</b> Staff are implementing classroom circles, and our first staff restorative circle will be held on December 15 to strengthen community-building routines.</p> <p><b>Student Support:</b> We are launching Check-In/Check-Out as a Tier II intervention to build adult–student connections and support goal-setting.</p> <p><b>DEI:</b> Classrooms received materials to teach and celebrate diverse cultures and holidays, including Diwali, promoting cultural awareness and inclusivity.</p> <p><b>SEL Instruction:</b> Second Step continues in K–1, with current units on empathy and emotion management. Home Links are shared with families.</p> <p><b>Mindfulness:</b> Students participated in a school-wide Ally Event Day using MindYeti to practice calming strategies, focus, and kindness.</p>

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<p>Family &amp; Community Engagement</p>	<p>TES is actively supporting Lansingburgh families through several holiday initiatives. Our annual Holiday Food Drive is underway, with donations helping to provide Holiday Meals distributed by KMS/LHS. We have also been collecting toys for the LHS Toy Drive and will distribute gifts to TES families in need the week of December 15.</p> <p>On December 18, TES will host Winter Fest, a free family event sponsored by our PTA. Students and families can make gingerbread houses, enjoy cocoa and cookies, participate in craft stations (ornaments, snowglobes, cards for veterans, reindeer food, and more), play winter-themed games, and take photos with Santa. This event serves as a joyful community celebration and supports family–school partnerships.</p>
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>Teachers are implementing structured literacy, math, and content-area blocks supported by consistent data collection systems. The Literacy Block includes daily mini-lessons/read-alouds aligned with iReady Toolbox, followed by small-group instruction targeted through ongoing assessment. Guided reading, Foundations reinforcement, strategy groups, and goal setting are tailored to student needs, while independent work reinforces skills through iReady, Foundations practice, and literacy centers. Foundations and Heggerty are implemented daily with fidelity to pacing guides.</p> <p>The Writing Block uses mini-lessons and read-alouds aligned to Revised Writing Maps and iReady Toolbox. Shared Reading and Interactive Read Alouds in K–1 build fluency, comprehension, and oral language skills.</p> <p>Intervention Compass centralizes academic data, assessments, grades, and attendance, into one platform that identifies students needing support. Tier II and III providers use Mark-Ups to progress monitor, with data automatically linked to student goals. Teachers can easily access progress trends, and the system’s intervention library supports the selection and monitoring of research-based strategies.</p> <p>Math instruction is guided by Eureka<sup>2</sup> and curriculum maps, with AIS in Grades 1–2 based on iReady data. A Math Intervention Block in Grades 1–2 provides targeted small-group instruction informed by iReady and Eureka<sup>2</sup> Equip data; Kindergarten receives core instruction only.</p>

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	<p>Science follows grade-level curriculum maps, with DLL lessons in Grade 2. Social Studies is integrated across the day. Meeting Time supports SEL and Character Education through Ed Tomorrow resources.</p> <p>Current Outcomes:</p> <p>70% of kindergarten students are at benchmark for uppercase and lowercase letter identification. 61% are at benchmark for letter sound mastery.</p>
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## RENSSELAR PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

<b>RPES Attendance</b>		
<b>Grade</b>	<b>December (so far)</b>	<b>YTD, 2025-2026</b>
3	86%	92%
4	90%	93%
5	86%	92%
Overall	87%	92%

<b>District Goal</b>	
<b>Attendance</b>	<p>Our attendance committee continues to actively monitor student attendance. During recent parent-teacher conferences, we addressed attendance with families to ensure awareness and support. As we return from the holiday break, we will be sending out reminders to families to reinforce the importance of regular attendance. The committee remains committed to supporting students and families in maintaining consistent attendance.</p>
<b>SEL &amp; TSS</b>	<p><b>Character Education &amp; Second Step SEL Lessons</b></p> <p>Our character trait for December is self-control. In Second Step, we are focusing on recognizing the size of our feelings and learning how to manage them in safe and respectful ways. Following the Toy Drive, we will be inviting families to come in and select gifts for their children.</p> <p>At our monthly assembly, students will explore how different families celebrate during December, while also practicing calming strategies, including deep breathing, to demonstrate self-control between songs.</p>
<b>Family &amp; Community Engagement</b>	<p><b>Band &amp; Choir Concert</b></p> <p>We had our Winter Band and Choir Concert, and it was truly amazing! We are so proud of all our students and very grateful to Mr. Williams and Mr. Carey for all their hard work and dedication. The energy and talent in the room were absolutely contagious!</p>

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Band and Choir will be going to TES to perform for the littles during their assembly this coming week, a wonderful opportunity to share their music and excitement with the younger students!

## **Holiday Photo Fundraiser**

Mrs. Eckler, Mrs. Giminiani, and Mrs. Allen organized a Holiday Photo Fundraiser that brought the Rensselaer Park and LHS communities together for a meaningful cause. With more than 50 families participating, the event raised \$3,000, including a \$500 donation from the RPES Clothe-a-Student committee, to support LHS student Julien Basile, who recently underwent open-heart surgery. The feedback from families was incredibly positive, and Julien's mom was deeply moved by the generosity and kindness shown by our community.

## **PTA Trivia Night – Coming Up 12/18**

This fun evening of trivia is a wonderful opportunity for families to connect before we dismiss them for the holiday break. It's a great way for our school community to come together, have fun, and strengthen connections between families, students, and staff.

## **PTA**

- **December 17th-18th:** Holiday Shop
- **December 18th:** Trivia Knight
- **December 18th:** Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-Up
- **January 9th:** Guphill's Knight
- **January 15th:** FAC Meeting

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## Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction

### Curriculum & Data:

Jessica Decker, Math Professional developer went through the [progression of fraction standards \(K→ 5\)](#) with all 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Math teachers. Teachers analyzed student responses and reflected on their instruction and how they would score a mathematical constructed response.

The 4th and 5th Grade ELA Teachers have finished the first Arts and Letters unit. The unit assessments are being inputted into Intervention Compass by teachers. Teachers analyzed the vocabulary, knowledge and comprehension portions of the assessments and adjusted instruction in small groups to target specific skills.

### Student Engagement:

The 5th-grade students successfully concluded their Arts & Letters unit, "Handed Down: How do communities sustain their culture?" The i-Ready goal was ambitious: for each student to pass a minimum of two i-Ready lessons weekly in both reading and math. By the end of the unit, the 5th grade collectively passed just over 2,600 lessons total, exceeding their 2,500-lesson target! In recognition of this exceptional performance, a donation has been proudly made to the NYS Museum, with a special request that the funds be directed toward the vital Native American Ethnography Division. The goal for Trimester 3 is 3,000 lessons total for 5th grade.

The 4th grade students have one more week to reach their goal which also connects to their Arts & Letters unit, "A Great Heart: What does having a great heart mean?" The i-Ready goal was ambitious: for each student to pass a minimum of two i-Ready lessons weekly in both reading and math also and fill in a square on heart. Once the heart is fully colored in a donation to support Julien Basile, a Lansingburgh student who will be having open-heart surgery. This is a beautiful way to show Julien that the entire RPES Community is lovingly behind him.

### Next Steps:

Teachers will continue analyzing assessment data and adjusting instruction based on student needs.

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## KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	December	YTD, 2025-2026
6	85%	90%
7	85%	89%
8	84%	89%
KMS	85%	90%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	Attendance percentages were down in December with an uptick in student illness (flu, stomach bug). The guidance counselors and administrators are reaching out to families to remind and support families with student attendance.
SEL/School Climate	School Counselors are focusing on conflict resolution strategies this month when pushing in for Second Step Lessons. The skill being taught is how perspective taking can help in a conflict situation instead of jumping to conclusions. The Fall ball grade dance had a great turnout. Students spent the evening socializing, mingling, and dancing. Student Council is continuing to collect donations for the food drive happening on December 16th.
Family & Community Engagement	Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who helped out at the concession stand at the first dance of the school year.  Our KMS Food Drive will feed 88 Lansingburgh Families this year. Thank you to Mrs. Dixon and Coach Pasinella for coordinating this for us every year! Our KMS Clothe-a-Student campaign assisted 2 students from every team this year.
Curriculum and Instruction	This month we are spending time looking at the November benchmark data for both Science and Social Studies. We spent time with Liz Mirra going over the 2025 state science test and determining units we need to update and revise based on the state data. ELA and math will be giving the 2nd IXL diagnostic this month in order to determine areas of growth and needs for small groups within our classrooms.
21st Century Program	Students in the 21st Century Program had the opportunity to use the pool at the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club as part of our recreation/fitness clubs and in collaboration with the NY Swims Grant through Hudson Valley Community College. We will be adding additional small group swim instruction/lessons for students in program (as well as K-5 PE classes) throughout the remainder of the school year.  Our current enrollment for KMS and LHS is 199 students. In January, students will be switching clubs and signing up for new clubs of interest to them. Students are required to bring homework and use time after school to study and get additional help from teachers.

# **DRAFT**

## LANSINGBURGH HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

### Academic Data Tracking

- Teachers are continuing to track data in core courses to drive instruction. Both formative and summative assessment are being used.

### January Regents

- Super packed schedule
- Regents exams
- School exams - course that end in a Regents Exam and 1/2 year HVCC courses only

### Cell Phones:

- pouches are still working
- Working out kinks - parents coming to pick up phones

### Parent Communication

- Teachers are still working on parent communication (parent meetings being set up to keep them on track). Seesaw to be working

### SEL - M-Power

- Rebeklagh Magin will finish 9th grade program this week.
- 10th grade will begin in January
- 11/12 seminars had first sessions 12/8 and 12/12 - positive feedback