

DRAFT

This meeting was reschedule from January 26, 2026.

**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, February 9, 2026
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, Michael Drinkwine, Andrea Fairhurst, Theadora Hines, Jillian Manupella, Daniella Richards and Jason Shover were present. Thomas Zakrzewski and Student Board Member Emma Turley were absent from the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Others in attendance include Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Melanie O’Neill, Donny Miller, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were no 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 Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #1-02/09/2026
Approve Meeting
Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for February 9, 2026.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

IDA Board Report by Mr. Cusack:

IDA Update

In the Regular Meeting held 1/16/26, the Application by First Columbia (433 River Street) for Tax Exempt Bond Financing Passed by a vote of 4-2 with 1 Abstention.

Having voted no on the Initial Resolution presented 11/21/25 and communicating my intention to this Board to vote no again, please be aware that I cast a yes vote for the following reasons:

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1. There was no Public opposition to the Application prior to or during the meeting.
2. This Application if Denied would most likely carry to the Rensselaer County IDA and ultimately be Approved.
3. The Economic Development Coordinator communicated to the IDA that First Columbia has never missed or been late with a payment and has continuously met its maintenance responsibilities.
4. Since their 2019 Application, First Columbia has reinvested 1.6 Million Dollars of their own capital into 433 River Street outside of its PILOT Agreement currently valued at 573,000.00 Annually
5. 433 River Street is architecturally designed as an Office Building. Construction costs to enable a successful transition to housing units would far exceed the current application.
6. This property provides the infrastructure for more than 1,000 Full Time jobs at peak occupancy, 850 Full Time Jobs currently. The next largest employer under an IDA Agreement provides for 80 jobs.

After discussions with IDA Board Members and then asking myself if this property was within LCSD boundaries, what would be best, I decided to support the Application.

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #2-02/09/2026
Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 15, 2025, and the minutes of the special meeting held on January 12, 2026.

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

**RESO #3-02/09/2026
Accept Resignations**

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

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
Katlin Norton	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Resignation	January 16, 2026
Christopher Tergliafera	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Resignation	January 31, 2026
Gina Fusco	Director of Digital Learning and Innovation	District Office	Resignation	February 12, 2026
Heather McFarlane	Teacher	KMS	Resignation	February 21, 2026

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Kristy Keary, who has successfully completed the required probationary period in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant, effective January 23, 2026.

RESO #4-02/09/2026
Grant Tenure –
Kristy Keary

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

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

RESO #5-02/09/2026
Appoint Instructional
Staff

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step
Gabriele Pasinella	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	12/16/25 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Lynn Pafundi	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	01/12/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Caileigh Monagan-Dean	Long-term Substitute	RPES	N/A	Temporary	01/12/26 - 06/30/26	\$258.42/day
Natalia Gerena	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	01/19/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Kaela Franklin	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	01/26/26 - 01/25/30	Step 8 - \$24.52
Grace Wayland-Smith	Long-term Substitute	TES	N/A	Temporary	01/26/26 - 02/28/27	\$258.42/day
Robert Van Cott	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	01/28/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Caleb Matthey	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	01/29/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Emma Laughlin	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	02/02/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Camrin Watson	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	02/02/26 - 06/30/26	\$125 - Teaching Assistant
Gulnora Martin	Long-term Substitute	TES	N/A	Temporary	02/02/26 - 06/30/26	\$258.42/day
Emma Price	Long-term Substitute	RPES	N/A	Temporary	02/02/26 - 06/30/26	\$258.42/day

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Hayden Teta	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	02/02/26 - 02/01/30	Step 8 - \$24.52
Melanie O'Neill	Director of Instructional Technology	DO	School District Leader	Probationary	02/02/26 - 02/01/29	\$95,000/year
Breanna Mysliwicz	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	02/03/26 - 02/02/30	Step 7 - \$23.61
Kevin Saunders	Teaching Assistant	LHS	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	02/10/26 - 02/09/30	Step 9 - \$25.52
Cathy Dunn	Long-term Substitute	LHS	N/A	Temporary	02/13/26 - 03/27/26	\$258.42/day

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

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

Name	Position	Building	Term
Shaakira Pfitz	Teaching Assistant	KMS	01/06/26 - 06/30/26
Margaret Conroy	Teaching Assistant	TES	01/30/26 - 05/08/26
Alexis Burke	Teaching Assistant	RPES	01/09/26 – 06/30/26

RESO #6-02/09/2026
Approve Leaves of Absence

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

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

Name	Position	Effective Date	Graduate Credits Awarded	Masters Awarded	Transcript Received	Notes
Abby Fletcher	Teacher	02/01/2026	6 (total of 9)	N	Y	
Colleen McGuirk	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Courtney Degnan	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Jennifer Shields	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend

RESO #7-02/09/2026
Approve Salary Adjustments

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Julie Allen	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Kenyon Mosconi	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Paul Contento	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Robert Dorn	Teaching Assistant	12/22/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Suzette Wood	Teaching Assistant	01/05/2026	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Cara Isabella	Teaching Assistant	01/10/2026	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend
Robert Mikcuki	Custodian	01/19/2026	N/A	N/A	N/A	Additional \$3.00/hr. for head custodian differential
Lisa Strubel	Teaching Assistant	01/31/2026	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,000 Level III Teaching Assistant Stipend

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #8-02/09/2026
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 Secore	LGBTQ Alliance	KMS	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual stipend
Chad Lastrup	Medical Tutoring	LHS	Temporary	01/07/26 - 06/30/26	Up to 6 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Leighann Biddle	Medical Tutoring	LHS	Temporary	01/07/26 - 06/30/26	Up to 6 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Meaghan Burke	SpEd Tutoring	QIII	Temporary	01/09/26 - 03/27/26	Up to 6 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Michael Robbins	Athletic Director Duties	District	Temporary	12/01/25 - TBD	\$100 per day
Anna Zibro	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant

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Meaghan Burke	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Colleen Moak	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Annette Hopkins	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Rachael Barber	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Mary Haydock	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Kristen Pasinella	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Kim LaJoy	High Impact Tutoring	RPES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr. - SIG Grant
Jenna Sherman	Wrestling Club	RPES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Hourly rate

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby accepts the Graduate Credit Inservice Report for January 2026; and further authorizes salary adjustments effective February 1, 2026.

RESO #9-02/09/2026
Authorize Salary
Adjustments

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

PERSONNEL –
NON-
INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Ms. Richards:

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

RESO #10-02/09/2026
Accept Resignations

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date	Notes
David Osgood	Custodian	RPES	Retirement	January 17, 2026	
Kaela Franklin	Teacher Aide	TES	Resignation	January 26, 2026	Promoted to certified TA
Hayden Teta	Teacher Aide	RPES	Resignation	February 2, 2026	Promoted to certified TA

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

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Motion by Ms. Richards:

**RESO #11-02/09/2026
Appoint Non-Instructional Staff**

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

Name	Position	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Effective Date
Colleen Keller	Substitute Nurse (LPN)	District	Annual	01/07/26 - 06/30/26	\$23.73/hr.	01/07/26
Eileen Salisbury	District Treasurer	District Office	Exempt Class (M/C) - Probationary	01/12/26 - 07/11/26	\$78,000	01/12/26
David Osgood	Substitute (Non-Instructional)	District	Annual	01/19/26 - 06/30/26	\$25.20/hr.	01/19/26
Kyle Leibach	Substitute (Non-Instructional)	District	Annual	01/19/26 - 06/30/26	\$25.20/hr.	01/19/26
Jefferey Webb	Custodian	KMS	Non-Competitive Probationary (NY HELPS)	01/19/26 - 07/18/26	\$27.05/hr.	01/19/26

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #12-02/09/2026
Accept Donations**

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

From	Amount	Purpose
Edward & Gail Weber	\$ 100.00	TES Dress a Knight
Football Program Toy Drive	\$ 500.00	Anything is Possible Scholarship (in memory of Ayshawn Davis)
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 810.00	Drama Club
Callanan Industries	\$1,000.00	Dress a Knight
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 520.00	Drama Club
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 20.00	Drama Club
Hannaford Helping Hands	\$ 363.00	KMS
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 40.00	Girls Soccer Booster Club

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

**RESO #13-02/09/2026
Approve Change Orders**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the following change orders relating to the Rensselaer Park Elementary School Capital Project and further authorizes the Superintendent to sign same:

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Change Order #	Purpose	Amount
GC-012	Credit for corridor 151 flooring installation	(\$2,500.00)
MC-001	Credit for balance of unused allowance at RPES	(\$87,149.09)
EC-001	Credit for balance of unused allowance at RPES	(\$15,795.70)

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #14-02/09/2026
Approve Change
Orders

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the following change orders relating to the Knickerbacker Middle School Capital Project and further authorizes the Superintendent to sign same:

Change Order #	Purpose	Amount
GC-001	Lead Abatement of existing door jams and transom window code, modification to existing door jams, Encapsulant, painting, staining to both interior and exterior doors as requested.	(\$2,500.00)

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Shover

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #15-02/09/2026
Approve MOA with
LTA

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Lansingburgh Teachers Association, dated December 16, 2025, relating to girls’ flag football.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays -0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #16-02/09/2026
Approve Training
Agreement

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a Training Agreement with Resiliency In Action, LLC, relating to the Project AWARE Grant for training to be provided in the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #17-02/09/2026
Adopt Policies

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

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

Second: Mrs. Curtis

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the 2024-2025 Internal Auditor’s Risk Assessment Report conducted by MMB & Co.; and be it further resolved, the Board approves the Corrective Action Plan in response to that report.

RESO #18-02/09/2026
Accept Auditor’s
Report and Approve
CAP

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the 2024-2025 Internal Auditor’s Special Area Testing Report conducted by MMB & Co.; and be it further resolved, the Board approves the Corrective Action Plan in response to that report.

RESO #19-02/09/2026
Accept Auditor’s
Report and Approve
CAP

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Shover:

WHEREAS, the Education Law provides that the Tax Collector shall be relieved of responsibility for the uncollected portion of the tax list, pending a complete list of delinquent tax items to be certified to the Board of Education, and pending the Tax Collector affixing her affidavit to such warrants and lists.

RESO #20-02/09/2026
Accept 2025-2026
Final Tax Warrant

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following Final Tax Warrant Report from the Tax Collector for the 2025-2026 collection period:

Lansingburgh Central School District 2025 - 2026 Tax Collection

Jane Luskin,
Tax Collector

Total Taxes Collected to Date

\$14,546,111.91

Total Penalties and Fees Collected to Date

\$11,788.78

Total Odd Cent Over/Under

\$0.00

Total Collection

\$14,557,900.69

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Uncollected Taxes	Tax	Penalty	Total
Lansingburgh	\$920,240.35	\$18,404.81	\$938,645.16
Brunswick	\$57,987.53	\$1,159.76	\$59,147.29
Schaghticoke	\$126,148.20	\$2,522.97	\$128,671.17
Pittstown	\$47.23	\$0.95	\$48.18
<i>Total</i>	\$1,104,423.31	\$22,088.49	\$1,126,511.80

Total Warrant - Tax Collector (Approved August 25, 2025) \$16,904,018.00

Adjustments to Tax Warrant Due To Assessment or Clerical Error:

None	\$0.00	
Less: Warrant Changes		\$0.00
<i>Total Final Warrant</i>		\$16,904,018.00

Total Star Savings \$1,253,482.98

Adjustments to Star Savings:

None	\$0.00	
Less: Star Changes		\$0.00
<i>Total Adjusted Star Savings</i>		\$1,253,482.98

Brunswick CSD Property Split between Districts NYS ED Law 3203 Student(s) attend Brunswick \$8,966.49

NYS Adjustment to STAR Previous Year - Omitted Basic STAR \$0.00 \$0.00

Total Tax Levy (Approved August 25, 2025) \$16,904,018.00

Total Tax Collected -\$14,537,145.42

Total Funds Remitted to Brunswick (11 Mountain Way 61.-2-59) -\$4,608.75

Total Funds Remitted to Brunswick (8 Tucker Pond Court 61.-2-64) -\$4,357.74

Total Tax Uncollected -\$1,104,423.31

Assessment Adjustments \$0.00

Total Star Savings -\$1,253,482.98

Star Savings Adjustment \$0.00

Omitted Basic STAR \$0.00

Total Odd Cent Over/Under \$0.20

Balance \$0.00

Second: Ms. Richards Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

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TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 13-15.
RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 16-18.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 19-20.

Principal’s Reports

By Dr. Abitabile:

Superintendent Report

- The Executive Budget was released from the State that includes a much needed and much appreciated more than 8% increase for the District totaling \$4.2 million.
- Assemblyman John McDonald will be attending our February 23rd meeting.
- After calculations were completed, we are looking at a maximum tax cap of 2.65%. We will be looking for direction from the Board of Education at the February 23rd meeting.
- We are currently in negotiations with our bargaining units.
- Current estimates for increases are 7% for health care and 36% for prescription drugs.
- I met today with union heads to set the 2026-2027 calendar. The calendar will be coming to the Board for adoption at the February 23rd meeting.
- The Rensselaer County Superintendents met with the Rensselaer County Health Department today. The Health Department is looking for guidance from school districts on how to spend the money received from the JUUL (vaping devices) lawsuit.
- On February 2nd Questar III component district superintendents met for our annual breakfast with legislators. Discussions involved the increases in health insurance costs, Pre-K, and electric school buses.
- We reposted for the Athletic Director position.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #21-02/09/2026 Adjourn for Workshop

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 6:15 p.m. to move to the board conference room for the workshop presentation.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #22-02/09/2026 Executive Session

Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent’s evaluation, and for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Second: Mr. Shover

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO 23-02/09/2026
Adjourn**

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at
8:45 p.m.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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Turnpike Elementary School January 2026 Update

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	January	YTD, 2025-2026
UPK	88%	90%
K	85%	89%
1	90%	91%
2	90%	91%
TES	88%	90%

District Goal	
Attendance	<p>TES continues to encourage strong attendance through monthly incentives. Students earning 90% or higher attendance received a \$15 Hannaford gift card. Attendance Award recipients were: October – Elijah Brunson (96%), November – Alina Johnson (100%), and December – Kensley Wittman (100%).</p>
SEL & TSS	<p>Throughout January, TES has been focusing on our character trait of the month, cooperation. Students who have demonstrated cooperation will be recognized at our Character Education Assembly on January 28. We are also excited to welcome the LHS Varsity Basketball team as special guests at the assembly, where they will model teamwork and cooperation skills used on the court and invite students to participate.</p> <p>In addition, TES held our second Ally Event of the school year on January 21, featuring the activity “A Cool Breeze Blows for Anyone Who...” These Ally Events are designed to build community, strengthen relationships, and help students feel connected and supported. Classrooms are also encouraged to continue discussing what it means to be an Ally, how students can support one another, and to incorporate readings from Little Allies to reinforce these important social-emotional skills.</p>

<p>Family & Community Engagement</p>	<p>During the Thanksgiving season, TES partnered with the YMCA, Transfiguration Parish, and Warren W. Fane, Inc. to provide 26 full Thanksgiving meals to TES families in need. During the Christmas season, 16 families were sponsored by community agencies, many of whom supported families with students across LCSD. We would like to recognize and thank The Breton’s on behalf of The Mary Fund, Trinity Church Lansingburgh, Pleasantdale Community Church, Dempsey & Drumm, LLC, Momentive, Arrow Bank, Ragone Foundations Inc., CrossFit For The People, Focusmaster Fitness, the Dolan Family, Mrs. Sue Weiss, and Mrs. Courtney Degnan for their generosity. In addition, the Lansingburgh Knights Football Toy Drive collected over 2,400 toys, which were shared between TES and RPES, supporting over 50 TES families. Lastly, for the fourth consecutive year, TES families participated in a food drive to support the KMS/LHS Holiday Meal distributions for LCSD families.</p> <p>TES continues to strengthen family and community engagement through well-attended, inclusive events that bring families together and build strong school-community partnerships. One of our most anticipated events, Guptill's Skate Night, is held annually in partnership with Rensselaer Park Elementary and consistently sells out each year. Guptill's Arena generously donates all admission tickets at no cost to our PTA, allowing families to attend for \$5 per person, compared to the regular \$20 admission, while also supporting PTA fundraising efforts. On January 9, the event welcomed 220 Turnpike families, highlighting strong participation and enthusiasm across our school community. Due to its continued success, the Guptil’s family has graciously offered a second Skate Night on Sunday, March 1 from 1:00–4:00 PM, further strengthening this valued partnership.</p> <p>In addition, TES proudly hosted our second annual “Turnpike’s Got Talent” show, which featured over 20 student performers showcasing a wide range of talents, including singing, dancing, instrumental performances, and visual art. The event was a tremendous success, welcoming families into our building and celebrating the creativity, confidence, and diverse talents of our students. Together, these events reflect TES’s commitment to fostering meaningful family engagement and creating joyful opportunities for connection within our school community.</p>
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>During the month of January, TES administered i-Ready assessments in both reading and math to support ongoing instructional planning in our primary classrooms. January is a busy and exciting time for learning, and these assessments provide teachers with valuable insight into what students know and what they are ready to learn next. Classroom teachers and reading specialists also continue to monitor students’ reading skills through developmentally appropriate, informal assessments. The data collected is used</p>

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	<p>to plan targeted instruction, small-group support, and interventions to ensure each student receives the support they need to grow academically. This approach allows teachers to respond intentionally to student needs while building confidence and supporting continued progress for all learners.</p>
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Rensselaer Park Elementary School January 2026 Update

RPES Attendance		
Grade	January (so far)	YTD, 2025-2026
3	91%	91.83%
4	91%	92.46%
5	90%	92.20%
Overall	93%	92.13%

District Goal	
Attendance	<p>At this time last year, our overall attendance was 91%. We are pleased to report a 1% increase this year, especially during months when student absences typically rise due to illness.</p> <p>The Attendance Committee recently met to review students identified with chronic absenteeism (defined as 10% or more of days missed). The team discussed current attendance trends and intervention supports to improve student attendance.</p> <p>The committee also discussed implementing an early-morning outreach intervention for students with chronic absenteeism. Research shows that contacting families before the school day begins, when routines are being established, is an effective strategy, as families are more likely to prepare for school after hearing directly from a school stakeholder.</p> <p>In addition, the committee is continuing the six-week attendance initiative. Students in each grade level who maintain attendance below the 10% threshold will earn Stewart’s Ice Cream Tickets, which will be entered into a grade-level raffle to encourage consistent attendance. All students with less than 10% absenteeism are also recognized on the morning show!</p>

SEL & TSS	<p>Character Education & Second Step SEL Lessons</p> <p>During January, our character education trait is acceptance. Our monthly assembly will be held on Thursday, January 29th. At the assembly, students will participate in activities that promote acceptance and inclusion.</p> <p>Through Second Step, students are working on emotional management while building empathy and kindness toward others. Lessons emphasize recognizing emotions in themselves and others and responding in respectful and supportive ways.</p> <p>In addition, we are re-administering the SDQ as a mid-year benchmark to help identify students who may need additional social-emotional support and to guide targeted interventions.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	<p>World Read Aloud Day</p> <p>February 4 - Community members are coming into RPES to read to our classes, while also talking about their careers. An exciting day of the year, always!</p> <p>Pick a Reading Partner:</p> <p>Each year, Ms. Juliano kicks off PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) in our building. Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's theme, we can't wait to see what she has planned!</p> <p>PTA Winter Night – Coming Up on February 6th</p> <p>We can't wait to see what the PTA is planning!</p> <p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/6 Winter Event • 2/11 PTA Meeting, 6pm (virtual) • 3/1 Sunday Guptill's Day, 1-4 • 3/4 Reading Knight, 6pm • 3/11 PTA Meeting, 6pm (virtual) • 3/13 Annual Auction • 3/25-3/16 Book fair • 3/26 Literacy Knight, 6-7:30, PARP!

Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction

Mid-Year Diagnostics and Assessment Update

Diagnostic assessments are taking place this week as a mid-year checkpoint to monitor student progress. These include i-Ready Diagnostics in reading and math, as well as the i-Ready Passage Reading Fluency assessments.

Additionally, students are participating in the NYS Assessment CBT Simulation to familiarize them with the testing format.

AIS Math and Reading specialists are also conducting assessments to inform instructional groupings as needed.

On Tuesday, January 27th, 2nd-grade teachers from TES and 3rd-grade teachers from RPES will meet for a grade-level meeting focused on vertical alignment. This collaboration ensures consistency and alignment across grades to support student growth and readiness as they transition from TES to RPES.

DRAFT

This meeting was reschedule from January 26, 2026.

Knickerbacker Middle School January 2026 Update

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	December	YTD, 2025-2026
6	92%	91%
7	87%	89%
8	90%	89%
KMS	90%	89%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	The KMS Support Team met on attendance right after the Holiday Break and conducted home visits for student attendance concerns. As a team we continue to be committed to outreach and to make efforts to help students feel more connected, especially in the winter months. We were also able to celebrate some improvements with student attendance.
SEL/School Climate	We are looking forward to starting up our KMS Wellness Committee in February. This will be an opportunity for students to have a voice and input on food choices in the cafeteria. This will also open conversation about fitness and healthy lifestyle choices.
Family & Community Engagement	<p>The mid- year Family Advisory Council Meeting will be held remotely on January 28th. This will be with the high school as well.</p> <p>KMS held their mid-year parent teacher conferences on Friday, January 23rd. This gave grade level teams an opportunity to meet with parents to discuss their students' progress or any concerns.</p>
Curriculum and Instruction	<p>All content areas administered midterm exams during the month of January. January and February PD will be used to analyze the midterm data, compare the data to IXL diagnostic results as well as Marking Period averages. Teachers will utilize the data to plan instruction and target skills in order to promote student progress.</p> <p>Our outside professional developers will be here to assist with lesson/unit planning at the end of January and beginning of February.</p>

<p>21st Century Program</p>	<p>In January, middle school students selected new clubs for their daily schedules. We continue to expand clubs offered after school based on student interest. A few of our high interest clubs include advanced culinary, fitness, crafting and crocheting. For the next seven weeks, select 6th grade students will be participating in the Jr Knights Wrestling Program at RPES.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to attend workshops in the coming months with teaching artists from the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall and the Arts Center of the Capital Region.</p> <p>As of January 14th, we have 134 21st CCLC participants meeting 15 hours or more of programming, which is 67% of our grant target of 200 students.</p>
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