

**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, February 26, 2026
District Office – Board Conference Room**

This meeting was rescheduled from February 23, 2026.

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, Daniella Richards, Jason Shover, and Thomas Zakrzewski were present. Michael Drinkwine and Emma Turley were absent from the meeting. **ROLL CALL**

Others in attendance include Angela Mauriello (on behalf of the LTA), Donny Miller, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile, Christina Williams, and Assemblyman John McDonald.

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.

Assemblyman John McDonald was present to discuss the New York State Executive Budget. **NYS Executive Budget**

- Lansingburgh is off to a good start with an increase of over \$3 million in foundation aid.
- It is possible we may see an increase in UPK, but we do not know by how much at this time.
- We anticipate meeting the April 1st deadline. The governor has reset the conversation on climate changes and is pushing for more public housing and auto insurance reform.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella: **RESO #1-02/26/2026
Approve Meeting
Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for February 26, 2026.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Andrea Fairhurst spoke on behalf of the Audit Committee.

- The audit findings were reviewed.
- Our next special area testing will be on compensated absences. Due to recent GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) changes, we want to make sure we are implementing the changes properly.
- Budget transfers were reviewed. We saw an increase in sports expenditures.
- There were some discrepancies in transportation invoices. They are being reviewed and have not yet been paid. We will see big transfers next month relating to transportation.

Daniella Richards spoke on behalf of the Policy Committee. Policies reviewed include:

- Student Wellness
- AED (Automated External Defibrillators)
- School Safety
- Free Meals
- Charging Meals and Other Food Items

Motion by Ms. Richards:

**RESO #2-02/26/2026
Accept Reports**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts the committee reports for February 26, 2026.

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

**RESO #3-02/26/2026
Approve Financial
Reports**

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

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

**RESO #4-02/26/2026
Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 9, 2026.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

**PERSONNEL –
CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Donald Miller as Dignity Act Coordinator (District-wide) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

**RESO #5-02/26/2026
Appoint DAC –
Donald Miller**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

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

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Masters	Credits
Kylie Calacone	Teacher	KMS	N/A	Temporary	2/23/26 - 6/30/26	Step C - \$54,964	N	Y
Jillian Johnson	Teaching Assistant	TES	Teaching Assistant	Temporary	02/23/26 - 02/27/26	Step 5 - \$21.82	N	N

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following additional assignments:

Name	Position / Purpose	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Compensation	Notes
Jennifer Reinert	Tutoring per CSE	District	Temporary	2/5/26 - 2/6/26	4/hrs. at \$30/hr.	
Natalka Tsuvanyk	Tutoring	District	Temporary	2/23/26 - 6/30/26	6/hrs. per week at \$30/hr.	Title III
Eric Sinko	Tutoring	KMS	Temporary	2/12/26 - 6/30/26	1 hr. per day / \$30 per hr.	for students with medical condition
Elizabeth Jamison	Inquiring Minds Need Inquiry Databases	RPES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Tiffany Ainsworth	Mindful Movement	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Maggie Higgins	Book Bonanza 2026 (Part 1): New &	TES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II

**RESO #6-02/26/2026
Appoint Instructional
Staff**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

**RESO #7-02/26/2026
Approve Additional
Assignments**

	Notable Primary Children's Literature					
Justin Simon	TES Faculty Circles for Restorative Practices	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Jess Sobolew	Yoga & Mindfulness for Educators	TES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Kerry Kennett	Infusing Vocabulary Into Your Daily Routines	TES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lori Filarecki	Beyond the Slide: Building Digital Playgrounds	TES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lindsey Gibson	Beyond the Slide: Building Digital Playgrounds	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lisa Puckey	<i>LGBTQ Basics: Elementary</i>	LHS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Theresa Eckler	Teaching with AI: Guiding Thinking, Not Giving Answers	RPES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lindsey Gibson	Teaching with AI: Guiding Thinking, Not Giving Answers	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Mary Haydock	Gem-ify Your Curriculum: Building Custom AI Assistants	RPES			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lindsey Gibson	Gem-ify Your Curriculum: Building Custom AI Assistants	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Catherine Bragg	Advising Students in the College Application Process: The Basics	LHS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Catherine Stockton	National Board Certification Support	KMS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Jenna Adams	National Board Certification Support	LHS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lisa Puckey	LGBTQ Basics: Secondary	LHS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Lindsey Gibson	Implementing EduProtocols in a 6-12 Classroom: Expanded Edition	District			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II

Eileen Culliton	Implementing EduProtocols in a 6-12 Classroom: Expanded Edition	LHS			up to 5 hours at \$30/hour	Title II
Caileigh Monagan-Dean	Odyssey of the Mind	RPES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Half of the contractual stipend (\$1,100)	Took over for Delmarie G

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #8-02/26/2026
Approve Salary Adjustments

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

Name	Position	Effective Date	Notes
Patricia Stinson	Teaching Assistant	January 29, 2026	\$1,700 Professional Teaching Assistant Stipend

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #9-02/26/2026
Approve Leave of Absence

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

Name	Position	Building	Term	Note
Kennedy Morrissey	Teaching Assistant	RPES	03/06/26 - 03/13/26	Unapid LOA

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #10-02/26/2026
Accept Resignations

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

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
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Luz-Marina Lilchin	Registered Nurse	KMS	Resignation	2/24/2026
Linda Lynch	Secretary 1	TES	Resignation	3/13/2026
Vincent Gragnano	Secretary 1	KMS	Resignation	02/27/2026

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #11-02/26/2026
Approve Agreement

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves an Agreement with employee #1479, effective February 13, 2026.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #12-02/26/2026
Approve Agreement

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves an Agreement with employee #2191, effective February 19, 2026.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Curtis:

RESO #13-02/26/2026
Accept Donations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board the Board hereby adopts the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #14-02/26/2026
Accept Single Audit

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts the Single Audit for Financial Statement Findings (a.k.a. Section II) and Major Federal Program Findings (a.k.a. Section III) conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLC, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 8-9.
RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 10-12.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 13-14.

Principal’s Reports

By Dr. Abitabile:

Superintendent Report

- By the March 23 board meeting, the Board needs to determine how to pay for our next Capital Project. This will be a \$4 million project to include secure entrances at LHS and KMS and resurfacing the turf at LHS.
- A Safety & Facilities Committee Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Workshop. We will do a walkthrough of the LHS and KMS entrances and discuss safety concerns.
- Our reserves are very healthy. We received word that TRS contributions will go down for next year. Health insurance will increase by 14%. Prescription drugs will increase by 32-35%. After discussion, the Board determined that we would go out with a 0% tax cap for the 2026-2027 school budget.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #15-02/26/2026
Executive Session**

Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #16-02/26/2026
Adjourn**

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 8:08 p.m.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	February	YTD, 2025-2026
UPK	86%	89%
K	87%	89%
1	89%	91%
2	89%	90%
TES	88%	90%

District Goal	
Attendance	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: January - Jariel Rodriguez
SEL & TSS	During the month of February, our school focused on the character trait of kindness, which is being reinforced through classroom instruction, schoolwide activities, and recognition efforts. Our Character Education Assembly will take place on Wednesday, February 25, where we will recognize students who consistently demonstrate kindness toward others. In addition, during the week of February 9, our school participated in a “Winter Olympics” initiative planned collaboratively by our special area teachers. Each class was assigned a country and flag, learned about the Olympics across music, art, DLL, library, and PE, and engaged in friendly competition. These efforts will also be celebrated at the assembly, with recognition for countries earning bronze, silver, and gold, reinforcing cooperation, sportsmanship, and kindness schoolwide.

<p>Family & Community Engagement</p>	<p>During the month of February, we welcomed many community members into our building in celebration of World Read Aloud Day. Local sports teams, political leaders, police officers, business owners, parents, public library representatives, and school officials joined our classrooms to read stories and celebrate the joy of reading with our students. A huge thank you to our reading teachers for coordinating this meaningful and well-attended event. Additionally, on February 26, our PTA, in collaboration with our art teacher, will host a free family event, Glow Bingo, and we look forward to welcoming many of our students and families for another opportunity to connect and build community.</p>
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>On January 27, our 2nd grade teachers met with RPES 3rd grade teachers to collaborate on Math and ELA standards and lesson alignment, supporting a smoother transition for students as they move from TES to our 3–5 building. A follow-up meeting is planned later this school year to continue this important cross-building collaboration. In addition, during the month of February, math AIS providers, TOSAs, classroom teachers, and school administration met for math data meetings to review assessment data, adjust instructional goals, and refine intervention supports to better meet student needs.</p>

RENSELAER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

RPES Attendance		
Grade	February (so far)	YTD, 2025-2026
3	91.19%	91.4%
4	90.15%	91.83%
5	90.20%	91.79%
Overall	90.53%	91.65%

District Goal	
Attendance	<p>We are continuing our efforts to support students with chronic absenteeism. The Attendance Committee reviews trends, tracks students missing 10% or more of school days, and reaches out to families to encourage consistent attendance. We are also recognizing students who have less than 5% absenteeism, taking into account illness, and educating families about the difference between excused and unexcused absences. Early-morning check-ins and direct communication help students get off to a strong start each day. Incentives like the six-week attendance initiative, including Stewart’s Ice Cream Tickets and grade-level raffles, motivate students and highlight the importance of showing up to school every day.</p>
SEL & TSS	<p>During the month of February, our character education focus is Kindness, culminating in a schoolwide assembly on Thursday, February 26th. In our Second Step SEL lessons, students have been learning about empathy and kindness, including the steps to practice empathy: noticing others’ facial expressions and body language, observing what is happening around them, and choosing a kind or helpful response. Through our TSS Committee, we are also promoting kindness with a building-wide “Kindness Tree,” where students complete compliment hearts using provided sentence starters, often during indoor recess. Additionally, we had a snowman decorating contest that served as a fun, community-building activity for the entire school, with winning classrooms earning ice cream sandwiches! Check out the winners below!</p>

	<p>Snowman Winners: Presentation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Hamilton's Class (Olympics) 2. Mrs. Lilkas' Class (Cupid) 3. Mr. Gregoire's Class (Mummy)
<p>Family & Community Engagement</p>	<p>Pick a Reading Partner (PARP):</p> <p>A PTA-sponsored initiative that encourages families to read together at home for at least 20 minutes each day. This year’s building-wide theme, “A Marathon of Reading,” turns reading into a friendly competition where classrooms track minutes read and “travel” through the World Marathon Majors (New York, Chicago, Boston, London, Tokyo, and Berlin). For every 100 minutes read, classes move forward, earning marathon stickers, with individual students recognized as “Six Star Finishers” for reading 1,650+ minutes and grade-level winners earning the Golden Shoe. Hallways are decorated to represent each marathon city, and the event is celebrated with schoolwide spirit days, making PARP one of our most engaging and anticipated annual initiatives.</p> <p>PTA Event: Painting with Greene!</p> <p>A great turnout before leaving for break! There was so much beautiful artwork to show for it! Thanks, Ms. Greene!</p> <p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/24 PTA Meeting, 6pm (virtual) • 3/1 Sunday Guphill’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

We reached 100% of our teachers who are utilizing Intervention Compass, which successfully meets our SCEP (School Comprehensive Education Plan) goal for integrated data usage. Alongside this achievement, the administration of the i-Ready Diagnostic and Passage Reading Fluency assessments is now complete. Using this fresh data, our instructional teams have already begun adjusting student groups to ensure that targeted support and interventions are precisely aligned with the evolving academic needs of every child.

Fifth-grade students engaged in immersive virtual field trips to 'extreme' global environments, conducting a comparative analysis between these locations and the setting of the text *All Thirteen*, which is part of the Arts & Letters Curriculum and connected to NYS Science Standards to evaluate how environmental factors influence human experience.

High Impact Tutoring: We have launched High Impact Tutoring groups after school as part of our after-school clubs. These sessions support students academically as they prepare for the upcoming state tests, while also helping them build the emotional readiness and confidence needed to succeed.

KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	February	YTD, 2025-2026
6	88%	90%
7	84%	88%
8	86%	88%
KMS	86%	89%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	The support team is in full swing as KMS attendance showed decline for this month. We have examined data and looked to attendance reports to target and focus on interventions for growth. Mrs. Dixon is focused on the at risk students and planning the attendance groups. As a support team, we also targeted residency concerns that have impacted student attendance.
SEL/School Climate	Counselors are pushing-in for SEL lessons this month and focusing on emotional regulation, reframing a situation, and helpful emotion management strategies. KMS faculty and students are putting the final finishing touches on all of the projects for our third annual cultural night, March 12th from 4pm-6pm. Mr. Faseun organized and launched a Black History Month recognition.. This includes Mr. Faseun sharing daily spot lights and opening this up to the staff. There is also information posted at every classroom door recognizing various inspirational individuals who have played an important role in black history.
Family & Community Engagement	Student Council’s sock drive ended on January 30th. As a school community we collected 105 pairs of socks. These socks have been donated to Unity House of Troy. Student council is planning their 4th annual bowling night at Hilltop Bowling alley on March 6th.
Curriculum and Instruction	ELA, math and science teachers finished up PD for this school year in February. This month’s pd focused on midterm data in order to plan for upcoming units. The goals

	<p>focused on targeting student deficits and preparing them for the upcoming state assessments. We also analyzed released state questions and created similar questions for each unit that teachers will use as exit tickets to monitor student progress.</p>
21st Century Program	<p>The 21st Century Program continues to have students enrolling- KMS 174 and LHS 43. Second marking period report cards were reviewed and student schedules were adjusted to ensure that students that needed additional academic support were attending/participating in study spot.</p> <p>In the next few weeks, Middle school students will be able to sign up for small group sewing instruction, participate in learning more about string instruments in a hands-on workshop with the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, and get in the pool for swim instruction/lessons.</p>