

RITZVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160-67 and LIND SCHOOL DISTRICT #158
JOINT BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ritzville School District #160-67 and Lind School District #158 was held in the Lind-Ritzville High School Collaboration Room on February 23, 2026. The following members were in attendance:

Ritzville School Board Members:	Erin Repp	Reid Phillips
	Tia Kubik	Travis Devore
	Courtney Fannin	

Lind School Board Members:	Adam Labes	Breanne Williamson
	Jim Weidemann	Andy Wahl
	Greg Schmunk	

Ritzville Chair Repp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ritzville Chair Repp called the Ritzville School Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the agenda. Ritzville Director Devore seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Chair Labes called the Lind School Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Lind Director Schmunk moved to approve the agenda. Lind Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Joint Items

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Student Representative Report - Student Representative Cicely Herrera reported on Lind-Ritzville High School activities, highlighting the conclusion of winter sports, upcoming calendar dates, and various club activities.

Principal Reports - LRMS Principal Don Walker, LRHS Principal Kevin Terris, HS Math teacher Nicole Smith, MS/HS CTE teacher Lori Sanderson, and MS ELA teacher Shannon Court presented on mastery-based Learning and how they implement it in their classrooms.

Superintendent Wargo encouraged the board directors to visit classrooms in all buildings in the Cooperative.

Levy Results - Superintendent Wargo expressed his gratitude to the Lind and Ritzville communities for passing all levies on the February ballot. He shared the official results: Lind EP&O at 64.62% and Lind Capital Projects at 67.18%; Ritzville EP&O at 59.41% and Ritzville Capital Projects at 65.21%.

Review Cooperative Agreement - There was an annual review of the cooperative agreement, with no changes made.

Sports Cooperative Discussion - Looking ahead to the Sports Cooperative meeting in April, Superintendent Wargo discussed the current equal shared cost among the five member districts. He noted that the shared costs, in addition to transportation expenses, represent a substantial financial burden for some members.

To ensure the continued participation of all districts, Superintendent Wargo proposed a possible \$15,000 discount for members. He cautioned that if a member leaves the co-op, the remaining costs would be redistributed among the remaining members. Another proposal was a per player rate. Mr. Wargo reminded the Board that the primary goal is to provide athletic opportunities for all students, noting that Lind and Ritzville currently have the greatest benefit from the partnership. Superintendent Wargo will provide the Board some options to consider and asked the Board for direction to prepare for the April Co-op meeting.

2026-27 Calendar Discussion - Superintendent Wargo reported that the application for the four-day school week has been submitted to the state, and a decision will be made in April or May. Ritzville Director Kubik asked about options that avoid students attending school on a Friday when there is a holiday on the preceding Monday.

Superintendent Wargo stated he would work on options without Fridays; however, he reminded the board that those five days would need to be included elsewhere in the calendar. Extending the schedule further into June would affect sports camps, which are typically held in June and concluded by July 4th, while starting earlier in August would require teachers to return earlier. He also noted that none of the 21 districts currently on a four-day school week schedule have Mondays off. He urged the board to give the schedule a try for two years, noting that they can go back to a five-day schedule if it does not work.

Ritzville Director DeVore asked what would happen if the Ritzville board failed to reach an agreement on the school calendar. Superintendent Wargo responded by noting that results from two community forums and two surveys conducted in February and June remained consistent: 64% of respondents favored a four-day school week, and 71% preferred Fridays off. Superintendent Wargo explained the standard procedure for board governance: a proposal is brought to the table for a vote, and if approved by the majority, the board moves forward as a unified body. He emphasized that effective boardsmanship involves supporting a collective decision even if individual members disagree. He further noted, both boards have already approved the waiver and staff and community members show strong support for the change. A two-year trial period would allow the district to evaluate the impact, with the option to revert to the previous schedule if goals are not met. Superintendent Wargo concluded by urging the board to allow staff the opportunity to demonstrate the academic benefits of the new calendar for students.

Mr. Wargo reported that he recently spoke with the Superintendent of the Harrington School District, which transitioned to a four-day school week this year. The Superintendent reported that student discipline issues have decreased, attendance has improved, and staff professional development has become more effective, in turn benefiting students over time. Additionally, reluctant community members and staff have come around and realized it's working for students. None of the districts he spoke with would return to a five-day schedule.

Solar Update - Superintendent Wargo updated the Board on the solar project. David Funk completed a walkthrough with the City of Ritzville and Avista on February 13. In Ritzville, fencing will be installed next week, with the full project expected to be operational in four to five weeks.

School Bus Inspection - Mr. Wargo recognized the Transportation Department for passing their recent

surprise inspection with a clean report

Early Learning Facility Update - Superintendent Wargo updated the Board on the Early Learning Facility, noting that the planning process with the architect is beginning. The district will meet with the city to determine specific building requirements. The proposed plan includes two classrooms, an activity room, and an outdoor play area. Following the hospital's withdrawal from the project, the entire space will now be dedicated to the Early Learning Center.

Finance Report - Business Manager Kris Robbins reported on state-level changes affecting Transitional Kindergarten (TK) funding, transportation depreciation, and fund balances. She also provided an update on apportionment, cash flow, and the overall financial health of both districts. Superintendent Wargo noted that the state is increasing its oversight of school district finances; he provided the Board with a Financial Health Checklist to serve as a tool for ongoing monitoring and budget development throughout the year.

There was a second reading of the following: Policy 1111 - Oath of Office, Policy 2106 - Program Compliance, Policy 2108 - Learning Assistance Program, Policy 2170 - Career and Technical Education, Policy 3226 - Interviews and Interrogation of Student on School Premises, Policy 5010 - Discrimination Free Workplace, Policy 5011 - Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited and Policy 5260 - Personnel Records. There was a first reading of Policy 6220 - Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements.

Board Member Reports - There was nothing new to report.

Joint Consent Agenda

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the Joint Consent Agenda as follows: Approval of January 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Approval of January 28, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes, Approval of February 2, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes, Approve Lind-Ritzville Public School Employees CBA Revisions, Personnel Actions: New Hires - HS Assistant Softball Coach - Kennedy Anderson, New Hire - HS Head Tennis Coach - Zach Swanger, New Hire - HS Assistant Tennis Coach - Madeline Scoon, Resignation - HS Assistant Baseball Coach - Richard Mitchell, Adoption - Policy 1111 - Oath of Office, Adoption - Policy 2106 - Program Compliance, Adoption - Policy 2108 - Learning Assistance Program, Adoption - Policy 2170 - Career and Technical Education, Adoption - Policy 3226 - Interviews and Interrogation of Student on School Premises, Adoption - Policy 5010 - Discrimination Free Workplace, Adoption - Policy 5011 - Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited, Adoption - Policy 5260 - Personnel Records. Ritzville Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Consent Agenda

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the Ritzville Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$143,102.40, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$38,434.37, Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$19,403.26, Payroll for February 27, 2026 - \$476,260.19, Personnel Actions: Resignation - RGS Paraeducator - Breanna Smith. Ritzville Director Devore seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Consent Agenda

Lind Director Weidemann moved to approve the Lind Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$67,916.41, Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$38,434.37, Associated Student

Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$443.36, Payroll for February 27, 2026 - \$365,036.60, Personnel Actions: Retirement - LES Teacher - Connie Field, Retirement - LES Teacher - Darlene O'Neill. Lind Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

With no further business before the board, Ritzville Chair Repp and Lind Chair Labes adjourned at 8:37 P.M.


Chairman/Date

3/23/2026


Chairman/Date

3-23-26


Secretary to the Board