

School Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026, 6PM
55 Academy St, Lebanon, OR 97355

Present:

Nichole Piland, Board Chair

Melissa Baurer, Board Vice Chair

Lorlee Engler, Member

Mike Martin, Member

Clyde Rood, Member

Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent

William Lewis, Chief Operations Officer

Steven Prososki, Finance Director

1. WELCOME

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@lcsdboardmeetingstream6568/streams>

1.1. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Board Chair, Nichole Piland.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent, teacher, and community member, Don Frier, addresses the Board regarding the community's involvement with curriculum development. He shares the difficulty in participating during the allotted hours on early release Wednesdays, and requests that the district consider this in future planning.

3. LBL ESD LOCAL SERVICE PLAN 2025-2027

Superintendent Jennifer Meckley introduces the Local Service Plan, outlining the comprehensive Tier 1 services provided regionally and explaining the Tier 2 menu of optional services available to districts based on their specific needs.

With no questions from the Board, Mike motions to approve the Local Service Plan, Clyde seconded the motion, and the motion passes unanimously. The LBL ESD 2025-2027 Local Service Plan is approved.

4. BOARD OPERATING AGREEMENTS / OSBA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Jennifer opens the discussion by referencing last month's presentation from Vincent regarding the training opportunities available through OSBA. She shared that she brought forward sample board operating agreements for review and noted that Vincent could provide support in facilitating that work as well. Jennifer presented the idea for the Board's consideration as a potential next step in strengthening governance practices.

Nichole expresses that she sees strong value in developing an operating agreement and believes it would be a positive starting point, particularly with Vincent's guidance. The Board reached consensus to move forward. Executive Secretary, Jessica, will coordinate scheduling with Vincent. Following that work session, the Board will determine any additional next steps.

5. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS

Nichole reviews the timeline of the evaluation process. The Board agrees that these are the standard operating procedures necessary. There is no further discussion.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mike motions to approve, and Clyde seconds the motion, all approved with a unanimous vote, the consent agenda made up of December 4, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes is approved.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

7.1. Operations

William reports that on December 20th the District Office experienced a failure in its fire alarm system, referencing prior discussion from the recent work session. He notes that fire alarm systems have been identified in assessment reports over the past decade, but the challenge is balancing proactive financial planning—such as saving for major needs like roof replacements—while responding to unexpected system failures that must be addressed immediately. These unplanned repairs create setbacks in long-term facilities planning.

William shares that the district is exploring issuing a professional services RFP to hire a firm to systematically address fire alarm upgrades over time. His recommended approach would be to begin with Hamilton Creek and Lcomb, given their smaller size and more manageable needs, while also securing spare parts. He emphasizes the critical nature of these systems, noting that without a functioning fire alarm system, school cannot operate. Additional information will be brought forward as plans develop.

The Board asks clarifying questions, whether fire alarm systems are compatible across all buildings, and whether panels and components from the new Seven Oak building are still available. William confirms that some components had been retained and used at the District Office.

William also raises concerns about unfunded mandates related to facility requirements, including new LED lighting requirements, describing the district as "swimming upstream" while trying to manage existing needs alongside new state requirements. A broader discussion

follows regarding the potential impact of the LED lighting mandate. Melissa suggested Board advocacy at the legislative level, and it is noted that Jennifer can add that to her Board report, when advocacy is needed. Melissa also asked whether local legislators could be invited to host sessions in the area.

William shared that it's challenging to keep track of the volume of education-related bills—around 650 introduced this session—and noted that the LED requirement came forward with very little visibility. William explains that reimbursement opportunities may be available and that the district is considering an energy audit through a firm that would identify cost-saving opportunities and potential incentives. Additional details will be provided as information becomes available.

7.2. Financial

Steven shares that the general fund is in a healthy spot, and the finance team is currently working on the 2024-25 audit, which is expected to be completed by the end of the month, and specifically by February in order to avoid any impact on State School Fund allocations.

Some discussion takes place regarding function 1000 and a possible resolution needed.

Discussion also takes place regarding the district's ending fund balance sitting at just about 10%, which is above the recommended 5-8% minimum percentage.

8. COMMUNICATION

8.1. Board

Nichole shares that on January 17th, Communications Director, Michelle Steinhebel, and herself will be at Connect for Lebanon, on behalf of the district to support volunteer efforts.

Melissa shares a success story of an LCSD student who job shadowed last year, and now is employed with the Santiam Hospital.

8.2. Student Board

Student Board Representatives, Addy and Cade, share updates regarding the student mentor program, grade level attendance tracking, and the new LHS Mascot. They also note that winter formal is next weekend, and the Thursday before will be an assembly with some fun surprises.

8.3. Superintendent

Jennifer shares Jen's Zens, starting with recognizing the recent two Apple Award winners for their extraordinary impact on students and families. Laurie Regalado of Cascades was honored for her dedication to students across the district, ensuring each child feels seen, valued, and supported. As a special education assistant and a leader in our Native American Education Program, she fosters meaningful connections through student support, family engagement, and cultural programs. Kimberly Mynar of Pioneer School was also recognized for her devotion to student growth and leadership. Through her classroom and leadership of the AVID Ambassador team, she mentors students to set goals, build confidence, and shine as learners and leaders. Congratulations to both educators for their exceptional service to our school community.

Jennifer also highlights the boy's basketball team visit at the Mennonite Village. Last month, about 35 players traveled to the Mennonite Village in Albany to play bingo, share treats, and visit with residents. The experience offered a meaningful opportunity to connect across generations and reflect the team's commitment to kindness and community beyond the court.

She also recognizes School Board Appreciation Month, and shares a sincere thank you for the Board's dedication and leadership in serving students, staff, and the community. She notes that the Board's commitment truly makes a difference. As a small token of appreciation, each Board member is gifted a fresh loaf of sourdough bread from BakeMeHappy, owned by Linzy Lingo, a member of our Facility Advisory Committee, along with a gift certificate to the annual FFA plant sale. Student board representatives receive a Stanley water bottle in place of the plant sale certificate. Jennifer shares her appreciation for all that the Board members do.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 6:37 PM.

Signed: Nina M. Puland
(Board Chair)

Date: 2/19/24

Signed: Jennifer Meckley
(Superintendent)

Date: 2/19/26

Board Meeting January 8, 2026

(This sheet will become part of public record)

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INTENT TO SPEAK

The Board welcomes input. To provide in-person public comment please submit this completed card to the Board secretary prior the start of the meeting.

If attending virtually, the following will apply

1. You will need to complete the digital Intent to Speak form, on the School Board Minutes and Agendas page.
2. Name of the participant for Zoom meeting must match the information below.
3. You will be assigned a speaking order, which you will receive with your Zoom link for the meeting.
4. You must have your camera on when speaking.
5. You must follow the meeting participation expectations provided by the Board Chair or you will be removed from the meeting.

Name: Don Frier Phone: 845-649-4359
Name of organization (if applicable): N/A
Address: 31136 Bellinger Rd, Lebanon, OR 97355
Email (optional): z.don.frier@gmail.com
Topic or comment to be presented (brief description): Curriculum development
scheduled times concern.

A complaint brought before the Board shall be referred to the proper school authorities. A complaint shall be processed in accordance with Board policy KL - Public Complaints and KL-AR - Public Complaints Procedure. A hearing conducted by the Board regarding personnel may take place in an executive session.

The Board requests that a topic or comment is limited to three minutes or less.

As outlined in statute, at least 90% of the annual State School Fund (SSF), property tax and other qualifying resources allocated to LBL will be expended on resolution services. The Local Service Plan is developed with the State School fund biennium budget. Districts review and approve the Local Service Plan on an annual basis. Services will be provided on a two-tiered basis.

Tier 1 Resolution Services

Tier 1 includes services that are available to all 12 districts and are determined as being essential to all districts. The emphasis in Tier 1 is on achieving the greatest economies of scale and assuring equity of access. Tier 1 services are fully funded from the 90% SSF allocation. Service decisions are made for a two year period.

Tier 2 Resolution Services

Once Tier 1 funds are allocated, the remaining balance is used for Tier 2 services. Tier 2 services are decided by districts on an annual basis. This allows LBL and its component school districts to stay within the constraints of the agreements, yet provide flexibility in the use of funds.

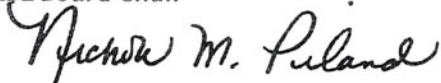
Transits

Up to 50% of the district's allocated Tier 2 resources may be used to acquire services from sources other than LBL if the service is not provided by LBL.

The Lebanon Community Schools School District is in agreement to have the Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District provide the Local Service Plan for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.



LBL Board Chair



School District Board Chair

12/16/2025

Date

1/2/26

Date

Jen's Zens

A Few Happy Stories from LCSD



Apple Award Winners



Kimberly Mynar and Laurie Regalado



LHS Boys Basketball visits Mennonite Village



SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH



Thank you to our
School Board for
your leadership and
dedication to our students
and community.

Thank you.

