



**LITTLEFIELD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #9
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Administrative Services Site
3490 East Rio Virgin Road
Thursday, March 12, 2026
5:00 P.M.
(Doors Open at 4:45 p.m.)**

Mission Statement

The Littlefield Unified School District is committed to excellence. Therefore, we are committed to providing opportunities for all students to learn and develop socially, emotionally, and academically. We are committed to providing resources to our students, parents and teachers in an ongoing effort to help students transition from childhood to adulthood.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Cobb called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were approximately fifteen (15) people in attendance. Board Member Hogan was absent from the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mark Cobb, Board President
Sean Hogan, Board Secretary
Mike Fagnan, Board Member
Karen Johnson, Board Member
Cathy Wright, Board Member

Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal
Darlene McCauley, Interim Elementary Principal
Edward Dickie, Business Manager
Sheree Goessman, Human Resources Director

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

3. Pledge of Allegiance: By invitation of Board President.

AGENDA

4. Consideration of approval of the March 12, 2026 LUSD9 Board Meeting agenda.

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Board Member Wright. The motion passed unanimously.

Board President Cobb: Yes



Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, the public may speak to the Governing Board on topics of concern with the public body's jurisdiction, even if the topic is not specifically included on the agenda. The public must state their full name for the record and will be allowed up to three minutes to address the Governing Board. No action will be taken as a result of public comments. The Board expects that citizens who address the board will present concerns regarding the activities in question rather than make personal attacks upon Board Members, District Personnel or other persons in attendance or absent. In addition, questions or comments on matters that are currently under legal review will not be accepted.

5. Public Comment.

Board President Mark Cobb read a policy statement emphasizing that personal attacks on board members and staff will not be tolerated. He stated that if any individual engages in uncontrollable or disruptive behavior, they will be asked to leave the meeting.

Patti Hoopes shared plans for Teacher Appreciation Week, scheduled for May 4–7, 2026. She noted Sheree will provide her with a list of teachers and staff to assist with planning.

Amy Taylor addressed the Board with concerns regarding a report made to DCFS. She questioned the origin and accuracy of the statement, indicating she believes it to be incorrect. She also expressed concerns about her granddaughter coming home from school in different clothing and with her hair styled differently than when she arrived. She asked for clarification on whether her granddaughter is being changed at school and why, noting that her grandson is not experiencing similar issues.

Board President Cobb directed Mr. Heaton to follow up with Mrs. McCauley to gather more information regarding these concerns and to provide guidance to the Board. Mr. Heaton stated he could brief the Board President and provide a general update to the Board.

Lael Calton, new Elementary Principal, reported on a staff feedback survey. She initially distributed a four-question survey and received 24 responses out of 30 staff members. She has since revised the survey to include a scaled scoring system to calculate an overall score. Results scoring 4.5 or higher will help inform planning for the upcoming school year. Copies of the survey results were distributed.

Board Member Johnson asked how she could assist with Teacher Appreciation Week and whether sign-up opportunities would be available. Mrs. Hoopes confirmed that sign-up lists will be provided.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

6. Edward Dickie, Business Manager



- a. Student Activity Balance.
- b. Food Service Financial.
- c. Budget Update
- d. Other

Mr. Dickie reviewed student activity accounts.

Board Member Johnson asked about the funds listed under the Autobody Repair Club. Mr. Heaton clarified that it is a club and noted that most of its activity will conclude by the end of the year.

Board Member Johnson asked about the Student Council expenditures. Mr. Heaton shared that they recently purchased a new BBQ grill and are planning additional purchases, including camera equipment for the media club.

Board Member Johnson inquired about credit card fees. Mr. Heaton explained that state funds cannot be used for credit card fees, so those costs are processed through student activity funds.

Facility & Safety Discussion:

Board President Cobb asked whether the school had obtained a fire box for paint storage. Mr. Heaton stated that they have not yet, but a solution is planned for next year. He noted that paint has been donated, and the school only pays for what is used.

Board President Cobb emphasized that all paint stored on campus must be kept in a fire-rated box due to liability concerns. Mr. Heaton shared that the fire marshal indicated the need for a fire box beginning next year and had already required the air compressor in the tent to be moved outside. Board Member Fagnan agreed with Mr. Cobb's safety concerns. Board President Cobb added that, based on his OSHA experience, he would like to conduct a walkthrough to review safety conditions. Board Member Johnson suggested that Board Member Fagnan and Board President Cobb conduct a walkthrough and also recommended inviting the fire department to participate. Mr. Heaton stated that Mr. Hogan has been in communication with Fire Chief Hunt and that he will follow up once Mr. Hogan returns from vacation. Board President Cobb requested coordination with Mr. Hogan to schedule a walkthrough on the Monday following spring break.

Food Service Review:

Mr. Dickie reviewed food service data. Board Member Fagnan noted that participation levels appear to be stabilizing. Mr. Heaton added that the FFVP (Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program) is running on schedule. Board Member Fagnan asked why February counts were significantly higher than January. Mr. Heaton stated he would look into the discrepancy.

Budget & Programs Discussion:

Board Member Johnson asked about encumbrances. Mr. Heaton explained that encumbrances must align precisely with salary allocations in the budget.



Board Member Johnson raised concerns about the Professional Development Pilot Program showing we are going into a negative balance. Mr. Heaton explained that multiple staff members were previously managing grants and the budget will be corrected as Mr. Dickie assumes oversight. He also noted that the professional development structure will change next year.

Board Member Johnson asked about “First Things First Grant.” Mr. Heaton clarified that it is a grant for the preschool program.

Board Member Johnson inquired about Rural Low-Income Schools funding. Mr. Heaton stated that the district receives this funding annually and believes the allocation increased this year.

7. Elementary School

a. School Update

- i. March 2-6, 2026 – Reading Week
- ii. March 5, 2026 – Literacy Night @ 4:30 pm
- iii. March 12, 2026 – Parent Teacher Conferences – Students dismissed at 12:20 pm
- iv. March 16-20, 2026 – Spring Break
- v. March 24, 2026 – AZ Science – 5th grade only
- vi. March 31, 2026 – ELA Writing

b. Other

Mr. Heaton reviewed the upcoming events.

8. Troy Heaton, Superintendent/Secondary Principal

a. School Update.

- i. March 4, 2026 – Bookmobile – 7:00 a.m.
- ii. March 4, 2026 – Mr. Beaver Dam – 11:25 am
- iii. March 4, 2026 – National Guard Display during lunch
- iv. March 16-20, 2026 – Spring Break
- v. March 16-20, 2026 – Washington DC/New York City Trip
- vi. March 24-April 24, 2026 – State Testing

b. Wonders Reading Program

c. State Testing Data

d. Other.

Troy Heaton reviewed upcoming school events and noted that the high school does a significant amount of testing.

Mr. Heaton shared that he has been working extensively to bring Dr. Rob to the school earlier than planned this year. Dr. Rob will assist with the development and implementation of the school’s reading and writing plans.

Mr. Heaton had previously hoped to secure a reading coach grant; however, the district did not qualify because it is not in the lowest 10%.

Board Member Johnson asked for clarification on who Dr. Rob is, and Mr. Heaton provided background information to the Board. Mr. Heaton also mentioned the possibility of securing



“stacked” grants to fund Dr. Rob’s support. Board Member Johnson asked whether Dr. Rob would serve both schools as a reading coach. Mr. Heaton responded that next year the role could evolve into a Reading Coordinator or possibly an English Learner (EL) Coordinator.

Mr. Heaton referenced Mrs. McCauley’s report on the Wonders program. Board Member Johnson commented that it is an excellent program when staff is properly trained. Mr. Heaton stated that, based on observations, teachers are implementing the program. Board Member Johnson asked whether it is being used to its full capacity and expressed interest in how the Board can better support teachers. Lael Calton shared that there are gaps in professional development and identified this as a priority moving forward. She noted that prerecorded training modules could be implemented at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Calton also indicated that Dr. Rob may help address these training needs. Additional professional development time, such as two half-day sessions, may be necessary. She added that this is being planned for next year and that Mrs. McCauley is already working on it.

Board Member Johnson asked whether the district uses DIBELS for reading assessment. Mrs. Calton responded that they do not currently use DIBELS and instead utilize Accelerated Reader (AR), STAR assessments, and Renaissance Learning programs.

- 9. Board Reports.
 - a. Other

Board President Cobb shared that tomorrow there will be a soccer game organized for the 5th and 6th grade boys. Participation in the game is contingent on appropriate behavior. He noted that any volunteers who can come out and help would be greatly appreciated. Following the soccer game, the school will hold a Water Day for all students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Routine Orders of Business. Documentation concerning the matters on the Consent Agenda may be reviewed at the Littlefield Unified School District Office, located at 3490 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona. Any Board Member may request an item be pulled off the agenda for further discussion.

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Board Member Wright. The motion passed unanimously.

Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes

- 10. Consideration of approval of the February 12, 2026, Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes and the February 17, 2026, Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes.
- 11. Consideration of approval of Vouchers and Stipends:
 - a. LUSD9 Payroll Vouchers: 16/2616, 17/2617, 17.1/2618, and 18/2619.
 - b. LUSD9 Payables Vouchers: 2663 and 2664.
 - c. Stipends - None



(Members of the public may view the content of the vouchers 24 hours prior to the board meeting in the district office.)

- 12. Consideration of approval of the FY 2025/2026 Certified Personnel, Classified Personnel, Substitutes, and Coaching Staff as outlined in the attached list:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Henry, Susan	Elementary Teacher	2/19/2026
Michalov, Karla	School Aide	03/03/2026

- 13. Consideration of approval of donations received by the District per Policy KCD.
a. Kroger Inspiring Donations, \$713.78 for both schools

ACTION ITEMS AND/OR DISCUSSION

- 14. Consideration of approval of regulation GBK-R.

Mr. Heaton reviewed the suggested changes to the regulation.
Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve regulation GBK-R, seconded by Board Member Fagnan. The motion passed unanimously.
Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes

- 15. Consideration of first reading of Policy Advisory #960:
a. Policy DIE

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Advisory #960, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.
Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes

- 16. Consideration of approval of the FY 2026/2027 templates for the Administrative Contract, Director Contract, Certified Teacher Contract, and Classified Notice of Appointment.

Board Member Johnson inquired about the liquidated damages fee. Board Member Wright expressed her opinion that the time spent on filling the position often exceeds \$1,000. Board Member Fagnan explained that it has historically been up to the Board's discretion whether to



charge the fee.

Board Member Johnson made a motion to approve the contract templates and reducing the liquidated damages to \$1,000, seconded by Board Member Wright. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes**

17. Consideration of approval of the FY 2026/2027 Salary Schedules:
 - a. Administrative Salary Schedule
 - b. Director Salary Schedule
 - c. Certified Salary Schedule
 - d. Classified Salary Schedule

Mr. Heaton reported that the current budget can accommodate the proposed expenditures. He noted an increase in Average Daily Membership (ADM) and additional Rural Low-Income Schools funding, which will cover the increase.

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to approve the FY 2026/2027 Salary Schedules for the Administrative, Director, Certified, and Classified employees as presented, noting that the salary structure is not changing, with certified staff receiving a step increase and classified staff receiving a \$0.50 per hour increase. The motion was seconded by Board Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

**Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes**

18. Consideration of approval health insurance items for FY 2026/2027, including:
 - a. Approval of the health insurance rates.
 - b. Approval of the district's monthly contribution toward employee health insurance premiums.

Mr. Heaton noted that the proposed increase to the district's monthly contribution is contingent upon the state approving a 2% increase to ADM for the 2026/2027 school year.

He added that the district can absorb the step increase on salaries, but cannot absorb the proposed increase to the monthly health insurance contribution without the states increase to ADM.

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to approve the health insurance rates and increase the District's monthly contribution toward employee health insurance by \$15, for a total of



\$750 per month, contingent upon the state approving a 2% increase to ADM, for FY 2026/2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Wright and Passed Unanimously.

Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes

19. Suggestions for Future Board Meetings.

- Summer School Stipends
- Approval of the 2026-2027 Employee Work Calendars
- Approval of the 2026/2027 Employee Contracts.
- Approval of school fees for the 2026/2027 school year.

Board Member Johnson shared that she has been researching trust land funds and asked whether the district has a School Community Council. Mr. Heaton explained that the state was previously sued and settled out of court, which contributed to the Red for Ed funding, much of which came from the State Land Trust. This funding supports the district's basic operations. He noted that there is currently a lawsuit against the School Facilities Board and expressed hope that districts may again receive lump-sum allocations in the future. Board Member Johnson asked where trust land funds appear in the budget, and Mr. Heaton stated they are likely included as part of ADM funding. Board Member Johnson mentioned that a community group wants to assist the school and inquired about School Community Councils. Board Member Fagnan shared an example from a previous committee regarding the purchase of new buses, noting that a federal grant required the buses to be electric. The committee reviewed the pros and cons of electric vehicles. Mr. Heaton added that the district could not afford electric buses and noted that in Bullhead City, the four electric buses they acquired can only be used for half a day due to heat-related limitations.

INFORMATION ITEMS

20. News articles about the schools.

21. Upcoming Governing Board Conferences:

- a. Webinar – Why Retreats Matter: Strengthening Governance Through Reflection and Planning – April 8, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.
- b. Webinar – Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Questions, Highlights and What's Next – May 13, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.
- c. 2026 Summer Leadership Institute – June 4-6, 2026 at Little America Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ.

22. Notification of Regulations for Policy Advisory #960

- a. Regulation – DIE-R



23. School Calendar 2025/2026
24. Baseball Schedule
25. Softball Schedule
26. Next Meeting – March 16, 2026 Training Work Session and April 9, 2026 Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Fagnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Wright. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board President Cobb: Yes
Board Member Fagnan: Yes
Board Secretary Hogan: Absent
Board Member Johnson: Yes
Board Member Wright: Yes**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Mark Cobb, Governing Board President

Troy Heaton, Superintendent

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sheree Goessman
Human Resources Director