

DRAFT

**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, March 23, 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, Jason Shover, and Thomas Zakrzewski were present. Student Board Member Emma Turley was also present.

ROLL CALL

Others in attendance include Angela Mauriello (on behalf of the LTA), Tiffany Wysocki, Donny Miller, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were 7 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 Mr. Drinkwine:

**RESO #1-03/23/2026
Accept Resignation –
Jason Shover**

“RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, the resignation of Jason Shover, Board of Education Member, effective June 30, 2026.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Abstain – 1
Mr. Shover

Motion Carried 8-0-1

Motion by Ms. Richards:

**RESO #2-03/23/2026
Approve Meeting
Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for March 23, 2026.

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9

Nays – 0

Motin Carried
Unanimously

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Fairhurst reported for the Audit Committee.

- Large Medicaid payment was received.
- Claims Auditor update was reviewed.
- Student Clubs update was reviewed.

Mrs. Fairhurst reported for the Safety & Facilities Committee

- Maintenance Plan was reviewed which provided an evaluation of equipment.
- Discussion was held regarding staffing.
- Safety Committee update was provided by Linda Klime. Quarterly updates will be provided in the future.

Mr. Cusack reported for the Troy Planning Board

- The previous Executive Director has been recalled. We are working with an outside consulting agency to help facilitate the IDA becoming its own authority with a paid Director. The task is expected to take 2 years.
- A \$5,000 NY Main Street Grant was awarded. It is going to be used for façade improvements in the JJ Automotive area.
- Peabody Apartments was tabled.
- Townhomes are part of the Governor’s affordable housing plan. They are available to first time home buyers at the cost of \$265,000.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Shover:

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

**RESO #3-03/23/2026
Approve Financial Reports**

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2026.

**RESO #4-03/23/2026
Approve Minutes**

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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PERSONNEL – CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #5-03/23/2026
Accept Resignations**

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

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
Danielle Koetzner	Teaching Assistant	TES	Resignation	03/13/26

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #6-03/23/2026
Appoint Instructional
Staff**

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

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step
Matthew Myhre	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	03/03/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$125/day - Uncertified TA
Sophia Condon	Longterm Substitute	TES	N/A	Temporary	03/09/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$258.42/day
Danielle Koetzner	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	03/16/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$125/day - Certified TA
Nadine O'Connell	Teaching Assistant	KMS	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	03/16/2026 - 03/15/2030	Step 4 - \$20.97
Abigail Owens	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	03/16/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$125/day - Uncertified TA
Anya Roe	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	03/23/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$125/day - Certified TA
Emma Laughlin	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	03/30/2026 - 03/29/2030	Step 4 - \$20.97
Nathaniel Foster	Substitute (Instructional)	District	N/A	Annual	04/13/2026 - 06/30/2026	\$125/day - Uncertified TA

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

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Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESO #7-03/23/2026
Approve Additional
Assignments

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

Name	Position / Purpose	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Compensation
Erin Teta	TA Assistance for Unified Bowling	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	Hourly Rate
James Hoteling	SpEd Tutoring	QIII	Temporary	03/02/26 - 03/27/26	Up to 6 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Katherine Rice	Medical Tutoring	District	Temporary	03/02/26 - 04/30/26	Up to 12 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Schlane Borthwick	Medical Tutoring	District	Temporary	03/02/26 - 04/30/26	Up to 12 extra hours per week - \$30/hr.
Jeffrey Pasinella	Weight Room Advisor	LHS	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Jonathan Pravel	Weight Room Advisor	LHS	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Devan Miller	Baseball - Varsity Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Edwin Gerena	Baseball - Varsity Assistant Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Ryan Davis	Baseball - J.V. Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Ryan Davis	Baseball - Modified Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Dallas Foard	Outdoor Track - Varsity Boys Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Willie Short	Outdoor Track - Varsity Boys Assistant Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Jessica Bouchard	Outdoor Track - Modified Boys Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Monica Jerry	Outdoor Track - Varsity Girls Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend

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Carly Betts	Outdoor Track - Varsity Girls Assistant Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Maria Inserra	Outdoor Track - Modified Girls Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Jim Swab	Softball - Varsity Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Mike Patreggani	Softball - Varsity Assistant Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Samantha Casale	Softball - Modified Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Guy DiBacco	Unified Basketball - Varsity Co-Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend (split)
Lisa Puckey	Unified Basketball - Varsity Co-Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend (split)
John Perugino	Flag Football- Varsity Head Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Sean Daley	Flag Football- Varsity Assistant Coach	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Susan Alberino	New Teacher Mentoring	TES	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$1,000 Stipend (Title II Grant Funds)
Meaghan Burke	Girls Basketball Club	RPES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Up to 10 hours per week - \$30/hr. (Title IV Funds)
Diana Petralia	Girls Basketball Club	RPES	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Up to 10 hours per week - \$30/hr. (Title IV Funds)
Sean Daley	Athletic Event Staff Ticket Taker / Chaperone / Announcer / Time Keeper / Clock Operator	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Time Keeper: \$65 Double Header (JV/V) \$40 Single Contest Chaperones: \$65 Double Header (JV/V) \$40 Single Contest Announcer: \$65 Double Header (JV/V) \$40 Single

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					Contest Shot Clock: \$65 Double Header (JV/V) \$40 Single Contest Ticket Taker: \$40 Event
Samuel Tanner	Ski Club	LHS	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Contractual Stipend
Brian Huba	Professional Development Presentation-How Poverty Affects Student Performance.	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	up to 5 hours at \$30/hour Title II Funds
Derek Shuttleworth	Professional Development Presentation-How Poverty Affects Student Performance.	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	up to 5 hours at \$30/hour Title II Funds
David Merrill	Teacher - Senior Bootcamp	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr.
Nicholas Foglia	Teacher - Senior Bootcamp	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr.
Derek Shuttleworth	Teacher - Senior Bootcamp	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	\$30/hr.
Suzette Wood	Teaching Assistant - Senior Bootcamp	LHS	Temporary	SY 2025-2026	Hourly Rate

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints

RESO #8-03/23/2026
Appoint Non-
Instructional Staff

Name	Position	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Effective Date
Lesley Gross	School Nurse (RN)	LHS/KMS	Non-Competitive (Permanent)	Effective 03/09/2026	Step 4 - \$34.91/hr.	03/09/26

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Jessica Vartigian	Secretary 1	TES	Non-Competitive Probationary (NY HELPS)	26 week probation 03/09/26 - 09/08/26	Step 3 - \$25.32/hr.	03/09/26
Haley Haughney	Secretary 1	KMS	Non-Competitive Probationary (NY HELPS)	26 week probation 03/16/26 - 09/15/26	Step 3 - \$25.32/hr.	03/16/26
Lauryn Marable	Student Worker - 21st Century Program	District	Annual	SY 2025-2026	Minimum wage	03/09/26

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #9-03/23/2026
Accept Donations

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

From	Amount	Purpose
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 20.00	Music Program
Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 20.00	Music Program
Stewart’s Holiday March Grant	\$1,500.00	Vision/Hearing Equipment

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Shover:

RESO #10-03/23/2026
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 March 20, 2026, relating to sick time.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Hines:

RESO #11-03/23/2026
Appoint Election Inspectors

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following Election Inspectors for the School Budget Vote and Board Member Election scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, with compensation at the daily rate of \$200.00 with an additional \$25.00 for those selected as Chief Inspectors:

Allen Macey, LHS Chief Inspector	Mary Munhall, TES Chief Inspector
Eileen Schmitt	Barbara Smollin
Carol Schongar (partial day)	Beverly Cottrell

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Ms. Hines:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints the following staff be assigned as Election Inspector for the School Budget Vote and Board Member Election scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, with compensation as follows:

Lynne Dolan (4:30-8:30 pm) with compensation at current hourly rate

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

RESO #12-03/23/2026
Appoint Election Inspector

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Hines:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves compensation of \$25 for the purpose of training (date to be determined) for the School Budget Vote and Board Member Election for the following Election Inspectors:

Allan Macey Carol Schongar Eileen Schmitt
Mary Munhall Barbara Smollin Beverly Cottrell

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

RESO #13-03/23/2026
Approve Compensation

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Hines:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board reappoints the following staff members as the Board of Registration for the 2025-2026 school year:

Lynne Dolan Darwin Carr
Tammy Fruscio Donna Welcome

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

RESO #14-03/23/2026
Appoint Board of Registration

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Zakrzewski:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- 5405 - Student Wellness
- 8121.2 – Automated External Defibrillators
- 8130 – School Safety Plans and Teams
- 8505 – Charging School Meals and Prohibiting Against Shaming
- 8520 – Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

Second: Mr. Drinkwine

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

RESO #15-03/23/2026
Accept First Reading of Policies

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

**RESO #16-03/23/2026
Authorize Disposal of
Assets**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to dispose/transfer the following items:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Asset Tag #</u>	<u>HD?</u>
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211206	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211171	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211168	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211248	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	6200	212021	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211123	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211187	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G1	211183	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211439	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1504	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1502	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211468	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1505	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211462	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1509	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211436	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211435	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212783	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1450	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	215588	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	210514	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211148	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	1525	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212816	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212740	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212676	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211460	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212750	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211452	Removed

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HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211477	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212631	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212742	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212787	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212626	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212619	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212814	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212705	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	211434	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212910	Removed
HP	Desktop Computer	800 G2	212674	Removed
Smart	Document Camera	DC-330	201779	NA
Smart	Document Camera	DC-330	201755	NA
Smart	Document Camera	DC-330	202657	NA

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Hines

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Shover:

**RESO #17-03/23/2026
SEQRA Resolution
for LHS/KMS Capital
Project**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Lansingburgh Central School District (“Board”) is considering to undertake a project at Lansingburgh High School and Knickerbocker Middle School involving building interior and exterior upgrades for new secure vestibules / office renovations, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing system upgrades, and site improvements including replacement of the existing synthetic turf field within the running track, running track drainage improvements, stadium scoreboard, timing, and sound system upgrades, and athletic field equipment replacement, and associated work for all of the above (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to fully comply with its obligations under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and the regulations thereunder with respect to the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has consulted with its Architects and Engineers with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action, and has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 1; and

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WHEREAS, some of the above school buildings/sites are separated geographically with no environmental impacts between them for SEQRA determination purposes with the only connection being that the entire Project is subject to a single funding source and vote by the residents of the School District. Therefore, the Board will consider this as one single resolution to negate any perception of segmentation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in the SEQRA Regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 and has determined that the Proposed Action is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2) and/or (8) of the SEQRA Regulations;

WHEREAS, the Board has carefully considered the nature and scope of the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the foregoing, the Board makes the following determinations:

1. The proposed action at Lansingburgh High School and Knickerbocker Middle School involves building interior and exterior upgrades for new secure vestibules / office renovations, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing system upgrades, and site improvements including replacement of the existing synthetic turf field within the running track, running track drainage improvements, stadium scoreboard, timing, and sound system upgrades, and athletic field equipment replacement, and associated work for all of the above (“the Project”).
2. The proposed Project represents maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing facility or structure within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1); and/or alternatively the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility in kind within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(2); and/or alternatively a routine activity of an educational institution, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area, within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(8).
3. The proposed action will in no case have a significant adverse impact based on the environment based on the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c), and is not otherwise a Type I action as defined by 6 NYCRR § 617.4.

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4. The proposed action is a Type II action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5 and is therefore not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board finds and concludes that the proposed action is a Type II action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5 and therefore is not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder.

Second: Mr. Zakrzewski

Ayes – 9

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

RESO #18-03/23/2026
Proposition to be
Presented to Voters

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AT TROY (the “School District”) that the following proposition be presented to the voters at the annual meeting of the School District to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026:

PROPOSITION

SHALL the Board of Education of the Lansingburgh Central School District at Troy on March 23, 2026 be authorized to: (1) reconstruct, renovate and improve various School District buildings, facilities and sites, acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings, facilities and sites are to be used and pay incidental costs related thereto, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$4,050,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy of the necessary tax, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$4,050,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include notice of such proposition in the notice of the annual School District meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect immediately

Second: Mrs. Curtis

Ayes – 9

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 18-19.

RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 20-21.

KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 22-23.

Principal's Reports

By Emma Turley:

**Student Board
Member Report**

Seniors:

- The top 10 were announced!
- Senior superlatives were announced, with the pictures being taken during the school day both today and tomorrow.
- The district is actively posting scholarship opportunities on SchoolLinks.

Athletics:

- Spring sports are starting and are in full swing with scrimmages coming up within the next few weeks. All schedules are available on the district website.
- As of right now, there are 17 schools in attendance for our Outdoor Track & Field Invitational on April 24, 2026—the Lansingburgh Knight Classic, which will be held under the lights. We are so excited to announce that this will be the largest meet that Lansingburgh has hosted in the last two decades.
- Girls Flag Football is a GO! First season, very excited to see how it goes. (Girls football and Girls wrestling are the fastest growing sports in the country right now).

Academics:

- Two new regents exams: Algebra 2 and ELA
- The high school will be field testing Global 2 and Physics
- Senior in danger meetings taking place
 - Boot camp begins the week after Spring break

Attendance:

- **Feb-March:** 9th: 81% , 10th: 82% , 11th: 85% , 12th: 85%
 - **LHS Year to Date:** 86.4%
 - Prom Contract Expectations have been posted and sent out (Attendance and Grades)

Food For Thought: Addressing FOOD SECURITY

A Public Deliberation Event In Troy

“ This public deliberation is a structured community conversation where residents come together to weigh options, share perspectives, and work toward solutions on important local issues.

Join us to discuss food insecurity in Troy– exploring challenges, opportunities, and community-driven approaches to ensuring everyone has access to nutritious food. “

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WHEN?

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

5:30 PM – FOOD AVAILABLE

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM – DELIBERATION

WHERE?

Revolutionary Hall

Next to Brown's Brewing Co.

425 River Street, Troy, NY

WHO IS INVITED?

Community leaders, residents, those who want to increase food security, food business owners, and anyone who cares about our community's wellbeing are welcome.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

Dr. Peter R. Sawyer

Professor at HVCC

p.sawyer@hvcc.edu

By Mrs. McGrouty:

Assessments:

- NYS ELA April 21 and 22 for KMS and May April 28 and 29 for KMS RPES will be computer-based testing.

UPK Audit:

The prekindergarten program is housed at Turnpike Elementary School and includes both State-Funded four-year-old (UPK) classrooms and three-year-old (EPK) classrooms, creating a cohesive early learning continuum. This structure supports strong, long-term relationships with families, provides consistent developmental support, allows for smoother age-to-age transitions, and enables earlier identification of children's strengths and needs.

- The district demonstrates a strong, collaborative approach to curriculum planning and implementation across the EPK and UPK programs. The UPK team meets weekly to develop focus sheets aligned with the standard aligned curriculum maps, which are then shared with special area teachers and related service providers to support consistent thematic integration across all learning environments.
- While there is an alignment between the EPK and UPK programs, with classrooms exploring the same themes, each program maintains differentiated and developmentally appropriate learning objectives. This creates cohesion across the program while ensuring instruction meets the needs of each age group. For example, the three-year-olds focused on identifying Arctic animals and basic features, while the four-year-olds

**Assistant
Superintendent
Report**

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extended the theme to include hibernation, adaptation, and migration. The vertical alignment between EPK and UPK ensures continuity, with EPK providing early exposure to key concepts that are examined more deeply in UPK.

- The theme of “Arctic Animals” is evident across the prekindergarten program. This is immediately noticeable upon entering the prekindergarten wings, where hallways are lined with thoughtfully designed bulletin boards that extend the learning into each classroom. Inside the classrooms, the theme is intentionally woven into every learning center and reinforced through abundant displays of children’s authentic artwork pride, inviting children to revisit them as meaningful learning tools (See Appendix).
- The consistent theme of “Arctic Animals” was thoughtfully woven throughout the well-equipped and clearly defined learning centers. Each center offers rich, meaningful content and included developmentally appropriate “I can” statements that support children in understanding and engaging with the theme. Integrating theme across the program classroom enters creates cohesive, meaningful learning experiences that helps children make connections, stay engaged, and explore the theme independently. This approach also supports diverse learners by providing multiple entry points and reinforcing skills across all developmental domains (See Appendix).
- Materials that support reading and writing are intentionally integrated across all learning centers, including dramatic play, blocks, and science. Each center provides accessible print materials,

THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE of EARLY LEARNING
2025-2026 Quality Assurance Protocol Report

3 writing tools, and opportunities for children to engage in literacy-related activities. Embedding meaningful, developmentally appropriate literacy supports throughout the environment promotes authentic language and print experiences. This print-rich design allows young learners to practice early reading, writing, and communication skills naturally during play, reinforcing that literacy is connected to all parts of their day.

- Prekindergarten teachers use Heggerty and Foundations, evidence-based literacy curricula that support early language and literacy development. This practice aligns with NYSED’s Literacy Instructional Best Practices by providing systematic phonological awareness instruction, embedding rich oral language opportunities, and establishing consistent, developmentally appropriate routines that build essential foundational skills for future reading success.
- The science and discovery centers include a variety of engaging, hands-on materials and resources that align with the current theme or study. Providing themes related activities deepens student curiosity, supports

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inquiry-based exploration, and strengthens connections to classroom learning.

- All classrooms include a cozy, accessible calming area with visuals that mode.

Other:

- EPK/UPK Registration. Screenings in spring
- Planning with building principals for PD needs for 26-27
- Planning dates with Professional Learning Committees

By Dr. Abitabile:

Superintendent Report

- Our next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st. This is the annual budget vote and board member election for Questar III BOCES.
- Version 4 of the LCSD proposed budget will be ready in a few days and will be sent to the Board.
- Filming for the Capital Project is nearly complete.
- Petitions for Board of Education candidates are due to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20th. Anyone wanting a petition can obtain one by contacting Christina Williams at the District Office.
- We have had some discussion on the return of the emergency closure days. A recommendation will come to the Board at the next board meeting.
- There is a possibility that we will not receive another 21st Century Grant. We are working on writing an Extended School Day Grant from NYS.
- We continue to struggle filling the Athletic Director position. We are very grateful to Mike Robins for helping us out until the position is filled.
- Lilo the Therapy Dog has graduated from therapy school and will be starting here at Turnpike on Friday.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #19-03/23/2026 Executive Session

Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 6:51 p.m. for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #20-03/23/2026 Adjourn

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 7:20 p.m.

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

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

District Goal	
Attendance	<p>Our attendance winner for the month of February was Kobe Smith. He was randomly selected to receive a certificate and gift card and has only missed one day of school this year! We have also noticed that student attendance tends to be higher when classroom and school-wide events are held, such as Valentine’s Day celebrations, the Book Fair, and assemblies.</p>
SEL & TSS	<p>Character Education:</p> <p>Our March character trait is Determination. Teachers were provided with resources and classroom activities to help students understand and apply this trait, especially when facing challenges. We will celebrate this work during our upcoming Character Education Assembly on March 27th, where we will recognize students who exemplify determination.</p> <p>Restorative Practices:</p> <p>This month, we are hosting our third staff circle focused on strengthening community and building staff capacity. During this session, staff will engage in community-building circle activities, practice facilitating circles, and receive ready-to-use ideas, including strategies tailored for special area teachers.</p>

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	<p>Student Support & Success:</p> <p>We revisited our school-wide Bee Expectations in common areas and are working to increase visibility by ordering larger posters for display throughout the building. In addition, we created a classroom version of the Bee Expectations and will be sharing this with staff to begin aligning classroom expectations to our school-wide framework, with the goal of full implementation next school year.</p> <p>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI):</p> <p>As part of our ongoing SEL work, classrooms engaged in learning about Ramadan and Eid. Teachers were provided with resources to support student understanding and foster inclusivity as we recognize and celebrate diverse cultures and traditions within our school community.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	<p>On February 26, the PTA hosted our Glow Bingo event with over 200 attendees—another free event for our families to enjoy. On March 1, we held our joint Skate Knight at Guptill’s with over 200 attendees. The annual PTA auction brought in over \$4,000, and events like this allow us to continue providing free opportunities for our students and families.</p> <p>We also held our Spring Book Fair from March 17–19, where parent volunteers assisted throughout the event. Every student receives a book, regardless of whether they have the funds. In addition, our Literacy Night takes place on March 19. This free event includes games and snacks, and students also receive a free book for attending.</p>
Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction	<p>During the March Superintendent’s Conference Day, K–2 teachers participated in professional development centered on the implementation of the new Arts & Letters program. The training provided an overview of the program’s structure, instructional routines, and research-based practices that emphasize vocabulary development, language acquisition, and knowledge building. Teachers strengthened their understanding of how to support students in developing oral language and expanding content knowledge. This work reflects our district’s continued commitment to fostering strong literacy foundations for all primary students.</p>

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RENSSELAER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

RPES Attendance		
Grade	March (so far)	YTD, 2025-2026
3	89.32%	91.25%
4	89.54%	91.65%
5	91.33%	91.96%
Overall	90.08%	91.60%

District Goal	
Attendance	<p>We are continuing our efforts to address chronic absenteeism and support strong attendance habits for all students. As part of this work, we have been recognizing students on the morning show for positive attendance and punctuality.</p> <p>With report cards released on Friday, March 20th, we also sent home tardy letters for students who have 10% or more tardiness. Our goal is to partner with families to ensure students are arriving on time and ready to learn each day.</p>
SEL & TSS	<p>In March we have been learning about problem solving in the Second Step Program. The first step is to say the problem by using I statements (I feel, I need, I want) rather than arguing or blaming. The next being thinking of solutions and possible outcomes. We have been focusing on the concept of compromise, where we can be flexible and everyone feels good about the solution. For the TSS committee we have chosen to focus on self-care, such as drinking water, getting enough sleep and physical activity to help us feel better physically and mentally.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	<p>PARP (Pick a Reading Partner):</p> <p>We are excited to be making our way through our PARP program! Students have been actively engaged in reading both at school and at home, building strong literacy habits and a love for books. PARP is a wonderful opportunity</p>

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	<p>to strengthen the connection between school and home through shared reading experiences.</p> <p>We are also excited for everyone to attend our upcoming Literacy Night, one of our biggest events of the year, alongside our Harvest Fest in the fall! We look forward to seeing our families come together again to celebrate reading.</p> <p>Reading Night:</p> <p>Our students participated in Reading Night on March 4th! Families joined us with stuffed animals and blankets to read together alongside teachers. It was a wonderful way to come together as a school community and kick off PARP!</p> <p>FAC Meeting:</p> <p>We will be holding our Family & Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting on Wednesday, March 25th. During this time, we will connect with families to share upcoming dates and important updates. We look forward to connecting with you!</p> <p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3/25-3/16 Book fair• 3/26 Literacy Knight, 6-7:30, PARP!• 4/15 PTA Meeting, 6p.m. (virtual)
<p>Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>Teachers conducted a deep dive into student performance data across specific New York State Math and ELA standards. For areas where student achievement surpassed district averages, teachers shared the successful instructional strategies they implemented to drive those results. Finally, the team identified standards where students underperformed and collaborated on plans to integrate targeted, remedial instruction into both current and upcoming units.</p> <p>The 3rd grade teachers who will be implementing Arts & Letters PD next year participated in the Launch Workshop on Superintendent's Conference Day.</p>

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KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	March	YTD, 2025-2026
6	88%	85%
7	87%	89%
8	89%	93%
KMS	88%	89%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	In efforts to increase the attendance percentage, KMS support team initiated a staff versus modified boys and girls basketball game. In order to be able to attend the game on April 2nd, student can only miss one day of school from March 16th to April 2nd, Students and staff are very excited and looking forward to this event!
SEL/School Climate	<p>At the beginning of the month, the school climate team launched a recognition program called “Caught Being Good.” Students who go above and beyond can be “caught being good” and receive a ticket. Once they earn five tickets, they can cash them in for a reward.</p> <p>For the month of March, School Counselors will be pushing into classrooms and focusing on Career Planning/Career Exploration. Students will be utilizing SchoolLinks to begin exploring different career options.</p>
Family & Community Engagement	<p>On March 12th, KMS held their third annual Cultural Night 2026. It was a huge success! We had several community partners attend. Each team had several student ambassadors to greet and talk to guest about the country they studies.</p> <p>Student Council hosted the 4th annual double dutch bowling night at Hilltop Bowling alley. Over 60 students and family members attended this year.</p>
Curriculum and Instruction	On March 13th, content area teachers met to discuss grading consistency across grade levels. Teachers looked at student work, developed criteria for specific proficiencies and determined grading scales for each level. Student work was then used to create anchor

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	<p>papers for each level. This is just the beginning of our work around grading and high expectations.</p> <p>Content area teachers are beginning to prepare for NYS assessments. Test Prep units will begin as we near April break. Units have been created based on data from midterms and IXL diagnostics. Teachers are utilizing NYS released questions to prepare the students for the level of questioning on the assessment.</p> <p>On March 19th, the KMS Shared Decision Making Committee took part in a walk through. We recorded data on pacing, rigor, student engagement and student independence. The SDM will be using the results to set building goals for next school year.</p>
21st Century Program	<p>There are 162 students that are meeting for 15 hours or more of programming. Students are looking forward to drumming with Jordan Taylor Hill, learning to sew, and learning about musical instruments (specially string) with programming through the Arts Center and the Music Hall.</p> <p>Additionally, students will have the opportunity to attend robotics club and to learn about (and sample) NYS products with Cornell Cooperative Extension.</p> <p>Most students continue to take ownership of their academics and prioritize getting assistance after school when needed.</p>