

**LAWNSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
*February 12, 2026*

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at **7:16pm** in person by Board President, Ms. Still following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the following members were present during roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Cauthorne; Catlett; Harper; Hurley; Kittles; Still 6 Present  
Austin; Arterbridge; Forrest 3 Absent

Motion Carried

Also present were Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, Jennifer Johnson, Board Secretary, Mark Gordon, Assistant Business Administrator and Darryl Rhone, Board Solicitor.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT**

President Still read that public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been provided by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

- Posting written notice on the official school bulletin board at the Lawnside School
- Sending notice to the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers
- Posting on the district website

***APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES***

Motion by Mr. Harper, seconded by Ms. Hurley to approve January 6, 2026 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call:

Cauthorne; Catlett; Harper; Hurley; Kittles; Still 6 Yes  
Austin; Arterbridge; Forrest 3 Absent

Motion Carried

***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

Motion by, Mr. Harper, seconded by Ms. Kittles to approve the Superintendent's Report as written.

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***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED***

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Lawnside School District is to educate our students, through mastery of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), to become independent thinkers and problem solvers so they will be empowered to meet the challenges of and achieve success in tomorrow's emerging world community. The educational community will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered and diversity is respected.

**Annual School Plan Goals:**

To address the academic and social needs of our students, the Stakeholder Group of the district developed our Annual School Plan. The following Annual School Plan Goals will be a priority for the 2025-2026 school year:

**Area of Focus #1: ELA**

By June 2026, 31% students will show proficiency of grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the LinkIt Benchmark Assessment.

**Area of Focus #2: SEL**

90% of the staff will utilize the PBSIS goal of a 3:1 ratio of positive student-staff interaction for every one corrective action as documented through ClassDojo and teacher observations/walkthroughs.

**Area of Focus #3: Math**

By June 2026, 16.9% will show proficiency of grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the LinkIt Benchmark assessment.

**Area of Focus #4: Writing**

50% of students will achieve a proficient score, "3" for grades 3-8 and a "2" for grades K-2, as measured by common rubric by the end of 2025-2026 school year.

**Acknowledgement:**

*On behalf of the entire Lawnside School Community, I would like to thank Mayor Wardlow and both the Public Safety & Public Works Departments for supporting the school district in ensuring our students and staff were able to come to school safely during the snow event that closed school for a couple days. The Mayor's advocacy got the bridges cleared and Captain Plenty allocated resources to assist with students getting to and from school safely.*

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***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED***

**Informational Items:**

Updated School Calendar  
8th Grade Dialogue Letter  
LEA Liaison Meeting Minutes  
Cell Phone Ban Guidelines & Opinion Article  
Student Safety Data System report Period 1

**Student Enrollment- 340**  
**ADA- 304**

**Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 0**

**Suspensions for January: 0**

*The Superintendent is not in receipt of any parental request for a Board Hearing at this time.*

**School Safety Drills:**

Fire Drill- 1/7/26 @ 2:00 PM  
Safety Drill- 1/22/26 @ 10:02 AM Shelter In Place W/Out Instruction

**PERSONNEL** - It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1- 2 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that Ms. Portia Harris Letter of Resignation as PBSIS Advisor be approved effective January 13, 2026.
  
2. It is recommended that the following positions be posted for the 2026 Extended School Year program at the LEA contract rate: 5 Special Education Teachers, 6 Instructional Assistants.

**MANAGEMENT-** It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1-6 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the following ESEA carryover award be approved for submission and acceptance to the New Jersey Department of Education.  
Title I: \$21,450            Title I SIA: \$41,166            Title II: \$7,000
  
2. It is recommended that the Lawnside School District waive participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) during the 2026-2027 school year. *(District does not have the recommended amount of student participation of 40 students)*
  
3. It is recommended that the Student Safety Data System Report for Period 1 (September 2025-December 2025) be approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED  
MANAGEMENT**

4. It is recommended that the following positions be posted to staff Child Study Team meetings during July and August 2026 at the salaried per diem rate; not to exceed 20 days: School Social Worker and School Psychologist.
5. It is recommended that the Lawnside Public School collaborate with the Restorative Justice Partnership to provide professional development on Restorative Justice (Paid through Title I SIA funds). Restorative Justice Practice II: \$10,000
6. It is recommended the following Professional Development opportunities be approved for the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Workshop/Training</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Samantha Kehner	Maximizing On Task Behavior	2/19/26	\$285
Samantha Kehner	Effectively Speaking with Students	3/19/26	\$285
Cheryl McCormick Shyreka Ragland	From Triggers To Triumph	3/2/26	\$85 each
Catherine Henell Mariela Carrion	Building Thinking Classrooms	5/18/26	\$195 each
Jennifer Johnson	Both sides of the equation, financial & interest	2/17/26	\$145
Jennifer Johnson	Purchasing Update	3/24/26	\$145
Jennifer Johnson	Audit Update	4/14/26	\$145

**FIELD TRIPS-**

It is recommended that the following trip(s) be approved for the 2025-2026 school year.

<b>Class/Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Boys Basketball, Cheer, & Dance Teams	Sixers Game	3/10/26	\$2E

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***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED***

Roll Call:

Cauthorne; Catlett; Harper; Hurley; Kittles; Still 6 Yes  
Austin; Arterbridge; Forrest 3 Absent

Motion Carried

***PUBLIC COMMENTS on ACTION ITEMS***

Motion by Ms. Kittles, seconded by Ms. Hurley, and unanimously approved by all present to open the floor to public comment.

No comments.

Motion by Ms. Kittles, seconded by Ms. Hurley, and unanimously approved by all present to close the floor to public comment.

***CORRESPONDENCE***

Camden County School Boards Association is hosting its annual 8th Grade Dialogue. This event is a celebration to eight-grade students who have demonstrated exceptional character, determination, leadership, and community service, inspiring us all.

8th grade class president, Asyia Birch, will represent Lawnside Public Schools at this event on March 4, 2026 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Members who wish to attend must register through the Board Secretary, Ms. Johnson by Friday, February 20th.

***OLD BUSINESS***

None at this time.

***NEW BUSINESS***

None at this time.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee reports at this time. Each Member was asked at the January reorganization meeting to contact President Still if they would like to participate in a different committee or different role. After speaking with each Member, President Still appointed the following committees and chairpersons for the 2026 year.

Chairpersons:

Policy	Chanelle Arterbridge
Curriculum	Michael Harper
Outreach	Sydney Hurley
Personnel & Finance	Ferin Catlett
Haddon Heights Representative	Chanelle Arterbridge
Camden County Educational Services Commission	Michael Harper

Committee Members

Policy Members	Henry Austin, Sabrina Forrest
Curriculum Members	Sabrina Forrest, Sydney Hurley
Outreach Members:	Nana Cauthorne, Bridgette Kittles
Personnel & Finances Members	Henry Ausitn, Bridgette Kittles

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Motion by Member, seconded by Member, and unanimously approved by all present to open the floor to public comment.

**Shanise Key, 112 North White Horse Pike, Somerdale NJ**, addressed the Board regarding the recent confiscation of her student's cell phone. She requested improved communication when new policies are implemented and expressed disappointment regarding her interactions with school leadership, asking the Board to address staff professionalism.

Dr. Johnson explained the exiting governor signed legislation that districts must have a cell phone ban if one does not already exist. The district's policy encourages students to store phones in their lockers, though use is permitted during lunch. For students who carry phones to class, designated pouches are provided; however, if a device is kept on a student's person and causes disruption, teachers are instructed to confiscate the phone. Dr. Johnson and the district security officer will be attending a webinar on Tuesday discussing how to mesh current policies with new requirements. Dr. Johnson acknowledged speaking with Ms. Key, and addressed her concerns with his staff.

**Miss Khamani Key, 112 North Blackhorse Pike, Somerdale NJ** a former student addressed the Board about favoritism among staff with students. She stated that she felt this way when she was attending school and she has had students currently communicating the same feelings to her recently and she felt compelled to come and talk with the Board. How can we help these students?

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Mr. Rhone explained the Board policy of no retaliation. He encouraged students to talk with Dr. Johnson or if they are uncomfortable talking, write a letter to Dr. Johnson or the Board of Education.

**Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley**, addressed the Board and public present to announce the unveiling of the Mahummed Ali stamp on March 7, 2026 at the Community Center. And asked for the conversation from last month's meeting regarding the district's registration process to be explained again.

Dr. Johnson explained the district's registration process for students enrolled in preschool, kindergarten, and eighth grade. High school students re-register every other year once they graduate from Lawnside Public School.

**Ms. Higgs, 131 Lapierre Ave**, addressed the Board (1) what are action items? (2) The January Board meeting was changed but not updated on the website. (3) What is the National Junior Honor Society criteria to be eligible?

Mr. Rhone explained that action items are any item on the agenda that the board will vote on this evening. Ms. Still confirmed with the Board Secretary the meeting was advertised in the paper, and asked that the website be updated.

Dr. Johnson explained the National Junior Honor Society Advisor in collaboration with the Director of Curriculum based on grades and test scores sends out eligibility letters to the students to take home and share with their parents. The letter explains the additional expectations of the students who accept participation in the National Junior Honor Society, i.e. community service, and the letter is signed by the parents and returned to the school.

The Advisor asked if sixth grade students can be inducted and this March we will be inducting sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who are now eligible.

Dr. Johnson encouraged Ms. Higgs to call the school and ask to speak with the National Junior Honor Society Advisor. If they are unable to speak at that time, the Advisor will return her call.

**Lawnside Fire Chief Mark Jay Jr.** highlighted Resolution #268, approving the Lawnside Fire Department's application to host a **two-day Centennial Jazz Celebration**, a fundraiser honoring **114 years of volunteer service** by the Lawnside Fire Company No. 1.

More than a decade ago, the department held a jazz celebration at the school that became a major community success. This year, they aim to build on that legacy with a two-day event featuring the return of **The Duke Ellington Orchestra**, once again lending its support to the department and the community.

Tickets for the Centennial Jazz Celebration can be purchased through the Fire Department's website at LawnsideFire.org and <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/lawnside-fire-department-centennial-celebration>

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**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Harper acknowledged he attended the Camden County Education Services meeting this month, regular business was conducted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Ms. Catlett, seconded by Ms. Hurley to approve the following resolutions:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Resolution #261 | Payment of Bills preliminary list attached.  |
| Resolution #262 | Line Item Transfers for the month of December 2025.  |
| Resolution #263 | Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for December 2025.   |
| Resolution #264 | ESEA resolution to approve FY2025-2026 Carryover Awards.   |
| Resolution #265 | IDEA resolution to approve FY2025-2026 Carryover Awards.   |
| Resolution #266 | Accept the June 30, 2025 audit report and approval of the correct action plan.                   |
| Resolution #267 | Approve FY2026-2027 (SEMI) Special Education Medicaid Initiative waiver.                         |
| Resolution #268 | Facility use application from the Lawnside Fire Department 100 Year Centennial Jazz Celebration. |

**Roll Call:**

Cauthorne; Catlett; Harper (*Abstained resolution #268*); Hurley; Kittles;  
Still (*Abstained resolution #266*) 6 Present  
Austin; Arterbridge; Forrest 3 Absent

Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Mr. Harper, seconded by Ms. Kittles, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at **7:49pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Johnson*  
*Board Secretary*