LITTLEFIELD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #9
GOVERNING BOARD WORK SESSION
Administrative Services Site
3490 East Rio Virgin Road
Thursday, June 11, 2026
4:00 P.M.
(Doors Open at 3:45 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 five (5) people in attendance. Board Member Wright was absent and Board Secretary Hogan was on the phone during 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
Dr. Rob Robertson, Interim Elementary Principal
Edward Dickie, Business Manager
Sheree Goessman, Human Resources Director

DISCUSSION

3. Discussion and review of a Small School Adjustment Levy.

Mr. Dickie stated that the high school meets the criteria for the Small School Adjustment Levy, which is based on student enrollment.

Board Member Fagnan asked whether an election would be required. Board President Cobb responded that an election is not necessary. Mr. Heaton explained that the levy would generate approximately $47,000 in additional funding. He further noted that after informing the public and receiving feedback through the Truth in Taxation process, the Governing Board would vote on the levy.

Board Member Johnson asked whether any of the funding could be used at the elementary

school. Mr. Dickie responded that the funds could be used at either school. Mr. Heaton added that if the elementary school had independently qualified, it would have received additional funding as well.

Board Member Johnson asked whether qualification is based on free and reduced-price lunch counts. Mr. Heaton clarified that it is not; rather, it is a Small School Adjustment Levy based on enrollment criteria.

Mr. Heaton explained the difference between a levy and a bond, noting that a levy requires a Truth in Taxation hearing and Governing Board approval, while a bond requires voter approval. He estimated the levy would cost taxpayers less than $5.00 per household annually and noted that this option is only available to qualifying small school districts.

Mr. Heaton stated that everyone he had spoken with supported the levy. Board President Cobb asked whether the item could be added as an action item on a future agenda. Ms. Goessman stated that it could be placed on the July meeting agenda as an action item directing staff to move forward with the process. Mr. Heaton emphasized that work on the levy should begin immediately.

Ms. Gonzales commented that she believes community members would be willing to support an annual cost of approximately $5.00 per household.

4. Review and discussion of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Mr. Dickie reviewed the proposed budget figures for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. The proposed budget reflects total expenditures of $5,016,728 across all funds.

Board Member Johnson asked whether the air conditioning project was included in the Maintenance and Operations budget. Mr. Dickie explained that it is not and that the project will be funded through the School Facilities Board.

Mr. Heaton noted that approximately a year and a half ago, many of the air conditioning units were failing due to issues with the geothermal system. He stated that those issues have since been corrected and that most of the units are now functioning properly. Mr. Dickie added that staff is working diligently to complete the remaining work before the start of the school year.

Mr. Heaton asked about funding related to the COPS Grant. Mr. Dickie explained that the budget would be revised in August and again in May to reflect updated funding information.

Ms. Cummings asked why some departments were not shown separately and indicated that she would like to see them broken out individually. Mr. Dickie explained that the presentation was a budget summary and that the detailed budget document contains the department-level breakdowns. Mr. Heaton added that the Governing Board will adopt the budget in July and that copies of the detailed budget will be available for review.

Board Member Fagnan commented that, based on his experience presenting budgets to boards of directors, the format presented was different from what he was accustomed to seeing.

5. Discussion of fundraising opportunities and strategies.

Board Secretary Hogan reported that Tractor Supply assisted with the pumpkin run and donated tools for the high school body shop program.

Board President Cobb stated that fundraising efforts are often most successful when tied to popular events, such as the Color Run. He suggested that the District and community groups brainstorm additional fundraising opportunities throughout the year, including quarterly events and raffles. He noted that similar opportunities may exist during athletic events.

Ms. Reynolds explained that the PTO funded both Field Day and the Color Run and does not generate revenue from those activities. Board President Cobb suggested exploring ways for community members attending events to make donations or contribute financially so that the PTO is not solely responsible for the costs. Board Secretary Hogan suggested advertising events with banners in the gym that the sponsors purchase. Mr. Heaton noted that banners are already displayed in the gym as a fundraiser for athletics.

Board Member Johnson commented that one challenge with the PTO is that many of the same teachers are involved in both PTO activities and teacher appreciation efforts. She suggested that the community group could assist with promoting community activities.

Board President Cobb asked whether there were any athletic opportunities available at the elementary school. Ms. Gonzales explained that a volleyball club had been offered the previous year. Board President Cobb suggested expanding extracurricular opportunities at the elementary level, noting that activities could support fundraising through banner sponsorships. He added that programs do not necessarily need to be athletic in nature and could include clubs such as a reading club.

Mr. Heaton shared that a community member, Mike Haugen, had indicated he could recruit several volunteers to assist with student programs and activities. Board Member Johnson asked whether the volunteer efforts would support both schools. Ms. Goessman responded that she intended to encourage participation at both the elementary and secondary levels. Board President Cobb emphasized the importance of ensuring that elementary students receive recognition and opportunities through these programs.

Board Member Johnson recalled that when she taught at Canyons, high school students would regularly visit the elementary school to work with younger students. Dr. Rob noted that similar efforts had occurred in past years, including a group of high school girls who volunteered at the elementary school. He added that he worked with Ms. Zarate during the current year to coordinate student volunteers who assisted younger students with reading.

Ms. Etter stated that Board Member Johnson introduced a reading program that she and Ms. Cummings implemented with two classrooms of students. Board Member Johnson explained that although the program is older, it is a phonetic-based reading program. She noted that several teachers reported seeing positive results and improvements in student reading skills. She added that the District is working to increase volunteer participation and make it easier for community members to commit to supporting students.

Dr. Rob stated that Board Secretary Hogan had approached him in May regarding the Wonders Reading Program. Board Secretary Hogan responded that the topic would be better addressed through a separate one-on-one discussion.

6. Discussion regarding Governing Board correspondence with government officials.

Board Secretary Hogan stated that many of the discussions over the past several years have centered on the lack of adequate funding for students, teachers, and schools. He expressed concern that small and rural districts are not receiving sufficient resources and emphasized the need to ensure that their concerns are heard by state officials.

Board Secretary Hogan proposed sending a coordinated letter-writing campaign to elected officials and provided the Governing Board with draft letters for consideration. He stated that greater advocacy is needed to bring attention to the challenges facing the District and other rural schools.

Board Member Johnson asked whether the community group could assist with collecting signatures in support of the effort. Board Secretary Hogan responded that the more voices involved, the more attention the issue would receive. He added that although some have expressed concerns about not being heard by representatives in Kingman, he personally had not received any communication from them during the past four years.

Board Member Johnson stated that she regularly sends emails to several elected officials regarding education-related concerns.

7. Discussion regarding the Community Committee and its activities.

Board Member Johnson reported that she provided copies of information regarding the Community Unity Council to those in attendance. She stated that the Council welcomes input from community members and encourages participation from anyone interested in sharing ideas or concerns.

Board Member Johnson reported that the Council had hoped to help streamline the local food bank's operations but discovered that the food bank was not directly connected with the school. She explained that records for the school's food distribution program are maintained by the high school counselor. Following discussions with the high school counselor, they found out that the food bank only makes two delivery stops: one to the local food bank and one delivery to the elementary school. The high school counselor has always gone down to the elementary school with a group of teens to bring food up to the high school.

Ms. Cummings stated that a volunteer is needed to complete the required paperwork associated with the food program. She expressed hope that the PTO would be able to identify a parent volunteer to assist with the paperwork for the elementary school.

Board Member Johnson emphasized the importance of collaboration and stated that the community, schools, and organizations are most successful when working together as a team. She also commented that the community should be made aware of the positive contributions

students are making, including recent efforts to help clean up Highway 91.

Ms. Cummings stated that she believes a couple of her grandchildren may be willing to assist with creating a Facebook group to help organize volunteers and increase community involvement in local activities and service projects.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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Mark Cobb, Governing Board President

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Troy Heaton, Superintendent

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Sheree Goessman
Human Resources Director