



Lower Merion School District
301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399
www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors August 17, 2026, Business Meeting Highlights

For a complete agenda, visit the [BoardDocs section](#) of the District website.

Closed-captioned [meeting videos](#) are available on the District website within five days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sautner said that the meeting was being held via zoom only due to disruptions at two recent meetings of the Lower Merion Board of School Directors, which caused three recesses, and due to threatening comments posted on social media pages. She noted that the Board supports free speech but cannot tolerate threats or disruptions to the Board's ability to conduct business. The chat was then opened for comments on agenda items for 60 minutes.

Dr. Ranelli noted:

- The first day of school will be Sept. 8, 2026. High school athletes returned to their campuses today to begin fall sports practices, new staff members start their orientation next Monday, and returning staff come back starting August 31, 2026.
- Class and bus assignments are set to appear in the PowerSchool Parent Portal the evening of August 28, 2026.
- Rising Harriton seniors Ethan Zhu and Noelle Streuber-Eden, along with 2026 Lower Merion graduate Yiguo Zhang, were all selected for the National Youth Orchestra of the USA. They performed at Carnegie Hall and then held a concert tour through Germany, the Netherlands, Scotland and Great Britain.
- Two rowers from LMSD competed in the World Rowing Championships. Dahlia Levine, who graduated from Lower Merion in 2020, and Addison Levensten, who graduated from Harriton in June, both represented the US in the international competition in Bulgaria

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(All committee meeting videos are available for one month [on the District website](#))

- Ms. Shurak reported on the August 3, 2026, Policy Committee meeting, where there were discussions of policies listed on tonight's agenda. She added that there has been extensive public input and work on these over the past months, and that if the proposed policies are approved, they will result in considerable changes to the way technology is used in LMSD. She closed by thanking the educators and administrators who are responsible for executing these changes.

- Mr. Herman reported on the August 13, 2026, Facilities and Purchasing Committee meeting, which included a review of the following items: the list of bills, the contracts and the purchasing report items listed on tonight's agenda.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION FOR AGENDA ITEMS

During this audience recognition, District residents commented on the following agenda topics:

- Student device usage in schools and related policies
- Appreciation for the new sound system at BCMS
- Response to public comment
- Decision to hold the meeting via Zoom
- Appreciation for Dr. Ranelli's leadership

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda for consideration:

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved

- District contracts for July and August 2026

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board approved the following contracts and renewals for the 2026-2027 school year:

- District contracts for July 2026

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved:

- District contracts for July 2026
- Presidio Network Solutions quote to upgrade the Cisco phone system
- PowerSchool School Messenger Renewal Quote
- 3-year renewal for UKG Ready Time Accruals Manager, Integration Hub and Scheduler

OLD BUSINESS

The Board approved:

- Policy 141 K-12 Technology Use
- Policy 142 K-12 Technology: Safety, Monitoring and Privacy

The Board approved the following items via Consent Agenda:

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved:

- Personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the summer and upcoming 2026-2027 school year.

The Board noted the passing of the following LMSD employees:

- Shirley Kercher, teacher at BHES from 1962 until her retirement in 1988

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved:

- Student Services Agreements for students receiving non-District educational services.
- Frontline Education renewal contract
- Leader services contract

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board approved the following contracts and renewals for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Securly Pass for grades 5-12
- SchoolMint Hero Ready Software for grades 5-12

BUSINESS OFFICE

The Board approved:

- List of Bills
- Financial Reports
- Resolution authorizing the Administration to submit an application to the Pa. Dept. for Community and Economic Development for funding towards a proposed chiller replacement at LMHS

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved:

- License agreement with LM Aquatic Club
- Proposal from Starlite for BCMS Auditorium system upgrades
- Services agreement with Explorations Staffing Services for a Transportation consultant
- Services agreement with Cintas Uniform Services
- List of contracted transportation drivers and aides
- 3-year renewal with Aardvark Pest Control
- Change orders to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. for BCMS roof replacement

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved:

- Resolution regarding Administrative Finding

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

During this audience recognition, District residents commented on the following non-agenda topics:

- Residents who were banned from upcoming in-person meetings
- Teaching about Communism
- Threatening social media posts

SUNSHINE ACT

Mr. Roos, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, noted the Board met in an Executive/Information session on August 17, 2026.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings will be held in the DAO Board Room (and livestreamed) at 7:00 p.m.

- September 28 – Regular Business Board Meeting

Committee Meetings will be held in the DAO Board Room (and livestreamed) unless noted otherwise:

- September 14 -- Curriculum Committee, 6:00 p.m.
- September 14 – Policy Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- September 24 – Facilities/Purchasing Committee 9:00 a.m. (via Zoom Only)

LMSD BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS is distributed to the community and staff of Lower Merion School District to highlight actions taken at Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the meeting minutes. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings. For information, visit [LMSD.org](https://www.lmsd.org).