

LAMBERT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #86 & #4
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (REGULAR) AGENDA
Monday, July 20, 2026 – 7:00PM in the Lambert School Library

7:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance

The trustees of Lambert School Districts #86 & #4 met in Regular Session on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Lambert School Library.

Members Present: Lacey Mullin, Cheyanne Rauschendorfer, Tara Hill, Alysia Mullin, Kyle Koppinger.

Others Present: Superintendent Kara Triplett, District Clerk Rebecca Miller. Louie and Kari Ligon, Mark Rehbein

7:05 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Lacey Mullin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence

Public Comment

This portion of the meeting is designated as a time for input/questions from the public on items that are not on the agenda. This does not include discussion about individual students, staff or faculty. The Board cannot and will not violate an individual's right to privacy. Please understand that the board members are not able to respond immediately to your questions or concerns. The board will consider your comments carefully and depending on the topic, will refer the matter to the superintendent or will follow up with you at a later date.

Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible Action

Approval of Minutes

Board Meeting (Regular) 6-24-26

Sports Co-op Meeting 6-22-26

Sports Co-op Meeting 7-14-26

Consent Agenda:

Board Approval of Co-op Claims/Claims/Payroll/Student Activity Accounts/Transfers – Tara would like to have some of the student activity accounts from prior graduating classes cleaned up and also the school trip fund should have some designation of funds as well.

Motion made by Cheyenne to accept the board meeting minutes and Co-op Claims/Claims/Payroll/Student Activity Accounts/Transfers. Tara seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Reports

Kara Triplett – Superintendent/AD Report

See attached

MARCO –Kara addressed and clarified the overage charges in the amount of \$6,000 for the school year 2025/2026. We are in a 5-year contract and Kara has discussed with Chris that maybe he can re-negotiate our contract. Chris explained that due to the price of the toner skyrocketing we are still saving money. He is asking MARCO if we can up the colored copies in the office to avoid some of the encourages.

Door Update – discussion on the bid proposal for new doors at the cafeteria entrance. The hinges will also be replaced on the inside set of doors so that the doors themselves don't need to be replaced at this time. The old gym door has a new hinge and is holding the door closed for the time being. Kara will check into the warranty on the new doors.

Vending Machine – could possibly be a student council project. Just a thought to consider for the future

Housing – Salem house carpet is in need of being replaced with laminate including the bathroom/bedrooms this update would be like all the rest of the updates made to the other houses. Touch up paint is needed. Cheyenne mentioned that Matt Sansaver is very handy and could possibly do some of the work that needs to be done. We would need to have an estimate and Matt would need to have an independent contractor exemption. Kara will also talk to Andy.

Something more to consider would be a professional cleaning since it has been lived in for many years and all of the construction that has been done to it. Need to check some of the places that were settling around the house.

Old Business - Discussion/Possible Action

Approve Student Handbook, 2026-27

Continued discussion on the attendance portion of the Student Handbook and wanting to keep the language we have had in the Handbook regarding attendance. We would like to add the "Reserve School" idea, which will allow students to come in on Fridays when we don't have school and potentially after school, too, to make up time they have missed and take away absences. We will potentially use Reserve School for other things, as well (ISS days, detentions, and students who have lots of missing work). We have taken out anything that would violate Montana Code, to include not awarding credit and/or losing points in a class due to absences, as that is illegal. Students currently prove they are "proficient" in their classes based on the grades they achieve. We have added a section stating that teachers will give a final deadline for missing work, and then they may award a zero in that class if the deadline isn't met. That grading system will then define proficiency generally speaking. In the rare case that a student is severely sick, or unable to attend for emergency circumstances, we are able to award proficiency if it is proven differently (they do portions of their assignments and then are able to pass the semester exam) and write a plan to that effect.

The attorney from MTSBA in policy development provided a re-drafted attendance policy but there's continued confusion, contradictory language and there are still items that can't be enforced. Kara has reached out to some other school law officials to see how other schools are handling the enforcement of attendance and will report to the board her findings. Due to the time crunch we will have wording in the back-to-school packet stating that the new attendance policy is coming. When Kara receives the requested information, she will email the board and it will be voted on via email.

New Business - Discussion/Possible Action

Activities' Bus Driver – pay increase request – Mark Rehbein asked to receive a raise adjustment, he stated that it had been 3 years. He also gave an update on the coach, the windshield has been replaced, along with the USB charging stations being added, belts are being changed, however, the arm rest is obsolete and can't be replaced. It will be DOT'd/inspected before it comes back and we should have it by August 17th, 2026. The Board discussed adjusting the base by 3% to \$21.15 Hourly/ \$82.50 per trip. Motion was made by Alysia to accept the 3% hourly/trip adjustment, motion seconded by Cheyenne. All voted aye, motion carried.

Williston State College - Distance Learning Grant – Kara was contacted by WCS's President regarding a million dollar grant they have received to support Installation of distance learning equipment in rural schools. The equipment sounds similar to the ITV equipment we used to have and use in the current resource room. This is the system WSC will use for the classes HS students are required to take to become part of the Nursing program they offer. WSC is very progressive in offering opportunities for rural students to take classes from them and they have been promoting a nursing program where HS students take classes their junior year from WSC-dual credit-and then when they are seniors, they take some additional classes, but then also participate in an internship program with the Sidney Health Center). The grant they received from the Federal Government is for the equipment and we can use the equipment for whatever we would like. Students could take classes from any college, we could use it for Professional Development for our staff, and would be great for us to offer something for Adult Ed purposes. WSC's goal is for it to be operational in the rural schools by the fall of 2027. Sidney, Fairview, Bainville, and Culbertson are on board, they are reaching out to Savage as well. We will need to consider a location for the equipment. A letter was provided by Williston State College and by signing the letter and submitting it on Lambert School Letterhead would be all they need to sign us up.

Motion made by Alysia to let the President of Williston State College know that we are interested in the program by signing and submitting the letter. Motion seconded by Kyle. All voted aye, motion carried.

Student Out of District List, '2026-27 – Kara submitted the Out of District List for approval.

Tuition – The school has been made aware of an In-District student that is being held at a detention facility and the cost that we will have to budget for until further notice.

Motion was made by Alysia to approve the Out of District Student List, motion seconded Cheyenne. All voted aye, motion carried.

Bus Routes, 2026-27 – The contract was submitted for new board members to review. The routes have been updated reflecting a lesser mileage on route 1 and route 2. There is an addition to one route for a pre-school child but the stop is on the way of the route so it's not an adjustment. Discussion on some out of district kids meeting an existing route and as long as it doesn't change the route/mileage and the school approves it is fine with Louie.

Route 5 may have some changes in riders due to a change where the student will attend a different school. Louie is still looking at upgrading some of the busses that are in question. He did state that some older busses are in better running condition than some of the new ones that he has looked at.

Bus Inspections: Louie has reached out and hasn't heard back but will be reaching out again.

Motion was made Kyle to accept the changes to the bus contract, motion seconded by Alysia. All voted aye, motion carried.

Class Schedule, 2026-27 - Kara presented the class schedule

Motion was made by Cheyenne to approve the class scheduled as presented, motion was seconded by Alysia seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Substitute Teacher List, 2026-27 - Kara presented the list with 2 new individuals pending back ground checks.

Motion was made by Kyle to accept the substitute teacher list pending background checks, motion was seconded by Tara seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mentor Contracts, 2026-27 – Kara presented the suggested/recommendation of teacher mentor contracts.

Motion was made by Alysia to accept the mentor contracts as presented, motion seconded by Cheyenne. All voted aye, motion carried.

Extracurricular Contracts, '2026-27 – Kara presented the suggested list of Special Assignment contracts. Kara shared that Sheri Pust came in to visit saying she would be interested in doing the Concessions (which we have formerly referred to as School Trips). She did help out last year but wasn't under contract. She is asking to be able to start with her years of experience she was at last year, and not go backwards. It was agreed upon that the Concessions advisor should be 2 positions due to the amount of work it is.

Motion was made by Kyle, to accept the suggested extracurricular contracts and to offer Sheri both Concession/School Trip stipends based on a backup contingency plan. There was no second, motion failed.

The board suggested that Sheri be asked if she would oppose to Mark Pust being offered the additional Concession/School Trip contract. Kara will have that discussion with Sheri.

Motion was made by Cheyenne to offer one contract to Mark and one to Sheri (School trips/concessions), Motion was seconded by Alysia. All voted aye, motion carried.

Kara interjected the gym clean up needs to go to a different class, the 7th grade class runs into time issues after games and travel situations. Exchange students have to do community service hours so that could be a consideration. The 7th graders can also help in the concession stand. The administration would like the option to open it up to other classes.

Motion made by Tara to accept the other extra-curricular contracts, motion was seconded by Cheyenne, all voted aye, motion carried.

MTSBA - Membership Vote – Kara received an email from MTBSA (Montana School Board's Association) which is calling for a vote from their member schools on a few items, to include voting on some items at a properly posted Board meeting in July or August, including that in our minutes, and then either Lacey or Rebecca will go into an email she was sent to cast the vote for our District, The items that need to be made into a motion, seconded, discussed, and then voted upon include

- Confirmation of the MTSBA's Principles & Guidelines (page 7)
- Confirmation of the foundational elements of MTSBA's DNA (page 13)
- FY28 Dues Review Estimate (You are not voting on our District's FY28 Dues; rather, this is the FY28 Dues Revenue Estimate that is calculated pursuant to the MTSBA Bylaws. Page 37)
- Proposed MTSBA Bylaw Amendments (page 40)
- MTSBA Gap Analysis Resolution for 2027 Interim and 2027 Legislative Session (page 59)
- Election of MTSBA Rep to the MHSA Board of Directors (either Iris KillEagle, Dodson PS Trustee or Tom Billteen, Bute PS Trustee)
- Election fo MTSBA President-Elect (p 69) Jennifer Hoffman, Billing PS Trustee
- Election of MTSBA Vice President (p69) Stephanie Esch, Stevensville PS Trustee and MTSBA Region 6 Director

Kara included the information sent out by the MTSBA in regard to the items of business they are asking the Board to vote on in the Board packet email.

Motion was made by Tara to confirm the MTSBA Principles & Guidelines as well as the foundational elements for the MTSBA's DNA and the approval of the FY28 Dues Review Estimate: The proposed MTSBA Bylaw Amendments, the MTSBA Gap Analysis Resolution for 2027 Interim and 2027 Legislative Session, the election of MTSBA Rep to the MHSA Board (either Iris or Tom), and the election of MTSBA Presdent-Elect, Jennifer Hoffman, and the election of MTSBA VP Stephanie Esch.

Motion was seconded by Cheyenne, all voted aye, motion carried. Rebecca will go online and register our vote.

Tara requested that Dual Credit Classes and GPA's needs to be on the next board agenda

Adjournment

Next School Regular/Budget Adoption Board Meeting:

8/20/2026 @ 5:30 PM Meeting was adjourned at 10:08pm

(CLERK OF THE DISTRICTS)

(CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD)