LAMBERT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #86 & #4
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (REGULAR/FINAL BUDGET)
Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 5:30PM in the Lambert School Library

The trustees of Lambert School Districts #86 & #4 met in Regular Session on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:30 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, Principal Lacey Nevins, Lanett Hill, Val Patterson, Becky Carda, Necole Killick, Stephanie Berg-Tousson, Quetzal Marquina, Tina Rehbein, Darcy Anderson, Suzzane Torgerson, Brittini & Andrew Thiessen, Gregory Rauchendorfer, Lacey Griffiths, Kari Ligon, Val Frisbie, Rhea Christinsen, Rebecca Kollman, Quintin Opdahl, LaTrisha Mavity, Trish Verschoot, Kim Irigoin, Mark & Sheri Pust, Claudine Mullin, Herma Watkins, McKen-Z Pennington, Josie Muscha, Taylor Mann

5:33pm Pledge of Allegiance – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Lacey Mullin at 5:33pm.
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.

No public comment at this time.

Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible Action
Approval of Minutes
Board Meeting 7-20-26 (Regular Meeting)
Board Meeting 8-4-26 (Special Meeting)
Board Meeting Co-op Minutes June
Board Meeting Co-op Minutes July
Board Approval of Co-op Claims/Claims/Payroll/Student Activity Accounts/Transfers

Cheyenne Made a motion to accept the Minutes**,** Co-op Claims/Claims/Payroll/Student Activity Accounts/Transfers as presented, Kyle seconded that motion, all in favor signified by aye.

Reports
Principal Report - Lacey Nevins – see attached
Superintendent/AD Report - Kara Triplett – see attached
MCEL – registration was provided to the board members if they're interested in training they can contact Kara.
Nortana did come and replace the propane tanks and took the old ones on trade so we are now in compliance and they are now able to fill our tanks which was done.
4-plex - Discussion on maybe moving some tenants around in the 4-plex, putting the furniture in one apartment and keeping it open like was done prior.
Richey's lights are good to go on the football field, 6 out for cheer and no athletes out for x country from Lambert.

Old Business -
Senior Class of 2027 Trip - Possible Action: Approval
Sheri presented the board with the option that the 2 seniors would like to be approved. See attached for the cost and details. They would like to go on the Norwegian cruise to Hawaii instead of the Explorica option to Hawaii. They are allowed to miss 4 school days per policy and this would be more than that. Sheri would like permission to move forward with the planning stages and to gather more information for the board. Discussion on the possibility that the funds needed might not be able to be raised and the Explorica option always paid for a chaperone so the

funds will have to be raised. The possibility of maybe paying the chaperone out of the school trip fund from when certain classes weren't able to go was discussed.
Alysia made the motion to allow Sheri to continue to move forward on the planning of the senior trip to Hawaii, making sure they are able to raise the money, make the payment deadlines and as long as they don't accede the 4 days out of school. Tara seconded the motion. All in favor signified by aye.

Class Schedule Update - Possible Action: Approval(A) 2027-2028
Kara presented to the board the updated class schedule, with the electives re-worked to better fit student schedules. The staff is full and we have many classes offered. Typically, during pre-registration in the spring, the students are surveyed to see what electives they would like to see offered, we also have a rotation of core class electives available on a 2-year rotation basis, and we also offer TA positions, school-based learning options, and dual credit options through college partnerships we have developed. Students have a good selection of options, with the exception of Fine Arts, mostly due to no HS music program currently.
Tara found that on our current schedule, it is tough for students to take HS Art, which is one of the in-person classes we have to fulfill their Fine Arts requirement for graduation. She asked that we take a look at the schedule, and have something ready, so those students are able to take HS Art, if they choose, their junior and senior years. There's a copy of that schedule included in the packet. Tara would also like to see science and social studies offer electives instead of a class for the 6th grade.
Cheyanne made a motion to approve the 2026 schedule as presented, seconded by Alysia. All in favor signified by aye.

New Business – Discussion
Community Concerns - Academic Standards and Recognition(B)
Claudine Mullin - Expressed her thankfulness for the teachers and the board on their dedication and hard work she didn't want this to be an attack on the teachers. She stated that they are here to advocate for the students. The concerns are that athletics is prioritized over academics while also expressing frustration about the lack of public acknowledgement of our students academically over the amount they get for athletics. It seems to be lopsided in her opinion and that of the others that signed the petition. Her concerns also include the number of students that have left the school. They would like to open the lines of communication and would really like to see more focus on academics. Claudine thanked Kara for acknowledging her concerns and stated that she has brought it to other administration attention a couple of years ago but didn't bring it up again until presently now that her kids are out of school for fear of retaliation. Claudine discussed the process on how to get things on the agenda and stated that she has been present at board meeting through the years and that there are times that issues get brought up at a board meeting but then we never hear anything again, which is where the concerns of communication stem from. Lacey Mullin explained that there are things and certain times they can't make decisions.

Brittini Thiessen - Presented a petition signed by some of the public also feeling like Claudine in regards to athletics over academics. She conveyed that she's confused on why our school says that there are certain privacy laws that we have to follow and that's our reasoning for not always posting on social media but yet other schools do and many of them have great Facebook pages posting and highlighting the academic achievements of their students. Brittini stated that these concerns have been brought up before to administration and Kara replied that it was just brought to her attention by Claudine last week. In Brittini's opinion those that have younger kids in school aren't understanding that there aren't quality electives being offered. She's frustrated with the options. Tara added that she has had great conversations when she has met with Lacey Nevins or the teachers and explaining to them what her child needs and suggested every parent take the time to do that.

Becky Carda - Wanted to know if the Chain of Command was followed in regards to the complaints.

Kara Triplett - Expressed that we do need a little time since it was just brought to her attention and we will try harder but since school just stated we will need time to make the adjustments. Coming directly to the board is circumventing the chain of command she would love to have more conversations before it's just sprung on the board. Progress does take time. Kara stated that in the spring the students are asked what kinds of electives they would like to see and that's also taken into consideration when the schedule is worked on.

Rhea Christiansen - Added to begin our school year during PIR days Kara and Lacey were both prefacing to all the teachers that the focus this year will be to improve our communication with the public and the acknowledgment of our students' accomplishments in academics however knowing that there was a petition circulating that had community member signatures did create undo pressure on her and others. In regards to the schedule and classes that are being offered that yes it says yoga however she added that our new P.E./Health teacher Mcken-Z Pennington is encouraging her students every day to try new things and that when you see yoga it's not just going to be that McKen-Z will also add other options as the year progresses.

McKen-Z Pennington– She is very excited to be able to offer some of the things that Sidney wouldn't allow and stated that this administration is also very open to allow her to do other things like yoga so that she can teach the benefits for the mind and body that yoga provide. She also stated that Lacey Nevins encouraged her to send pictures to her for the Facebook page. She felt the petition was nerve wracking as she is a new teacher here at Lambert.

Mark Pust – Stated that we need to acknowledge that this isn't just a school issue but also a community issue as well. Not always is our community as happy for academics and supportive as they are for the sports programs. Mark also wanted people to know that Kara is very supportive to the teachers and brings a lot of calm security verses some of the past administration. He feels that the points made could be and probably are valid but that it doesn't all fall on the administration or school. The community really needs to also invest in that.

Rebecca Kollman – Shared that our administration has shown up for the teachers and expressed that it has been nice to have consistency and she wants people to know that the administration is working tirelessly behind the scenes and doesn't always get recognition. When it comes to complaints you can ask if policies and procedures are being followed, you can start a conversation before making an accusation and reminding everyone personal matters are not public information. Celebrating the academics is definitely important but also keeping in mind some of those items can't be disclosed due to student rights. Addressing the concern of electives being offered she expressed the vast number of classes that she has offered, some that were special classes to fulfill something specific that a student needed. We can improve and are open to suggestions but we also need to be allowed time to make those changes.

Stephanie Berg-Tousson – In regards to privacy and the schools that are doing a great job with their Facebook posts posting grades\honor roll concerned about the students' rights? We do post an honor roll list but not with asterisk or gpa.

Lacey Griffiths - Shared that they chose this school for her child because of the academics, along with family. Being an enrollment clerk for a school for years she praises our board and teachers.

Quetzal – As a student it is hard to get electives but she appreciates the option to work with the administration to take other classes and rearrange her schedule to get the classes that she would like. She feels that for the size of the school we have a good variety. She encouraged students to visit with the teachers on what they need.

Lacey Nevins -Thanked everyone for bringing the concerns to the board, but there are things that we can discuss and things we can't. There are rules we have to follow. We will get better but we also need to be sure we are being legal in posting pictures and what we post. She just wants the public to know that changes do take time but we weren't even given a minute. People don't see the hard work that is going on behind the scenes and that all that is talked about is the negativity. Yes, we have kids that left our school system but we have a great number of out of district students that choose to attend Lambert Public School. She encouraged everyone to continue to come forward with suggestions, ideas and concerns so that we can grow and be the best that we can.

Alysia Mullin– Is this really all about lack of posts on Facebook, what did we do before we even had social media. She understands about recognition but is this really what's happening.

Cheyanne Rauchendorfer – Thanked everyone for bringing the concerns forward and we will work on improving. Cheyanne feels things like the petition hurt the moral of the teachers and staff. She's only had one person come to her in over 2 years and she sent her through the process because that's what we do.

Lacey Mullin – Agreed that there is always room for improvement she just didn't think a petition was the route to take as it gives immediate negativity. Sitting on the board has been very eye opening on what you can and can't do. She also agrees that the electives need worked on. We have a great school and she would like to encourage the community to start attending things like the academic banquets and other academic things. Hardly anyone attends those things. We welcome ideas on how we can fix some of these things and how to improve. You can always visit with the administration. It's not always necessarily the school's fault that we have poor attendance at things. The back to school event this year was very poorly attended despite that fact that the school tried something new to get community involvement. She doesn't disagree that some things need to improve but we're just in the second week of school and change does require some time.

Chairperson Mullin asked if there were more public comments and there no more at this time, we took a short break.

BREAK – Chairperson Lacey Mullin brought us back in order at 7:30pm.

2026-27 Budget - Possible Action: Approval(C)
Dr. Tharp came out and assisted Kara and Rebecca with the budget. Discussion on the amount of O&G and that we usually operated on the maximum oil and gas budget. Presented the oil and gas payments projected for the year. That allows us to give our tax payers a break. We get to keep 130% of the oil and gas maximum. We've been flooding our flex fund with O&G and that's where we pay most of our salaries and benefits from. We do run a permissive levy in transportation and that allows us to fill the flex budget. Comparisons from last year to this year were discussed.

Transportation – The permissive levy in Transportation was budgeted high for this year on purpose, as we are seeing high fuel prices again, and we want to be sure we have budgeted enough. Rebecca suggested Sammie's recommendation based on what was occurring in this fund at the end of last school year. Jodi also suggested putting in a little padding, just to be safe. As a result, the amount we would need to mill the community is more than last year, if we want to fully cover the Transportation Fund. Concern is with the diesel fuel and we almost spent the whole budget last year that's why we increased it, if we don't spend it we can roll if over next year. If we were to run out of money we could take it from the flex fund. Kara explained different options to the board.

Building Reserve – we are milling because of the major maintenance program. We have to mill the 1.54 and the 1.52 in order to get the money from the state.

Tuition –We don't currently collect tuition and we don't have to pay for our students that choose to go to another school. We have a large balance in the elementary but it will stay there. We do have that situation that we have to pay for the student because they live in the district so that makes us responsible. We will use O&G in the high school budget to fulfill that responsibility.

After the board discussed, compared and viewed all of the information they decided to permissive mill the whole Transportation and Building Reserve amount with the suggested amounts in elementary and high school and fill the general, flex and high school Tuition with oil and gas.
Cheyanne made the motion to accept the budget, mill the amounts for Transportation and Building Reserve and fill the general, flex and tuition funds with oil and gas also distributing the 1st quarter payment into the general fund/flex fund for elementary and general, flex and tuition fund for high school. Alysia seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor signified by aye.

Homeless Liaison - Possible Action: Appointment(D)
Tara Made the motion to appoint Kara as the Homeless Liaison for the 2026/2027 school year, Cheyanne seconded the motion. All in favor signified by aye.

Graduation Date and Time - Possible Action: Approval (E)
The 2 seniors and Mrs. Verschoot have chosen May 15, 2027 at 2:00 pm for the graduation date.
Richey just set their graduation for the same time, discussion on maybe asking the 2 seniors if they are aware about the potential conflict and if they still want the same date and time. Kara will ask Mrs. Verschoot and let the board know what they say and put it on the agenda for next time.

FY '25 Audit - Possible Action: Approval (E.1)
We finally got our '25 audit back. There were no findings and it has been submitted to OPI via Wipfli.
Alysia made the motion to accept the audit, the motion was seconded by Tara. All in favor signified by aye.

Activity Accounts (Close Out of Inactive Accounts) - Possible Action: Approval (F)
At the last meeting, it was suggested that we close out the accounts (including alumni class accounts) that are inactive but have positive balances. Mrs. Verschoot reached out to alumni classes to see if they would be interested in helping buy the new furniture for the Student Lounge. They all agreed, and we will recognize them on a plaque that will hang in the Lounge. There are other accounts Mrs. Torgerson suggests we also close out and put those funds toward the furniture as well.

Alysia made the motion to close these alumni account using the money in those accounts for the new furniture for the student lounge, buying a plaque with the rest of the MidRivers money to put it in the student lounge recognizing the Alumni for the donations. The motion was seconded by Cheyanne. All in favor signified by aye.

2026-27 Safety Plan - Possible Action: Approval (G)
Our Safety Team, comprised of staff members, met to review the current Safety Plan. They did suggest we get room numbers on the windows of classrooms, which is a great suggestion, but basically the rest of the Safety Plan hasn't changed. Kara presented the ALICE card and it needs to be adopted every year. The only change was removing Larry Sommerfeld and adding Sheri Pust as the onsite administrator in the event that Kara or Lacey were out of the building.

Cheyanne made a motion to approve the safety plan as presented, motion was seconded by Kyle. All in favor signified by aye.

Personnel - Possible Action: Approval
Additional Asst. Custodian hours - September
Gordon and Maria asked Kara to ask of the Board if they would consider keeping Maziee Kirby on through September. With her help, the crew has been able to work things so Maziee (currently can work up to 30 hours/week) and Maria (currently working up to 20 hours/week) take care of a good portion of the school daily cleaning, Gordon works outside in the mornings (to try to keep the grass mowed/trimmed, etc, and so Shawn can keep tackling his project list), and then Gordon comes back in the evenings to finish the school cleaning. I recommend the Board extend Maziee's contract through September. Maizee is 30 hours @ $12.50/hour

Alysia made a motion to keep Maizee on through September, motion seconded by Kyle. All in favor signified by aye.

Kara did mention that we need to start thinking about who's going to clean the gym after the games – the sophomore class has discussed it but not committed yet.

Asst HS Girls Basketball - JaNae Sansaver
JH Boys Basketball - Ira Lake
The Co-op Board has recommended those positions above be offered contracts.
Cheyanne made a motion to offer contracts to JaNae Sansaver and Ira Lake for the coaching positions they have applied for, motion was seconded by Alysia. All in favor signified by aye.

Football Volunteer Assistant –
Beau Mullin has filled out the paperwork and completed all necessary certifications but we will have to post nepotism and legally hire at our next meeting. Nepotism must be posted for 15 days prior to hire). Beau was approved by the Co-op Board

Substitute Teacher –
Emmarie Koppinger submitted her application and finger prints to be considered for the substitute teacher list.

Alyisa made the motion to approve the football assistant after the nepotism period and approve Emmarie for the substitute teacher list, motion was seconded by Tara.
All in favor signified by aye.

Adjournment: Cheyanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Alysia, all in favor signified by aye.

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 7PM (Regular)

(CLERK OF THE DISTRICTS) (CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD)