Minutes – October 14, 2026
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present:
In Person: Chris Schafer, Kathy Linhardt, Jen Mack, Michelle Federowicz-Cope
Virtual: Anne Marie Tryjankowski

Members Absent: Matt Szalkowski

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: Restorative Practices – 9 teachers participated. See attached.
The New Teacher Project (TNTP) – Good to Great – See attached.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting. Carine Merritt's Resignation as Board Member was accepted.
- Academic Committee – No meeting.
- Facility Committee – No meeting. Pro-cameras are almost done; electrical is installed. Gravel is being tested for walking path outside school.
- Finance Committee – Met. All financials are in order. Fiscal policies are being reviewed for update. Lumsden & McCormick finalizing audit.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting. Updates on personnel changes.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on September 9, 2026, was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Anne Marie Tryjankowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent's Report – See attached.
- Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Buffalo Snowplowing, Inc. contract, based on the finance committee's recommendation, was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Consensus Agenda
    - Motion to approve the SBCS Schedule of Bills for September 2026, the Balance Sheet, Board Monthly Income Statement, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Statement of Cash Flows and Check Register for August and September 2026; and the 154 South Ogden, LLC Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures/Income Statement for August and September 2026 was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Anne Marie Tryjankowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

TNTP

reimagine teaching

TNTP - Good to Great

Partnership with South Buffalo Charter School and The Cullen Foundation

What is Good to Great?

Good to Great is an approach to instructional change management for teachers, coaches and leaders that seeks to achieve rapid change in teaching skill and teacher expectations for what students can achieve. The model centers on designing instructional experiences that include collaborative cycles of learning and immediate application with students to build collective teacher efficacy and effective habits for ongoing improvement.

TNTP

How this will improve literacy at SBCS.....

26 teachers (K-3) and administration attend the trainings

From SBCS - TNTP team:

Good to Great is a multi-month professional learning experience designed to help experienced teachers push their practice to the next level so that all students can master challenging, grade-level content. The experience will begin with an initial site visit in September, followed by a four-day learning intensive in October and additional professional learning visits throughout the school year.

Throughout our time together, we will strengthen our collective and individual understanding of effective literacy instruction. Teachers will learn specific instructional strategies, practice them in real classrooms, receive real-time feedback, and see how students respond.

At the heart of *Good to Great* is a shared belief that every student is capable of engaging with rigorous content. The experience will help us pair high expectations with strong, responsive instruction that makes grade-level learning accessible while giving students meaningful opportunities to do the thinking and rise to the challenge.

Highlights of the Good to Great Approach

- **Narrow Focus on Content and Pedagogy:** We concentrate deeply on how the school's existing high-quality materials may be best utilized. This narrow focus allows us to honor the complexity of teaching and give educators an experience that deepens their content understanding while providing them with multiple opportunities to practice and improve.
- **Collaborative Coaching:** Collective educator efficacy has been associated with stronger student achievement. Good to Great takes a public and collaborative approach to coaching. While educators will also receive some individual feedback, trends are shared with the group and educators collaborate with each other to reflect on progress and identify next steps with guidance from TNTP coaches. This approach ensures that teachers and leaders develop the habits and culture that sustain their improvement beyond reliance on individual coaches for their growth.
- **Research, Analysis, and Preparation Protocols:** Protocols are an effective vehicle for building trust and developing habits of collaborative work that educators can employ throughout the school year and will continue long after TNTP's support ends. - Student Work Analysis - Educators collaboratively analyze sample of daily work from students, focusing on priorities and misunderstandings.
  Lesson Preparation - Educators used a structured approach to prepare and practice key elements of an upcoming lesson, focusing on components of the lesson that align with Good to Great training.
- **Demonstrable Student Learning:** Research has shown that educators change their underlying beliefs about teaching practice after they have seen success with students. In Good to Great, educators apply what they are learning immediately in the classroom with their students through daily instruction and reflection and preparation protocols. By using high quality lessons and structured lesson preparation, we can ensure that teachers are set up for success with students. When participating educators see their students making immediate progress each day, they are even more motivated to continue their own development and change instructional practice after the professional development – change that ultimately means consistent access to more rigorous content for all students.
- **Leader and Coach Support:** School leaders are essential to help teachers continue to grow after participating in the Good to Great training. Leaders will receive leader-focused training on the basic concepts introduced in Good to Great and strategies for continuing to support teachers. Leaders will coobserve in participating classrooms alongside TNTP coaches.

School Year Good to Great Projects Move Through Three Stages



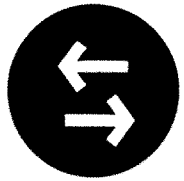
Preparation and Context Building

TNTP partners with your team to align on priorities and tailor the content focus to your site's needs and support logistical planning.



Implementation and Job-Embedded Learning

TNTP conducts initial site visit, the learning intensive, and follow-up support to build teacher practice and strengthen belonging, consistency, and coherence.



Ongoing Reflection and Sustainability

TNTP analyzes data, captures impact and lessons learned and meets regularly with leadership to determine teacher supports and accountability to maintain sustainability

TNTP

Sustainable implementation of Good to Great practices requires focus and coherence across the vertical spine.



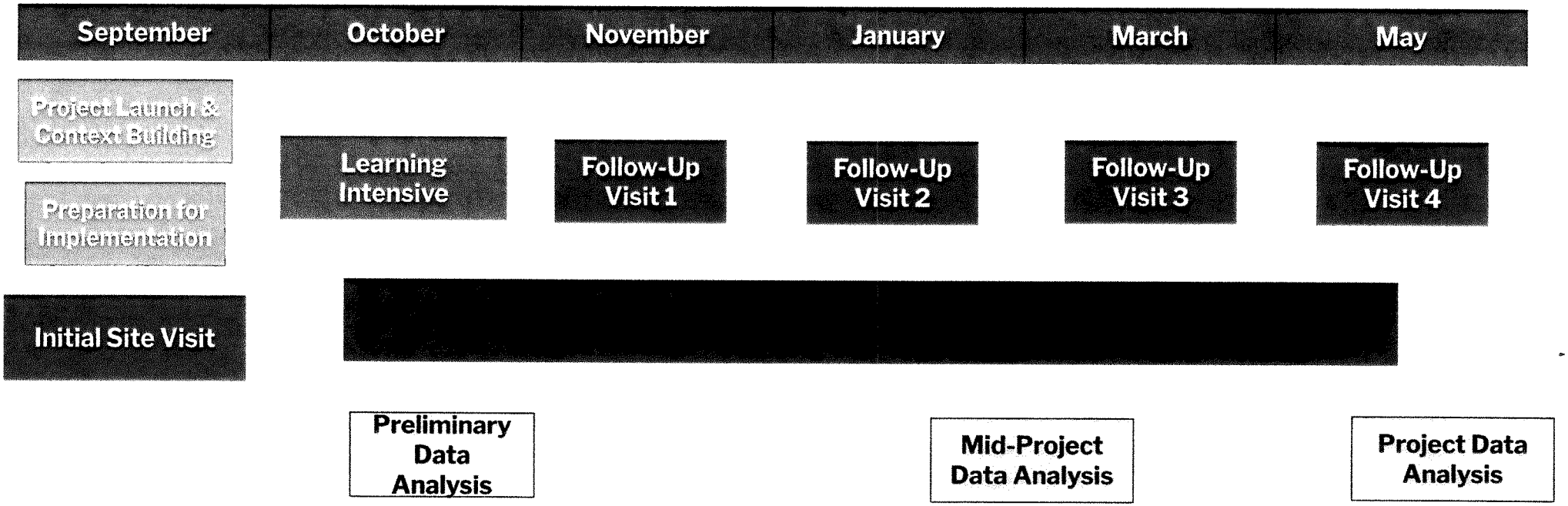
District Leaders collaborate with Good to Great coaches to set vision and priorities, align with district goals, and participate in leader and teacher professional learning, observations, and continuous sustainability planning sessions.

School Leaders recruit teachers, establish systems and protected time, and participate in leader and teacher professional learnings, observations, and continuous sustainability planning sessions.

Teachers participate fully in Good to Great, implement new practices in their classrooms, engage in collaborative planning structures, and take part in coaching and planning cycles.

TNTP

SBCS Good to Great Timeline



Timeline for 2026-2027 School Year

September/October - September 15th-16th - Initial school visit and classroom observations. TNTP team along with administration visit all K-5 ELA classes to get a feel for the building and its curriculums. Finalize details for October learning intensive.

October 5th-8th - Monday - Full day professional development with all K-3 teachers, training and rehearsals for lessons to be taught the following day. Tuesday - classroom observations and data collection. Wednesday - ½ day Professional developments k-1 AM, 2-3 pm. Go over observations and data collection, analyze student work samples. Thursday - Morning - classroom observations and 90 min professional development for k-1, then 2-3.

November thru June -

Follow-up 1: Nov. 18-20 (Data Collection, Full Day K-1 PD, Full Day 2-3 PD)

Follow-up 2: Jan. 25-26 (Half Day K-1 PD, Half Day 2-3 PD, Data Collection)

Follow-up 3: March 10-12 (Full Day K-1 PD, Full Day 2-3 PD, Data Collection)

Follow-up 4: May 19-20 (Data Collection, Half Day K-1 PD, Half Day 2-3 PD)

Virtual Coaching offered with the same TNTP instructors that come to SBCS November thru June.



Restorative Practices

Partnership with South Buffalo Charter School and The Restorative Justice Coalition

What are Restorative Practices?

- Restorative practices are a set of proactive and reactive strategies designed to build strong relationships, foster a sense of community, and repair harm when conflict or wrongdoing occurs. Instead of relying purely on punitive punishment, this approach focuses on accountability, dialogue, and healing to restore connections between individuals.

In other words.....

- Restorative Practices are designed to actually fix the relationship that was broken as a result of the choices that a student made. It allows everyone involved to share out how they feel in a safe space. The sharing out results in dialogue, which results in healing and building the relationship.

How does it work?

- Restorative Practices work best when the classroom already has an established culture or community. This follows the notion that it is "harder" to be mean to someone who you already have a relationship with. Students are teachers sit in a circle, so that no single person holds "power" over any other person.

- Each circle begins with a warm up activity, something to get students talking before moving into the true purpose of the circle.

- Classrooms use "proactive" circles to build those relationships between students.

- Classrooms use "reactive" or "restorative" circles to fix relationships that have already been harmed.

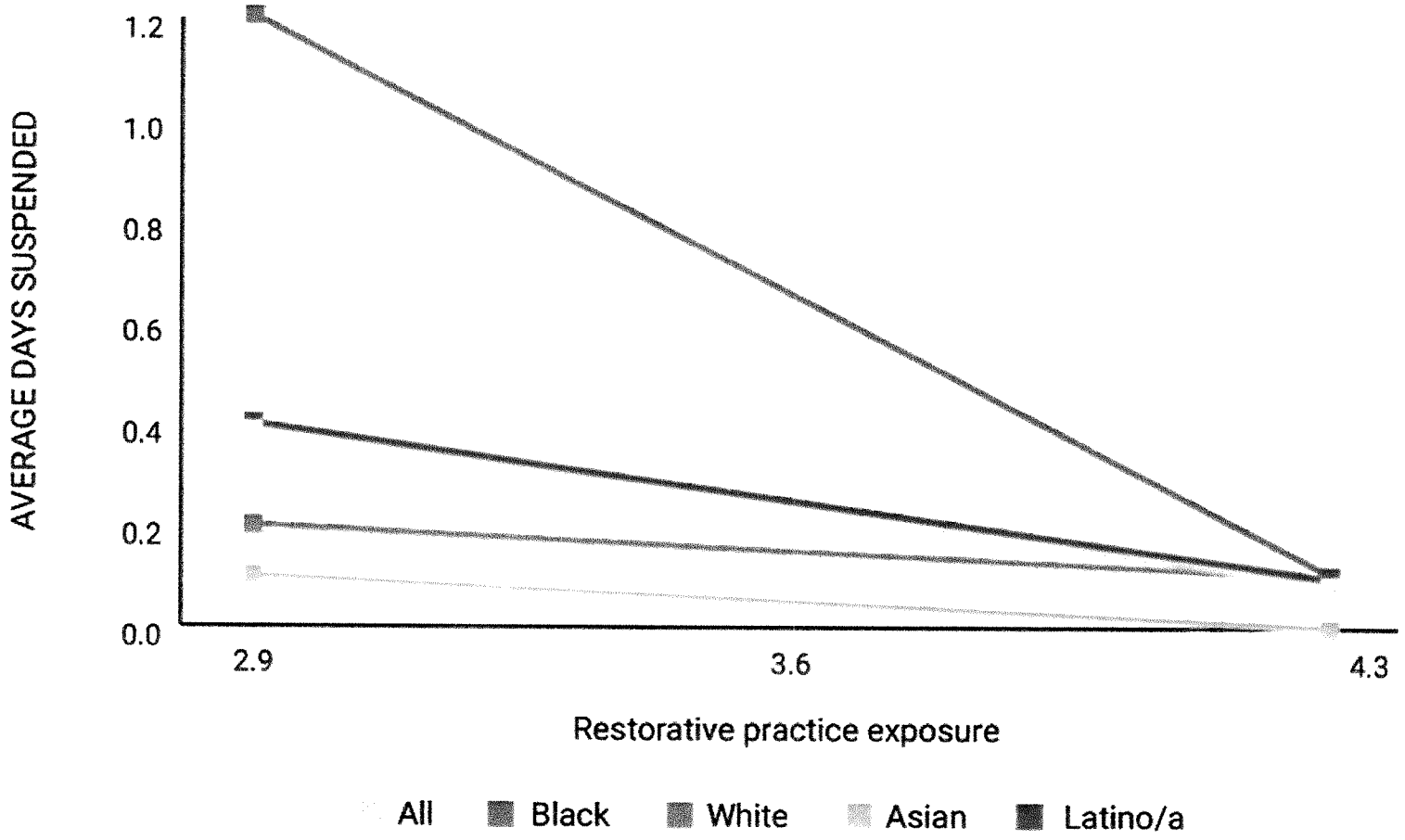
Here at SBCS

- The entire administrative team completed a full five day training on Restorative Practices during the summer.

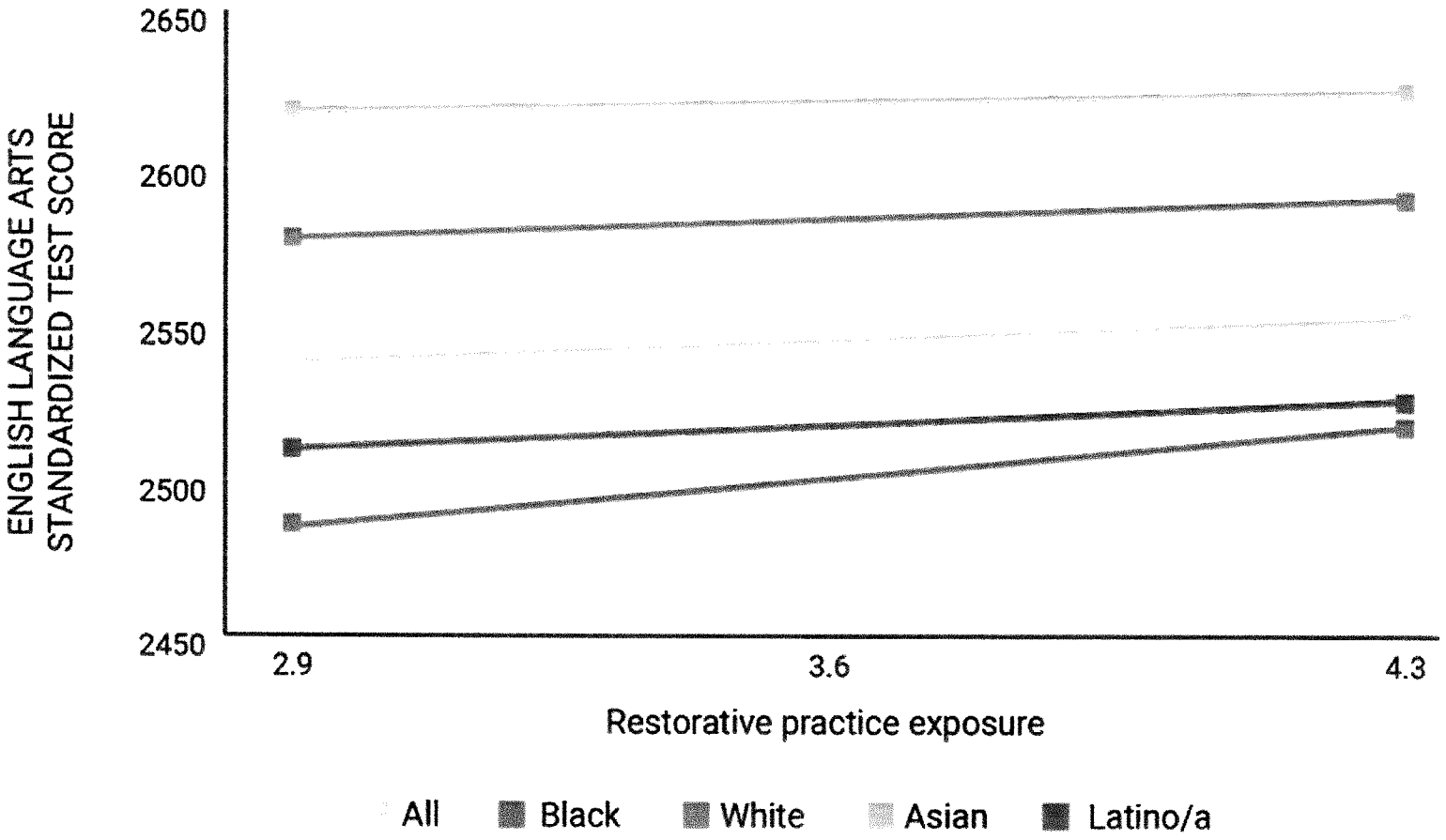
- The entire staff completed a two hour overview course taught by the Restorative Justice Coalition.

- Teacher volunteers, administration, counselors and social workers completed a full two day training with the Restorative Justice Coalition. This group are the "Pioneers" of the work.

Relationship Between Exposure to Restorative Practices and Disciplinary Outcomes



Relationship Between Exposure to Restorative Practices and Academic Outcomes



Minutes – September 9, 2026
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present:
In Person: Kathy Linhardt, Jen Mack
Virtual: Chris Schafer, Matt Szalkowski, Anne Marie Tryjankowski

Members Absent: Carine Merritt

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: None.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting. Carine Merritt leave of absence request.
- Academic Committee – No meeting.
- Facility Committee – No meeting. Projects moving forward.
- Finance Committee – No meeting. Check registry reviewed and approved. All other financials to be reviewed for approval at October meeting.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on August 12, 2026, was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Anne Marie Tryjankowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent's Report – See attached. Additions: October 27th the school will host three social media presentations for students and at 6:00 p.m. for parents; September 17th a program will be outlined regarding the US Constitution & Citizenship, which is mandatory for all schools that get funding; September 11th has been mandated as a day of observance, remembrance and education on the events that occurred on 9/11 for students.
- Q&A regarding the mortgage transfer from LLC to SBCS – no questions; process to get moving within next few months.
- Motion to approve the Adult and A La Carte Cafeteria pricing was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to approve Michelle Federowicz-Cope as a new board member pending CSI approval was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.
- Consensus Agenda
    - Motion to approve the SBCS Schedule of Bills for August 2026 was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Enrollment Summary – As of 10/7/2026

GRADE	2026/2027	2025/2026	2024/2025
K	93 (3)	90	103
1	106 (-2)	94	99
2	98 (-3)	102	103
3	101 (-2)	99	100
4	98 (-1)	103	102
5	104 (-2)	98	104
6	102 (-1)	99	103
7	100	101	102
8	88 (-1)	101	98
TOTAL	890	889	914

NY140600	**750**	NY140600	Buffalo City School District
NY141800	**64**	NY141800	Lackawanna City School District
NY142801	**24**	NY142801	West Seneca Central School District
NY140701	**19**	NY140701	Cheektowaga Central School District
NY140709	**16**	NY140709	Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
NY140702	**7**	NY140702	Maryvale Union Free School District
NY140707	**4**	NY140707	Depew Union Free School District
NY141604	**4**	NY141604	Frontier Central School District
NY400400	**4**	NY400400	Lockport City School District
NY140703	**2**	NY140703	Cleveland Hill Union Free School District
NY141901	**1**	NY141901	Lancaster Central School District
	4	Pending Updates	
	899		

11 districts served. Billing number and actual fluctuate based on date of billing.

October 2026 Superintendent's Report

Our first "Safety Patrol" was announced! A group of 20+ students applied to and were selected as Safety Patrol members. These students each assist a teacher with their dismissal groups. The goal is to have these older students become role models for the younger ones.

Athletics:

The soccer team opened the season at Elmwood Village Charter School with a 3-2 loss. The players played hard in their first game action. In the teams second game of the season they won 5-3 over Tapestry in their first home game of the season Every player on the team put forth their best effort in a total team win..

Upcoming games:

Wednesday 10/7 - **HOME** vs West Buffalo (7/8) - 4:30

Wednesday 10/14 - **HOME** vs Elmwood Village - 4:30

Thursday 10/15 - **HOME** vs West Buffalo (5/6) - 4:30

Monday 10/19 - **HOME** vs CCA - 4:30

Thursday 10/22 - **AWAY** vs Tapestry - 4:30

Thursday 10/27 - **AWAY** vs CCA - 4:30

The volleyball team lost its opener to Elmwood Village Charter School 2 games to 1. The girls played great and are looking forward to building on what they learned in their first game.

Wednesday, 10/7	AWAY @ West Buffalo	4:30
Tuesday, 10/13	Home vs Enterprise	4:30
Wednesday, 10/14	Home vs EVCS (Days Park)	4:30
Monday, 10/19	AWAY @ EVCS (Days Park)	4:30
Thursday, 10/22	AWAY @ Enterprise	4:30

Wednesday, 10/28	HOME vs EVCS (Hertel)	4:30

Events:
Fall Fest will take place on October 9. We will kick off the day with the PTO inflatable race, followed by hay rides, a pumpkin patch, pumpkin tossing with the trebuchet, community outreach with first responders, cider and donuts and other classroom events.

Open House took place on September 23. It was well attended. Teachers did two presentation sessions to families, 5:45-6:15 and 6:30-7:00.

Spirit shirts have arrived! They will be sorted and distributed this week.

Observations started in the first week of October. Gina P and Dave T did an observation refresher workshop for new teachers and any others that wanted a reminder of the process.

The Timon and Mount Mercy Leadership programs will start this month. We have about 10 boys and 10 girls participating in this program. Students in this program attend 5 leadership classes throughout the year at their respective school. They complete a service project and participate in a public speaking event. The program culminates with graduation in the spring.

Special Education:
11 Committee on Special Education meetings and 3 - 504 meetings were held in September.

Family Outreach:
Ms. Crane and Mr. Wheeler met with Feed More WNY, and discussed a variety of ways the school could work with the organization as well as utilize its services. Along with discussing volunteer opportunities such as food drives, class tours of the facility, and students making angel cards and t-shirt bags, we also discussed the possibility of partnering with them to create a dry foods pantry here at SBCS.

Professional Development:

Good to Great - is a multi-month professional learning experience designed to help experienced teachers push their practice to the next level so that all students can master challenging, grade-level content. The experience will begin with an initial site visit in September, followed by a four-day learning intensive in October and additional professional learning visits throughout the school year.

iReady Math Classroom- All K-6 Math teachers, and Interventionists received training in the iReady Math Classroom. Each group engaged in how to explicitly teach with manipulatives to help students gain a better understanding of place value.

Dibels- All K-8 Reading teachers, and Interventionists were trained in August on how to administer Dibels. This month they will all receive training on how to read the data and use the materials provided to them within the mclass system that houses the dibels results.

Reader's and Writer's Training - New teachers received training in Reader's and Writer's throughout August and September.

A group of 25 staff members composed of teachers, administrators, counselors and social workers were trained in Restorative Practices. The goal is to have 25 more staff trained each year. We are hoping to see that when Restorative Practices are utilized within the classrooms, the number of behavioral referrals and suspensions will tremendously decrease.

We will have Mental Health night on Tuesday October 13th

PTO Trunk or Treat on Friday October 30th

Red Ribbon Week is October 26th - October 30th

https://www.211newyork.org/ this link will be sent to families as NYS has required that broadband carriers offer affordable broadband for low income families - NYS Broadband Act.

REACH Academy and Maritime have applied for charter renewal.Maritime going from 5-12 to 7-12.

In working with the NYCSA they are asking all charter schools to fill out a weekly spreadsheet on morning arrival and evening dismissal. Data like what time busses arrive, any bus cancellations, how students/families may be affected. Email to BPS, First Student and NYCSA. We have kept internal records so transferring to a spreadsheet to assist NYCSA was not difficult. It sounds as though many charters are having much difficulty in comparison to SBCS. Overall the start to our year has been pretty smooth from a bus standpoint.