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Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, October 26, 2026
Turnpike Elementary School – Knights Corner

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Andrea Fairhurst at 6:00 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board of Education Members, Andrea Befaya, Catherine Curtis, Michael Cusack, Michael Drinkwine, Andrea Fairhurst, Theadora Hines, and Daniella Richards were present. Student Board Member Yelena Ferreiras was also present. Jillian Manupella and Thomas Zakrzewski were absent from the meeting. **ROLL CALL**

Others in attendance include Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Alan Walther from The Bonadio Group, Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were no others present.

Ms. Fairhurst read the District's Mission Statement: **MISSION**

Our mission at the Lansingburgh Central School District is to create for all students a productive, challenging and safe educational environment. Our students will acquire civic values and learning skills and strategies through a dynamic partnership between the schools and community. These experiences will inspire a lifetime of learning and self-sufficiency.

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine: **RESO #1-10/26/2026 Approve Meeting Agenda**

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the meeting agenda for October 26, 2026.

Second: Mrs. Curtis Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Alan Walther of the Bonadio Group was present to discuss the findings of the Financial Statements and the findings of the Activity Funds Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT**

- The highest opinion was issued.
- No compliance findings.
- No internal control issues
- Fund Balance was under the 4% cap.
- Very positive results

- Linda Klime was recognized for doing a great job.

Mr. Walther stated that the required single audit is still in progress because the 2026 OMB Compliance Supplement from the Office of Management and Budget has not yet been issued. This hopefully will be coming soon.

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESO #2-10/26/2026
Accept Audit Report

It is resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Independent Auditor's Report of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds Financial Statement, conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLC, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

It is further resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Independent Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement, conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLC, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Second: Ms. Hines Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

RESO #3-10/26/2026
Appoint Deputy District Clerk

It is hereby resolved that the Board of Education appoints Kyly Horton as Deputy District Clerk for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.

Second: Mrs. Curtis Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

RESO #4-10/26/2026
Appoint District Tax Collector

It is hereby resolved that the Board of Education appoints Kyly Horton as District Tax Collector for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.

Second: Mrs. Curtis Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was no report from the Audit Committee because this evening's meeting focused on the audit report given by Mr. Walther.

Ms. Richard spoke on behalf of the Policy Committee. Policies reviewed by the committee this evening will be on the next agenda for a first reading. They include:

- 0100 – Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
- 2120.2 – Voting Procedure

- 4321.12 – Timeout and Physical Restraint (All Students)
- 4321.12 – Timeout and Physical Restraint (All Students) Regulation
- 5150 – School Admissions
- 5280 – Interscholastic Athletics
- 8411 – School Bus Scheduling and Routing

Mr. Cusack provided a written report on the Troy IDA.

- We've begun to hold UTEP Committee Meetings. We're working to amend the Uniform Tax-Exempt Policy for applicants to have a structured reference of available benefits defined by policy. We've reviewed the policies and UTEP's of more than eight other IDA's (Utica, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Amsterdam) to name a few, and we've found some desirable attributes amongst them that we can rework and apply to Troy. This work will take several months.
- In the last meeting of the Rensselaer County IDA, they voted to deviate from their policies to accept the application of the Bella Vita project. There was a report regarding the project in the Albany Business Review with some commentary by the developer that required a response on our part to ensure accuracy of information. To that end, all the applicants' information will be posted on the IDA Website. As previously reported, it appears the developer is abandoning its application with the City of Troy and pursuing an agreement with Rensselaer County.
- The only development with the Gateway Project that I am aware of since it pulled its agenda from the August Meeting of the City of Troy Planning Board is that TAP Inc seems to have been appointed the project spokesperson(s). The many Variances still outstanding with the ZBA are purported to be designed out of the original site plan, a new site plan is forthcoming.
    - Request to permit a 10 ft side setback for Building 1 and 2, where a maximum of 5 ft is permitted, relief of 5 ft is requested.
    - A 35% relief is requested to allow for 45% building frontage, where a minimum frontage of 80% is required.
    - A relief of 9 ft 7 in. is requested to accommodate a building height of 60 ft 3 in., where a maximum height of 50 ft is permitted.
    - A 3.5 ft relief is requested to increase the first-story height to 17.5 ft from the allowable 14 ft.
    - Relief is requested to allow 15 ft front setback where 10 ft maximum front setback is required.
    - A 15 ft relief is requested to allow for a front setback of 10 ft for the parking zone, where a minimum setback of 25 ft is required.
    - Relief is sought to allow a 0-ft step back on the four floors where 10 ft step back is required.
    - Relief is requested from the requirement to plant one tree for every 35 linear ft of street frontage, as no street trees are proposed.

- Relief is requested to allow a surface parking lot adjacent to the river, where surface parking lots are prohibited adjacent to the river.
- Relief of 6 ft is requested to allow a two-way driveway width of 26 ft, where a maximum width of 20 ft is permitted.
- Relief is requested to permit continuous pitched roof form, where architectural guidelines require large roof surfaces to be interrupted by roof features or changes in roof form.

Motion by Ms. Richards: **RESO #5-10/26/2026 Accept Reports**

The Board of Education hereby accepts the committee reports presented on October 26, 2026.

Second: Ms. Hines Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Richards: **RESO #6-10/26/2026 Approve Reports**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers and Monthly Financial Report submitted by the Audit Committee.

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Cusack: **RESO #7-10/26/2026 Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 28, 2026.

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Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

PERSONNEL – CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #8-10/26/2026 Accept Resignations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the following resignations:

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date
Stephanie Miller	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Resignation	10/30/26
Camille Amodeo	Teacher	KMS	Retirement	06/30/27
Guy DiBacco	Teacher	KMS	Retirement	06/30/27
Jill Flannery	Teacher	TES	Retirement	06/30/27

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

RESO #9-10/26/2026 Appoint Instructional Staff

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints the following instructional staff:

Name	Position	Building	Tenure Area	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Masters	Credits
Kayla Rooney	Teaching Assistant	KMS	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	10/12/26 - 10/11/30	Step 11 - $28.17/hr.		
Olivia Hepp	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	10/12/26 - 10/11/30	Step 7 - $24.08		
Peter Rehonis	Substitute (Instructional)	DISTRICT	N/A	Annual	10/12/26 - 06/30/26	$125 - Uncertified Teacher		
Guillianna Van Cott	Substitute (Instructional)	DISTRICT	N/A	Annual	10/20/26 - 06/30/26	$125 - Uncertified TA		
Marisol Borrero	Teaching Assistant	RPES	Teaching Assistant	Probationary	10/27/26 - 10/26/30	Step 10 - $27.08	Y	Y
Erin Valente	Teacher	KMS	Special Education	Probationary	10/29/26 - 10/28/30	Step E - $58,829		
Caileigh Monagan Dean	Teacher	TES	Elementary	Probationary	12/07/26 - 12/06/30	Step D - $57,172	Y	Y

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

RESO #10-10/26/2026 Approve Report and Authorize Salary Adjustments

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the October 2026 Graduate In-service Salary Increment Report and authorizes additional compensation in accordance with the LTA salary schedule effective September 1, 2026.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

RESO #11-10/26/2026 Approve Additional Assignments

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the following additional assignments:

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Name	Position / Purpose	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Compensation
David DeMarco	Sixth Period Assignment	LHS	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Rate
Edward Classen	Extracurricular - Sports Hub After School Supervision	KMS	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Kiran Chaudry	21st Century Program - Teaching Assistant	District	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Hourly Rate
LaKiya Fountain	21st Century Program - Student Worker	District	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Minimum Wage
Schlane Borthwick	Tutor	LHS	Temporary	09-29-2026 - TBD	$30 per hour / 2 hours per day
Elizabeth Hanna	Extracurricular - Book Club (3rd Grade)	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Colleen Moak	Extracurricular - Book Club (4th Grade)	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Hourly Rate
Colleen Moak	Extracurricular - Book Club (5th Grade)	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Hourly Rate
Robert White	Extracurricular - Detention	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Jeri Wager	Extracurricular - DLL Club	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Jason Blackmur	Extracurricular - Enrichment (3rd Grade STEAM)	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Melissa Watts	Extracurricular - Game & Community Building	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Michelle Foster	Extracurricular - Game & Community Building	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
David Hamilton	Extracurricular - Just Run	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Emily Labella	Extracurricular - Just Run	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Melissa Watts	Extracurricular - Just Run	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Michelle Foster	Extracurricular - Just Run	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Adam Gregoire	Extracurricular - Morning Gym	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Gary Pascucci	Extracurricular - Morning Gym	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend

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Nicholas Foglia	Extracurricular - Morning Gym	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Peter Allen	Extracurricular - Morning Gym	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Tracy Lilkas	Extracurricular - Multiplication Madness Clun	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
Delmarie Giminiano	Extracurricular - Odyssey of the Mind	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Emma Closson	Extracurricular - Odyssey of the Mind	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Adam Gregoire	Extracurricular - Ski Club	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Annette Hopkins	Extracurricular - Ski Club	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Jason Blackmur	Extracurricular - Ski Club	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Megan Washock	Extracurricular - Soccer Club	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	$30/hr.
David Hamilton	Extracurricular - Student Council	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Robin Delaney	Extracurricular - Student Council	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Adam Gregoire	Extracurricular - Wrestling	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Robert White	Extracurricular - Wrestling	RPES	Temporary	SY 2026 - 2027	Contractual Stipend
Sean Daley	Athletic Coordinator Duties	District	Annual	SY 2026 - 2027	$15,000 Stipend
Samantha Westfall	Girls Soccer - Junior Varsity Head Coach	District	Temporary/Seasonal	2026-2027 School Year	Contractual Stipend
Meaghan Burke	Girls Soccer - Modified Head Coach	District	Temporary/Seasonal	2026-2027 School Year	Contractual Stipend
Adam South	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Angelene Rabe	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
April Kilmer	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Ashley Snyder	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Colleen Buff	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II

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Corrina Pelkey	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Dallas Foard	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
David Merrill	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Derek Shuttleworth	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Eileen Culliton	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Emily Ascioti	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Emma Closson	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Erinne Flanigan	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Ethan Griswold	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Halley Dollard	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Jessica Dusenberry	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Jill Anderson	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Justin Simon	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Justine Willey	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kat Rice	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kelly Borden	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kelly Juliano	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kendra Ferris	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kerry Kennett	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Kim Inglee	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Lindsey Gibson	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II

Lisa Akots	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Lori Filarecki	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Margot Tanner	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Maria Inserra	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Mary Haydock	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Matthew Loatman	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Maureen McLoughlin	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Melanie O'Neill	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Melissa Watts	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Michelle Foster	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Missy Taylor	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Nicole Collard	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Patricia Hurley-Dyer	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Regina Felio	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Reilly Schug	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Tiffany Ainsworth	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Whitney Closson	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II
Willie Short	Lansingburgh Academy - Class Facilitator	District	Temporary	11/02/26	$30/hr.. - Title II

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 6 Nays – 1 (M. Cusack) Motion Carried 6-1

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

RESO #12-10/26/2026
Accept Resignations

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the following resignations:

Name	Position	Building	Action	Effective Date	Notes
Stephanie O'Brien	Human Resource Specialist	DO	Resignation	09/27/26	Promotion
Christopher Eaton	Senior Security Monitor	RPES	Resignation	10/11/26	Promotion
Kayla Rooney	Teacher Aide	KMS	Resignation	10/11/26	Promotion

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

RESO #13-10/26/2026
Appoint Non-Instructional Staff

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints the following non-instructional staff:

Name	Position	Building	Appointment Type	Term	Salary Step	Effective Date
Natosha Hemingway	Substitute Noon Aide	District	Annual	09/21/26 - 06/30/27	$18.75/hr.	09/21/26
Stephanie O'Brien	Human Resource Coordinator	DO	Non-Competitive	6-month probationary 09/28/26 - 03/27/27	$72,000.00	09/28/26
Sale Khalaf	Substitute Nurse (LPN)	District	Annual	SY 2026 - 2027	$24.20/hr.	10/05/26
Charles Douglas	Noon Aide	RPES	Annual	SY 2026 - 2027	$18.75/hr.	10/06/26
Vincent Tario	Senior Security Monitor	RPES	Non-Competitive	6-month probationary 10/08/26 - 04/07/27	Step 1 - $25.71/hr.	10/08/26
Christopher Eaton	Building Maintenance Mechanic (Grounds)	DO	Non-Competitive	6-month probationary 10/12/26 - 04/11/27	Step 1 - $26.74/hr.	10/12/26
Halijah Mclean	Substitute (Non-Instructional)	DO	Annual	10/13/26 - 06/30/27	Security - $25.71/hr.	10/13/26
Kacie Hogan	Noon Aide	RPES	Annual	10/13/26 - 06/30/27	$18.75/hr.	10/13/26

Second: Mr. Drinkwine Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Richards:

RESO #14-10/26/2026
Accept Donations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the following donations:

From	Amount	Purpose
Blackbaud Giving Fund	$ 20.00	LHS Student Government
Blackbaud Giving Fund	$ 20.00	LHS Student Government

Second: Ms. Hines — Ayes – 7 — Nays – 0 — Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

RESO #15-10/26/2026
Approve First Reading of Policies

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- 5420 – Student Health Services
- 5420-R – Student Health Services Regulation
- 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting
- 5460-R - Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting Regulation
- 5500 – Student Records
- 8113 – Extreme Heat Condition Days
- 8130.1 – Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The "Red Flag Law")
- 8635-R – Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification Regulation
- 8636 – Artificial Intelligence

Second: Ms. Richards — Ayes – 7 — Nays – 0 — Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Drinkwine:

RESO #16-10/26/2026
Authorize Disposal of Assets

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby authorizes the disposal of the following assets due to unusable condition:

- TES Safe Tag #001119
- Interactive TV Tag #001982
- Wooden Kitchen Set Tag #210340

Second: Ms. Hines — Ayes – 7 — Nays – 0 — Motion Carried Unanimously

Principal's Reports

TES Report by Ms. Wysocki – See pages 15-17.
RPES Report by Ms. Nelson – See pages 18-20.
KMS Report by Ms. Phelan – See pages 21-22.

Student Board Member Report

By Yelena Ferreiras:

First Let's Start with Athletics!!

- Boy Vars Football lost the game on Senior night but have playoffs on Friday against glen falls!!
- Girls Vars Volleyball lost on their senior night as well on Friday but played beautifully and will continue to do so when they play on Wednesday against Ravena I believe??

Latest Events:

- Community Day received positive results with many diverse volunteering opportunities and activities for the student body like ice skating, bike riding, trash pick-up, and even Super Smash Bros Showdown which I honestly think was the main event.
- SUNY Free application week started already and ends on November 2nd, Seniors in need of saving money or simply have big plans for after graduation are receiving plenty of help from our beloved guidance counselors in submitting Applications.

Upcoming Event:

- National Honors Society is hosting a Blood drive with Red Cross on Wednesday. Upperclassmen are being motivated to donate blood for a good cause.

Assistant Superintendent Report

By Mrs. McGrouty:

On October 23rd we had a half day of professional development that focused on NYSTEPS goal setting. At all four schools, we looked at student data and set appropriate goals.

On November 2nd we will have a full day of professional development. We have more than 40 sessions being presented by our own teachers. Thanks extended to Lindsey Gibson for doing all the leg work!

Superintendent Report

By Dr. Abitabile:

Capital Project: I attended a page turn meeting on Friday. They are nervous about the timeline and are hoping for as much time as possible to get everything done before the beginning of the 27-28 school year. Plans are being submitted to the state. We will be going out to bid in January.

Food Service: Kevin Derigo and I met with Josh Hodge of Whitson's this week. I prepared a slideshow of the pictures I had received from staff, parents, and posts from social media. We asked Josh if the food issues are related to quality of the product or a problem with the preparation of the food. He made it clear that this is a preparation issue. They have had a high turnover rate with their staff. I sensed no urgency from Josh when discussing these issues.

With Kevin running the kitchen at LHS, it leaves him no time to monitor the other school kitchens. We are looking to hire another person to help Kevin out to allow Kevin the time needed to monitor the other kitchens. Kevin also identified some additional equipment that is needed in some of the kitchens.

Whitson's works with 13 area school districts. Ballston Spa is noted to have a "gold standard". I will be reaching out to their Superintendent.

Questar III: Dr. Gladys Cruz contacted me and asked to attend one of our Board of Education meetings to talk about the programs they offer. The Board was asked to think this over and get back to the Superintendent.

SGO FAQ: Education Freedom Tax Credit Program

On Oct 9, 2026, NYS opted into the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit (IRC §25F, *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*), launching **Jan 1, 2027**. It incentivizes donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) via a ***100% federal tax credit***. While supporting K-12 vouchers, guidelines allow public school students to access funds for supplemental services.

Core Mechanics & Remittance Methods

- **Incentive:** 100% nonrefundable federal tax credit up to **$1,700/year** ($3,400 joint) for cash contributions to approved SGOs.
- **SGO Requirements:** Must hold 501(c)(3) status, segregate funds, and direct **≥90% of revenue to students**.
- **Student Eligibility:** Household income must be **<300% Area Median Income** (<$180k/yr based on LCSD $60k AMI). Minimum of 10 students in 2 buildings must receive a benefit annually.
- **Remittance Methods:** Direct donations (check/EFT), employer payroll deductions, and corporate contributions/grants.

Public School Student Benefits

Category	Approved Uses for Public School Students
Academic & Programs	High-dosage tutoring (in/after school), extended-day, summer school, and enrichment programs.
Tech & Materials	Individual scholarships for computers, textbooks, and instructional supplies.

Specialized Services Disability services, speech therapy, and behavioral therapies.

Board Governance & Fiscal Safeguards

- **Board Structure & Composition:** Independent board (min 3 voting members without financial conflicts) including education leaders, CPAs/financial managers, parents, and legal advisors.
- **Duties & Safeguards:** Must conduct annual independent audits and verify income eligibility.
- **District Budget Protection:** Does **not** divert funding from NYS public education, Foundation Aid, or local tax levies; funds consist strictly of redirected federal tax liabilities.

Timeline & District Next Steps

1. **State Roster (By Feb 15, 2027):** NYS submits registry of approved SGOs to IRS.
2. **Legal Review:** Consult school attorney to complete required paperwork.
3. **Community Guidance:** Publish guidance for families applying to SGOs for tutoring and tech grants.
4. **Vendor Evaluation:** Assess local non-profit supplemental providers registering as SGO networks.

Linda Klime will be attending a School Business Officials meeting in two weeks and will get more information. I will be reaching out to our school attorneys to discuss this. More information will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting: We have a workshop scheduled for November 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. A safety and facilities committee meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Drinkwine exited the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Richards: **RESO #8-10/26/2026 Adjourn**

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 6:57 p.m.

Second: Ms. Hines Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

D R A F T

TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Turnpike Attendance		
Grade	**October**	**YTD, 2026-2027**
UPK	90%	92%
K	89%	90%
1	94%	93%
2	93%	94%
TES	92%	92%

District Goal	
Attendance	Our monthly attendance incentive continues to recognize students who attend school at least 90% of the month. Eligible students are entered into a raffle for prizes, receive a certificate, and have their photo displayed on our Attendance Champions bulletin board outside the main office. This month, we launched our Stewart's ice cream initiative, and one student who meets the 90% attendance goal will be randomly selected at the end of October for recognition. Our weekly Turnpike "Knight" Attendance Drawing also began this month. Students who are present every day of the week are entered into a random drawing, with one winner selected from each grade level, Pre-K through second grade, to receive a Stewart's Single Scoop Gift Certificate. These initiatives celebrate students' commitment to attendance and reinforce the importance of being present every day to learn, grow, and be part of our school community.
SEL & TSS	**TSS Committee:** Staff participation continues to grow, reflecting a strong commitment to strengthening our school community. Current initiatives include developing a staff survey and weekly newsletters to support restorative practices, planning staff circles for January, promoting October's character trait of *Respect*, preparing for our first Cultural Fair, and reinforcing our Three Bee Expectations through behavior-specific praise.

	Ally Program: Our first Ally Event Day featured the *Cooperative Island Game*, which encouraged teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and positive peer relationships while fostering a sense of belonging. **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Second Step lessons continue in kindergarten and first grade. Kindergarten students are developing foundational learning skills, including listening, focusing, and asking for help, while first graders are building empathy by identifying feelings and understanding others' perspectives. Small-group counseling continues to address student needs identified through the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), which will be administered again in November to monitor progress and guide additional supports.
Family & Community Engagement	October has been filled with opportunities to strengthen connections among our students, families, staff, and community. On October 7, we had a successful Picture Day, and students also participated in Ally Day activities focused on building positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Before- and after-school clubs have also begun, including STEAM Club, Book Club, Brave and Beautiful Club, and Art Club, providing students with additional opportunities to explore their interests and build connections. On October 20, we celebrated Bus Safety Week, giving students the opportunity to visit two school buses parked in our front circle and learn important safety rules for riding and being around the bus. We will conclude the month with several exciting events. On October 29, our PTA will host Harvest Fest, which will coincide with our school Book Fair. On October 30, students will participate in our monthly Character Education Assembly celebrating the character trait of Respect. We will also welcome the Troy Fire Department for a visit in recognition of Fire Safety Month. Finally, on October 31, Turnpike will participate in the community's Trick or Treat Street at Knickerbacker Park from 12:00–3:00 PM. This year features the friendly "Park v. Pike" Pumpkin Cup competition between TES and RPES, providing another opportunity to connect with our students and families outside of school while building school spirit and community pride.
Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction	Second grade has begun its first year implementing the Mystery Science curriculum, with upcoming professional development planned to strengthen instructional practices and student engagement. First- and second-grade teachers are analyzing results from the first benchmark math assessments to identify student needs and make data-informed instructional decisions. Additionally, the Arts & Letters literacy curriculum is off to a strong start

	across all grade levels in its inaugural year, supporting continued growth in curriculum implementation and instructional practices.

D R A F T

RENSSELAER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

RPES Attendance		
Grade	**October (so far)**	**YTD, 2026-2027**
3	92.27%	93.35%
4	92.27%	92.90%
5	90.53%	90.24%
RPES	91.43%	91.95%

District Goal	
Attendance	Our Attendance Team has already met several times this school year to review attendance data, identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism, and begin reaching out to families to provide support. We also completed our first six-week attendance incentive, with students earning the opportunity to win Stewart's ice cream cards! Additionally, we recognized students who were chronically absent last school year but are off to a strong start this year, including those who have not missed a single day of school. Mrs. Nelson personally delivered attendance certificates to these students in their classrooms to celebrate their improvement and commitment to being at school. We look forward to continuing these efforts and recognizing students for both consistent and improved attendance throughout the school year.
SEL & TSS	**Character Education** This month at RPES, our character education focus is respect**!** Throughout October, students have been learning about the importance of respect through classroom activities and daily reminders on our morning show. We have emphasized what it means to show respect for ourselves, others, and our school community. Students have also been putting respect into action by helping clean up our school grounds and taking pride in keeping our building and surroundings looking their best. This Thursday, we will wrap up our monthly focus with a schoolwide character education assembly, where students will have the opportunity to celebrate and showcase what they have learned about respect and how they can demonstrate it each day.

	Trauma-Sensitive Schools (TSS) Our TSS Team continues to meet and focus on strengthening our school culture and creating a positive, welcoming environment for all students. This month, the team discussed ways to support our upcoming Harvest Fest, including providing pumpkins for classrooms to decorate and display. We also identified areas of focus for the 2026–2027 school year, including increasing staff participation in our annual TSS survey to gather meaningful feedback and guide our school improvement efforts. The team discussed administering the survey earlier in the year and providing dedicated time during faculty meetings to encourage participation. Additionally, we are exploring ways to strengthen bullying prevention education for both students and families, specifically helping everyone better understand the difference between bullying and conflict. These ongoing efforts support our commitment to building a safe, supportive, and inclusive school community.
Family & Community Engagement	Our annual RPES Pumpkin Fest was a huge success! Our PTA truly outdid themselves this year with new decorations and even more fun activities for our students and families to enjoy. The fifth-grade haunted house was also spectacular and a highlight of the evening! We had an incredible turnout of teachers, families, and parent volunteers who helped make the night so special. There were smiles everywhere, and it was wonderful to see our school community come together for such a fun evening. Students and families also had the opportunity to vote in our classroom pumpkin decorating contest, with some fan favorites including Uncle Sam and Burghopoly! Our Book Fair was also set up and extended into the evening, giving students and families an additional opportunity to shop for books during the festivities. A huge thank you to our PTA, staff, and families for making this year's Pumpkin Fest such a memorable event! **PTA** • November 12th: PTA Meeting, Virtual • November 19th: Bingo Knight • November 24th: Picture Re-Take
Data Collection and Implementation to Drive Curriculum and Instruction	ELA teachers are using the Fundations Fun Hub assessment tab to log unit assessments and transfer them to Intervention Compass, allowing them to identify students needing targeted skill re-teaching. Similarly, math teachers enter Eureka Math² module assessments into Intervention Compass, using Great Minds standards reports to highlight areas for re-teaching. Also, at data

	meetings this month the classroom teachers and AIS providers are reviewing the data and adjusting groups.

D R A F T

KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Knickerbacker Middle School Attendance		
Grade	**October 2026**	**YTD, 2026-2027**
6	91%	91%
7	89%	90%
8	89%	89%
KMS	89%	90%

District Goal	
Chronic Absenteeism	The KMS Support Team continues to analyze building-wide attendance patterns and trends to drive consistent student engagement. To directly address chronic absenteeism, our counseling team is actively identifying students entering Tier 2 and Tier 3 attendance support and designing targeted, individualized interventions. Through weekly committee reviews, we collaboratively develop and deploy actionable, short-term attendance plans tailored to meet each student's specific needs and keep them on track for success.
SEL/School Climate	On Friday, October 23rd, the School Climate Committee organized a successful team-building day where students participated in engaging in outdoor activities and collaborated on a building-wide puzzle project, which will soon be displayed in the cafeteria. During this month's classroom visits, counselors led interactive lessons on anti-bullying. Students engaged in thoughtful discussions about recognizing bullying, stepping up as upstanders, and treating one another with kindness and respect.
Family & Community Engagement	Join us for KMS's first Family Advisory Council meeting this Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, where school leadership will share key updates from the first two months of the school year and outline our primary building goals.

Curriculum and Instruction	All academic departments have been actively establishing goals for their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which will also align with individual teacher goals under the school year's new evaluation framework. To support instructional practice, instructional specialist Kirsten Widmer recently met with English Language Arts teachers to introduce advanced classroom collaboration strategies. Teachers are currently integrating these techniques into their daily instruction, and during her return visit in December, Ms. Widmer will conduct classroom push-ins to observe implementation and offer direct feedback. Additionally, science consultant Liz Mirra spent time last week onboarding our newest science teacher, guiding her through curriculum mapping and the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) unit assessments.
21st Century Program	Our program welcomes two new clubs: Healthy Eating Essentials and Future City. One of our community partners at Cornell Cooperative Extension is hosting a 6 week healthy eating cooking class for our students. Nancy Behrens, one of our new science teachers, has begun a nationwide STEM club with our students where they will have the opportunity to show their writing, math, science, and architecture skills. Our 6th grade "Just Run" students competed in their regional competition today (October 27th) with Mr. Hamilton at Mohanasen. Student attendance is consistent with about 75 middle school and 20 high school students attending most days. We look forward to planning family engagement nights and activities in the near future with our community partners.