

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES****APRIL 14, 2025**[Click here for YouTube recording](#)**100: CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting of the Linn-Mar Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 PM in the boardroom of the Educational Leadership Center (3556 Winslow Rd, Marion). Roll was taken to determine a quorum. Present: Buchholz, Foss, Mansoor, Morey, Thomas, Walker, and Lowe Lancaster. Administration present: Kortemeyer, Galbraith, Ramos, Wear, Frick, Nelson, and Christian.

**200: ADOPTION OF AGENDA – MOTION 130-04-14**

**MOTION** by Morey to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Thomas. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**300: AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS** *(SPG #1-Community Engagement)*

1. Maria Paulsen, parent, spoke in support of indoor activities center
2. Erin Watts, former teacher/parent, spoke in support of indoor activities center
3. Izzie Watts, student, spoke in support of indoor activities center
4. David Dechant, resident, spoke in support of indoor activities center
5. Nicole Kuennen, parent, spoke in support of indoor activities center
6. Sarah Scott, parent, spoke in support of indoor activities center
7. Sue Atwater, former teacher/parent, spoke in support of indoor activities center

**400: MISSION MOMENT** *(SPG #1-Community Engagement / BG #2.e-Student Learning)*

President Lowe Lancaster thanked Izzie Watts for having the courage to speak in support of the indoor activities center.

**500: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS****501: Policy Committee Report – Refer to Exhibit 703.1** *(BG #1.c-Visionary Team)*

Director Walker reported that during the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Committee meeting several miscellaneous policies and the full 900 series were reviewed and their recommendations were represented in Exhibit 703.1.

**502: Marion City Council Report** *(SPG #1-Community Engagement / BG #3.d-District Culture)*

Director Thomas reported that during the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Marion City Council meeting no items were presented that pertained directly to the district.

### **503: Finance/Audit Committee Report – Exhibit 503.1**

*(SPG #5-Resource Management / BG #3.c-District Culture)*

Vice President Buchholz congratulated the district on receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 21<sup>st</sup> year in a row. Buchholz also reported that during the April 10<sup>th</sup> Finance/Audit Committee meeting topics included a review of the proposed certified budget for FY26, a review of the proposed sale of bonds relating to the new performance venue, a review of the proposed indoor activities center and renovation project funding and 10-year facilities plan, the recent need to invest in a new point of sale system for Nutrition Services due to the former company closing, and a discussion of the proposed SpEd Strategists II licensure and hiring incentive.

### **504: Legislative Report** *(BG #3.d-District Culture)*

Directors Foss reported that during the current legislative session bills on the Supplemental State Aid (SSA) amount of 2.0% and a restriction on student cell phone use during the school day were discussed.

### **505: Superintendent's Report – Exhibit 505.1** *(SPG #1-Community Engagement)*

Superintendent Kortemeyer shared several district highlights and honors, reported on current construction projects, reviewed the recent Lion Learning session regarding the proposed indoor activities center, reviewed her recent meeting participation, extended an invitation to the ELC ribbon cutting/open house on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 PM and several other upcoming events.

## **600: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **601: Approval to Set Public Hearing – FY26 Budget – *MOTION 131-04-14***

*(SPG #1-Community Engagement & 5-Resource Management / BG #3.d-District Culture)*

**MOTION** by Buchholz to set a public hearing for 5:00 PM on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in the boardroom of the Educational Leadership Center regarding the fiscal year 2026 certified budget. Second by Mansoor. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **602: Second Reading of Policy 504.13 – Exhibit 602.1** *(BG #1.c-Visionary Team)*

**MOTION** by Foss to approve the second reading of the recommendation to rescind Policy 504.13-Transgender and Students Nonconforming to Gender Role Stereotypes, as presented in Exhibit 602.1. Second by Buchholz. Director Walker requested that if the motion was approved, the district share a statement clarifying that student protections are still in place through the district's anti-bullying/harassment policies. Director Thomas shared apologies for the bad timing of the first reading occurring on International Transgender Day of Visibility. Director Morey stated should would be in support of the district issuing a statement per Walker's request. Director Foss called point of order. Voice vote. Ayes: Buchholz, Foss, Mansoor, Morey, Thomas, and Lowe Lancaster. Nay: Walker. Motion carried. – ***MOTION 132-04-14***

### **603: Indoor Activities Center Expansion & Renovation Project**

*(SPG #5-Resource Management)*

The Finance/Audit Committee members and Board members shared information on the proposed Indoor Activities Center Expansion and Renovation Project. Information shared included reminders on the planning/development process, clarification on funding options, and the strong need for additional and renovated spaces.

**MOTION** by Buchholz to approve the Indoor Activities Center Expansion and Renovation Project as discussed, to move forward with the design phase, and secure financing for the construction through a combination of SAVE bonds and PPEL notes, and to work with the district's municipal advisors and bond counsel to prepare the necessary documents and proceedings to initiate and execute the financing plan for the project. Second by Morey. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

– **MOTION 133-04-14**

### **700: NEW BUSINESS**

#### **701: Special Education Strategists II Licensure & Hiring Incentive**

*(SPG #4-People & Culture / BG #3.a-District Culture)*

**MOTION** by Morey to approve the distribution of a financial incentive to aid in the hiring of Strategists II Special Education teachers with a hiring bonus of \$5,000.00 to be paid over two years (\$2,500 after each completed year of employment) OR the option of reimbursing completed classes required for the Strategists II endorsement up to \$10,000.00 (\$2,500 after each completed year of employment, years 1-4). Second by Thomas. Foss shared information on the importance and need for these teachers. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. – **MOTION 134-04-14**

#### **702: Approval of Resolution – Exhibit 702.1 – MOTION 135-04-14**

*(SPG #5-Resource Management / BG #3.c-District Culture)*

**MOTION** by Walker to approve the resolution fixing the date of sale of approximately \$10,000,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services, and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2025, approving electronic bidding procedures, and approving the official statement for the new performance venue. Second by Mansoor. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

#### **703: First Reading of Policy Recommendations – Exhibit 703.1**

*(BG #1.c-Visionary Team)*

**MOTION** by Thomas to approve the first reading of the policy recommendations as presented in Exhibit 703.1. Second by Walker. Director Morey requested minor changes to policies 102.1, 901.8-R, and 902.11 prior to the second reading. Director Thomas thanked the teachers who shared their input on developing the AI guidelines. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. – **MOTION 136-04-14**

#### **704: Approval of Open Enrollment Requests** *(SPG #2-Learning Excellence & 3-Learner Experience)*

**MOTION** by Mansoor to approve the open enrollment requests as presented. Second by Buchholz. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. – **MOTION 137-04-14**

Approved IN	Student Name	Grade	Resident District	School Year
	Lucore, Lilianna	8 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Rapids CSD	2024-25
	Niles, Harper	K	Cedar Rapids CSD	2025-26
	Weirick, Andrew	8 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Rapids CSD	2024-25

Denied IN	Student Name	Grade	Resident District	Reason	School Year
	Weirick, Alexis	10 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Rapids CSD	Insufficient space	2024-25
	Weirick, Bradley	9 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Rapids CSD	Insufficient space	2024-25

## **800: CONSENT AGENDA** *(SPG #4-People/Culture & #5-Resource Mngmt / BG #3.a, c, d-District Culture)*

**MOTION** by Thomas to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Morey. Congratulations and thanks were shared with the retirees. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. – **MOTION 138-04-14**

## **801: Personnel**

### **Certified Staff: Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Donnenwerth, Kyle	LMHS: PLTW/Industrial Tech Teacher	8/13/25	BA, Step 3
Fechner, Chris	LMHS: From Associate Athletic Director to Athletic Director	7/1/25	\$120,000/year
Franklin-Clark, Kelly	LMHS: Student Support Services Teacher	8/13/25	MA, Step 12

### **Certified Staff: Resignation**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Forsyth, Bob	LMHS: Physical Education Teacher	5/30/25	Retirement
Gostonczik, Sarah	HP: 6 <sup>th</sup> Gr Teacher	6/5/25	Retirement
Hoobler, Patsy	BP: 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr Teacher	6/5/25	Retirement
Weis, Vera	LMHS: Science Teacher	6/5/25	Relocation

### **Classified Staff: Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Bascom, Evan	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/7/25	\$12.00/hour
Cassidy, Annie	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/7/25	\$12.00/hour
Hartman, Mary	WF: Student Support Associate	4/7/25	LMSEAA A, Step 1
Helberg, Chris	WF: Student Support Associate	4/21/25	LMSEAA A, Step 12
Knepper, Brianna	IC: From .5 NS/.5 Custodian to 1.0 Custodian	4/21/25	LMSA C, Step 1
Knoke, Rebecca	LMHS: Part-Time Student Support Associate	4/7/25	LMSEAA A, Step 1
Kramer, Madalyn	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/7/25	\$12.00/hour
Raghwani, Mehal	AC: From Aquatic Instructor to Swim Lesson Coordinator	4/3/25	\$15.00/hour
Rounds, Tracy	O&M: From IC to OR Custodian	3/31/25	Same
Sieren, Owen	AC: From Aquatic Instructor to Swim Lesson Coordinator	4/3/25	\$15.00/hour
Tristan, Mackenzie	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/7/25	\$12.00/hour

### **Classified Staff: Resignation**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Fann, Rachael	LG: Health Assistant	4/18/25	Other employment
Nebel, Lynda	NS: HP Cashier/General Help	4/1/25	Personal
Newhouse, Jill	IC: Student Support Associate	4/7/25	Termination

**Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Lynch, Greg	LMHS: Show Choir Tech	4/7/25	\$2,500
Willman-Harris, Gail	LMHS: From Assistant 10 <sup>th</sup> to Head JV Volleyball Coach	8/1/25	\$4,685

**Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Resignation**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Meeks, Austin	EX: Assistant 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr Boys Basketball Coach	4/1/25	Personal
Meeks, Austin	EX: Head Boys Tennis Coach	4/1/25	Personal

**802: Approval of March 31<sup>st</sup> Board Minutes – Exhibit 802.1****803: Approval of Bills/Warrants – Exhibit 803.1****804: Approval of Contracts/Agreements – Exhibits 804.1-4**

1. Xello online software/program quote for the 2025-26 school year
2. McComas-Lacina Construction change order #6 for the performance venue
3. Four Oaks Children & Family services bus supervisor agreement
4. Kathy McKey independent contractor agreement
5. Interagency agreements for Special Education instructional services with Des Moines Independent CSD (1).

**900: BOARD CALENDAR & COMMUNICATIONS**

President Lowe Lancaster highlighted several upcoming events and requested volunteers for the May Marion City Council meetings.

**901: Board Calendar & Communications**

Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>April 17</i>	--	<i>LMSF Dine Out for Our Schools Day</i>	--
April 17	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Buchholz</i> )	City Hall
<i>April 18</i>	--	<i>No School – Teacher Comp Day</i>	--
April 23	4:30 PM	Educational Leadership Center Ribbon Cutting/Open House	ELC
April 24	4:00 PM	School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)	Boardroom
April 24	4:00 PM	Venture Academics Advisory (VAA)	Venture Room 104/105
April 28	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	Boardroom
Date	Time	Event	Location
May 1	8:30 AM	Board Visit	Westfield Elementary
May 1	10:00 AM	Policy Committee	Boardroom
<i>May 5</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>LMHS Senior Recognition Night</i>	<i>LMHS Auditorium</i>
May 8	8:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee (F/AC)	Boardroom
May 8	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Thomas</i> )	City Hall
May 12	5:30 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting & Closed Session	Boardroom
May 14	4:00 PM	LMHS School Counselors Advisory	LMHS College/Career Ctr
<i>May 14</i>	<i>5:30 PM</i>	<i>Lions/Volunteer Awards</i>	<i>Boardroom</i>
<i>May 21</i>	--	<i>LMHS Seniors Last Day</i>	--
May 22	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Morey</i> )	City Hall
May 25	1:00 PM	LMHS Graduation Ceremony	Alliant Powerhouse
<i>May 26</i>	--	<i>No School – Memorial Day</i>	--

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>June 4</i>	--	<i>Last Day of School – 2-Hour Early Dismissal</i>	--
<i>June 5</i>	--	<i>Teacher Workday</i>	--
June 5	5:30 PM	Marion City Council	City Hall
June 9	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	Boardroom
<i>June 19</i>	--	<i>District Closed – Juneteenth</i>	--
June 19	5:30 PM	Marion City Council	City Hall
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 3	5:30 PM	Marion City Council	City Hall
<i>July 4</i>	--	<i>District Closed – Fourth of July</i>	--
July 14	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	Boardroom
July 17	5:30 PM	Marion City Council	City Hall

## **902: Board Committees/Advisories**

### **Required Board Committees/Advisories**

<b>Committee/Advisory</b>	<b>Board Representatives</b>
Finance/Audit Committee (F/AC)	Buchholz, Foss, Morey
Policy Committee	Lowe Lancaster, Thomas, Walker
Career & Technical Education Advisory (CTE)	Mansoor, Morey, Thomas
School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)	Lowe Lancaster, Mansoor, Morey

### **Additional District Committees/Advisories**

<b>Committee/Advisory</b>	<b>Board Representatives</b>
Facilities Advisory Committee	Foss, Mansoor, Morey
Venture Academics Advisory (VAA)	Morey, Walker
LMHS School Counselors Advisory	Mansoor, Walker
MEDCO Community Promise Advisory	Buchholz
Linn County Conference Board	Buchholz
Legislative Liaisons	Foss, Thomas

## **1000: ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 139-04-14**

**MOTION** by Buchholz to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 PM. Second by Morey. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

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Katie Lowe Lancaster, Board President

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Jonathan Galbraith, Board Secretary/Treasurer

## **EXEMPT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 14, 2025**

The LMCS D Board of Directors entered into exempt session at 6:30 PM as provided for in Chapter 20.17(3) of the Code of Iowa and Policy 204.5, “for negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers or employee organizations, mediations and the deliberative process of arbitrators” and shall be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 21. The meeting was closed to the public.