

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
APRIL 13, 2026  
5:00 PM @ ELC BOARDROOM  
[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, Langston, Mansoor, Morey, Thomas, and Lowe Lancaster. Administration present: Kortemeyer, Galbraith, Wear, Christian, Faber, and Nelson. Absent: Ramos.

**200: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**– Motion 169.04.13**

**MOTION** by Morey to adopt the agenda with the removal of Item 805.5 from the Consent Agenda. Second by Langston. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**300: DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT MOMENT**

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

Karla Christian, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Angela Burke, Community Relations Coordinator, introduced the recipients of this year's LIONS and Volunteer Awards.

**LIONS Awards:**

- **L**egend: John Christian
- **I**nnovators: Elyssa McDowell & Casey Robbins
- **O**ptimizer: Jennie Rickels
- **N**ewcomers: Lexxi Landherr & Nattalee Larimore
- **S**ervice: Deb Wegmann & Brenda Saville
- Lion Pride: Keith Lowen, Tori Lee, and Brittany Contreras
- Pawsome Award: Tully
- Shirley Pantini Award: Joyce Booth

**Volunteer Awards:**

- Above & Beyond Volunteer: Meredith Foreman
- Making a Difference Volunteer: Dale Brandt
- Unsung Hero Volunteer: Wayne Larsen

**400: AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS**

*(SPG #1-Community Engagement)*

No audience communications were received.

## **500: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

### **501: District Career & Academic Plan Report – Exhibit 501.1**

Chad Lang, Director of High School Teaching & Learning, reported on the District Career & Academic Plan (DCAP) including information on what the plan covers, goals of the plan, data and outcomes, and goals for the 2026-27 plan.

*(SPG #2-Learning Excellence / BG #2.c-Student Learning)*

### **502: Marion City Council Report**

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

Director Buchholz reported that during the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Marion City Council meeting there were no items that pertained to the district.

### **503: Legislative Report**

*(BG #1.c-Visionary Team & 3.d-District Culture)*

Director Morey reported on the educational bills still under consideration in the legislative session.

### **504: Superintendent's Report – Exhibit 504.1**

*(SPG #1-Community Engagement)*

Superintendent Kortemeyer shared several district honors and highlights, shared an update on the current facilities projects, reported on the graduation rates for 2024 and 2025, and reviewed several upcoming events.

## **600: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **601: Indoor Activities Center Project & Associated Renovations**

President Lowe Lancaster facilitated a discussion on the Indoor Activities Center Project and associated renovations; which included an informational presentation by Jon Galbraith, Chief Financial/Operating Officer.

*(SPG #2-Learning Excellence / BG #2.c-Student Learning)*

**MOTION** by Foss to table Item 601 to hold further discussion at a special session prior to the May 11<sup>th</sup> PPEL sale. Second by Mansoor. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**– Motion 170.04.13**

### **602: Approval of Quote – Exhibit 602.1**

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

**MOTION** by Morey to approve the quote from Mechanical Sales for the drilling of a test well for the Indoor Activities Center Project for a total of \$88,500.00. Second by Buchholz. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**– Motion 171.04.13**

### **603: Approval of Plans/Specs for the Indian Creek Playground Project**

**MOTION** by Thomas to approve the plans/specifications for the Indian Creek Playground Project as presented in Exhibit 603.1. Second by Morey. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. *(SPG #5-Resource Management / BG #3.c-District Culture)*

**- Exhibit 603.1**

**– Motion 172.04.13**

## **700: NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

**– Motion 173.04.13**

	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Resident District</b>	<b>School Year</b>
<b>Approved IN</b>	Boyer, Vincent	JrK	Cedar Rapids CSD	2026-27
	Hopkins, Lane	JrK	Marion Independent	2026-27
	Horman, Eden	JrK	Cedar Rapids CSD	2026-27
	Iyer, Rayanish	K	Cedar Rapids CSD	2026-27
	Tatro, Braxtyn	K	Cedar Rapids CSD	2026-27

	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Requested District</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>School Year</b>
<b>Denied OUT</b>	Mielke, Theodore	6 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Rapids CSD	Late, no good cause	2026-27

### **702: Approval of Physical Education Standards Exemption** – **Motion 174.04.13**

**MOTION** by Thomas to approve the 2026-27 physical education standards exemption, per CASA requirements, to teach high school physical education in a 90-minute block, quarter format instead of the traditional semester format. Second by Langston. Foss requested clarification on the process. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

(SPG #2-Learning Excellence / BG #2.b-Student Learning)

### **703: Approval to Set Public Hearing**

**– Motion 175.04.13**

**MOTION** by Morey to set a public hearing for 5:00 PM on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in the boardroom of the Educational Leadership Center regarding the Oak Ridge Middle School band room addition. Second by Thomas. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

(SPG #1-Community Engagement & 2-Learning Excellence / BG #2.c-Student Learning)

### **704: Approval to Set Public Hearing**

**– Motion 176.04.13**

**MOTION** by Mansoor to set a public hearing for 5:00 PM on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in the boardroom of the Educational Leadership Center regarding the proposed certified budget for fiscal year 2027. Second by Langston. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **705: Approval of Resolution – Roll Call Vote – Exhibit 705.1**

**MOTION** by Morey to approve the resolution fixing the date of sale of approximately \$29,545,000 General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026, approving the electronic bidding procedures, and approving the official statement. Second by Buchholz. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**– Motion 177.04.13**

### **706: Approval of Resolution – Roll Call Vote – Exhibit 706.1**

**MOTION** by Foss to approve the resolution declaring an official intent under Treasury Regulation 1.150-2 to issue debt to reimburse the school district for certain original expenditures paid in connection with specified projects. Second by Mansoor. Galbraith clarified that the resolution allows the opportunity to pay back the fund once the PPEL monies are received. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**– Motion 178.04.13**

## **707: Approval of Bond & Disclosure Counsel – Exhibit 707.1**

**MOTION** by Thomas to approve Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., to serve as bond counsel and disclosure counsel for the issuance of approximately \$29,545,000 General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026. Second by Morey. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion Carried.

**– Motion 179.04.13**

## **800: CONSENT AGENDA**

**– Motion 180.04.13**

**MOTION** by Buchholz to approve the consent agenda with the removal of Item 805.5. Second by Langston. Congratulations were shared with the retirees. Chad Lang and Steven Starkey were also congratulated on their new positions that will begin in July.

## **801: Personnel**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Dept Action</b>	<b>Salary Placement</b>
Becker, Kristin	From EX/OR Math to OR 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr Math Teacher	8/17/26	Same
Dunn, Rook	LMHS: Science Teacher	8/12/26	BA, Step 1
Lang, Chad	From Director of High School Teaching & Learning to Associate Superintendent	7/1/26	\$155,000/year
Livingston, Alexa	LMHS: English Teacher	8/12/26	BA+24, Step 6
Starkey, Steven	EX: From Associate Principal to Principal	7/1/26	\$125,000/year

### **Certified Staff: Extended Leave of Absence**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Dept Action</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Thompson, Haley	WF: 1 <sup>st</sup> Gr Teacher	2026-27 School Year	Childcare

### **Certified Staff: Resignations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Dept Action</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Burnell, Brandi	LMHS: .5 Computer Science Teacher	6/5/26	Relocation
Galloway, Dawn	LG: Kindergarten Teacher	6/5/26	Relocation
Neighbor, Jenna	OR: 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr Math Teacher	6/5/26	Personal
Paulson, Jill	NE: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr Teacher	6/5/26	Retirement
Van Rheenen, Michelle	NE: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gr Teacher	6/5/26	Retirement
Visek, Kara	EH: Student Support Services Teacher	6/5/26	Personal

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Dept Action</b>	<b>Salary Placement</b>
Bormann, Keagan	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Eiben, Melody	From LMHS to HP Student Support Associate	4/8/26	Same
Fisher, Lily	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/6/26	\$12.00/hour
Gjerde, Grace	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Hansen, Victoria	NE: From Student Support Associate to School Counselors Secretary	5/4/26	LMSEAA B, Step 3
Kueper, Megan	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Nash, Meredith	AC: Academic Aquatic Instructor	3/25/26	\$16.92/hour
Neihart Thielen, Maria	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Rector, Kyla	LMHS: Student Support Associate	3/31/26	LMSEAA A, Step 1
Rickels, Jensen	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Sklarsky, Catherine	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour
Smith, Garrett	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Teff, Matthew	TR: From Maintenance to Operations Training & Safety Specialist	4/7/26	\$67,000/year
Vijay Kumar, Shivani	AC: Aquatic Instructor	4/6/26	\$12.00/hour
Weaver, Molly	AC: Aquatic Instructor	3/26/26	\$12.00/hour

#### **Classified Staff: Resignations**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Burnell, Brandi	LMHS: Part-Time Student Support Associate	3/27/26	Personal
Ritter, Kari	LMHS: Student Support Associate	3/31/26	Termination
Vrbicek, Kim	HP: Student Support Associate	3/31/26	Termination

#### **Co/Extra-Curricular Staff (Schedule H): Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Harris, Madison	LMHS: From Head 9 <sup>th</sup> Gr to Head 10 <sup>th</sup> Gr Volleyball Coach	8/1/26	\$4,698

#### **Co/Extra-Curricular Staff (Non-Schedule H): Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Borschel, Carol	EH: Music Program Accompanist	4/21/26	\$100
Earnest, Valerie	OR: Accompanist	3/12/26	\$480
Hecht, Rachel	OR: Accompanist	3/12/26	\$520
Kolek, Danyel	BP: Club Sponsor	4/7/26	\$220
Novak, Jenny	BP: Club Sponsor	4/7/26	\$220
Spoelstra, Amy	HP: Math Counts Club Sponsor	4/3/26	\$945.83

#### **Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Resignations**

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Koloc, Ella	LMHS: Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach	3/31/26	Personal
Neighbor, Jenna	OR: 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr Assistant Volleyball Coach	3/20/26	Personal

### **802: Approval of March 30<sup>th</sup> Board Minutes – Exhibit 802.1**

### **803: Approval of April 6<sup>th</sup> Work Session Minutes – Exhibit 803.1**

### **804: Approval of Bills/Warrants – Exhibit 804.1**

### **805: Approval of Contracts/Agreements – Exhibits 805.1-4**

1. Eastern Iowa Excavation & Concrete: LMHS Parking Lot Early Site Work
2. McComas-Lacina Construction: Performance Hall change order #14
3. Ann Osborne Independent Contractor Agreement: Work with LMHS Orchestra
4. Larry Widman Independent Contractor Agreement: Work with LMHS Volleyball
5. ~~Interagency special education and/or residential education programming agreements with Sioux City CSD (1). For student confidentiality, exhibits are not provided. (This item was removed from the agenda by Motions 169.04.13 & 180.04.13)~~

## **806: Fundraising Requests – Exhibits 806.1-4**

1. LMHS Boys Tennis to host a summer tennis camp June 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026
2. Indian Creek Art Department to host Artsonia sale August 2026 thru May 2027
3. Westfield Elementary Art to host Square 1 Art sale Sept thru Nov 2026
4. Westfield Elementary Art to host t-shirt sales September thru November 2026

## **900: BOARD CALENDAR & COMMUNICATIONS**

### **901: Board Calendar & Communications**

President Lowe Lancaster reviewed the board calendar and requested volunteers for the May Marion City Council meetings. Morey shared that the May 13<sup>th</sup> LMHS School Counselors Advisory meeting was cancelled.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 16	8:00 AM	Policy Committee	ELC Boardroom
<i>April 16</i>	--	<i>LMSF Dine Out for Schools Day</i>	--
April 16	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Morey</i> )	City Hall
April 23	8:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee	ELC Boardroom
April 23	4:00 PM	School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)	ELC Boardroom
<i>April 24</i>	--	<i>No School (Teacher Comp Day)</i>	--
April 27	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	ELC Boardroom
April 30	4:00 PM	Venture Academics Advisory	AEC Room 104/105
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
May 7	8:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee	ELC Boardroom
May 7	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Buchholz</i> )	City Hall
May 11	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	ELC Boardroom
May 13	4:00 PM	LMHS School Counselors Advisory ( <i>Cancelled</i> )	LMHS College/Career Center
<i>May 13</i>	<i>5:15 PM</i>	<i>LIONS &amp; Volunteer Awards</i>	<i>ELC Boardroom</i>
May 21	5:30 PM	Marion City Council ( <i>Thomas</i> )	City Hall
May 24	1:00 PM	LMHS Commencement Ceremony	Alliant Energy Powerhouse
<i>May 25</i>	--	<i>No School (Memorial Day Holiday)</i>	--
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 4	--	<i>Last Day of School (2-Hour Early Dismissal)</i>	--
June 4	5:30 PM	Marion City Council	City Hall
<i>June 5</i>	--	<i>Teacher Workday</i>	--
June 8	5:00 PM	LMCSD Board of Directors Meeting	ELC Boardroom
June 18	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, Mansoor, Morey
Policy Committee	Langston, Lowe Lancaster, Thomas
Career & Technical Education Advisory (CTE)	Foss, Langston, Mansoor
School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)	Foss, Langston, Mansoor

**Additional District Committees/Advisories**

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

**1000: ADJOURNMENT**

**– Motion 181.04.13**

**MOTION** by Buchholz to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 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