

LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
Lake Central High School
LGI ROOM – ENTER DOOR G
8260 Wicker Avenue, St. John, IN 46373

Board Members Present

Cindy Sues, President
Nicole Kelly, Secretary
Howard Marshall, Board Member
Louise Tallent, Board Member
Janice Malchow, Vice-President

Board Members Not Present

Administration Present

Dr. Lawrence Veracco, Superintendent
Sarah Castaneda, Assistant Superintendent
Rebecca Gromala, Director of Student Services
Bill Ledyard, Director of Facilities
Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education
Rob James, Director of Business Services
Yolanda Bracey, Director of Primary Education

Administration Not Present

*To view the archived video of the meeting in its entirety,
go to the School Board section of website at www.lcsc.us*

*All Motions Were Passed With a 5-0
Roll Call Vote Unless Otherwise Indicated*

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 4, 2026 - 7:00pm

- I. Call to Order – *Cindy Sues*
The meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President Cindy Sues.

- II. Agenda: Approval, Deletions, Additions – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**
 - The Agenda was amended to include revised Personnel Recommendations under Sarah Castaneda’s section.
 - Janice Malchow moved to approve the Revised Agenda.
 - Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

- III. Correspondence – *Nicole Kelly*
 - There was no correspondence.

- IV. Liaison Committee Updates – *Cindy Sues*
 - A. Personnel Interview Committee: Howard Marshall
 - B. Schererville Redevelopment Commission: Nicole Kelly
 - C. Schererville Parks Department: Nicole Kelly
 - D. Lake Central Education Foundation: Janice Malchow
 - E. Legislative Committee: Janice Malchow
 - F. Dyer Parks Department: Janice Malchow

- G. St. John Redevelopment Commission: Cindy Sues
 - H. Dollars for Scholars: Cindy Sues
 - I. Dyer Redevelopment Commission: Louise Tallent
 - J. Wellness Committee: Louise Tallent
- V. Official School Board Business Topics: Consent Agenda – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**
- A. Approval of Minutes
 - Executive Session: April 20, 2026
 - Regular Board Meeting: April 20, 2026
 - B. Approval of Claims, Payroll and Extracurricular Expenditures
- VI. Public Comments Regarding Action Items
- There were no public comments regarding action items.
- VII. Official School Board Business Topics: Regular Agenda
- A. Superintendent – *Dr. Veracco*
 - 1. LCSC 2026 Teachers of the Year:
 - Joella Freckleton, Peifer Elementary and Jackie Holden, Lake Central High School were named LCSC 2026 Teachers of the Year.
 - Also honored were finalists, Lupita Alvarado - ELL Teacher - Grimmer/Kahler, Val Gardner - Lake Central High School, and Melody Wolff - Kolling.
 - 2. LCSC 2026 Retirees:

Patricia Alexander, Andrea Balcerak, Lucy Bertossi, Angeline Boulas, Sandy Buntin, Cheryl Carniello, Milena Dobrijevic, Joella Freckleton, Nancy Gluth, Scott Graber, Kathy Grimler, Tammy Hart, Kelly Hempenius, Becky Hupp, Pamela Knight, Renee Lam-Chi, Ljiljana Mitrovic, Cynthia Ninkovich, Ellen O'Rourke, Linda Pawlak, Sandra Scheeringa, Christina Schneider, Paula Shepherd, James Simmons, Joseph Skvarek, Laura Smith, Renee Swetlik, Larry Veracco, Peggy Wandachowicz, and Melody Wolff.
 - B. Assistant Superintendent – *Sarah Castaneda*
 - 1. Personnel Recommendations – **Action Required - Amended**
 - Janice Malchow moved to approve.
 - Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
 - C. Director of Primary Education – *Yolanda Bracey*
 - D. Director of Secondary Education – *Misty Scheuneman*
 - 1. Professional Leave Requests - **Action Required**
 - Louise Tallent moved to approve.
 - Howard Marshall seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
 - 2. Field Trip Requests - **Action Required**
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approved.
 - Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
 - E. Director of Student Services - *Becky Gromala*

F. Director of Facilities – *Bill Ledyard*

1. LCHS SAI/LCSC Optimization NIPSCO Incentive April 2026 -Update

G. Director of Business Services – *Rob James*

1. Donations - **Action Required**

- Howard Marshall moved to approve.
- Janice Malchow seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

2. 2026 Tax Rates

VIII. Public Comments – *Cindy Sues*

- There were no public comments.

IX. Board Comments and Consideration of Future Agenda Items – *Cindy Sues*

- **Howard Marshall:** Larry, I was a little mute tonight. I didn't want it to sound like a eulogy. So, congratulations on a very, very successful career. I'm glad that former board member and I had a conversation with you and you said yes. You know what I'm referring to. Thank you.
- **Louise Tallent:** Well, that is a tough act to follow, Howard. Thank you. What can we say but thank you for your service, all that you've done. Dr. Veracco, for the entire school corporation and the community and also for the wonderful staff that was celebrated tonight. What more can we say - just wonderful, wonderful people. They're the salt of the earth and are dedicated to kids. I'm going to save other comments, I can say anymore. Thank you so much.
- **Janice Malchow:** It was a great night. I know that took a lot of organization on behalf of our office secretaries and we certainly do appreciate that. Celebrations are something that we never never forget. And we have what, another two months with you? All right. Well, we'll elaborate then. I mean, no, we won't. But thank you for all that hard work. Appreciate it.
- **Nicole Kelly:** I will just say again, congratulations to all of our many retirees and our honorees for teacher of the year. And, especially congratulations and thank you to Dr. Veracco for your dedication all these years and your hard work. You'll be missed.
- **Cindy Sues:** I can't follow up with anything that you guys haven't already said that I would have said. So, I will save my comments for June and we'll get through those then.

X. Board Calendar of Future Activities – *Dr. Veracco*

- Next School Board Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2026

XI. Adjournment – *Cindy Sues* – **Action Required**

- Janice Malchow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.
- Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
- Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the May 4, 2026 School Board Meeting were approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees at the May 18, 2026 School Board Meeting.

Cindy Sues, President

ATTEST:

Nicole Kelly, Secretary

Emp #	NAME	LC Years Of Service	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE OF RETIREMENT
RETIREMENTS - Administrators					
1	298 Veracco, Larry	33 LC/1 Outside	Admin	Superintendent	6/30/2026
2	1659 Graber, Scott	32 LC/8.5 Outside	Clark MS	Princippal	6/30/2026
RETIREMENTS - Certified					
1	765 O'Rourke, Ellen	27 LC/13 Outside	Bibich	Grade 4	May 29, 2026
2	1636 Simmons, James	31 LC/4 Outside	Clark MS	PE	May 29, 2026
3	7575 Hart, Tammy	11 LC	Clark MS	Grade 5	May 30, 2026
4	4434 Hempenius, Kelly	21 LC/16 Outside	Clark MS	Spec. Ed.	June 1, 2026
5	1839 Grimler, Kathy	32 LC	Grimmer	Art	May 29, 2026
6	4262 Pawlak, Linda	20 LC	Kolling	Grade 3	May 29, 2026
7	3053 Schneider, Christina	28 LC/7 Outside	LCHS	Foreign Lang.	May 30, 2026
8	5720 Carniello, Cheryl	18 LC	LCHS	Math	June 1, 2026
9	6503 Gluth, Nancy	16 LC	LCHS	Spec. Ed.	May 29, 2026
10	2426 Freckelton, Joella	37 LC	Peifer	Grade 3	May 29, 2026
11	683 Boulas, Angeline	31 LC	Peifer	Grade 3	May 29, 2026
12	3463 Bradbury-Wolff, Melody	30 LC/10 Outside	Kolling	Grade 1	May 29, 2026
13	2369 Lam-Chi, Renee	29 LC	Homan	Grade 2	May 29, 2026
RETIREMENTS - Classified					
1	5798 Hupp, Becky	18	Grimmer	Secretary	May 29, 2026
2	2765 Smith, Laura	29	Homan	Food Svc	March 3, 2026
3	1062 Balcerak, Andrea	26	LCHS	Prod Spec	August 1, 2025
4	3794 Bertossi, Lucy	15	LCHS	COTA	August 13, 2025
5	6771 Mitrovic, Ljiljana	13	LCHS	Custodian	December 31, 2025
6	4322 Dobrijevic, Milena	19	LCHS	Custodian	April 27, 2026
7	247 Ninkovich, Cynthia	31	LCHS	Secretary	May 29, 20226
8	5347 Buntin, Sandy	18	Peifer	Secretary	August 27, 2025
9	759 Alexander, Patricia	21	Trans	Bus Driver	July 23, 2025
10	896 Wandachowicz, Peggy	26.5	Trans	Bus Driver	January 16, 2026
11	4559 Swetlik, Renee	21	LCHS	Secretary	June 11, 2026
12	6717 Skvarek, Joseph	13	Clark	Paraprofessional	May 28, 2026
13	7721 Paula Shepherd	12	Kahler	Paraprofessional	May 28, 2026
14	3559 Scheeringa, Sandra	22	Peifer	Paraprofessional	May 28, 2026

Lake Central School Corporation

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Superintendent

Sarah Castaneda
Assistant Superintendent

Yolanda Bracey, Ed. D.
Director of Primary Education

Misty Scheuneman
Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Sarah Castaneda, Assistant Superintendent
DATE: April 30, 2026
RE: Board Meeting of May 4, 2026

REVISED

Personnel

(Board action required)

We are recommending that the following be approved:

I. Certified Appointment(s), Transfer(s), Resignation(s) & Retirement(s):

A. Appointment(s):

1. Matthew Plawecki (Hobart), Science Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective August 10, 2026).
2. Gianna Bock (Dyer), Applied Skills Teacher, Bibich Elementary School (effective August 10, 2026).
3. Angelina Mansour (Schererville), Temporary Grade 2 Teacher, Bibich Elementary School (effective April 27, 2026).
4. Kayla Krull (Merrillville), Applied Skills Teacher, Kahler Middle School (effective August 10, 2026).

B. Transfer(s):

1. Kristi Sikora-Blankenship transferring from Grade 4 General Ed Teacher to Grade 4 High Ability Teacher, Kolling Elementary School (effective August 10, 2026).
2. Michelle Vogt transferring from Grade 4 High Ability Teacher to Grade 1 High Ability Teacher, Kolling Elementary School (effective August 10, 2026).
3. Kelly Wojciechowski transferring from Grade 2 Teacher to Grade 1 Teacher, Kolling Elementary School (effective August 10, 2026).
4. Lauren Brogni transferring from Transition to Adulthood (TAP) Teacher to Resource Teacher at Lake Central High School (effective August 10, 2026).
5. Jacqueline Holden transferring from Special Education ELA Teacher to Transition to Adulthood (TAP) Teacher at Lake Central High School (effective August 10, 2026).
6. Andrew Gurnak transferring from Physical Education (PE) Teacher at Lake Central High School to Physical Education (PE) Teacher at Clark Middle School (effective August 10, 2026).
7. Jon Newcomb transferring from Applied Skills Teacher to Special Education Math Teacher at Lake Central High School (effective August 10, 2026).

C. Resignation(s):

1. Sarah Darnell, Grade 2 Teacher, Bibich Elementary School (effective April 17, 2026).
2. Karley Brown, Temporary Special Education Teacher, Homan Elementary School (May 13, 2026).
3. Justine Vroom, Grade 5 Teacher, Kahler Middle School (effective May 29, 2026).

D. Retirement(s):

1. Renee Lam-Chi, Grade 2 Teacher, Homan Elementary School (effective May 29, 2026; *29 years of dedicated service*).

II. Classified Appointment(s), Retirement(s), Resignation(s) & Termination(s):

A. Appointment(s):

1. Yaneli Terrazas (rehire), Paraprofessional, Lake Central High School (effective April 20, 2026).
2. Alina Carli (rehire), Paraprofessional, Clark Middle School (effective May 4, 2026).

B. Retirement(s):

1. Sandra Scheeringa, Paraprofessional, Peifer Elementary School (effective May 28, 2026); *23 years of dedicated service*.
2. Pamela Knight, 9 Month Secretary, Kahler Middle School (effective June 12, 2026); *22 years of dedicated service*.

C. Resignation(s):

1. Adam Groat, Transportation Mechanic, Lake Central School Corporation (effective May 8, 2026).
2. Ed Mattingly Jr., Custodian, Bibich Elementary School (effective May 31, 2026).
3. Emilio Zambrano, Paraprofessional, Lake Central High School (effective May 6, 2026).

D. Termination(s):

1. Marlene Wolf, Paraprofessional, Watson Elementary School (effective April 30, 2026).

III. Certified Extracurricular Resignation(s):

A. Resignation(s):

1. Lisa Groszek, Student Council Sponsor, Lake Central School Corporation (effective June 1, 2026).
2. Scott Freckelton, 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Clark Middle School (effective April 28, 2026).

Approval of Lake Central School Corporation Substitute Staff Appointments and Resignations – Refer to attached list of substitutes that have been hired and have resigned.

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Superintendent

Sarah Castaneda
Assistant Superintendent

Yolanda Bracey, Ed. D.
Director of Elementary Education

Misty Scheuneman
Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education
DATE: April 30, 2026
RE: **Board Meeting of May 4, 2026**

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE REQUESTS

NAME	Dawn Combis
POSITION	Teachers
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	BPA Field Trip
DATES	5/06 - 5/08/2026
PLACE	Nashville, TN
DESCRIPTION	BPA National Leadership Conference
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Business Professionals of America
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

*This request was approved on 4/07 for Danielle Carr and Savannah Biegel. Dawn Combis will be going in place of Danielle Carr.

MS/vv

Board Meeting of May 4, 2026

NAME	Ken Newton
POSITION	Principal
SCHOOL	Kahler Middle School
EVENT	Leadership Retreat
DATES	6/08 - 6/10/2026
PLACE	Nashville, IN
DESCRIPTION	Planning session to set strategic vision for IASP
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	IASP
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	n/a

NAME	Brian McNamara
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	APSI Training for AP US
DATES	6/22 - 6/25/2026
PLACE	Plainfield, IL
DESCRIPTION	Summer session to learn instructional strategies for AP US History
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Plainfield School District
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$650 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage
FUNDING	AP Fund

Board Meeting of May 4, 2026

NAME	Joseph Correa
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	Indiana PLTW Connection Conference
DATES	10/19 - 10/20/2026
PLACE	Indianapolis, IN
DESCRIPTION	Annual PLTW Conference
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Project Lead The Way
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$35 Estimated Hotel Cost – \$0 Estimated Required Fees – \$0 Estimated Travel Cost – Mileage & Parking
FUNDING	6846-11300-58000-0002

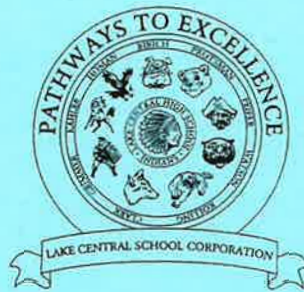
NAME	Leta Sena-Lopez / Kevin Lewis / Mark Walton
POSITION	Band Directors
SCHOOL	Kahler / Clark / Grimmer
EVENT	Field Trip to St. Louis
DATES	4/09 - 4/11/2027
PLACE	St. Louis, MO
DESCRIPTION	Opportunity for band students to get feedback from a university clinician, perform in public, and enjoy historical experiences
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Bob Rogers Travel
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost – \$0 Estimated Required Fees – \$0 Estimated Travel Cost – \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

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Director of Elementary Education

Misty Scheuneman
Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees

FROM: Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education

DATE: April 30, 2026

RE: **Board Meeting of May 4, 2026**

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Leta Sena-Lopez, Kevin Lewis and Mark Walton, Band Directors at Kahler, Clark and Grimmer Middle Schools, request to take approximately (90) 7th and 8th grade Honor Band Students to St. Louis, MO on April 9 - April 11, 2027. This is an opportunity to showcase our best middle school musicians, get feedback from a university clinician, give a public performance and enjoy historical experiences. This is a self-funded field trip.

MS/vv

NIPSCO Energy Efficiency Programs
c/o TRC Companies
1000 Clark Ave, Fl 4
Saint Louis, MO 63102



1010 180



LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
ATTN TO: WILLIAM LEDYARD
8260 WICKER AVE
SAINT JOHN IN 46373-8876



Thank you for participating in the NIPSCO Energy Efficiency Programs.

PA YMENT SUMMARY

CHECK NO: 0001825605

CHECK DATE: 04/14/2026

\$*****5,200.00
Project Number: 018256-Lake Central High School
Project Description: Lake Central High School
Project Address: 8400 Wicker Ave

(Detach Here)

NIPSCO Energy Efficiency Programs
c/o TRC Companies
1000 Clark Ave, Fl 4
Saint Louis, MO 63102



51-7011/2111

CHECK DATE
04/14/2026

CHECK NUMBER
0001825605

FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS 00 CENTS

VALID FOR 180 DAYS

\$*****5,200.00

TO THE ORDER OF: LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
ATTN TO: WILLIAM LEDYARD
8260 WICKER AVE
SAINT JOHN IN 46373-8876

Citizens Bank
190 Trumbull St
Hartford, CT 06103

⑈000 18 25605⑈ ⑆ 2111 70 114⑆ 2233438099⑈

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Lawrence Veracco, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Rob James
Director of Business Services

To: Board of School Trustees

From: Mr. Rob James, Director of Business Services

Date: April 30, 2026

RE: Board Meeting May 4, 2026

Donations (Action Required)

Received

Grimmer Middle School received a donation of \$300 from Scott's USave to be used for Staff Appreciation Week and they also received \$100 from Strack & Van Til to be used toward bakery items for the week.

Grimmer Athletic Department also received a \$50 donation from an anonymous donor.

Given

Lake Central High School Student Council held their annual Color Run on April 26th. The Student Council would like to donate \$750 of the proceeds to the Indiana Dunes National Park.

The Kahler Student Council recently held two fundraisers for Riley Children's Hospital. The school would like to donate the \$1,306.36 raised to Riley's.

2026 Tax Rates

Now that the 2026 tax rates have been set by the Department of Local Government Finance, I will be giving the school board an update on our Lake Central School Corporation rate, as well as the overall tax rates for the communities we serve.