

LEIPSIC LOCAL SCHOOL
Board of Education
Minutes

Date: March 18, 2026 Kind of Meeting: Regular

The Leipsic Local Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

The following Board members were present: Rachel Niese, Brian Reynolds, Barry Ward, Karen Ward, and Kirk Wensink.

Administration present included: Darren Henry, Interim Superintendent; Megan Tobe, Elementary Principal; Brian Bennett – MS/HS Principal; and David Miller, Treasurer.

In attendance were five staff members, three students, and seven parents.

A motion was made by Rachel Niese, and seconded by Kirk Wensink, to approve the minutes of the February 2026 board meeting. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0

048-26
Minutes

Karen Ward made a motion, and Rachel Niese seconded the move, to approve financial statements as presented (Bills, Interest, etc.). Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

049-26
Financial
Statements

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Items:

Barry Ward made a motion, and Kirk Wensink seconded the move, to approve the disposal of inventory per attached. Vote: Barry Ward—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; and Karen Ward-- yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

050-26
Disposal of
Inventory

Barry Ward made a motion, and Karen Ward seconded the move, to approve the “Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor” per attached.

051-26
Tax Levy
Resolution

<u>Levy</u>	<u>TY2025</u>
Inside Mills	4.55 mills (same as last year)
Permanent Mills	24.15 mills (same as last year)
Fixed Sum (Emergency)	0.25 mills (2.85 mill decrease)
<u>Bond Levy</u>	<u>0.00 mills (1.00 mill decrease)</u>
Total	28.95 mills (3.85 mill decrease)

Vote: Barry Ward—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the move, to approve the following spring/summer 2026 capital projects.

052-26
Capital
Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Costs</u>
Track Bleachers	Farnham Equipment	\$199,967.00
Softball Bleachers	Farnham Equipment	42,965.00
Baseball Bleachers	Farnham Equipment	71,214.00
Varsity Gym Bleachers	Farnham Equipment	295,000.00
Varsity Gym Lighting	County Electric	15,710.00
Varsity Gym Wall Padding	Farnham Equipment	22,408.00
Football Bleacher End Caps	Farnham Equipment	6,998.00
Baseball/Softball Field Renovations	Modify/Postpone/Cancel	39,300.00
Track Sound System	Custom Audio	17,892.41
<u>Kindergarten Playground</u>	<u>Michigan Playground</u>	<u>189,942.00</u>
Total		\$901,396.41

Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Karen Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea; Motion passed: 5-0.

Karen Ward made a motion, and Rachel Niese seconded the move, to approve membership in the Ohio School Comp 2027 Workers’ Compensation group rating program sponsored by OSBA and administered through Sedgwick at an annual fee of \$750.00 per attached. Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

053-26
Worker’s
Compensation

Personnel:

Rachel Niese made a motion, and Kirk Wensink seconded the motion, to accept the resignation of Joan Ellerbrock as Cafeteria Manager for retirement purposes effective May 31, 2026. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Kirk Wensink--yea. Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

054-26
J. Ellerbrock
Retirement

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Barry Ward made a motion, and Brian Reynolds seconded the motion, to approve the supplemental contract per the recommendation by the high school principal for the 2025-2026 school year.

055-26
Supplemental
ContractFY26

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Yrs</u>	<u>Compansation</u>
Miriam Gibson	Accompanist	1.5	13	\$903.00

*Experience is paid on 11 years maximum.
** Documented evidence of a clear criminal record.

Vote: Barry Ward—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Karen Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

Kirk Wensink made a motion, seconded by Karen Ward, to approve the following non-traditional classroom substitute candidate for the 2025-26 school year per attached.

056-26
Teacher
Substitute

Shana Frankart – 1 Year Pre-Service Teacher Permit

Vote: Kirk Wensink—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese-- yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; and Barry Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

Rachel Niese made a motion, and Kirk Wensink seconded the motion, to approve Mason Tuttle as High School Mathematics Teacher, Bachelor Degree, 0 years experience for the 2026-2027 school year per attached. Contingent upon receipt of Teacher Licensure prior to the first work day. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea. Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Karen Ward—yea; Motion passed: 5-0.

057-26
HS Math
M. Tuttle

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Karen Ward seconded the motion, to approve the District Lawn and Landscape Maintenance and the Athletic Field Maintenance contracts between Leipsic Local School District and M&S Lawn & Landscape, LLC per attached. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Barry Ward--yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

058-26
Lawn &
Landscape
Contracts

Karen Ward made a motion, seconded by Rachel Niese, to table the motion to approve the first reading of the following Board Policies:

059-26
Board Policies
Tabled

- 2431.06 Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) in Athletics
- 3440 Job-Related Expenses
- 4440 Job Related Expenses
- 5112 Entrance Requirements
- 5421 Grading
- 5430 Class Rank
- 6220 Budget Preparation
- 6320 Purchasing and Bidding
- 6325 Procurement – Federal Grants / Funds
- 6423 Use of Credit Cards
- 6425 Use of District Tax Exempt Certificate
- 6460 Vendor Relations
- 6465 Affinity, Rewards, or Other Discount Programs
- 7540.09 Artificial Intelligence (“AI”)
- 8500 Food Services
- 4162 Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holders and Other Employees Who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions
- 4162.01 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Employees Without CDL Licenses Who Transport Students in Alternative Vehicles (non-DOT Testing)
- 8600 Transportation
- 8600.04 Bud Driver Certification
- 5751 Parental Status of Students
- 5780.01 Parents Bill of Rights
- 8640 Transportation for Non-Routine Trips
- 8650 Transportation by Vehicle Other Than School Buses

Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

Executive Session:

Karen Ward made a motion, seconded by Kirk Wensink, to enter into Executive Session at 6:22 pm to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employer or official, or the investigation of charges, or complaints against an employee, official, licensee, or student; and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes. Vote: Karen Ward—yea, Kirk Wensink—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea, and Barry Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

060-26
Executive
Session

The board returned from executive session at 6:50 p.m.

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Rachel Niese made a motion, and Kirk Wensink seconded the motion, to approve Abby Krinke as Treasurer per the terms and conditions presented. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea. Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Karen Ward—yea; Motion passed: 5-0.

061-26
Treasurer
A. Krinke

Planning & Discussion:

- Superintendent Comments
- Board Round Robin

Executive Session:

Brian Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Kirk Wensink, to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employer or official, or the investigation of charges, or complaints against an employee, official, licensee, or student; and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea, Kirk Wensink—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Karen Ward—yea.. Motion passed: 5-0.

062-26
Executive
Session

The board returned from executive session at 7:58 p.m.

Informational Items:

Rachel Niese made a motion, and Karen Ward seconded the motion, to hold the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward---yea, and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

063-26
Regular Mtg

Karen Ward made a motion, and Rachel Niese seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

064-26
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

_____ President

_____ Treasurer