



LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan
BOARD OF EDUCATION / STUDY SESSION
April 7, 2025
5:00 p.m.
District Boardroom-Lincoln High School

OFFICIAL MINUTES-STUDY SESSION

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer LaBombarbe, President
Matthew Bentley, Vice President
Jason Moore, Treasurer (arrived at 5:17pm)
Lauren Smith, Secretary
Jennifer Czachorski, Trustee
Alisa Soos, Trustee
JaVon Jason, Trustee (Exited meeting at 6:30pm)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Robert Jansen, Superintendent
Paula Robinette, Human Resources Director
Karensa Smith, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction
Adam Snapp, Finance Director
Vicki Coury, Information & Communications Director
Phil Bongiorno, Facilities Director
Solomon Zheng, Technology Director

OTHERS PRESENT

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President LaBombarbe called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Roll call showed all Board Members were present.

3.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

4.0 PLEDGE TO FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board and audience members.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.5 Childs Elementary Presentation
Enrollment-510
Male/Female-264-246
Special Education-129 25%
Demographics-African American 23%, Asian - 2%, Caucasian 52%, Hispanic %, Multiracial 22%

- Math Proficiency Fall 24-Winter25: 38th to 46th Median percentile

- Childs Reading Proficiency- Fall 24 to Winter 25 **Goal set on 9/2024:** By June 2025, increase the percentage of students reading at proficient IRLA levels from 32% to 40% and decrease the percentage of students reading at emergency IRLA levels from 25% to 20%.
- Academic Response-MTSS-32 students, Intervention-48 reading intervention students and 41 math intervention students
- Behavioral Data
 - 312 referrals (141 from students receiving intervention through IEP)
 - 32 suspensions; 10 students suspended
 - Students with 5 or more referrals- All receiving support through IEP, MTSS, Bridge Team, Adult Mentoring, CICO, Alternative Recess Options, Restorative Practices

5.6 Technology Presentation

- Infrastructure- New network core, fiber project initial planning starting, phones are much more stable, implementing new PA system
- Current software- Windows 10, ChromeOS, A few Macs... but a lot of iPads, Clever → over 30 connected platforms and our network enables our staff to use over 300 resources
- Still working on-keeping student devices in service, updating legacy hardware and more network infrastructure

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

- No previous Public Comment

Please fill out the attendance form including your email and phone number. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less. Comments with respect to the performance of specific district employees are not appropriate during public comment. A list of complete guidelines are listed on the agenda.

- Eric John Roberts spoke to the Board about his run for the Washtenaw ISD Board of Education.

7.0 SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

- Mr Jansen was in San Diego, California to attend the ASU-GSV Conference
- Technology Contract is being analyzed to determine next steps
- We have formed a Sinking Fund Committee to analyze priority and assessments
- Meeting structure will be adjusted moving forward to balance time spent at each meeting.

8.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8.1 Executive Committee

8.1.1 Virtual Academy Data (D)-President LaBombarbe
Presented by Karensa Smith (*moved to April 14th COTW*)

8.1.2 Cell Phone Policy (N)-Discussion Update per President LaBombarbe
Inserted are the current Miller Johnson AR-Acceptable Use Policy and Elementary, Middle and High School's current cell phone guidelines taken from each building's handbook.

President LaBombarbe asked Karensa Smith to have all levels make their cell phone in the same format as the Elementary's is currently and start implemented for the 25-26 school year.

Jason left at 6:30pm

8.1.3 Website & App (N) Update per President LaBombarbe
Presented proposal by Vicki Coury

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval. President LaBombarbe asked that Vicky Coury submit timeline the Committee of the Whole on April 14, 2025

- 8.2 Finance Committee
 - 8.2.1 Finance Report Update (D)-Adam Snapp
 - Reports included in Board inserts.
- 8.3 Performance & Policy Committee
 - 8.3.1 Human Resource Update & Personnel Transactions (D)-Paula Robinette
 - 8.3.1.1 Miller Johnson Policy Manual Update (N)-Committee

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval. Two small corrections that will be available in the packet for April 21, 2025, Regular Meeting.

- 8.3.2 Curriculum & Instruction Update (D)-Karensa Smith
 - 8.3.2.1 Summer School 2024-25 School Year (N)-Karensa Smith
 - Please read complete insert

Elementary Summer School

Vision:

Provide historically marginalized students with the opportunity to maintain and improve skills taught during the previous school year and increase their academic achievement level in targeted language arts and math instruction in grades K-5 NWEA and standards/skills deficit areas district wide.

Rationale:

Spring 2024 M-STEP data and Fall 2024 NWEA scores show that achievement gaps in specific populations (Economically Disadvantaged, African American, Hispanic, EL, and Special Education students) still exist. We need to continue to address these areas so that all of our students are successful. Summer school data from previous years has shown success for our historically marginalized population in reducing summer loss and showing growth. We would like to continue to provide them this opportunity for growth this summer.

Midde School Summer School

Vision:

Provide historically marginalized students with the opportunity to maintain and improve skills taught during the previous school year and increase their academic achievement level in targeted language arts and math instruction in grades 6-8 NWEA and standards/skill deficit areas.

Rationale:

Spring 2024 M-STEP and Fall 2024 NWEA scores show that achievement gaps in specific populations (Economically Disadvantaged, African American, Hispanic, EL, and Special Education student) still exist. We need to continue to address these areas so that all of our students are successful. School data from previous years has shown success for our historically marginalized population in reducing summer loss and showing growth. We would like to continue to provide them this opportunity for growth.

High School Summer School

Vision:

Provide at-risk students the opportunity to recover lost credit and improve academic skills. Proposed courses will include Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies for grades 9th – 12th.

Rationale:

According to current Powerschool records, there is a significant number of Lincoln students that are off-track to graduate on time with their 4-year cohort class. During the 2024-25 school year, we will identify approximately students not currently on track to graduate with their 4 y-ar group (more precise counts will be determined after exams). We will need to offer this summer program to help address the credit deficit. It is the goal for this learning summit to provide students with an opportunity to earn up to 2 full credits in core content. Our hopes are:

- To help students regain credits to regain eligibility to graduate with the 4 year cohort
- To help students move on to the next level of specific subject areas
- To decrease student failure rates and drop-out rates
- To increase knowledge and improve MME/ACT success and increase overall test scores
- To help build positive self-concept

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval.

8.4 Building & Site Committee

8.4.1 Facilities & Grounds Update (D)-Phil Bongiorno-

8.4.1.1 Updates-Community Ed Summer Camp (D), Filter First Legislation Grant Award (D), Energy Savings Bond Update (D)

8.4.1.2 Proposals

8.4.1.2.1 Bessie Hoffman Proposal (N)

Bessie Hoffman Renovation Proposal:

To renovate Bessie Hoffman School, a 44,000-square-foot facility, by utilizing the plan created to spark in the overall objective to transition Bessie Hoffman into a career exploration center. The project includes upgrades to three classrooms, the gymnasium, restrooms, and selecting building-wide systems, as well as exterior improvements.

All lighting improvements, and HVAC repairs are recommended to be funded separately through an energy savings bond. Ceiling tile replacement is limited to 20,000 sq ft at a reduced rate, Wi-Fi is targeted to 5,000 sq ft, and internal resources will handle flooring refinishing and deep cleaning to minimize costs. Work will begin on May 1, 2025, and conclude by August 1, 2025.

Recommendation

We request approval for a budget of \$372,000, excluding all lighting improvements and HVAC repairs (to be funded via an energy savings bond), with ceiling tile replacement limited to 20,000 sq ft at \$1/sq ft, Wi-Fi targeted to 5,000 sq ft, restroom renovations optimized, and flooring refinishing and deep cleaning handled internally. This approach maximizes efficiency and leverages existing resources and alternative funding. Funding may be sourced from district reserves, grants, or other mechanisms, pending board approval, with potential payback utilizing the sinking fund milage. A small contingency (e.g., 5%, or \$18,600) is recommended but not included to maintain the minimum cost.

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval. Lay-out with maps will be provided in the Regular Meeting packet for April 21, 2025.

8.4.1.2.2 Concession Operations Proposal (N)

Concession Operations Proposal:

We are recommending a strategy for managing concession services at Lincoln Schools. After assessing our current operations and exploring external options, I have outlined three distinct approaches. Each option includes its operational plan, financial implications, and feasibility, concluding with a recommendation for the best path forward.

Recommendation

We recommend partnering with Sheena and Lenny's Franchise Group for the following reasons:

1. Reliability: Their professional staffing ensures concessions operate consistently for every event.
2. Community Fit: Their local roots and diverse offerings align with our values and appeal to our community.
3. Balanced Financials: A 10% commission provides steady revenue without the district bearing full operational risk.
4. Turnkey Solution: Their equipment plan and expertise allow an immediate start, minimizing district workload. To optimize costs, I suggest conducting a complete inventory of existing district equipment to identify reusable items, potentially reducing their \$182,669.25 investment to \$120,000-\$150,000.

Additional information was requested at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 14, 2025.

8.4.1.2.3 Sinking Fund-Operational Vehicles (N)

Sinking Fund: Equipment Lease - Operational Vehicles:

We propose acquiring seven new Ford F-250 trucks to replace the district's aging fleet, utilizing the \$29 million sinking fund millage and proceeds from selling the current fleet (\$40,000-\$48,000). Through the State of Michigan Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Program, the district can buy outright or lease-to-own over five years, with a plan to sell the leased trucks after six years and repeat the process. This strategy ensures a modern fleet every six years, maximizes savings, and delivers \$500,000-\$750,000 in 10-year benefits, aligning with fiscal and operational goals.

Recommendation

- Preferred Option: Lease-to-Own (5 Years) with 6-Year Sale Cycle.
 - o Rationale: Annual costs (\$47,900-\$76,900 Year 1; \$59,500-\$66,500 Years 2-5) fit within \$2.9M/year, leaving funds for other projects. Sales after 6 years recovers \$84,000-\$119,000, reducing net costs and enabling a new cycle. Over 10 years, the district gains \$500,000-\$750,000 in savings and assets, with a modern fleet throughout. Outright purchase, while viable, ties up more upfront funds without the renewal benefit.

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval.

8.4.1.2.4 RFP-Asphalt

Lincoln Consolidated School District is seeking bids for the replacement of the parking lot of Lincoln High School (7425 Willis Road, Ypsilanti, MI, 48197), Lincoln Middle School (8744 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197), Lincoln Transportation Center (8622 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI. 48197), as well as all of Lincoln Trail roadway, and the portion of Railsplitter Dr, from the 4-way stop near the middle school to the Willis road entranceway.

This recommendation shall move to the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12, 2025 and the Regular Meeting agenda on May 19, 2025, for approval after the RFP process is complete.

8.4.2 Technology Update (D)-Solomon Zheng

8.4.2.1 Technology Inventory Details (D) per President LaBombarbe

An updated Technology Inventory chart was presented and discussed.

8.4.2.2 Michigan Department of Transportation Performance Resolution (N)
Resolution inserted.

This recommendation shall move to the Regular Meeting agenda on April 21, 2025, for approval.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

No other addition business

~~**10.0 CLOSED SESSION**~~

~~**10.1 Negotiations**~~

Closed Session was not needed

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Czachorski and seconded by Bentley that we adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried 6-0

President LaBombarbe declared the meeting adjourned.