

Minutes
Lostant CUSD #425
Wednesday
April 29, 2026
6:00 PM FY 26 Regular Meeting Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - REGULAR MEETING

Greg Ruff, B.O.E. President Ruff called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Present: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper.

Present via Zoom: None

Present via Telephone: None

Absent: Popplewell, Freitag

Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent

Audience Members: Dr. Sandra Malahy, Courtney Klobuchar, Teri Rossman, Walt Zukowski, Missy Einhaus.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION

3.1 The board recognized Walt Zukowski, District counsel.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4.1 Approve the April 29, 2026 updated agenda

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Mertel to approve the April 29 updated agenda. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Approve minutes from the March Regular Board Meeting, Executive Session

5.2 Approve the Treasurer's Report

5.3 Approve Activity Account Report

5.4 Approve Imprest Account Report

5.5 Approve \$78,850.94 for March Disbursements

5.6 Approve April Payroll

5.7 Approve CD Interest

5.8 FOIA - None this month

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Chambers to approve the April 29 consent agenda. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Fund Activity

The district is 75% through the school year. Revenues are 92.68% and Expenditures are 71.39%.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
10	Education	91.16 %	67.67%
20	Operation & Maintenance	97.61%	86.99 %
30	Debt	101.06 %	95.75 %
40	Transportation	74.05 %	59.37 %
50/51	Social Security & IMRF	97.79 %	79.31 %
60	Capital Projects	0.00 %	0.00 %
70	Working Cash	101.27 %	0.00 %
80	Tort	102.76 %	70.64 %
90	Fire/Health Life Safety	<u>100.19 %</u>	<u>168.72 %</u>
	Total	92.68 %	71.39 %

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Chambers and seconded by Mertel to approve the financial report. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

6.2 Fund Transfers - None this month

7. REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Principal's Report - Mrs. Klobuchar reported on the existing problem with the district email system. A question was asked about two-factor authentication for staff as well as cloud storage and backup. Another question was what are the kids doing without Google - paper and pencil and other alternate learning methods. A question was asked about the 8th grade trip. Mrs. Klobuchar reported on the recent progress on this.

7.2 Athletic Director Report - Mrs. Klobuchar reported on coaching assignments for the 26-27 SY. The athletic banquet is currently being planned. Track sectionals approaching and state track meet to follow. It is doubtful that baseball will be offered due to lack of numbers.

7.3 Employee Reports - Nothing this month

7.4 PTO Report - Nothing this month

7.5 Committee Reports - Nothing this month

7.6 Business Manager Report - Discussion on the gym floor with examples provided.

8. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Gymnasium - the board discussed updates to the gym that are planned.

8.2 Lostant/Tonica Extra-Curricular Activities - Mrs. Chambers led the discussion on this topic. Discussion included inviting LGS to various activities similar to what TGS does for LGS.

9. OTHER DISCUSSION

9.1 Early Childhood - Mrs. Klobuchar led the discussion on the topic. This was a request to add a PK/K teacher to the staff.

10. ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Press Policy Update 122

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Cooper to approve Press Policy Update 122. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

10.2 Consolidated District Plan

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the Consolidated District Plan. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

10.3 IESA Dues

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Chambers to approve the IESA Dues. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Personnel

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to enter into executive session at 7:29 pm. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to enter into open session at 8:13 pm. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

12. ACTION ITEMS AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.1 Non-Certified Employee Raises

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve a raise of 3.30% to non-certified employee staff. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

12.2 Staff Employment

ACTION ITEM

A motion by Cooper and seconded by Mertel to advertise for the employment of a Science Teacher, Special Education Teacher. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 5; Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passes.

12.2 Co-Op Athletic Director

ACTION ITEM


A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to approve the employment of Andrea Kowalski as Co-Op Athletic Director. Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper. Aye: 4; Nay: None. Abstain: 1 None. Motion passes.

13. DIRECT SUPERINTENDENT TO REPORT TO THE BOARD

Work with Administration on summer employment to include two people

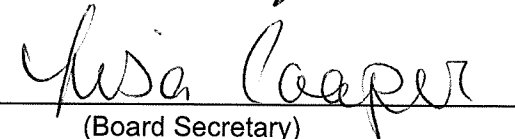
14. ADJOURN

14.1 A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to adjourn at 8:18 PM



(Board President)

5/27/26
(Date)



(Board Secretary)

5/27/26
(Date)

Minutes
Lostant CUSD 425
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
School Board Executive Session Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Date: April 29, 2026
Time: 7:29 p.m.
Location: Lostant District Office
Absent: None
Remote: None

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to adjourn to closed meeting at 7:29 pm to discuss:

X The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).



- Personnel - The board discussed Non-Certified employee raises.
- Personnel - The board discussed advertising for additional certified employees.
- Personnel - The board discussed Andrea Kowalski as candidate for Co-Op Athletic Director.

Closed Meeting Roll Call:

"Yeas"	"Nays"
Ruff, Lawless, Cooper, Chambers, Mertel, Freitag, Popplewell	

Motion: X Carried Failed

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to reconvene into open session at 8:13 p.m.
Roll call. 7-0

	5/27/26
BOE President (Greg Ruff)	Date
	5/26/26
BOE Secretary (Lisa Cooper)	Date