

Minutes  
Lostant Community Unit School District #425  
Wednesday  
February 25, 2026  
6:00 p.m. 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, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag.

Present via Zoom: None

Present via Telephone: None

Absent:

Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent

Audience Members: Dr. Sandra Malahy, Courtney Klobuchar, Tricia Haynes, Missy Einhaus

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION**

3.1 Thank you for Brad Kuetzer for the monetary donation

3.2 Mr. Ketcham recognized Lily Mertel and Blake Chambers for being named Jon Ourth award winners.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED AGENDA**

4.1 Approve the February 25, 2026 Agenda

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Chambers and seconded by Popplewell to approve the updated January 28 agenda.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1** Approve minutes from the January Regular Board Meeting, Feb 5 Special Board Meeting

**5.2** Approve the Treasurer's Report.

**5.3** Approve Activity Account Report.

**5.4** Approve Imprest Account Report.

**5.5** Approve \$57,299.20 for January Disbursements.

**5.6** Approve February 2025 Payroll.

**5.7** Approve CD Interest

**5.8** FOIA #1 - Michael Henry - Background checks for Board members - request responded to

**5.9** FOIA #2 - Michael Henry - Void The Tax Levy and Fire the Board Attorney - request responded to

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Freitag and seconded by Lawless to approve the consent agenda

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**6.1 Fund Activity**

The district is 58% through the school year. Revenues are 89.03 % and Expenditures are 60.99%.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
10	Education	85.88 %	56.92 %
20	Operation & Maintenance	97.61 %	69.45 %
30	Debt	101.06 %	95.75 %
40	Transportation	73.82 %	42.74 %
50	Social Security & IMRF	97.53 %	61.52 %
60	Capital Projects	0.00%	0.00%
70	Working Cash	101.27 %	0.00%
80	Tort	102.76 %	65.23 %
90	Fire / Health Life Safety	100.19 %	0.00%
	Total	89.03 %	60.99 %

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Chambers and seconded by Cooper to approve the financial report.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

No Discussion

**6.2 Fund Transfers - No Fund Transfers This Month**

**7. REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**7.1 Principal's Report** - Mrs. Klobuchar elaborated on an author that presented at school this week as well as a school photography vendor that she is researching. Discussion followed on the topic of a school photographer company. Also reminded the board about literacy night that is coming up.

**7.2 Athletic Director's Report**

Mrs. Haynes reported that she has sent out an interest survey regarding track and currently has 21 athletes so far. She reported on financial statements on the recent tournaments and elaborated on the tournament account balance. Discussion followed about the number of tournaments hosted by the co-op.

**7.3 Employee Reports**

Nothing this month.

**7.4 PTO Report**

Flower fundraiser will start soon. Delivery to be mid-May.

**7.5 Committee Reports**

Building and safety committee next month

**7.6 Business Manager Report**

Dr. Malahy had nothing to add.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 No Old Business

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.1 2026-2027 School Calendar - 1st Reading
- 9.2 2026-2027 Student Parent Handbook - 1st Reading

**10. OTHER DISCUSSION**

- 10.1 FY 26 School Maintenance Grant Work Items- Mr. Ketcham provided a brief summary of two major work items on the FY 26 School Maintenance Grant - Gym Lights, Gym Lobby Entrance.
- 10.2 Cyberbullying - Mrs. Popplewell led the discussion on this topic. Mrs. Klobucher elaborated on the role of the school resource officer.

**11. ACTION ITEMS**

- 11.1 26-27 Board Calendar

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by \_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_ to approve the 26-27 Board Calendar.  
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag. Aye: 7; Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Motion tabled until March.

- 11.2 Semi Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Popplewell and seconded by Cooper to approve board's semi annual review of closed session minutes from July 2025 through December 2025.  
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag.. Aye: 7; Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Motion passes.

- 11.3 Technology Coach Contract

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Freitag to approve the contract with LTC for technology coach services.  
Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Cooper and Freitag.. Aye: 7; Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Motion passes.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 12.1 Personnel

**13. ACTION ITEMS AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 13.1 No Actions as a result of executive session

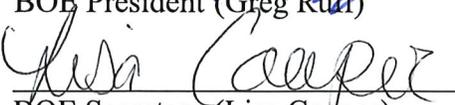
**14. DIRECT SUPERINTENDENT TO REPORT TO BOARD**

**15. ADJOURN**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Cooper to adjourn at 7:32 pm.  
Ayes 7-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOE President (Greg Ruff)

3/25/26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOE Secretary (Lisa Cooper)

3/25/2026  
Date