

Minutes  
Lostant Community Unit School District #425  
Wednesday  
January 28, 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, and Freitag.

Present via Zoom: None

Present via Telephone: None

Absent:

Recording Secretary: Bob Ketcham, Superintendent

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

3.1 Mr.Ketcham recognized all who participated in the tournament planning committee.

3.2 Mel Mertel was named secretary pro-temp.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED AGENDA**

4.1 Approve the January 28, 2026 Agenda

**ACTION ITEM**

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

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell,Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1** Approve minutes from the December Regular Board Meeting

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

**5.3** Approve Activity Account Report.

**5.4** Approve Imprest Account Report.

**5.5** Approve \$109,724.27 for December Disbursements.

**5.6** Approve December 2025 Payroll.

**5.7** Approve CD Interest

**5.8** FOIA #1 - CT Mills of Public Info Access LLC requesting copies of the current staff list. Request granted.

**5.9** FOIA #2 - Owen Wang of Lake County Gazette requesting information on contracts over \$1000. Request granted.

**5.10** FOIA #3 - Owen Wang of Lake County Gazette requesting copies of full time aide contracts. Request granted.

**5.11** FOIA #4 - CT Mills of Public Info Access LLC requesting existing copies of spending thresholds. Request granted.

**5.12** FOIA #5 - Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting information on any upcoming retirees. Request granted.

**ACTION ITEM**

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

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell,Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**6.1 Fund Activity**

The district is 50% through the school year. Revenues are 87.03 % and Expenditures are 52.66 %.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
10	Education	83.66 %	49.38 %
20	Operation & Maintenance	97.61 %	55.15 %
30	Debt	101.06 %	95.75 %
40	Transportation	65.16 %	35.24 %
50	Social Security & IMRF	96.70 %	51.04 %
60	Capital Projects	0.00%	0.00%
70	Working Cash	101.27 %	0.00%
80	Tort	102.76 %	4.94 %
90	Fire / Health Life Safety	100.19%	0.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>87.03 %</b>	<b>52.66 %</b>

**ACTION ITEM**

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

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

No Discussion

**6.2 Fund Transfers**

- Dec - these are salary & benefits going into fund 80 as budgeted
- Jan - maintenance grant expenses

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Popplewell to approve the fund transfers.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

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

**7.1 Principal's Report** - Mrs. Klobuchar corrected that the handbook committee had not met, just the staff met regarding the handbook. Updates on an SEL community resource potentially being brought in as recommended by the social worker. Announced that Mr. Kramer had passed away and that services were attended. Mrs. Klobuchar provided her concerns regarding the co-op athletics program as well as suggestions for improvement. Discussion around a booster club took place. Discussion also took place around better communication among the two boards took place.

**7.2 Athletic Director's Report**

Mrs. Haynes reported the total from the 8th grade basketball tournament. Reminded the board of upcoming tournaments.

**7.3 Employee Reports**

Nothing this month.

**7.4 PTO Report**

Nothing this month.

**7.5 Committee Reports**

Building and safety committee next month

**7.6 Business Manager Report**

Dr. Malahy inquired about the gym floor email that was recently sent out. Chambers asked if next year's graduation would be able to be set up the same way. Mr. Ketcham mentioned that the lights being converted to LED would need to be done prior to the floor being resurfaced. He'll do the best he can to accomplish that.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 Gym Floor Logo - No Discussion

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 1st Reading of the 26-27 Proposed Board Calendar

9.2 Field Trips - Mr. Ruff led a discussion on field trips

**10. OTHER DISCUSSION**

10.1 Statement of Economic Interests - Mr. Ketcham reported that the county now has the capability to send these via email rather than regular mail. Mr. Ketcham needed confirmation from board members regarding their interest in this.

**11. ACTION ITEMS**

11.1 CD 88088

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Mertel and seconded by Freitag to approve the renewal of CD 88088 at 3.62% for 12 months.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

11.2 Retirement

**ACTION ITEM**

A motion by Chambers and seconded by Poppewell to approve the retirement of Mr. Robert Ketcham as Superintendent as of June 30, 2026.

Roll call: Yea: Ruff, Popplewell, Chambers, Mertel, Lawless, Freitag. Aye: 6; Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

12.1 No Closed Session

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

13.1 No action items as a result of executive session

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

**15. ADJOURN**

A motion by Lawless and seconded by Mertel to adjourn at 6:56 pm.  
Ayes 7-0.

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

2-25-26  
Date

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

2-25-26  
Date