

LEIPSIC LOCAL SCHOOL
Board of Education
Minutes

Date: February 11, 2026 Kind of Meeting: Regular

The Leipsic Local Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 11, 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.

In attendance were five staff members, eleven community members, Nick Verhoff – Putnam Co. ESC Superintendent.

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

030-26
Minutes

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

031-26
Financial
Statements

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Items:

Personnel:

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the motion, to accept the resignation of Russell Wenzinger for retirement purposes effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Karen Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink--yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

032-26
R. Wenzinger
Retirement

Kirk Wensink made a motion, and Karen Ward seconded the motion, to accept the resignation of Stan Gerten for retirement purposes effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Vote: Kirk Wensink—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; and Barry Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

033-26
S. Gerten
Retirement

Karen Ward made a motion, seconded by Rachel Niese, to approve the teaching staff substitute list from the Putnam County Educational Service Center for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese--yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea, and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

034-26
County Sub
Listing

Rachel Niese made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the motion, to approve Stanley Gerten as a substitute bus driver for the 2025-26 school year. Vote: Rachel Niese—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

035-26
Sub Bus
Driver

Kirk Wensink made a motion, and Rachel Niese seconded the motion, to approve the job description for a full-time Athletic Trainer within the district. Vote: Kirk Wensink—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward--yea; and Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

036-26
Ath. Trainer
Job Descript.

Barry Ward made a motion, seconded by Kirk Wensink, to approve the list of graduating seniors for the Class of 2026. Vote: Barry Ward—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

037-26
Class of '26
Senior List

Karen Ward made a motion, seconded by Rachel Niese, to approve the purchase of graduation photos for the Class of 2026 at a cost of \$7.00 each. Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea, Barry Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

038-26
Graduation
Pics

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Karen Ward seconded the motion, to approve the school calendar for the 2026-27 school year. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Karen Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Barry Ward—yea, and Kirk Wensink--yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

039-26
School
Calendar

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the motion, to authorize the continued membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2026-27 school year. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Karen Ward—yea; and Kirk Wensink--yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

040-26
OHSAA
Membership

Brian Reynolds made a motion, and Kirk Wensink seconded the motion, to approve the Amended Special Education/ Curriculum Contract for Services between LLSD and the Putnam County ESC for fiscal year 2026. Vote: Brian Reynolds—yea; Kirk Wensink—yea, Rachel Niese—yea, Barry Ward—yea, and Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5.0.

041-26
ESC Contract
FY2026

Karen Ward made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the motion, to approve the Special Education/Curriculum Contract for Services between LLSD and the Putnam County ESC for fiscal year 2027. Vote: Karen Ward—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea; and Kirk Wensink—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

042-26
ESC Contract
FY2027

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Date: February 11, 2026 Kind of Meeting: Regular

Executive Session:

Kirk Wensink made a motion, seconded by Karen Ward, to enter into Executive Session at 6:25 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: Kirk Wensink—yea; Karen Ward—yea, Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds—yea, and Barry Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

043-26
Executive
Session

The board returned from executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Planning & Discussion:

- Superintendent Comments
 - i. Annual Business Advisory Council Joint Statement
- Board Round Robin

Informational Items:

Kirk Wensink made a motion, and Barry Ward seconded the motion, to hold the next regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Vote: Kirk Wensink—yea; Barry Ward—yea; Rachel Niese—yea; Brian Reynolds---yea, and Karen Ward—yea. Motion passed: 5-0.

044-26
Regular Mtg

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

045-26
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

_____ President

_____ Treasurer