

RECORD OF MINUTES

The Board of Education of the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw held its regular monthly meeting on January 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board of Education Room.

Present were members: Phyllis Locatelli, Jason Wickstrom, Melanie Parker, Daniel Zubiena, Philip Halonen, Adam Loukus and James Vertin. Also present were: Joel Asiala, Superintendent; Trevor Salata, Chief Financial Officer; Jennifer Peters, Calumet H.S. Principal, Darren Kinnunen, Horizons Alternative High School Principal, Troy Reuter Washington Middle School Principal, Matthew Hampton, CLK Elementary School Principal and Julie Giachino, CLK Elementary School Assistant Principal.

The organizational meeting was called to order by last year's President, Phyllis Locatelli.

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education appointed Phyllis Locatelli as President Pro Tem.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Wickstrom) unanimous decision, the Board of Education appointed Phyllis Locatelli as President; Jason Wickstrom as Vice President, Melanie Parker as Secretary, and Daniel Zubiena as Treasurer for the 2026 year.

This concluded the organizational meeting.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision, minutes from previous meetings were approved.

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Parker) unanimous decision, the bills were approved to be paid. The General Fund bills were \$183,797.75, Athletic bills were \$21,347.57, Cafeteria bills were \$13,855.04, Community Service bills were \$133.20, and Public Improvement Fund bills were \$6,600.00 for a total of all invoices of \$225,733.56.

RECORD OF MINUTES

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read on motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision. The General Fund showed a bank balance of \$897,885.53, plus a Money Market of \$2,439,114.69, plus a CD Balance (Restricted) of \$89,074.26, less outstanding checks of (\$38,360.23), less a Transfer in Transit (ORS) of (\$23,669.96), for a total General Fund balance as of December 31, 2025, of \$3,364,044.29.

The Athletic Account showed a bank balance as of December 31, 2025, of \$43,699.95, for a total Athletic Fund of \$43,699.95.

The Cafeteria Fund showed a balance of \$43,829.00, for a total School Service Fund balance of \$87,528.95.

The Bond Debt Retirement Fund showed a bank balance of \$2,368,892.74, for a total Debt Retirement Fund balance as of December 31, 2025, of \$2,368,892.74.

Superintendent Joel Asiala recognized our seven board members in observance of January 2026 as School Board Member Recognition Month.

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Zubiena) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the CLK Elementary School and Washington Middle School on receiving MTSS Awards.

**MTSS Data Utilization**

Washington Middle School - Reading & Behavior  
CLK Elementary School - Reading & Behavior

**MTSS Implementation & Impact**

CLK Elementary School - Tier 1: Behavior – Silver  
CLK Elementary School - Tier 1: Reading – Bronze  
CLK Elementary School - Advanced Tiers: Reading – Bronze  
Washington Middle School - Tier 1: Behavior – Silver  
Washington Middle School - Tier 1: Reading - Bronze

RECORD OF MINUTES

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Parker) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball teams and coach Don Hill on their seasons.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended those who took part in the elementary Christmas program along with their Director Matthew Riutta.

On motion, seconded (Halonon-Wickstrom) unanimous decision, the Board of Education extended their appreciation to Encompass Therapeutic Massage for donating their time to provide chair massages for CLK Staff.

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Parker) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the following members of the varsity volleyball team on receiving All U.P.

Honors:

Chloe Coppo – All U.P. Division 1-3 Offensive Player of the Year  
Chloe Coppo - All U.P. Division 1-3 Dream Team  
Jess Anderson – All U.P. Division 1-3 1<sup>st</sup> Team  
Millie Loukus – All U.P. Division 1-3 2<sup>nd</sup> Team

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Parker) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the Calumet High seniors who took part in the Senior Class Play "Almost Maine", along with Drama Advisor, Matthew Riutta.

On motion, seconded (Halonon-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated Eleanna Hokenson on being named the Poetry Out Loud Champion and wished her good luck in the state level Poetry Out Loud competition to be held in March. The board also congratulated Elli Harju on placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sophia Hampton on placing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education

RECORD OF MINUTES

expressed appreciation to the James A. Ruppe Foundation for their \$7,500 donation to Horizons Alternative High School and their \$13,000 donation to Calumet High School.

On motion, seconded (Parker-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education passed a resolution declaring February 2-6, 2026 as National School Counseling Week and thanked and congratulated Calumet High School counselor, Mrs. Dianne Goulette for her dedicated service to our school district.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education extended their appreciation Dan Steck for his donation of \$53,000 to the CLK Schools Makerspace programs.

The Board heard from Superintendent Asiala that the following teacher was receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Probationary status:

Heidi Oja – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year probationary status – CLK Elementary School

On motion, seconded (Vertin-Parker) unanimous decision, the Board of Education approved Driver Education charges for 2026. \$370 for in district students and \$700 for out of district students.

On motion, seconded (Wickstrom-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education approved the AIDS 101 video produced by National Geographic for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Health Curriculum.

Building principals updated the board on What's Happening in their buildings.

On motion, seconded (Vertin-Loukus) Halonen abstained, the Board of Education appointed Kaylie Halonen to the one-year temporary WMS Volleyball coach position.

RECORD OF MINUTES

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education  
adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

*Phyllis M. Locatelli*

President

*Melanie J. Parker*

Secretary