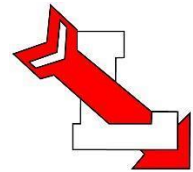


# Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of July 14, 2025

## ACTION ITEMS

The following were approved:

- Minutes for June 9, 2025 Regular Meeting, June 9, 2025 Closed Session, June 23, 2025 Work Session and June 23, 2025 Closed Session.
- The following payment of bills for June, 2025:
 

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,506,566.16
FOOD SERVICE	\$ 201,706.50
SINKING FUND	\$ 20,222.74
2024 CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$ 379,031.36
SPECIAL REVENUE	\$ <u>172,373.24</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,279,900.00
- New hires:
  - Dominic Lowe, High School Principal
  - Sarah Moffatt-Amrein, Bushnell First Grade
  - Alisha Sage, Great Start Readiness
  - Erin Hendrick, Great Start Readiness
  - Amy Donahue, Great Start Readiness
  - Emily Kruizenga, Great Start Readiness
  - Lauren Koster, Great Start Readiness
  - Chelsea Fritts, Great Start Readiness
- CNC machines totaling \$44,440.70

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Superintendent Fowler reported there are still a few more open positions that need to be filled. The annual para bid meeting will be taking place this month. Staff have received the email to complete their yearly compliance videos (bloodborne pathogens, seclusion/restraint, concussions, etc).

## BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated that bids were received for the asbestos work at Cherry Creek. The low bid of \$26,000 is below the State bid threshold so Board approval is not needed. This project has started and will take about a week to complete. She provided an update on the Federal grants that have been frozen. She also stated there is no update on the State budget.

## **CURRICULUM UPDATE**

Steve Gough thanked Dan VanderMeulen for his time and good work at Lowell Area Schools. He has scheduled learning chats with all the key department leads across the district to determine where he could best support staff and programs across the district. He is working with the new high school principal in order to have a smooth transition. During the summer learning continues with Summer Boost (elementary tutoring in math and reading program). He thanked Kyndera Lee for organizing this program. Mr. Gough was also a guest reader at an Arrow Readers on the Move session at Cherry Creek. He thanked Katelynd Pulver for organizing this program. Lowell Area Schools partners with the Kent ISD to provide the high school credit recovery program. The Kent ISD provides the teacher and Lowell provides the location and support staff to assist students. Last year it was determined that the barrier for students to complete credit recovery was having to physically go to Kent ISD for tests, etc. By partnering with the Kent ISD and holding the classes at the high school, more students were able to recover more credits. Ten teachers will be attending the Professional Learning Communities Institute in August. A second round of professional development for the K-5 Open Court reading program will take place on August 22. Mr. Gough stated that 82% of students received a qualifying score on their AP tests. A record number of students (326) participated in the AP program tests and completed a record number of AP tests (613). Lowell saw an average score increase in 7 of the 14 AP courses and 120 students earned an AP score of 5. He stated that AP students tend to be some of our busiest students, so the flex time schedule has helped them get the extra help they need during the school day.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two audience members made public comments. No action taken.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Fowler stated he appreciates the public comments. He welcomed Mr. Gough to his new role as Director of Teaching and Learning. He congratulated all the AP students and the teachers who helped these students. There are many projects happening throughout the district including carpet cleaning at Central Office, asbestos work at Cherry Creek, Wittenbach Center roof, high school track work, and new carpet at Murray Lake. Contract talks have been a long process but are wrapping up. There is no scheduled Work Session in July, however, a Special meeting may need to be scheduled to approve contracts.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Jared Blough stated he appreciates the funding for the CNC machines.
- Annie Whitlock stated she appreciates both the public comments.
- Laurie Kuna stated the Wittenbach Center is a treasure and we need to use this resource a lot more. She welcomed Mr. Gough to his new role.
- Jennifer Dougherty feels it is reassuring to see that Lowell is not only covering credit recovery but also having record AP tests that show amazing staff and willingness to get all of our students educated. She thanked all for the hard work.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Education moved into a closed session to discuss negotiations.