



News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of March 19, 2024



Hoopin' for Literacy Nets \$ for Sports Books

To earn sports books for their school libraries, Lake Shore's 5th graders played in the 2nd Annual "Hoopin' for Literacy."

The Lake Shore Central Schools Teachers' Association (LSCTA) donated \$125 toward these books for EACH elementary school library.

Congratulations to these team members, who earned this spot by winning tournaments at their respective buildings:

HIGHLAND: Kayleigh Friend, Irelyn Gelster, Nyah Govan, Evelynn Pickard, Emerson Kowalski, James White, Julian Coffman, Mason White

J.T. WAUGH: Kiyah Avis, Elvera Golden, Kaz Jimerson, Emerie John, Mayce Jones, Lindy Jo Williams, Camryn Wilson, Jordan Yeager

A.J. SCHMIDT: Dominic Pecori, Ben Wambach Roman Fleming, Emerson Singleton, Pasquale Syracuse, Somaya Barreno, Amelia Hartinger, Karlee Kreuzer, Arianna Ruff, Sophie Driscoll

Coordinators Michele Hornberger and Evan Koehler are proud of all students who participated in this event, which unites sports and the importance of literacy.

Special thanks to: Billy Sills, Catherine Musty, Chuck Kowalski, Coach Zach Wyatt, Coach Bryce Parker-Norton, Coach Abigail Rocque, Coach Sarah Pici, and Coach Zach Gerken.

March 19th, 2024 Personnel Actions

The Board of Education approved the ...

Probationary appointments of ...

Kayleigh Govenettio, Special Education Teacher, effective 4/11/24

William Brennan, Personal Care Aide, effective 3/6/24

Emily Jensen, Personal Care Aide, effective 3/18/24

Hector Aponte, Bus Mechanic/Master, effective 4/1/24

Temporary appointment of ...

Wyatt Gernatt, Transportation Department Intern, effective 4/10/24

Resignation of ...

William Brennan, Laborer, effective 3/5/24

Working to Prevent Behaviors that Interfere with Learning

Laura Howk joined Lake Shore last fall as the District’s Coordinator of Behavior Specialists, a “cutting edge” but growing position in school districts looking to improve student performance by preventing disruptive behaviors that could impede academic success.

“The majority of my job is spent helping students with increased needs by being integrated in their classrooms and supporting the amazing teachers, TAs and PCAs across the District who educate them,” she said in a presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday night.

Her work ranges from riding the bus to support out-of-district students to implementing training in Safety Care, a crisis management curriculum based on “decades of research on behavioral management and de-escalation strategies,” she said. The skills can be applied in classrooms across the District, whether special ed or general ed, as well as in transpor-



Laura Howk, Coordinator of Behavior Specialists, talks about goals and accomplishments of behavioral specialists in the District.

tation situations where student behavior may be a concern. Forty staff members have been trained so far, and plans are to continue training for staff who might need it. In addition, social skills training is being piloted for a High School student group, and Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans have been updated and formatted for consistency.

Moving forward, plans call for building capacity across the District so staff are prepared to deal with a student in crisis and to understand what it means to behaviorally support all students—in classrooms and on the buses. “The shift is to go from being reactive to being proactive, to prevent disruptive behaviors from happening again down the road,” she said.

Budget Update

The District has been encouraged by discussions taking place at the state level and has included a restoration of the save harmless foundation aid in their first draft budget, Business Manager Johnathan Perry reported to the Board of Education

on Tuesday night. No additional increases in aid have been factored in at this time, although there are positive proposals coming out from the NYS Senate and Assembly one-house budgets. He noted that both houses also rejected an inflation calculation

change that would use a 10-year average, rather than the current inflation rate. Both also support a minimum 3% Foundation Aid increase. These moves would help build back some financial buffers as the District continues to develop its budget figures, Mr. Perry said.



In case you missed it ... Updates about the 2024-25 UPK program have been provided in the Superintendent’s Weekly Staff Update, but in case you missed it, a summary of the updates from Mr. Pacos is below:

After completing a thorough study, the District has decided to operate four UPK classrooms next year. Our UPK grant has a requirement that we spend at least 10% of the total grant with a community-based organization, so we issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the operation of one of the four classrooms.

We did receive one response to the RFP; however, their proposal did not meet our criteria in the RFP so they were issued a rejection letter. The District then applied and was approved for a waiver to operate all four classrooms ourselves for the 2024-25 school year. The District will have to do the RFP again next year to see if we get anyone to submit a proposal for the 2025-26 year.

The UPK program will be housed in the W. T. Hoag Educational Center. We posted the UPK positions (four positions) on January 29th. The positions were awarded based upon seniority, as per the District’s contract with the LSCTA. The four positions were awarded to Melanie Jones, Laurie Schultz, Nicole Wegrynowski, and Melissa Ruszaj.

The Board of Education has adopted the 2024-25 Instructional Calendar ... See it [HERE!](#)