

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – MARCH 12, 2026

The Board of Education of the Lake Mountain School District met in a board meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The board meeting took place in the boardroom of the Lake Mountain School District Office in Saratoga Springs, UT.

Board members present: President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser and Ilene Strong. Absent: Charity Judkins.

Also present: Superintendent Carter, Deputy Superintendent Bollinger, and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 22 others in attendance.

President Julie King conducted the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nixon Hanson, Kindergartener at Saratoga Shores Elementary.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

An inspirational thought was given by Harper Hanson, 4th grader at Saratoga Shores Elementary.

INNOVATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Mike Gowans of Westlake High School presented on the school's Agriculture Education Facilities and Farm. He invited the Board to visit and see the baby lambs currently being born. The program develops the next generation of leaders by combining science, hands-on learning, and leadership through the FFA, helping students address challenges in feeding and sustaining the world. Students actively advocate for the program and participate in farm operations, which include a greenhouse, welding shop, and the sale of vegetables to the community. The farm provides training in welding, construction, and mechanics and manages an average of 250 animals per year through breeding programs. This includes 200 turkeys raised for Thanksgiving and, newly added this year, laying hens for students to raise and sell eggs to the community. A new fruit orchard, supported by a grant from Tractor Supply and the National FFA Organization, features pear, peach, apple trees, and grapes, allowing students to learn tree planting and irrigation installation. Crops grown include alfalfa, pumpkins, squash, and sweet corn. The farm now uses drones to map fields for fertilization and to gather livestock in hard-to-reach areas. Genetic engineering is also incorporated into the curriculum, teaching students how food, animals, and plants are produced while building science, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Students who raise animals participate in livestock shows across the state. Farm Field Days welcomed over 1,000 second- and third-grade students to tour the farm and engage with the program. Westlake's FFA program is the largest in the state, with over 600 students, and has been recognized by the National FFA Organization as a National Chapter Award winner for 16 consecutive years. The program has produced four state officers and over 100 American Degree recipients, the highest award an FFA member can achieve.

Board member Myers commented that the turkeys and pigs raised by the students are the best they have ever had, noting that some are even in their freezers.

Mr. Gowans responded that while the students raise the animals for meat, some become tender-hearted when they are sold, and he invited everyone to visit the farm anytime.

President King thanked Mr. Gowans and expressed appreciation for his presentation about the farm.

Kelly Molinari, Nutrition Services Manager for Horizon and Thunder Ridge, shared her experiences serving the two largest elementary schools in the district. With five years in the role, she expressed her love for both schools, their staff, administrators, and students, and her excitement for going to work each day. Ms. Molinari oversees breakfast and lunch for both schools, managing the unique challenges of different start and end times, serving schedules, and administrations. In February, the schools served 13,527 meals—an average of 750 meals per day, or 6.2 meals per minute—within a two-hour period each for breakfast and lunch. She emphasized making the most of student interactions, ensuring every child feels welcome with fist bumps, smiles, and attention to their needs. Her role involves wearing many hats: part chef, preparing homemade meals (including chocolate chip

cookies, which bring smiles to students' faces), first aid provider, air traffic controller directing students during serving times, and maintaining a well-stocked, properly staffed kitchen. She personally reviews 21 trays daily to ensure special dietary needs are safely met and also serves as a caregiver, celebrating birthdays and planning events like themed holidays—last year's Halloween featured a Jurassic Park theme with staff in inflatable dinosaur costumes. Despite the challenges, including starting at 6 a.m. and finishing at 2 p.m., she described the team as a well-oiled machine, cooking, feeding, cleaning, and leaving with pride in their work. She encouraged the Board to recognize the dedication of lunch staff, highlighting the hard work, energy, and care that goes into feeding students each day.

President King thanked Kelly for providing the Board with a snapshot of a day in the life of a lunch staff member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board president King recommended that the Board approve the consent agenda. Board member Sauser made the motion to approve the consent agenda, and it was seconded by Board member Lincoln. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. MOU for APA on Cedar Valley Elementary Property

President King presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with American Preparatory Academy regarding Cedar Valley Elementary.

Vice President Isaacson motioned to approve the MOU with American Preparatory Academy for the Cedar Valley Elementary property, and it was seconded by Board member Lincoln.

Vice President Isaacson explained that the closure of Cedar Valley Elementary leaves the property vacant. He noted that the Board has a collaborative relationship with other entities and has been meeting with cities and neighboring schools. In particular, they have been working with American Preparatory Academy (APA), which reached out requesting information about the CVE property. APA plans to build a school in Eagle Mountain, with their charter board approving a Fall 2027 opening, and is currently seeking a site. The concept under discussion is to lease CVE as a temporary location for one to two years to facilitate a soft launch for the community while APA acquires land and constructs their school. Nothing is finalized, and discussions are still in the early stages. The proposed MOU allows both parties to continue exploring this concept if the Board chooses to proceed.

Board member Strong asked for clarification, confirming that APA stands for American Preparatory Academy. **Vice President Isaacson** confirmed that was correct.

Board member Sauser expressed appreciation for the work done, highlighting the strong collaboration and the opportunity this represents, and said he looks forward to future progress.

Board member Lincoln noted that, as a public school district, rapid growth could have overwhelmed the campus. In contrast, as a charter school, APA can cap enrollment, preventing the property from being overextended. She highlighted this as the key difference between APA using the campus and ASD using it.

President King shared that ongoing conversations are taking place with the town of Cedar Fort, which has expressed interest in leasing or potentially purchasing the building in the future. She emphasized that this MOU with APA is a short-term plan, with LMSD retaining ownership of the property, allowing flexibility for a future lease or sale. The arrangement also enables the district to continue utilizing the building while upholding the commitment that all students—whether enrolled in district schools, preschools, charter schools, or homeschooled—are welcome and supported in LMSD.

The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. FY26 Lake Mountain School District Budget Amendment

President King introduced an amendment to the budget to the Board for approval.

Board member Strong motioned to accept the FY26 Lake Mountain School District Budget Amendment, and it was seconded by Board member Myers.

President King explained that while the amendment is straightforward, it involves a significant amount of money. As part of negotiations, all boards agreed that each new board receives \$10 million. These funds come from capital dollars and must remain in the capital fund to address district needs. She noted that Frank Pulley presented earlier on ATEC West, transportation, and physical facilities. The amendment ensures that the \$10 million allocated will go to the capital budget. It is unlikely the full amount will be spent within the next three months, so unspent funds will roll over into FY27. If the funds appear in both fiscal years, it reflects the same allocation, as bills typically arrive later. The Board will ultimately decide which projects to prioritize.

The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of New Lake Mountain School District Leadership Team

President King expressed excitement about having audience members who have accepted positions within the district. She noted that names and titles would be announced and pictures taken.

Michelle Stephensen, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary

Kim Romeril, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary

Travis Hamblin, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Jason Crowton, Director of Results & Achievement

Aaron Hale, Director of State & Federal Programs

President King expressed enthusiasm for the district's leadership team.

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Superintendent Carter discussed the district's hiring process, noting that different districts organize their leadership teams in various ways, both large and small, and that LMSD has intentionally structured theirs as they have. She expressed satisfaction with the hires made so far, describing the team as strong. As new members join, they have been asked to help build the organizational chart, with Superintendent Carter relying on both the Board and the team to guide the process. She noted that the leadership team is now complete, with the exception of the Business Administrator, and highlighted two additional team members reporting to Michelle Stephensen. Furthermore, four more positions will be posted on Friday. While the district has aimed to be proactive in hiring, they are balancing this with patience to ensure quality hires. Superintendent Carter explained that the leadership team remains small by design, with the goal of directing resources to schools. Current focus areas include strengthening counseling programs, social work, and psychology services, while fine arts may be expanded in the future. She expressed appreciation for the Board's support and for the talented individuals who have committed to joining the team.

President King thanked Dr. Carter, expressing the Board's appreciation for the collaborative team effort. She noted the excitement of adding new voices to the team and emphasized the Board's gratitude for the continued collaboration.

Board member Sauser acknowledged the many changes underway, including new leadership, principals, and boundary adjustments, and encouraged everyone to embrace these changes. She highlighted Eagle Valley Elementary's STEAM night, noting its positive impact on students moving from Mountain Trails who are affected by the boundary change. She also recognized the principals for inviting new families to the event and commended Principal Emmett for his work with the new school and for engaging families and the community.

Board member Lincoln emphasized that innovation is a key value of the district. She attended the META Grant recipient awards and congratulated Vista Heights, Trailside, Sage Canyon, Lake Mountain, Frontier, Eagle Valley, and Desert Sky for receiving awards, expressing excitement for the opportunities these grants provide.

President King shared an animated rendering of the new high school, highlighting the vision for the building and emphasizing the importance of showing the community what it will look like.

Vice President Isaacson commented on the thoughtful balance in the high school's architectural design, noting that it serves as its own epicenter of the community, with programs in use from morning to night, six days a week. He praised the design and also gave a shout-out to the Westlake High School boys' basketball team for winning the state championship.

Board member Strong gave a shout-out to administrators who have participated in SCC meetings and are preparing their trust land plans for next year. She noted the extensive data being presented to the community to support these plans and expressed admiration for the hard work, saying she is very impressed with each school she has visited.

President King addressed the recent boundary changes implemented by ASD that affected schools in Saratoga Springs. She clarified that the Lake Mountain Board did not have a vote on these changes, just as they will not vote on the naming of the new school. She and Joylin spent significant time collaborating with the team, creating multiple maps and revising them based on public input. She acknowledged that boundary changes are challenging but a necessary part of managing growth, and the district strives to maintain stability where possible. A boundary study for the new high school is anticipated, which could also impact middle schools. Over the past year, several schools have undergone boundary adjustments. President King emphasized careful use of tax dollars to avoid overbuilding, noting that Operations and Facilities are exploring alternative building options to ensure responsible spending. The district's goal is to direct as many resources as possible to classrooms while meeting other district needs.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Board member Lincoln and it was seconded by Board member Sauser, the meeting adjourned into a closed session per Utah State Code 52-4-205 as needed to discuss personnel, property or litigation at 6:56 PM. The Board members who voted in favor were President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser, and Ilene Strong. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION – MARCH 12, 2026

The Board of Education of the Lake Mountain School District met in a closed session on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:08 PM. The board meeting took place in the boardroom of the Lake Mountain School District Office in Saratoga Springs, UT.

Board members present: Board members present: President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser and Ilene Strong. Absent: Charity Judkins.

Also present: Superintendent Vicki Carter and Deputy Superintendent Bollinger.

The purposed of the closed session was to discuss personnel, property, and litigation.

ADJORNMENT

On motion by Board member Strong and seconded by Board member Sauser, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM. The Board members who voted in favor were President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser, and Ilene Strong. The motion passed unanimously.