**Draft MINUTES**
**Laurens Central School**
**Board of Education**
**FACS Room 115 - 7:30 PM**
**April 15, 2026**

**Opening of Meeting**

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Roll call and quorum check

**Board Members Present: C. Struckle, T. Francisco, G. Murello, M. Wikoff, P. Bush-Allen**

**Board Members Absent: Alicia Stevens – Ex Officio**

**Others Present: B. Dorritie, Superintendent; J. Mushtare, Building Principal; P. Weir, District Clerk; A. Schlee, District Treasurer; J. Kessler, Head of Transportation; Members of the Staff and Community (see attached sign in sheet).**

B. Call to order

**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President C. Struckle.**

**Additions to Agenda**

C. Additions to Agenda

**Be It Resolved** that the Laurens Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

**2026-2027 Budget**

1. Adopt a budget for the operation of the Laurens Central School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, of $12,271,115.

**Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by P. Bush-Allen to adopt the 2026-2027 budget. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Property Tax Report Card**

2. The Property Tax Report Card for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Motion made by P. Bush-Allen, seconded by M. Wikoff to approve the above Property Tax Report card. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**R. Gardner Juul**

3. That the probationary period of Ross Gardner, School Counselor, be extended for a period of one year, which will extend the end of the probationary period to August 31, 2027.

**Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by G. Murello to approve the above extension of probationary period. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**SEQR Capital Outlay 2026-2027**

4. The attached State Environmental Quality Review Type II Action for the proposed 2026-2027 Capital Outlay Project.

**Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by P. Bush-Allen to approve the above SEQR. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**A. Halstead Non-Certified Substitute**

5. The appointment of Alison Halstead as a Non-Certified Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Her salary will be $105.00 per day.

**Motion made by M. Wikoff, seconded by G. Murello to approve the above appointment. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Be It Resolved** that the Laurens Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

1. Minutes – 3/18/26
2. March 2025 Fiscal Reports
   - A. Treasurer's Report:
     1. Treasurer's Report A Fund (General)
     2. Treasurer's Report C Fund (Cafeteria)
     3. Treasurer's Report F Fund (Special)
     4. Treasurer's Report T Fund (Trust & Agency)
     5. Treasurer's Report L Fund (Library)
     6. Treasurer's Report H Fund (Checking) (Capital Project)
        Treasurer's Report H Fund (Savings) (Capital Project)
     7. Treasurer's Report Repair Reserve
     8. Treasurer's Report Capital Reserve
     9. Treasurer's Report Workers Comp, ERS, Unemployment Reserve
     10. NYLAF Investment Account
     11. Transfers Over $1000

   - B. Other Reports (No Approval Required)
     1. Warrants

| | |
|---|---|
| Warrant #48 | A Fund $26,821.28 (General) |
| Warrant #22 | C Fund $2,584.73 (Cafeteria) |
| Warrant #23 | F Fund $272.31 (Special) |
| Warrant #16 | H Fund $3,617.03 (Capital Fund) |
| Warrant # | T Fund $ (Trust & Agency) |
| Warrant # | TE Fund $0 (Trust-Scholarship) |
| Warrant # | L Fund $0 (Library) |
| Warrant #47 | P Fund $182,909.83 (Payroll) |
| Warrant #49 | A Fund $78,477.72 (General) |
| Warrant #23 | C Fund $6,290.31 (Cafeteria) |
| Warrant #24 | F Fund $3,805.87 (Special) |
| Warrant #17 | H Fund $1,297.50 (Capital Fund) |
| Warrant #17 | T Fund $399.13 (Trust & Agency) |
| Warrant # | TE Fund $0 (Trust-Scholarship) |
| Warrant # | L Fund $0 (Library) |
| Warrant #50 | P Fund $183,799.08 (Payroll) |
| Warrant #51 | A Fund $279,999.12 (General) |
| Warrant #24 | C Fund $2,893.19 (Cafeteria) |
| Warrant #25 | F Fund $4,612.87 (Special) |
| Warrant #18 | H Fund $24,497.00 (Capital Fund) |
| Warrant # | T Fund $ (Trust & Agency) |
| Warrant # | TE Fund $0 (Trust-Scholarship) |
| Warrant # | L Fund $0 (Library) |
| Warrant # | P Fund $0 (Payroll) |
| Warrant #52 | A Fund $36,718.43 (General) |
| Warrant #25 | C Fund $6,081.88 (Cafeteria) |
| Warrant #26 | F Fund $13.34 (Special) |
| Warrant #19 | H Fund $2,586.00 (Capital Fund) |
| Warrant # | T Fund $ (Trust & Agency) |
| Warrant # | TE Fund $0 (Trust-Scholarship) |
| Warrant # | L Fund $0 (Library) |
| Warrant #53 | P Fund $196,196.81 (Payroll) |

     2. Transfers Under $1000
     3. Internal Claims Auditor's Reports
     4. Revenue Status Report - Fund A
     5. Extracurricular Reconciliation Report

3. Committee on Special Education

CSE: 10337, 11044, 10818

CPSE: None

504: 10973, 11142, 10729, 11034, 11047, 21205

**Motion made by G. Murello, seconded by M. Wikoff to approve the above consent agenda items. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Open Comment**

**III. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD**

**Reports and Discussions**

**IV. REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

1. Superintendent's Report – W. Dorritie
   -3-8 State Testing
   -Musical – "Little Shop of Horrors" – Thank you to Jo & Marie Mish for their many years of dedication to the program; this is their last production
   -Grandparents' Day May 1st
   -Marching Band – Pageant of the Bands Saturday, June 6th
   -Reminders – Budget Hearing
   -State Aid, Save Harmless as part of Regionalization discussion
   -Spring Sports
   -Awards Banquet June 8th
   -Emergency Days remaining – May 22 & 26 and June 26
   -National Technical Honor Society – Congratulations to Emma Murch, Moses Tafel, and Lucas Dorritie on their induction
2. Report from Building Principal – J. Mushtare
   -2026 Scholar Recognition – Congratulations to Ryleigh Williams and Mr. West
   -3-8 State Testing – began today
   -Softball games attended
   -Targeted skill group – strategies to reduce suspensions
3. Report from Supervisor Transportation – J. Kessler
   -Spring sports trips
   -Inspection 2 weeks ago – 100%, next inspection coming up
   -Bus #85 trade-in – waiting on another price
4. Report for Buildings & Ground – S. West – absent – no report
   -Mr. Dorritie said there is a Capital Project meeting on May 7th

**Correspondence**

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Old Business**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Be It Resolved** that the Laurens Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

**Superintendent to Cast Vote**

1. To authorize the Superintendent on April 20, 2026 to cast one vote on the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES Administrative Budget as presented for the 2026-2027 school year and cast three votes for the BOCES Board of Education members.

   **Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by P. Bush-Allen to approve the above authorization. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Correction to Safety Patrol Trip Dates**

2. The correction of the Safety Patrol trip dates to Tuesday, June 16, 2026 through Wednesday, June 17, 2026. The Laurens Central School Board of Education has the right to rescind their decision at any time.

   **Motion made by P. Bush-Allen, seconded by M. Wikoff to approve the above date correction. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

## VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**Be It Resolved** that the Laurens Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

### A. PERSONNEL

**2026-2027 Summer Help**

1. The appointment of the following summer help for the 2026-27 school year:

   Jackie Tate – Summer Cleaner $19.22 per hour
   Beth West – Summer Cleaner $19.90 per hour

   Any Laurens Central School Staff/Faculty or Substitute as needed by Buildings and Grounds. Salary will be $16.00 per hour.

**2025-2026 Substitutes**

2. The appointment of the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

   Erica Leeson – Non-Certified Substitute Teacher
   Ashley Handville – Non-Certified Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide
   Christopher Bayne – Substitute Food Service Helper – retroactive to March 30, 2026

   Salary for a Non-Certified Substitute Teacher is $105.00 per day, salary for Substitute Teacher Aide and Substitute Food Service Helper is $16.00 per hour.

### B. NEW BUSINESS

**Ratify LTA Agreement**

1. To ratify the tentative agreement with the Laurens Teachers Association effective July 1, 2026 and continuing until June 30, 2029.

**Election Inspectors**

2. The appointment of the following individuals as Election Inspectors for the May 19, 2026, Vote, to be held in room 115 of the Laurens Central School, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.:

   Pamela Weir, Chief Election Officer
   Deborah Trask, Election Inspector
   Kerri Gartung, Election Inspector
   Dawn Wood, Election Inspector

   **Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by G. Murello to approve the above consent agenda items. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Information**

## VIII. INFORMATION

1. Student Enrollment Report– March 31, 2026

**Meetings**

## IX. MEETINGS

1. Budget Hearing – May 5, 2026, 7:00 pm, Multi-purpose Room
2. Final Secondary Concert – May 12, 2026, 7:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Room
3. Annual Meeting/School Budget Vote – May 19, 2026, 12:00- 8:00 pm, Rm 115
4. Final Elementary Concert – May 19, 2026, 6:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Room
5. Board of Education Meeting – May 20, 2026, 7:30 pm, Room 115

**Open Comment**

## X. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

**Executive Session**

## XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Be It Resolved** that the Laurens Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, enter executive session for the following reasons:

1. Personnel

**The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:51 pm to discuss Personnel issues. Motion made by P. Bush-Allen, seconded by T. Francisco. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

Final Adjournment

## XII. FINAL ADJOURNMENT

**The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:12 pm. Motion made by G. Murello, seconded by T. Francisco. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**The Board adjourned, without further discussion at 8:13 pm. Motion made by G. Murello, seconded by M. Wikoff. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Property Tax Report Card**
**470801 - LAURENS CSD**

**2025-2026 - Page 1**
**Official - as of 04/15/2026 01:20 PM**

******Please use Chrome or Firefox browsers when entering the Business Portal to complete the PTRC. Internet Explorer is NOT recommended.*******

**Note: Some data elements of the Property Tax Report Card have been revised or renamed to more closely follow the Property Tax Cap calculations districts complete on the Office of the State Comptroller website. Please see the Help text above for definitions. Additional guidance on the Property Tax Levy Limit is available on the Office of Educational Management Services website:**
http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/propertytax/taxcap/.

**Please also submit an electronic version (PDF or Word) of your school district's 2026-27 Budget Notice to: emscmgts@nysed.gov. This will enable us to help correct any formula or data entry discrepancy quickly.**

**Notice: The Enacted Budget allows school districts to establish a reserve fund for NYS Teachers' Retirement System Contributions, effective immediately. This reserve, if applicable, should be reported in the Schedule of Reserves under 'Other Reserve' and with a description that says: "To fund employer retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS.)"**

**Form Due - April 25, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Form Preparer Name: | AMY SCHLEE |
| Preparer's Telephone Number: | 607-432-2050 |

| Shaded Fields Will Calculate | Budgeted 2025-26 (A) | Proposed Budget 2026-27 (B) | Percent Change (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions | 11,948,203 | 12,271,115 | 2.70 % |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount[1] | 3,128,664 | 3,214,702 | |
| B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | 0 | 0 | |
| C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable[2] | 0 | 0 | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable | 0 | 0 | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D) | 3,128,664 | 3,214,702 | 2.75 % |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | 257,509 | 181,382 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions[3] | 2,871,156 | 2,947,271 | |
| H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D) | 2,871,155 | 3,033,320 | |
| I. Difference: (G-H);(negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)[2] | 1 | -86,049 | |
| Public School Enrollment | 293 | 289 | -1.37 % |
| Consumer Price Index | | | 2.63 % |

[1] Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

[2] Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

[3] For 2026-27, includes any carryover from 2025-26 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for

excess tax levy, including interest.

| | Actual 2025-26 (D) | Estimated 2026-27 (E) |
|---|---|---|
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance | 2,340,065 | 2,934,578 |
| Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance | 548,000 | 751,297 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance | 2,882,301 | 2,750,863 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget | 24.12 % | 22.42 % |

**Schedule of Reserve Funds**

| Reserve Type | Reserve Name | Reserve Description * | 3/31/26 Actual Balance | 6/30/26 Estimated Ending Balance | Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2026-27 School Year (Limit 200 Characters)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital | CAPITAL RESERVE | For the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued. | 1,109,177 | 809,177 | Expenses for the 2027 Capital Project |
| Repair | RESERVE FOR REPAIR | For the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment. | 440,972 | 440,972 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Workers Compensation | RESERVE FOR WORKERS COMP | For self-insured Workers Compensation and benefits. | 29,016 | 50,000 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Unemployment Insurance | RESERVE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT | For reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund. | 127,035 | 127,035 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Reserve for Tax Reduction | | For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property. | | | |
| Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service | | For proceeds from the sale of district capital assets or improvement, restricted to debt service. | | | |
| Insurance | | For liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses. | | | |
| Property Loss + (add) | | To cover property loss. | | | |
| Liability + (add) | LIABILITY | To cover incurred liability claims. | 0 | 100,000 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |

**Note: Be sure to click on the Save button at the bottom after each additional Reserve you add under Capital, Property Loss, Liability, or Other Reserve.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tax Certiorari | | For tax certiorari settlements. | | | |
| Reserve for Insurance Recoveries | | For unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at fiscal year end. | | | |
| Employee Benefit Accrued Liability | EBLAR | For accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service. | 507,394 | 507,394 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Retirement Contribution | RESERVE FOR ERS | For employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System. | 69,247 | 200,000 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Reserve for Uncollected Taxes | | For unpaid taxes due certain city school districts not reimbursed by their city/county until the following fiscal year. | | | |
| Single Other Reserve | RESERVE FOR TRS | For employer retirement contributions to the State Teachers' Retirement System | 49,511 | 200,000 | No intended use for 2026-2027 |
| Single Other Reserve | BUS RESERVE | For purchase of school buses | 97,812 | 500,000 | Purchase of a 64 passenger school bus |

* **NYSED Reserve Guidance: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/accounting/docs/reserve_funds.pdf**

**OSC Reserve Guidance: http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/listacctg.htm#reservefunds**

****Provide a brief, but specific, statement of the planned use and appropriation for the reserve in SY 2026-27. Mention any capital expenditures that will need to be voted upon in the upcoming Budget Vote.**

Save | Reset | Save & Ready

**RESOLUTION REGARDING**
**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW**
**TYPE II ACTION**
**2026-2027 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Laurens Central School District (the "Board") has considered the impacts to the environment of the following Scope of Work to be completed:

Replacement of door locksets.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the Scope of Work presented and has further consulted with its Architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c) and concluded that the project involves the replacement of door locksets to the Laurens Central School Building as appropriate; involving no substantial changes in existing structure, now therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Laurens Central School District as follows:

1. The Proposed Actions, individually and cumulatively, do not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action is a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

I, Pamela J. Weir, District Clerk of the Laurens Central School Board of Education, hereby certifies that the above resolution was adopted by the required majority vote of the Board of Education at its meeting held on **April 15th, 2026**. Motion made by T. Francisco, seconded by P. Bush-Allen and carried 5-0-0.

Pamela J. Weir
Pamela J. Weir, District Clerk

4/16/26
Date

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME BELOW** **April 15, 2026**

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU SPEAK AT A BOARD MEETING DURING PUBLIC COMMENT, YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR IN THE BOARD MINUTES. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MINUTES ARE PLACED ON OUR WEBSITE AND YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR ON THE INTERNET.**

1. Anthony Casey
2. Jennifer Lewis
3. Melissa Gregory
4. Jay Gregory
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