

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALUMET

CALUMET, MICHIGAN

March 10, 2026

RECORD OF MINUTES

The Board of Education of the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw held its regular monthly meeting on March 10, 2026, at 5:32 p.m., in the CLK Board Room.

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

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

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Loukus) unanimous decision, the bills were approved to be paid. The General Fund bills were \$273,329.01, Athletic bills were \$10,872.51, Cafeteria bills were \$16,722.83, and Community Service bills were \$75.00, for a total of all invoices of \$300,999.35.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read on motion, seconded (Loukus-Halonen) unanimous decision. The General Fund showed a bank balance of \$912,148.14, plus a Money Market of \$2,092,782.57, plus a CD Balance (Restricted) of \$89,074.26, less outstanding checks of (\$209,926.50), less a Transfer in Transit (ORS) of (\$135,126.22), for a total General Fund balance as of February 28, 2026, of \$2,748,952.25.

The Athletic Account showed a bank balance as of February 28, 2026, of \$45,157.10, for a total Athletic Fund balance of \$45,157.10.

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The Cafeteria Fund showed a balance of \$44,056.66 for a total School Service Fund balance of \$89,213.76.

The Bond Debt Retirement Fund showed a bank balance of \$2,398,711.07 for a total Debt Retirement Fund balance as of February 28, 2026, of \$2,398,711.07.

The Board of Education was informed that Claire E. Harmala and Melody E. Woods are the Calumet High School Class of 2026 valedictorians, each with a GPA of 4.000.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Zubiena) unanimous decision, the Board of Education approved the following CCASB Awards:

Student Leadership Award: Nathan Londo
Outstanding Education Employee Award: Karen La Cross
School Service Award: Phyllis Locatelli

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the students who placed in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Lake Linden on February 20th and wished Bella and Daniel good-luck at the U.P. Spelling Bee.

Bella Thompson – 1st – 8th Grade
Marshall Baker – 3rd -8th grade (Alternate)
Daniel Helminen – 2nd – 5th grade

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended CLK Paraprofessionals on April 3, 2026, Paraprofessional Appreciation Day.

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education recognized the 2026 boys' basketball teams and Coaches' Frank Bonacorsi and Levi Kilpela on their seasons. The Board also expressed special recognition to players on their individual honors.

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Peter Torola - WestPAC All Conference 1st Team - Copper Div.
John Golus - WestPAC All Conference Honorable Mention – Copper Div.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Zubiena) unanimous decision, the Board of Education recognized the 2026 varsity hockey team and coaches' Dan Giachino and Josh Frantti on their season. The Board expressed special recognition to the following players on their individual honors:

Team – Academic All-State 3.28 GPA
Rogan Gronlund – Academic All-State
Rogan Gronlund – Hobey Baker Character Award - Forward
Nathan Londo – Academic All-State
Nathan Londo – GLHC All Conference 1st Team
Nathan Londo – All State 1st Team – Forward
Nathan Londo – John Sherf Captain's Award (Captain)
Drake Niemela – Academic All-State
Drake Niemela – GLHC All Conference 1st Team
Drake Niemela – All State 1st Team - Defense
Erik Loukus – Academic All-State
Erik Loukus – GLHC All Conference 2nd Team
Erik Loukus – All State 1st Team – Forward
Erik Loukus – John Sherf Captain's Award (Captain)
Beau Jukuri – GLHC – All Conference Honorable Mention
Beau Jukuri – All State Honorable Mention – Goalie
Dylan Crouch – All State Honorable Mention – Defense
Dylan Crouch – Hobey Baker Character Award - Defense
Ted Pennala – Academic All-State
Ben Anderson - John Sherf Captain's Award (Assistant Captain)
Luke Hamlin - John Sherf Captain's Award (Assistant Captain)

On motion, seconded (Vertin-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education recognized the 2026 JV hockey team and coaches' Tyler Rautio and Trevor Salata on their season.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the bowling team and Head Coach David La Cross and Assistant Coaches Andy Kalcich and Elsa Green on their season.

U.P. Finals Individual:

Girls

*Haylie Duquette – 4th
*Lucy La Cross – 6th
Aubrey Kalcich – 19th
Hazel Sever – 20th
Nynna Jarvi – 24th

Boys:

Colton Beaudette – 35th (LL-H)
Brady Bykkonen – 41st (LL-H)
Linkin Carlin – 42nd
Gavin Dessellier – 46th
Dawson Meneguzzo – 61st

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Laci Jarvi – 28th
Olivia Bykkonen – 36th
Quinn Duquette – 52nd
Aryel Hart – 60th

Connor Green – 73rd

***Haylie & Lucy made the final cut to 16 to go on to head to head matches, both being knocked out by #1 seed Sara Harvey from Ishpeming who finished in 1st place.**

MHSAA Regionals Individual:

Girls

Haylie Duquette – 19th
Lucy La Cross – 28th
Nynna Jarvi – 30th
Laci Jarvi – 40th
Aubrey Kalcich – 46th

Boys:

Linkin Carlin – 55th
Bradyn Bykkonen – 60th (LL-H)
Colton Beaudette – 61st (LL-H)
Gavin Dessellier – 66th
Quinn Duquette – 67th

On motion, seconded (Parker-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the 2026 varsity cheerleading squads and their coach Karen La Cross on their season. Team members include:

Team members include:

Fall Squad:

Serenity Cane
Payton Curtin
Annalisa Hill
Bianna Jarvi
Laci Jarvi
Nynna Jarvi
Chloe Kelly
Nevaeh Kuopus
Kailyn Kupari
Kariann Kupari
Lucy La Cross
Paige Lahti
Ava Lis
Madeline Meilahn
Martina Poli
Amira Rauvala
Daniela Suarez Jimenez
Justice Tadych
Brooklyn Tatman
Marissa Thyrion
Jaysa Wilks

Winter Squad:

Laci Jarvi
Nynna Jarvi
Nevaeh Kuopus
Kailyn Kupari
Kariann Kupari
Lucy La Cross
Martina Poli
Marissa Thyrion

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Zubiena) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the Washington Middle School and Calumet High School Science Olympiad members, coaches and volunteers: Darrell Hendrickson, John Asiala and Timothy Porter and parent coach Suzanne Baker. The Board should also thank chaperones Cassie Behm, Tanya

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Lizzadro, Jodi Skoog and Angie Weber. In the Region 1 Science Olympiad tournament held on February 21st at Northern Michigan University, Washington Middle School took 1st place in Division B garnering 18 medals in 23 events, advancing WMS to state finals as a team. The team will compete in the State finals at Michigan State University on Saturday, April 25th. Lorelei Fryer of Calumet High School had a very good showing in Division C earning three medals, which qualifies her to compete in these events as Gold Bids independently at the state finals at Michigan State University on April 25th.

Medaling for Washington Middle School:

Quinn Alldredge/Tenley Goldsworthy - 1st Place: Anatomy & Physiology
Joe Kaura/Justin Weber – 1st Place: Helicopter
Gwen Skoog – 1st Place: Heredity
Marshall Baker/Daniel Garrow - 1st Place: Machines
Chloe Myhren/Cooper Lizzadro – 1st Place: Mission Possible
Quinn Alldredge/Justin Weber – 1st Place: Rocks & Minerals
Noah Dyni/Daniel Garrow - 1st Place: Solar System
Marshall Baker/Daniel Garrow - 1st Place: Write It/Do It
Marshall Baker/Daniel Garrow/Dixie LeFebvre - 2nd Place: Codebusters
Vivian Robb/Gwenyth Skoog - 2nd Place: Crimebusters
Sophia Mattila/Justin Weber - 2nd Place: Meteorology
Tenley Goldsworthy/Cooper Lizzadro - 2nd Place: Hovercraft
Chloe Myhren/Vivian Robb – 3rd Place: Boomilever
Marshall Baker/Daniel Garrow – 3rd Place: Circuit Lab
Marshall Baker/Dixie LeFebvre/Cooper Lizzadro - 3rd Place: Experimental Design
Genevieve Baker/Vivian Robb – 3rd Place: Potions & Poisons
Noah Dyni/Justin Weber - 3rd Place: Remote Sensing
Joe Kaura/Gwenyth Skoog - 3rd Place: Water Quality

Medaling for Calumet High School:

Lorelei Fryer - 1st Place: Remote Sensing
Lorelei Fryer - 1st Place: Rocks & Minerals
Lorelei Fryer – 2nd Place: Entomology

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the students chosen to have their art projects displayed at the Copper Country Community Arts Center "Celebrate Youth Arts Month" showcase.

CLK Elementary

2nd Grade

Tova Ahrens Evellyn Blaksley Riley Froberg

Luke Johnson

3rd Grade

Hayden Anderson Marco Anderson Olivia Bett
Franklin Dombrowski Isla Huhta Henrik L'Esperance
Blaine Lasanen Harper MacDonald Rylee Reuter

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Ava Richards

4th Grade

Keegan Bohlsen

Alice Skoog

Daniel Kalcich

Graham Therrian

Deanna Saari

WMS – 6th Gr.

Callie Asiala

Roux Emkin

Eliza Leiter

Carson Raasakka

Zac Therrian

Genevieve Baker

Elizabeth Heikkinen

Mayona Maggio

Tyson Stites

Madison Yunker

Andy Bjorn

Felix Johnson

Ella Mattson

Zander Tammelin

CLK Virtual

Brynn Baetsen

Ernie Beutler

Ireland Brady

Joe Erickson

Isaac Goldner

Owen Johnson

Joel Macomber

Sela Pennala

Zane Rea

Samo Sternberg

Roland Welch

Clara Baetsen

Scarlett Beutler

Olivine Brady

Phoebe Gehrke

Brooklyn Hocking

Juliet Koppana

Oliva Mathewson

Seth Pennala

Thora Shaw

Lillian Titcombe

Wrenna Zaycheck

Brody Beutler

Harper Bouman

Lilliah DeMerse

Heidi Goldner

Rowen Hocking

Arianna Macomber

Joshua McBee

Orson Rea

Lilly Shebby

Hazel Warstler

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended Frank Bonacorsi, Levi Kilpela, Paul Torola, Charlie Kempainen, Adel Riutta, Julie Giachino, Casey Strom, Savanna Rivest, Bill Rivest, Marce Halonen, Sarah Hampton, Lanette Lassila, Micah Pieti, Dryden Nelson, Cara Goulette, members of the girls and boys high school basketball teams along with the many volunteers who assisted with The Mike Steber Annual Elementary Tournament for grades 3-6 on Saturday, February 7, 2026. Teams were composed of 3rd-6th graders for both boys and girls.

Calumet 5th/6th grade boys (Calumet Gray) finished in 3rd place

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended Aspirus Athletic Trainer, Brad Anderson during March 2026 - National Athletic Trainer Month.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Zubiena) unanimous decision, the Board of Education expressed appreciation to Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital for providing athletic training services

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free of charge to the CLK Schools.

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education expressed appreciation to staff and volunteers for their participation in the successful CLK Elementary Wake Up & Read Breakfast held in the elementary school on March 4th. The following people should be commended for giving their time to the event: Kristin Wanhala for greeting and running the Title 1 information table, Matthew Hampton, Julie Giachino, Chloe McParlan, Julie Anttila, Heather Hainault, Christina Lahti, Liz Leach, Lucia Mercado and Mari Ylitalo, for their help serving breakfast; Jon Kesanen & Laban Talo for keeping the cafeteria clean and Carol Janckila & the food service staff for their efforts and preparation. A total of 485 breakfasts were served.

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the Washington Middle School VEX Robotics team on their season along with advisor Cara Wightman and assistant, Major Michael Farley. The teams competed in two events at Hancock High School. The middle school team, King Cobras, had a few struggles getting the bot to perform the way they wanted, but did make it to the finals at one of the competitions. They were invited to the state competition, but decided not to go and to save the funds for future seasons. The high school team, Team Viper, won the first competition and made it to the finals at the second. They received the judges award and the innovate award as well as competed at the Michigan State Competition at Kettering.

Team Viper members: Zoe Robinson, Edward Diepen, Dixie Lefebvre
King Cobras: Vivian Robb, Ruth Janckila, Quinn Alldredge, Chloe Myhren, Emily Thompson, Xendaya Willette, Karla Helppi, Cheyenne Watson..

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated WMS 6th grader Genevieve Baker on placing 1st in the Upper Peninsula Story Contest "The Dandelion Cottage Contest" sponsored by the Upper Peninsula Publishers Authors Association.

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On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated Mrs. Melissa Olli on being chosen as a February 2026 Superior Educator.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated Ben Bonacorsi on placing 1st at the 2026 Elks State Hoop Shoot competition held on February 28th in Big Rapids. Ben also won the Top Shooter Award for making the most free-throws across all divisions, sinking 25 of 25 free throws. Ben will now move on to Regionals where he will compete against the winners from multiple states with a chance to compete at Nationals.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the Calumet High School and Washington Middle School Bands on earning Division 1 ratings at the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Festival held on February 26th.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulated the Calumet Hockey Association Kings on winning the 2026 Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Youth 10U AA Tier II state championship.

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education cast a ballot for Brad Baltensperger for the MASB Board of Directors for Region 3 for a three-year term.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Loukus) unanimous decision, the Board of Education commended the gymnastics team and coach DeeAnna Gariepy on their season.

Regional - All Around

Alexa Hoffman – 31st

Sylvie Kentala (DB-TC) – 31st

Brooklyn Tatman – 36th

Larissa Johnson – 52nd

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education congratulate students who placed in the Northern Shores Storywork Writing Project hosted by

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Northern Michigan University.

Regional 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards:

Mallory McMahon – Gold Key – Critical Essay & American Voices Nominee

Nynna Jarvi – Silver Key – Painting – Gr. 11

Grace Dee – Honorable Mention – Flash Fiction – Gr. 11

Molly Erkkila – Honorable Mention – Personal Essay/Memoir – Gr. 12

Eleanna Hokenson – Two (2) - Honorable Mention(s) – Poetry – Gr. 10

Madeline Meilahn – Honorable Mention – Painting – Gr. 10

Madeline Meilahn – Honorable Mention – Drawing – Gr. 10

On motion, seconded (Loukus-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education recognized the 2026 girls' JV & V basketball teams along with varsity coach Charlie Kempainen and JV coach Adel Riutta, along with volunteer coaches Julie Giachino and Sarah Hampton on their seasons. The varsity won the District Championship with wins over West Iron County and Westwood. The Board also expressed special recognition to players on their individual honors.

Bailey Strom - WestPAC All Conference 1st Team - Copper Div.

Bailey Strom - WestPAC All Conference - All Defensive Team

Kiirsi Johnson - WestPAC All Conference Honorable Mention - Copper Div.

The Board was notified of teachers that will be retiring effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year:

Catherine Olsson – CLK Elementary School - 30 years of service

Michael Ojala – CLK Elementary School – 29 years of service

Shannon Lehto – Washington Middle School – 3 years of service

Jennifer Wickstrom – Calumet High School – 16 years of service

Todd Waurio – Calumet High School – 19 years of service

The Board was notified that Mr. Matthew Hampton, CLK Elementary Principal, has accepted the Voluntary Separation Agreement effective June 30, 2026. Mr. Hampton has been with the CLK Schools for 18 years.

On motion, seconded (Vertin-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education approved the maternity leave request of CLK Elementary School Paraprofessional Mrs. Jaycie Loukus effective March 18, 2026.

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On motion, seconded (Halonen-Zubiena) the Board of Education approved the reassignment of Mrs. Julie Giachino to the CLK Elementary School Principal position effective June 1, 2026.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) the Board of Education approved the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds as presented by the Administration for filing with the Michigan Department of Treasury and that the Secretary of this Board be authorized to sign the same.


Building Principals updated the Board on "what's happening" in their buildings.

On motion, seconded (Zubiena-Halonen) unanimous decision, the Board of Education accepted the resignation notice of Mrs. Terra Parks as the JV girls' volleyball coach effective immediately. The Board also thanked Mrs. Parks for coaching our high school athletes.

On motion, seconded (Halonen-Vertin) unanimous decision, the Board of Education adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



President



Secretary