



**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SOLE SUPERVISORY DISTRICT  
ST. LAWRENCE-LEWIS COUNTIES**

P.O. Box 231, 40 W. Main Street  
Canton, New York 13617

**BOARD MEETING** – Thursday, July 2, 2026 – 4 p.m.

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**Board of Education Goals  
2025-2026**

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES is committed to work successfully with component districts across the region:

- To increase student performance and enhance opportunities to access advanced coursework essential for a successful preparation for college, career, and citizenship.
- To promote regional sharing and delivery models through inter-BOCES as well as intra-BOCES arrangements
- To continuously evaluate BOCES services for quality, efficiency, and potential improvement, including input from our component school district partners
- To provide financial and operational solutions to our component school districts to provide training and build school district preparedness for reductions in federal and state aid, decreases in enrollment, and staffing challenges.

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES will:

- Support BOCES and SLL component districts as they raise awareness and build capacity toward the implementation of the New York State Education Department's Portrait of a Graduate.
- Work with our Regional Partners, including SUNY Potsdam, to build and refine regional pipelines that will produce teachers and future educational leaders for the region, including the Ed Leadership Program at SUNY Potsdam and the Advanced Certificate in Special Education Program, and the District Superintendents' Innovation Committee and BOCES of NYS Teacher Ambassador Program.
- Work with component districts to provide the necessary professional development for a multi-year implementation of The Science of Reading, Numeracy and Science of Learning to address significant learning gaps across the region, as well as comply with new legislation and NYSED through regulations.
- Continue to provide BOCES faculty and staff with the information, resources and training necessary to protect digital information, including Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of staff/students and to protect our technology platforms. We will collaborate with the component school districts to support them in this area.
- Develop an organizational position statement on artificial intelligence during the 2025-26 school year.
- Fully support and assist our 18 component school districts with the implementation of the NYSED initiatives on both graduation measures and regionalization.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PUBLIC HEARING** - [District-Wide Safety Plan](#) – Following this public hearing a 30-day public comment period will be held with the anticipated adoption of the Plan at the August 2026 Board meeting.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

### Opening Activities

(In accordance with [Board Policy #1510](#) – Regular Board Meetings and Rules)

- I. Appoint Temporary Chairman (Clerk of the Board is designated)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)
- II. Call to Order by the Temporary Chairman
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call and Quorum Check
- V. Public Comments

### Action Items – Organizational

(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

#### VI. Appointments

##### A. Administration of Oath of Office to Newly Elected Board Members

Clerk administers the Oath of Office to Todd Bates, Michael Miller and Kevin Wells, each a three-year term, July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. (All board officers, including District Superintendent, as well as newly elected members and student ex officio members of the board take an oath each year.)

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of New York, and that I faithfully discharge, according to the best of my ability, the duties of the position of (Board Member) (District Superintendent) of the Sole Supervisory District of St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services to which I am now assigned.*

##### B. Nomination of 2026 – 2027 President

(In accordance with [Board Policy #1320](#) – Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President)

*The chairman will call for nominations from the floor for the position of Board President. If two or more names are received for the position, paper ballots will be used to vote for the nominees. If only one nomination is made, the clerk will cast one ballot for that person to fill the position as board president for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.*

**A motion is needed to nominate the Board President for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.**

##### C. Election of 2026 – 2027 President

(In accordance with [Board Policy #1320](#) – Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President)

**A motion is needed to approve the following resolution:**

**BE IT RESOLVED that \_\_\_\_\_ be elected President of the Board of Education for this BOCES for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.**

- D. Nomination of 2026 - 2027 Board Vice President  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1320](#) – Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President)

*The chairman will call for nominations from the floor for the position of Board Vice President. If two or more names are received for the position, paper ballots will be used to vote for the nominees. If only one nomination is made, the clerk will cast one ballot for that person to fill the position as Board Vice President for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.*

**A motion is needed to nominate the Board Vice President for 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.**

- E. Election of 2026 – 2027 Board Vice President  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1320](#) – Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President)

**A motion is needed to approve the following resolution:**

**BE IT RESOLVED that \_\_\_\_\_ be elected Vice President of the Board of Education of this BOCES for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.**

- F. Administration of Oath of Office to the Elected Officers for 2026 - 2027

*The clerk administers the Oath of Office to the President and Vice President*

- G. Appointment of 2026 - 2027 School District Officers  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

**A motion is needed to appoint the following 2026 - 2027 BOCES Officers:**

1. Clerk of the BOCES – Jennie Colburn
2. Interim Treasurer of the BOCES – Nicole Ashley
3. Deputy Treasurer of the BOCES – Molly Williams
4. Claims Auditor – Diane Ladison
5. Internal Auditor – Questar III BOCES
6. BOCES Attorney – Ferrara Fiorenza, P.C.
7. BOCES Educational Consortium – Hinman Straub
8. Records Retention and Disposition Officer – Tawni Rickett
9. Records Access Officer – Jennie Colburn

10. **Records Management Officer – Nicole Ashley**
11. **External (Independent) Auditor – Bowers and Company, Certified Public Accountants, P.C.**
12. **Purchasing Agent – Darlene Bessette**
13. **Back-Up Purchasing Agent – Casey Halpin**
14. **LEA Designee – Asbestos Handling/Reporting – Kevin Perretta**
15. **Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth – Johnathan Hirschey**
16. **Foster Care Liaison – Brooke Santamont**
17. **Re-establishment of Audit Committee Members (Roger Bennett, Michael Davis and Michael Miller)**
18. **Chief Information Officer – Darin Saiff**
19. **Chief Information Security Officer – Lori Remington**
20. **Data Protection Officer – Darin Saiff**
21. **BOCES Integrity Officer for SED Test Security – Darin Saiff**
22. **COVID-19 Safety Coordinator – Darin Saiff**
23. **Title IX / Civil Rights Compliance Officer**
  - a. **For Students – James Nee**
  - b. **For Employees – Marshall Fiese**
24. **DEI Coordinator – Ginger Tebo**
25. **Website Manager – Capital Region BOCES Communications Team**
26. **Chief Emergency Officer – Darin Saiff**
27. **Copyright Officer – Virginia Tebo**
28. **Insurance Advisor – Haylor, Freyer & Coon Inc.**
29. **Chemical Hygiene Officer – Kevin Perretta**

H. Appointment of 2026 - 2027 Designations  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

**A motion is needed to appoint the following 2026 - 2027 Designations:**

1. **Official Bank Depositories – Community Bank NA, NYCLASS, and Chase Bank**

**2. Regular Monthly Meetings as follows:**

Month	Date	Time
August	Thursday, August 20 – ESC Building	4 pm
September	Thursday, September 10 – ESC Building	6 pm
October	October 7 -OR- 15 ??? – ESC Building	6 pm
November	Thursday, November 12 – Northwest Tech	6 pm
December	Thursday, December 10 – Seaway Tech	4 pm
January	Thursday, January 14 – ESC Building	6 pm
February	Thursday, February 11 – ESC Building	6 pm
March	Thursday, March 11 – ESC Building	6 pm
April	Thursday, April 8 – ESC Building	4 pm
May	Thursday, May 13 – Southwest Tech	6 pm
June	Thursday, June 4 – ESC Building	5 pm

**3. Official Newspaper(s) – Johnson Newspapers, Plattsburgh Press Republican and North Country This Week**

- I. Appointment of 2026 - 2027 Authorizations  
 (In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

**A motion is needed to approve the following Authorizations:**

- 1. District Superintendent to certify payroll.**
- 2. Designation of Treasurer to sign all checks; in the absence of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer will sign all checks; in the absence of the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, the Director of Financial Affairs to sign all checks.**
- 3. District Superintendent to approve part-time, temporary and substitute personnel at approved board salary/wage rates until final action at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.**
- 4. District Superintendent to approve attendance at conference/workshops for all employees; in the absence of the District Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent will approve attendance at conference/workshops for all employees.**
- 5. President of the Board and/or District Superintendent to sign necessary contracts on behalf of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).**
- 6. Vice President to sign contracts in the absence of President.**
- 7. District Superintendent to approve all budget transfers in accordance with Commissioner’s Regulations §170.3.**
- 8. Reauthorization and approval for SLL BOCES membership in New York State School Boards Association, National School Boards Association and the BOCES Educational Consortium.**
- 9. District Superintendent to approve change orders up to \$50,000.**

**10. District Superintendent is approved to purchase meals for component district staff during meetings and conferences with the school credit card. All receipts will be turned into the Business Office for proper payment.**

- J. Bonding of Personnel  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #4530](#) – Insurance and Employee Bonds)

**A motion is needed to approve the bonding of personnel as follows:**

1. Treasurer
2. Deputy Treasurer
3. All employees who handle cash
4. All persons and positions required by law or regulation to be bonded

- K. Establish Mileage Rate for 2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #6161](#) – Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement)

**A motion is needed to establish the mileage rate for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year at the IRS allowed reimbursement rate.**

- L. Re-adoption of Board Policies  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

*The policy book for the SLL BOCES has been reviewed, edited, and revised. Each section of the book was approved as edited with the intention to approve the entire policy book at the July organizational meeting.*

**A motion is needed to adopt the Policy Book as reviewed, edited and revised for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.**

- M. Appointment of Legislative Liaison for NYSSBA  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

*In order to make the views of public schools known to State legislatures, each school board is asked to designate one of its members as Legislative Liaison. New York State School Boards Association has developed a job description for the position of Legislative Liaison.*

**A motion is needed to approve the appointment of BOCES board members to serve as Legislative Liaison and an Alternate for NYSSBA.**

- N. Participate in the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Programs for the 2026 - 2027 School Year  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1620](#) – Annual Organizational Meeting)

**A motion is needed to participate in the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Programs in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the “Cooperative Purchasing Agreement” for the 2026 - 2027 school year.**

- O. Dignity Act Coordinators for 2026 - 2027 School Year  
(In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act)

**A motion is needed to approve the following Dignity Act Coordinators for the 2026-2027 school year, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act:**

**Special Education: Lori Murray, Kady Sharp, Jacqueline Bill, Dillon Chichester and Michael Webb**

**CTE: Julie Putney, Julianne White, Amy Bowman, Gregory Mintz and Tim Morse**

The regular monthly board meeting begins immediately following the organizational meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS – Regular Meeting**

### **I. Consent Items for Approval:**

- Treasurer’s Report for period ending May 31, 2026  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1510](#) – Regular Board Meetings and Rules)

#### Account Balances – May 31, 2026

General Fund	\$8,189,346.31
Federal Fund	\$517,547.56
Trust & Agency Fund	\$7,234.93
Payroll Fund	\$ 0.00
Capital Renovation Project	\$248,539.96
Capital Equipment Reserve	\$208,113.03

#### Current Budget Allocation – May 31, 2026

[Budget Report](#)      [District Billing](#)

General Fund Budget..... \$82,763,454.48

- [Minutes of June 4, 2026 Meeting](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1510](#) – Regular Board Meetings and Rules)
- Cooperative Bids  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5410](#) – Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering)
  - Cafeteria Foods – August – December 2026

- [Approval of Cell Phone Listing](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5322](#) – BOCES Cell Phone Use)
  
- [Approval of Bank of America Cardholders](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5321](#) – BOCES Credit Card Use)
  
- [Approval of Wright Express Card \(gas card\)](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5321](#) – BOCES Credit Card Use)
  
- [Donations](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5230](#) – Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Memorializations and Bequests to BOCES)
  - Donation of 65 pairs of various size work boots to the Southwest Technical Center from the Gouverneur Department of Corrections, Gouverneur, NY. The boots are new and have an estimated value of approximately \$150.00 per pair.
  - Donation of \$200.00 scholarship and/or student in need in the 2026-2027 school year at Seaway Technical Center from Patricia Brabaw, Potsdam, NY.
  - Scholarship donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to a Northwest Technical Center student from the American Red Cross, Charlotte, NC.
  - Donation of HDPE pipes with an estimated value of \$3,000.00 from the Development Authority of the North Country, Jefferson, NY to the Southwest Technical Center's Heavy Equipment Operations program.
  
- [Staff Conferences](#)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #6161](#) – Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement)
  - James Nee and Johnathan Hirschey to attend SCDN meetings in Albany, NY for the 2026-2027 school year.
  - Carmel Rastley to attend the 2026 Amatrol Technical Training Institute in Waterloo, IA from July 19 – 25, 2026.
  
- [Fire Inspection Report](#)  
(As mandated by §807 (a) f Commissioner Regulations; 8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) §155.8; 19 NYCCR Part 1225; Manual for Fire and Building Safety Inspections in Public and Non-public Schools, SED, revised January 2004)
  
- [Administrator Handbook](#)

**A motion is needed to approve the above consent agenda items.**

II. District Superintendent

A. Action Items

1. Personnel – See Attachment “A”  
(In accordance with Board Policy #5150 – Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment of Personnel)

This motion will include the entire personnel section of the agenda.

**A motion is needed to approve the Personnel as presented in Attachment “A”.**

- B. Memorandum of Agreement – Non-Instructional Support Staff (NISSA)  
(In accordance with Board Policy #5230 – Negotiations)

**A motion is needed to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between St. Lawrence Lewis BOCES and the Non-Instructional Support Staff (NISSA) for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.**

- C. Appoint a 2026-2027 Plan Year Board of Directors Designation for the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Medical Plan

**WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES is a participant in the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Medical Plan; and**

**WHEREAS, Section IV of the Municipal Cooperative Agreement directs this School District to select the Superintendent or a designee to serve on the Plan’s Board of Directors, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby designates Nicole Ashley to serve as the School District’s representative on the Plan’s Board of Directors; and**

**RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of Education hereby designates Darin Saiff to serve as an alternate district representative on the Plan’s Board of Directors should the district’s representative not be able to attend a Board of Director’s meeting.**

- D. Appoint a 2026-2027 Plan Year Board of Directors Designation for the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Workers’ Compensation Plan

**WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES is a participant in the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Workers’ Compensation Plan; and**

**WHEREAS, Section IV of the Municipal Cooperative Agreement directs this School District to select the Superintendent or a designee to serve on the Plan’s Board of Directors, be it**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby designates Nicole Ashley to serve as the School District's representative on the Plan's Board of Directors; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board of Education hereby designates Darin Saiff to serve as an alternate district representative on the Plan's Board of Directors should the district's representative not be able to attend a Board of Director's meeting.

- E. Voting Delegate & Alternate to NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1310](#) – Power and Duties of the Board)

**A motion is required to elect the Voting Delegate and the Voting Alternate to serve at NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting and Convention in Buffalo, New York, October 22-24, 2026.**

- F. Standard Work Day  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5150](#) – Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment of Personnel)

*Rationale: This action is a recommendation of the auditor.*

**A motion is needed to approve the Standard Work Day for the titles under New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System and the New York State Teachers' Retirement System. The standard workday for full-time employment based on the specific position will range from a six-hour workday to an eight-hour workday for full-time standard employment (five days a week).**

- G. District Superintendent's Employment Agreement  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1310](#) – Power & Duties of the Board)

**A motion is needed to approve the District Superintendent's Employment Agreement between the Board and District Superintendent dated July 2, 2026.**

- H. Appointment of Special Counsel  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5150](#) – Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment of Personnel)

**A motion is needed to approve the appointment of Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC as Special Counsel to the BOCES for matters as assigned by the District Superintendent.**

- I. Approval of Technical Center Emergency Response Plans (ERP)  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5630](#) – Facilities: Inspection, Operation and Maintenance)

- a. Northwest Technical Center
- b. Southwest Technical Center
- c. Seaway Technical Center

**A motion is needed to approve the Technical Center Emergency Response Plans for the 2026-2027 school year.**

- J. Nomination for Area 6 Director  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1310](#) – Power & Duties of the Board)

**A motion is needed to nominate Gary Lambert, Member of the Plattsburgh City School District Board of Education and Tori Thurston, Member of the Saranac Lake Central School District Board of Education, for the Area 6 Director on the NYSSBA Board of Directors.**

- K. Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5410](#) – Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering)

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the “Program”) in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES’ standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

This Resolution solely applies to the Cross Contact for Bid: Network Copiers.

**A motion is needed to participate in the Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program.**

- L. Advance Approval and Payment of Allowable Claims  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #1332](#) – Duties of the BOCES Treasurer)

**A motion is needed to approve the payments of allowable claims for public utilities as stated in Education Law Subsection 2524. The Board of Education by resolution shall authorize the payment in advance of audit of claims for public utilities (i.e. electric, gas, water, sewer, telephone, cable, postage, freight, and express charges). All such claims shall be audited by the claims auditor after said payments.**

- VII. Local Bids  
(In accordance with [Board Policy #5410](#) – Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering)

**A motion is needed to approve the bid awards for building materials, to low bidder meeting specifications for the Northwest Technical Center, Southwest Technical Center and Seaway Technical Center for the building of the houses:**

**Insulated LVL Headers – Section 1:**

Northwest Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$1,542.00  
Southwest Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$1,542.00  
Seaway Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$1,542.00

**Trusses – Section 2: TENTATIVE**

Northwest Technical Center – White's Lumber - \$4,411.93  
Southwest Technical Center – White's Lumber - \$4,411.93  
Seaway Technical Center – White's Lumber - \$4,411.93

**Dimensional Framing Lumber – Section 3:**

Northwest Technical Center – Bicknell Building Supply - \$21,513.39  
Southwest Technical Center – Bicknell Building Supply - \$21,513.39  
Seaway Technical Center – Bicknell Building Supply - \$21,532.49

**Fasteners – Section 4:**

**Northwest Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$2,379.82**  
**Southwest Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$2,379.82**  
**Seaway Technical Center – JP Building Supply - \$3,071.07**

III. Reports

- A. Darin Saiff, District Superintendent
- B. James Nee, Deputy Superintendent

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Claims Auditor's Quarterly Report (April – June 2026)

V. Information Items

- A. Update on Facilities – K. Perretta
- B. The next Board of Education meeting is Thursday, August 20, 2026, 4pm at the ESC.

VI. Presentations

VII. Other

VIII. Pass-Around Information

IX. Adjournment