



## Lake Mills Care Center residents stuff Easter eggs

Residents of the Lake Mills Care Center came together earlier this month to stuff over 400 Easter eggs with candy in preparation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt held Wednesday April 16. As they worked, they enjoyed listening to festive Easter music, that filled the room with cheer. Once the eggs were ready, they treated themselves to freshly baked cookies and coffee, sharing fond memories of past Easters and enjoying each other's company.

## LMCS BOARD MINUTES

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Lake Mills Community School**  
**District Board of Directors**  
**Library-Media Center**  
**April 14, 2025**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL**  
**YEAR 2026 BUDGET AND**  
**AMENDMENT OF FISCAL YEAR**  
**2025 BUDGET:**

President Ryan Joynt called the public hearing to order at 5:00 P.M. and determined a quorum. The following board members were present: President Ryan Joynt, Vice President Casey Singelstad, Kari Osheim, Stephanie Storby, and Kristin Wempen. No members were absent. Others present included Superintendent Chris Rogne, Secondary Principal Steve Madson, Elementary Principal Connor Kem, Board Secretary Drake Abbey, and guests.

Mr. Rogne and Mr. Abbey presented information on the proposed amendment to the fiscal year 2025 certified budget and the proposed fiscal year 2026 certified budget. No members of the public filed written comments or presented oral objections.

The public hearing adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD:**

President Ryan Joynt called the regular meeting to order at 5:03 P.M. and determined a quorum. The following board members were present: President Ryan Joynt, Vice President Casey Singelstad, Kari Osheim, Stephanie Storby, and Kristin Wempen. No members were absent. Others present included Superintendent Chris Rogne, Secondary Principal Steve Madson, Elementary Principal Connor Kem, Board Secretary Drake Abbey, and guests.

**AGENDA:**  
Osheim moved to approve the agenda. Storby seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER REPORTS:**

Mr. Rogne commented on announcements and celebrations. Mr. Madson and Mr. Kem gave building-level reports. Mr. Rogne gave a system-wide report and facilities update.

**CONSENT AGENDA, PART 1:**  
Storby requested to move the personnel items off of the main consent agenda for a separate vote. Osheim moved to approve the remainder of the items on the consent agenda after removing personnel items. Singelstad seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

1. Approval of previous minutes
2. Approval of officials
3. Approval of fundraisers: softball team (clothing)
4. Approval of financial reports
5. Approval of open enrollment requests

In: Amber Benjergdes requests her 10<sup>th</sup> grader attend from Forest City

6. Approval of partnerships
- a. Renewal of insurance plans with ISEBA
- b. 403(b) service agreement with tplanwithease.com
- c. Agreement with Morningside University for student teacher placements

**CONSENT AGENDA, PART 2:**  
Singelstad moved to approve the personnel items from the consent agenda. Wempen seconded the motion. Joynt, Singelstad, Osheim, and Wempen voted aye. Storby abstained. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

1. Approval of personnel items
- a. Resignations: Andrew Stensrud (from middle school girls' basketball); Kaylene Erdahl (from library-media specialist); Beth Van Roekel (from high school girls' basketball)
5. New hires, appointments, & adjustments: Michael Wallin (for transportation director); Tiffany Kesler (for shared work experience coordinator); Rebecca May (lane change to BA+30 for 2025-2026); Meaghan Welter (for

middle school and high school football cheerleading); Charlie Fritz (for library-media specialist extended contract); 2025-2026 TLC positions as presented

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Singelstad moved to approve the first reading of IASB Policy Primer updates. Storby seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Policies impacted by this update include 102, 102.R1, 102.E1, 102.E2, 102.E3, 102.E4, 102.E5, 104.E2, 104.E3, 302.01, 303.02, 401.01, 603.04, 605.01R1, 710.01R1, 710.01E1, 710.01E2, 206.03, 401.05, 501.08, 506.01, 708, 804.06, 901, 402.02, 503.09, 503.09R1, and 804.02.

2. Storby moved to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget amendment as presented. Wempen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The amendment included expenditure increases in the instruction function of \$100,000 and in total other expenditures by \$400,000. The tax rate will not change.

3. Osheim moved to approve the fiscal year 2026 budget as presented with the proposed property tax rate of \$10.97130 per \$1,000 in taxable valuation. Storby seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The budget consists of the following expenditures: instruction - \$6,732,000, total support services - \$3,464,000, non-instructional programs - \$568,741, total other expenditures - \$1,857,264.

4. Singelstad moved to approve the E-rate Category II purchase with BlueAlly as presented. Osheim seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. Storby moved to approve the issuance of contracts to classified staff, learner assistants, administrators, and other salaried employees and benefits for all eligible contracted employees as presented. Wempen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The proposal includes adding \$0.30 per hour for hourly employees on the classified salary schedule. Payment for bus routes will increase by \$2.00 per day. Pay for the nutrition director and maintenance director will increase by 2.00 percent. Pay for the business manager, principals, and superintendent will increase by \$2,500. Two-year contracts will be renewed for the elementary principal and superintendent. Pay for ticket sellers will increase to \$30.

1. Singelstad moved to approve the sharing agreement and job description for the work experience coordinator position. Wempen seconded the motion. Joynt, Singelstad, Osheim, and Wempen voted aye. Storby abstained. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

2. Mr. Rogne and Mr. Madson presented a proposal to add a half-time teaching position to serve as a middle school success coach and PE teacher. Osheim moved to approve adding a 0.5-FTE teaching position to serve in the role of middle school success coach. Singelstad seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. Mr. Rogne reviewed instructional time missed due to weather. Wempen moved to approve keeping Friday, May 30, 2025, as the last day for classes. Teachers will have to complete 16 hours of flexible professional time by June 15 to make up two contract days. Storby seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The dismissal time on May 30 will be 12:15 P.M.

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS:**  
Osheim moved to approve payment of the list of bills as presented. Storby seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
The next regular board meeting is scheduled to be held in the Library-Media Center on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

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## Earlier Days

From the files of the *Lake Mills Graphic*

**100 years ago**  
**April 22, 1925**

Mason City, April 20—Mrs. Martha Bush, who was in the spotlight a year ago when she was tried in the charge of performing illegal operations on two girls, was arrested at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening on a second degree murder charge filed by County Attorney William P. Butler. Mrs. Bush is held in connection with the death of Mrs. Pearl Olson of Joice, who died at the Mercy hospital Tuesday morning the autopsy showing peritonitis. Mr. Butler stated today he would continue the investigation and the gathering of evidence to show the connection between Mrs. Bush and the Joice woman's death. The state failed to convict Mrs. Bush of performing illegal operations in two sensational trials, which drew record crowds to the court room last spring. Two juries reported back to the court that they were unable to reach a unanimous verdict. The first jury returned with a verdict of 8 to 4 for conviction, after 34 1/2 hours of deliberation, while the second was dismissed after deliberating 55 hours, standing 7 for acquittal and

5 for conviction, according to statements from jurors.

The board of director of Norway Independent school district, No. 1 met Monday evening and decided upon calling a special election in said district for the purpose of voting a bond issue sufficient to erect a new schoolhouse on the sight of the present school building, four miles north of Lake Mills, on the Wilson Highway, directly west of the Synod Lutheran church.

The Henrik Ibsen lodge of Sons of Norway are arranging for a real 17th of May festival in Lake Mills next month. As May 17th falls on Sunday this year, it will be a splendid occasion for a festive gathering of the Norse-American element in this neighborhood. Ho. Gunnar B. Bjornson of Minneapolis will give an address in the afternoon and a program of songs and speeches appropriate to the day and event is being arranged. The program will open with a picnic dinner in Oakwood Park. A platform will be arranged for the speakers and singers. If the weather is favorable, it will be a big day in Lake Mills.

**75 years ago**  
**April 19, 1950**

Nick Anderson announced today that he has sold his house near the Phillips 66 station to Gilbert Ausen. Mr. Anderson will hold a public auction of most of his furniture April 26 and will move into a trailer house. Mr. and Mrs. Ausen plan to move the day of the sale from the Sanden house, where they have been making their home.

What is Coney Island? That is a question which will be answered for many residents of the area Friday when a grand opening will be held at the Maid-Rite shop. Mrs. Edythe Reinhard, who recently purchased the cafe, announced that she has been authorized to serve the original Coney Island sandwich which has come so popular recently in large cities. Mrs. Reinhard states that she will introduce the new sandwich by serving them free to all who visit the Maid-Rite shop between the hours of 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday. Mrs. Reinhard has made her home in Albert Lea for many years and has had much experience in the restaurant business. She is being assisted at the Maid-Rite by Charles

Jamison, also of Albert Lea, and by Joe Gannon, the former proprietor, who is helping temporarily. Other personnel who will continue at the Maid-Rite include Lillian Nath, baker, Mabel Brackey, kitchen assistant, and Mrs. Morris Prestholt, night waitress. Mr. Gannon states that he is not prepared to announce any plans at the present time.

**50 years ago**  
**April 23, 1975**

A Lake Mills landmark, the old Skuttle house on the corner of South Lake and First Avenue, was demolished earlier this week to make room for a new 4-unit apartment building. Mr. and Mrs. George Nepstad, owners of the property, will begin immediately to construct the new building which should be ready in the fall. Leo Skogen and his crew were in charge of the demolition.

Mark Enderson, Lake Mills, escaped injury early Tuesday morning when his car missed a corner one mile west of Lake Mills. According to the Sheriff's report, Enderson was going north on the blacktop (Winnebago Church blacktop) in dense fog. He did not notice the

Highway 69 intersection until it was too late. His car hit the north ditch of Highway 69 and rolled over onto the Mike Knudtson driveway. The 1973 Chevrolet El Camino was badly damaged.

**25 years ago**  
**April 19, 2000**

The Lake Mills City Council decided Monday to take further steps towards the reconstruction of Tenth Avenue South. The council approved the Resolution of Necessity on the project, approved a Resolution Ordering Bids, Plans, Specs, and a Contract; and also a Resolution Setting the Bid Opening and Date for a Hearing. The council wants to continue moving forward with this project despite objections from some property owners who will be assessed for part of the costs. During Monday's meeting, it was suggested that the council wait a year to give property owners the opportunity to prepare financially for the assessments.



# LAKE MILLS CITY-WIDE RUMMAGE SALES

## Friday & Saturday, May 2-3

Lake Mills, Joice, Scarville, Leland, Emmons sales welcome

**It's time to clean out your closets and garages!**  
**The Lake Mills City-Wide Rummage Sale is just around the corner!**

If you would like to participate, submit your garage sale ad to the Lake Mills Graphic by **NOON, FRIDAY, APRIL 25.**

Your ad, along with a map showing the location of all area garage sales, will appear in the Graphic, Wednesday, April 30. Your ad will be placed in a display box to draw more attention.

**Cost is \$10,  
PAYABLE IN  
ADVANCE.**

**Oakwood Park has  
been reserved for  
rural residents and  
organizations.  
Contact LMCD for  
more information:  
641-592-5253**

# LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

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