November Newsletter – 2026

Nov. 1 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**
Nov. 2 - NHS Induction Ceremony – 5pm
Nov. 4 - FFA Careers in Ag @ Scottsbluff - TBD
Nov. 4-7 State Volleyball
Nov. 6 - Football playoff Quarterfinals– TBD
Nov. 7 - FFA Labor Auction – 5:30pm
Nov. 9 - Board meeting @ 6pm
Nov. 10 - One Acts competition @ Hyannis - TBD
Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day
Nov. 13 - Football playoff Semi-finals – TBD
Nov. 14 - One Acts competition @ North Platte - TBD
Nov. 16 - **Professional Development for Staff – NO SCHOOL**
Nov. 16 - Winter Sports practices begin
Nov. 17 - One Acts Public Performance @ High School – 7pm (see flyer)
Nov. 18 - District Leadership Development @ Chadron - TBD
Nov. 20 - MAC One Acts @ South Platte – TBD
Nov. 20 - D6-6 Football Finals @ Kearney - TBD
Nov. 24 - B/G BB Jamboree @ Paxton – 4pm
Nov. 25 -**THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO SCHOOL**
Nov. 26 -**THANKSGIVING – NO SCHOOL**
Nov. 27 -**THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO SCHOOL**
Nov. 30 - District One Acts @ Leyton – TBD (see flyer)



****

ALL ACTIVITY TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Also visit the Leyton School website @ www.leytonwarriors.org

****

Building Our Future Together | Special Accreditation & School Improvement Edition

A Message from Mr. McLaughlin, Superintendent:

Reflecting on Five Years of Growth

Over the past five years, Leyton Public Schools has undergone a transformative journey. While transitions are rarely easy, our dedication to doing what is best for our students, their families, and our community has remained our guiding light. If you have been here the last five years, you know the struggles that existed in our community, and the work that the district has done to improve Leyton Public Schools as a community.

Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones:

- **Launched a New Preschool Program:** Providing our youngest learners with a strong educational foundation right from the start.
- **Developed a Community-Driven Strategic Plan:** Charting a clear, shared vision built directly on the input and values of our patrons.
- **Driven Continuous District Improvement:** Working tirelessly every day to elevate our standards and build a school district our community can be proud of.

Every challenge we have faced over these five years has strengthened our commitment to excellence and to the families we serve. We are also proud of the accomplishments of our students over the past five years. We played for a state championship in Volleyball, had a state champion track athlete, and had several students place at the State Track Meet. We had a student place 3rd at the State Speech Meet, and qualified four students for state speech last year. Many of our students were recognized on the state level for FFA through their state degrees. This year Riley Benish was recognized as a NSAA State Believer and Achiever. Our ACT board continues adding names, showing our dedication toward academic excellence. Our graduates have made huge strides inside and outside of our community by continuing their education and becoming productive members of our community. The foundation we set for our students paves the way toward a life that our students and families can be proud of. Are we perfect, no, but we are doing the hard work that we can all be proud of.

Upcoming School Improvement & Accreditation Visit

To help validate our progress and guide our next steps, Leyton Public Schools will soon host an external School Improvement Visit.

- **Who is visiting?** We are welcoming a review team of educational leaders from neighboring districts, including Hershey and Potter-Dix.

- **What will they evaluate?** The team will conduct a comprehensive review of our district's overall processes. This includes analyzing student assessment results, conducting classroom teacher observations, and evaluating our school's connection to the community as a whole.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** As part of this process, the team will be conducting interviews with a selected group of community members, parents, and staff to gather firsthand perspectives on our school culture and programs.

Looking Ahead: What's Next?

This accreditation visit is not a final destination, but a tool to help us refine our goals. The insight and feedback provided by the visit team will help us narrow our focus even further as we continue our journey of improvement.

- **Sharing Results:** We anticipate receiving the team's formal findings and recommendations later this fall. We plan to share these results openly with our community in **December or January**.
- **Celebrating Success & Planning Growth:** The report will highlight areas where Leyton is flourishing, as well as identify key areas we need to evaluate carefully to foster future growth.

Honoring Our Journey & Living the Warrior Way

Looking back five years ago, our district stood at a pivotal moment. Many asked: *Would our community heal the fresh wounds after being torn apart? Could we survive a dwindling student population? Would we ever trust each other again? Financially, could we navigate changes to state aid and new funding limitations? Would our aging buildings and facilities adapt and stay functional?*

We believe we have answered those questions by focusing unwaveringly on one commitment: **making Leyton the best place to raise a family.** Over these years, we have added new programs, updated curriculum, and made a firm promise to communicate effectively and operate with complete transparency. Our staff is also constantly working on addressing the needs of a diverse population of learners. The staff has prioritized feedback and effective instruction and reflects constantly to be the best they can be for our students. Today, we are proud to live by the **Warrior Way**: being *Respectful, Responsible, Inspired, Organized, Ready, and Safe*. As a community, we have every reason to be proud of our school—and to remain united and committed to our continued growth.

Proceedings of the Leyton Public Schools Board of Education
Cheyenne County School District #17-0003
October 12, 2026
High School Library
Regular Board Meeting
6:00 PM

Call to Order:

The regular board meeting of the Leyton Public School District Board of Education was called to order on October 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM, in the Library of Leyton High School, Dalton, NE 69131. The Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall of the Library. Public notice of the meeting was posted at Leyton High School, Leyton Elementary/JH, at various businesses in the community, and on the school website (www.leytonwarriors.org) on or before Thursday, October 6, 2026.

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM.

Benish:	Present
Mrs. Ernest:	Absent
Mr. Ernest:	Present
Jones:	Present
Schumacher:	Present
Wiedeman:	Present

Also present were Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Charles Jones, Mrs. Rathman, Ms. Larsen, Mrs. Fesmire, Austin Beutler, Mrs. Haley, and Mrs. Kruse.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no communication to the board.

Moved by Mr. Ernest, seconded by Jones, to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

There were no public comments made during the meeting.

Special Presentation: Mrs. Rathman presented on the MTSS summit held in Kearney this month.

Reports:

Austin Beutler presented the STUCO report to the board. Mr. Jones and Mr. McLaughlin presented their administrator's report to the board. Mr. Tim Jones discussed his recent safety summit visit to Lincoln. Mr. Benish and Mr. Wiedeman presented on the Negotiations meeting. Mr. Wiedeman presented on the American Civics meeting.

Regular Agenda: Discussion Items

The board reviewed and discussed the Trails West Architecture bid for the kitchen in Gurley.

The board discussed the possibility of adding fuel pumps to the Gurley site.

Regular Agenda: Action Items

Moved by Schumacher, seconded by Mr. Ernest, to excuse Mrs. Ernest from the board meeting. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion carried. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Benish, seconded by Jones, to recognize the following staff and students this month: Mr. and Mrs. Gamble and Ms. Drapal for helping with lines and set up at the Leyton Volleyball Tournament. STUCO members for their work with Homecoming, as well as Mrs. Haley as the sponsor. Cooper Benish and Henry McLaughlin for qualifying for State Land Judging in our FFA. Addison Deblois, Kennedy Roelle, and Auvi Cranmore for being selected as Students of the Month. Riley Benish for being selected as an NSAA Believer and Achiever. Roll Call vote: Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea. Motion carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Schumacher, seconded by Wiedeman, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026, Budget Hearing, Tax Request Hearing, and the Regular Board Meeting. Roll Call vote: Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent. Motion carried. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Benish, seconded by Mr. Ernest, to approve the claims, warrants, and transfers. Roll Call vote: Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent. Motion carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

The Trails West Architecture bid for the kitchen at Gurley died for lack of a motion.

Moved by Jones, seconded by Wiedeman, to approve the following capacity numbers for Leyton PreK-5th: 18 students, 6th-8th: 20 students, and 9th-12th: 28 students, for a total of 298 students. Roll Call vote: Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea. Motion carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Benish, seconded by Schumacher, to approve November 30, 2026, as a school closure for the High School so we can host the District One Act Play Production. Roll Call vote: Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea. Motion carried. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

The TEACH program membership died due to lack of motion.

Informational Items:

Next Board Meeting: Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the High School Library.

Adjournment:

Moved by Mr. Ernest, seconded by Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Approved by,

Shad Benish, Treasurer
Leyton Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt McLaughlin,
Recording Secretary

Leyton Public Schools - Payable Journal - October 2026							
Brenda Ahlm	Mileage	$	41.60	MPS	Supplies	$	275.00
Amazon	Supplies	$	1,763.46	Marick's	Trash Disposal	$	151.00
ACT	Testing	$	402.50	Matt McLaughlin	Mileage	$	128.30
Jamie Ascherl	Mileage	$	278.40	NCS Pearson	Supplies	$	22.43
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	$	597.14	OPTK	Tech Services	$	41.60
Blazing Trails Media	Legal Notices	$	1,129.52	Nippon Sanson Matheson	Shop Supplies	$	154.15
R & T Excavating LLC	Repairs & Maint	$	1,530.00	Shawn Oakes	Mileage	$	139.20
Capital Business Systems	Copiers	$	1,999.17	Panhandle Auto Group	Repairs & Maint.	$	176.36
Capital Business Systems	Supplies	$	165.57	Pyramid School Products	Supplies	$	979.00
Corporate Payment System	Miscellaneous	$	837.87	Rapid Fire Protection	Repairs & Maint.	$	1,099.04
Craig Resources	Nurse Services	$	4,101.90	Megan Rathman	Supplies	$	65.60
Cranmore Pest Control	Repairs & Maint	$	140.00	RCI Group II	Service	$	42.00
Crown Plaza - Kearney	Travel	$	319.90	Royal Flush	Repairs & Maint.	$	400.00
DAS State Accounting	Network Service	$	321.20	S&S Worldwide	Supplies	$	49.50
Day & Night Plumbing	Repairs & Maint	$	2,080.25	Scholastic	Subscriptions	$	1,193.48
Lindie DeBlois	Mileage	$	87.00	School Nurse Supply	Supplies	$	113.15
ESU #13	Services	$	10,549.30	SRMC - Hospital	OT Services	$	1,786.85
Finney's	Supplies	$	129.30	Simmons Olsen Law Firm	Legal Services	$	90.00
Mikaela Franzen	Mileage	$	156.60	Simon	Supplies	$	868.42
Frenchman Valley	Fuel	$	5,138.41	SOAR	PT Services	$	2,590.42
Cody Gamble	Mileage	$	165.30	Staples	Supplies	$	196.00
Glen Bellmyer	Repairs & Maint	$	1,186.48	Triple O's	Supplies	$	114.33
Jaecee Gotfrey	Mileage	$	4.35	Ashton Van Anne	Mileage	$	130.50
Gurley Diesel	Repairs & Maint	$	4,927.90	Linda Victory	Mileage	$	84.10
Hampton Inn - Kearney	Travel	$	1,303.60	Village of Dalton	Utilities	$	744.24
Highline	Telephone	$	697.46	Village of Gurley	Utilities	$	863.99
J W Pepper	Music Supplies	$	23.97	WPCI	Services	$	2,159.61
Charles Jones	Mileage	$	174.00	Wheat Belt	Utilities	$	5,837.47
Faith Jones	Mileage	$	141.38	Deb Wieser	Mileage	$	317.55
	Column Total	$	40,393.53		Column Total	$	20,813.29
					Monthly Total	$	61,206.82

LEYTON FFA

LABOR AUCTION

HARD WORK. STRONG ROOTS. BRIGHT FUTURES

SATURDAY	MEAL AT	AUCTION AT
NOVEMBER 7, 2026	5:30 PM	6:30 PM

LEYTON HIGH SCHOOL GYM

ENJOY A DELICIOUS

Free Will Donation

MEAL

Outlaws Catering

Brisket ~ Chicken Monterey

Cheesy Potatoes ~ Corn

Salads ~ Rolls ~ Dessert

SILENT AUCTION Items!

LIVE AUCTION Items!

FFA MEMBERS WILL BE SOLD FOR 8 HOURS OF WORK

*RSVPs are not required, but are greatly appreciated to help us ensure we have enough food for everyone!

To RSVP please call: 308-377-2301 or email: ashton.vananne@leytonwarriors.org

SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS. INVEST IN THEIR FUTURES. BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY!

LEYTON WARRIORS

One Acts

2026

Peace in the Shadows



Public Performance
Tuesday, November 17th @ 7pm
Leyton High School

D2-6 DISTRICT



One Acts

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
@ LEYTON HIGH SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL
FOR 9TH - 12TH STUDENTS.

Dalton staff will assist with event.

PreK - 8th will be in regular session.

Contact the Dalton or Gurley office with questions.



ALL ARE WELCOME

FOOD pantry

first Saturday of every month

8:30am-9:30am

COMMUNITY SHEPHERDS OF DALTON & GURLEY

404 FRANCIS STREET DALTON NE 69131



November



WELCOME TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!!

Students must take at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable on their tray. Unlimited fruit and vegetables are offered daily. Flavored skim and 1% white milk is offered daily. An assortment of fresh and canned fruit are available every morning as well as fruit juice up to twice a week with breakfast. The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students. Leyton Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

B=breakfast L=Lunch DB=Dalton breakfast GB=Gurley breakfast DL=Dalton lunch GL=Gurley lunch

****Menus are subject to change****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 B: Pancakes, ham L: Walking tacos, rice & corn	3 B: Yogurt, bagel L: Ckn noodle soup, roll	4 B: Cheese Omelet, mini muffin L: Turkey crois., fries	5 B: Eggs, waffle L: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, roll	6 B: Brk sandwhich L: Pulled pork , bun, baked beans	7
8	9 B: Pancake on a stick L: Pizza, mixed veggies	10 B: Fr. Toast, sausage L: Chicken tacos, corn	11 B: Yogurt, Cereal L: Spaghetti, broccoli garlic stick	12 B: Brk burrito L: Chicken sand., fries	13 B: Bisc. & gravy L: Grilled Cheese, tomato soup	14
15	16 Professional Development NO SCHOOL	17 B: Pancakes, eggs L: Tator tot casserole, mixed veggies	18 B: Cereal, Yogurt L: Thanksgiving dinner	19 B: Sausage Bagel L: HB/CB, fries	20 B: Cheese omelet, toast L: Chili, cinn. roll	21
22	23 B: Sausage, waffle L: Sloppy jo, fries	24 B: PBJ, yogurt L: Ckn nuggets, mac & ch Calif. veggies	25 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	26 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	27 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 B: Brk sandwhich L: Beefy nachos, rice, corn					

** This Institution is an equal opportunity provider**