

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
 BOARD-CONFERENCE ROOM
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007
 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESENT **ABSENT**

Mr. Mark N. Pera, President	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. James A. Kohlstedt, Vice President	<u>X</u>	—
Dr. Arthur W. Sprague, Jr., Secretary	<u>X</u>	—
Mrs. Heather H. Alderman	<u>X</u>	—
Dr. John T. Polacek	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. Allen D. Polich	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. William F. Purcell	<u>X</u>	—
Ms. Carolyn Achepohl (arrived 7:30pm)	<u>X</u>	—

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Dennis Kelly	Ms. Joyce Marine	Dr. Tim Kilrea
Mr. David Sellers	Mr. Dave Franson	Ms. Jennifer Bialobok
Mr. Ed Tennant	Mr. Robert Fritch	Ms. Jeanne Widing
Ms. Lilane Koehn Mace	Ms. Robin Smith	Ms. Sarah Jeep
Ms. Kathleen Hackett	Ms. Joan Cushing	Ms. Anne Strickland
Mr. Alex Ip	Mr. John Grundke	Mr. Jeremy Vrtis
Mr. Bill Soltys		

VISITORS PRESENT

No one signed in.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Pera at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION NO. 1: Agenda Approval/Order of Business

With the request to pull scuba diving from the Curriculum Change Proposals 2008-2009 and vote separately on that proposal, Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the agenda as amended.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

ACTION NO. 2: Adjournment into Closed Session

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to adjourn the meeting into Closed Session to discuss confidential personnel and student matters and collective negotiating issues.

On roll call:

Ayes: Mrs. Alderman, Mr. Polich, Dr. Polacek, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Kohlstedt,
Mr. Pera
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted, and at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Pera adjourned the meeting into Closed Session.

At 7:30 p.m., the meeting reconvened in Open Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN SESSION – COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Soltys and Diane Rakoci, Co-Presidents of the LTHS Instructional Aides and Paraprofessional Association, along with IAPA member Dan McCarthy, thanked Dr. Kelly and Dr. Kilrea for their support of the IAPA employee group.

LTHS Faculty Association President, Jeremy Vrtis, thanked the Board for providing dinner the first night of parent-teacher conferences and additionally thanked Student Council for sponsoring the Secret Santa program. He then asked the following members of the Student Services Division to introduce themselves: Jeanne Widing, Alex Ip, Anne Strickland, Joan Cushing, and Robin Smith.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Student Representative to the Board, Carolyn Achepohl, reported that 136 pints of blood were donated during the North Campus Fall Blood Drive and that LT students and staff will sponsor 110 children in the Community Nurses' Association Secret Santa program. Ms. Achepohl then noted that members of the Tab and Lions staffs recently attended a conference in Philadelphia, where the Lion won the Pacemaker Award. Kathleen Hackett and Sarah Jeep, Lion staffers, added that only the top twenty school newspapers in the country receive this recognition. Ms. Achepohl also announced the December 4th Holiday Write Night planned for community-area children and that Student Council will be decorating the school this holiday season with a winter wonderland theme.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT REPORT

Dr. Kelly congratulated our Girls' Doubles Tennis team for taking third place in the state competition and additionally our LT Girls' Cross Country Team for placing second in the state meet. Dr. Sprague read into the minutes the following two resolutions:

Resolution Honoring LT Girls' State Tennis Doubles Team

The Board acknowledged the resolution honoring Christina Harazin and Elise Woulfe, along with their coaches--Bill Wham, Mindy Meyer, and Ron Leban--for finishing the season with a third-place win in Girls' Doubles Tennis at the IHSA State Girls' Tennis meet in October 2007.

Resolution Honoring LT Girls' State Cross Country Team

The Board acknowledged the resolution honoring Alexa Adduci, Katie Flaherty, Keegan Kilrea, Megan McDonald, Emily Meingast, Sarah Michaels, Amelia Nora, Katherin Rehn, HollyRohde, Carly Rocco, Amy Rogers, and Jane Simpson, along with their coaches—Julie Metz, Greg Frandsen, Kathy Beyer, and Katie Hochberg--for finishing the season with a second-place win in Girls' Cross Country at the IHSA State Girls' Cross Country meet in November 2007.

Dr. Kelly also noted other sports accolades from this fall season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACTION NO. 3: Curriculum Change Proposals 2008-2009

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve the 2008-2009 Curriculum Change Proposals as presented, excluding the scuba diving proposal.

On roll call:

Ayes: Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Polich, Dr. Polacek, Mr. Kohlstedt, Mrs. Alderman,
Mr. Pera
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

Discussion about the Scuba Diving proposal ensued, with Mr. Pera noting that, although an expensive program, the Scuba Diving course will provide a good opportunity for the students.

ACTION NO. 4: Scuba Diving Curriculum Change Proposal 2008-2009

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, to approve the Scuba Diving course proposal for 2008-2009.

On roll call:

Ayes: Dr. Polacek, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Polich, Mr. Kohlstedt, Mr. Pera
Nays: Mr. Purcell, Mrs. Alderman
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

ACTION NO. 5: 2008-2009 School-Term Calendar

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Mrs. Alderman, to approve the 2008-2009 school-term calendar.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

The school calendar will remain similar to past years' calendars. The first date of student attendance for the 2008-09 school year will be August 25, 2008. First semester finals will still be scheduled after winter break. Dr. Kelly reported the following results from the online calendar survey: A plurality of students were in favor of changing the calendar so that finals would be prior to winter break. Student Rep, Carolyn Achepohl, reported hearing from classmates that having finals after winter break was stressful for students. Half the adults who voted opted for a school calendar with finals prior to winter break, and 50% of the adults wanted to keep the calendar as it has been in the past. Many staff members felt that with an early August school-year start, the buildings would be too hot and uncomfortable. Additionally, the elementary school districts stated that they would not go along with a change to the LT calendar. Dr. Kelly emphasized the importance of having the high school calendar closely tied to the elementary school calendars, but that we will continue to monitor at the state level what other school districts are doing. Physical Welfare/Co-Curriculars Division Chair John Grundke reported that with an early school-year start, fall sports may have been affected (especially golf), but the IHSA sports calendar would not have been impacted.

ACTION NO. 6: 2007-2008 School District Goals

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve the 2007-2008 School District Goals.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

Dr. Kelly told the Board that it is likely many of these newly-approved initiatives will be with us for more than one year, they will probably need to be "tweaked" throughout the year, and they are not listed in priority order. Any changes or items costing money will be brought to the Board for approval. The 2007-08 goals will be reported through the Board committees and then quarterly to the entire Board of Education. Mr. Kohlstedt commended the Board and administration for developing focused goals that will provide much support toward improving academic performance. He added that the meeting with the township schools was very helpful. Dr. Kelly will send the approved goals to the associate districts and added that we should all work together toward township goals.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION NO. 7: Estimated Property Tax Levy for 2007

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, to accept the draft of the estimated property tax levy for 2007.

On roll call:

Ayes: Mr. Kohlstedt, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mrs. Alderman, Dr. Polacek, Mr. Polich,
Mr. Pera
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Sellers reported that there is a 4.98% increase in the recommended tax year 2007 levy of \$48,775,116. A Public Hearing to discuss the proposed property tax levy increase is scheduled for December 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Final ratification by the Board of Education of the 2007 property tax levy is also scheduled for the December 17, 2007 Board meeting.

ACTION NO. 8: Building Improvement Projects for Summer 2008

Mr. Kohlstedt moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve the development of bid specifications for the spring/summer 2008 facilities improvement projects as presented.

On roll call:

Ayes: Mrs. Alderman, Mr. Polich, Dr. Polacek, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Kohlstedt,
Mr. Pera
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

Some of the projects include classroom ceiling and lighting, South Campus locker replacement, security cameras, and West Athletic Field renovations. Mr. Kohlstedt reported that we will go out for bid in early January, which will allow us to obtain favorable rates. The bids for the renovations will be approved at the February 19, 2008 Board meeting. Additional summer 2008 renovations to be discussed at a future facilities committee meeting include renovation of the South Campus Library and Driver Education simulator classroom and also improvements to the South Campus Fitness Center.

ACTION NO. 9: Construction Change Orders

Mr. Kohlstedt moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, to approve the recommended uses of construction allowances and change orders as presented, totaling (\$24,615), a net deductive amount.

On roll call:

Ayes: Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Polich, Dr. Polacek, Mr. Kohlstedt, Mrs. Alderman,
Mr. Pera
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

These change orders close out the summer 2007 projects. Including all construction allowances for all contracts combined, the 2007 summer projects were completed at a cost of \$46,401 less than the total amounts awarded to the contractors. Mr. Pera thanked our architecture firm, Dahlquist & Lutzow, for their sound bidding.

Out-of-District Residency

This agenda item will be tabled until the December Board meeting.

School Board Calendar for December 2007

The Board scheduled upcoming committee meeting dates for the month of December. Dr. Kelly proposed that in lieu of Board and Central Office members spending money on a holiday dinner, the personal donations should instead be used to sponsor two needy children as part of the Secret Santa program. The Board agreed and a shopping date will be determined to purchase the gift items.

ACTION NO. 10: Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

LTHS Monthly Financials

Approval of Lyons Township High School monthly bills in the amount of \$5,112,600.87.

Approval of Lyons Township High School financial statement for the month ending October 31, 2007.

LADSE Financials

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education monthly bills in the amount of \$1,497,288.97.

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education financial statement for the month ending October 31, 2007.

HUMAN RESOURCES

LTHS Buildings/Grounds, Classified/Non-Contractual, and/or ParaEducator Staff

Employment

Steven Beranek, South Campus Special Education ParaEducator, effective October 22, 2007.

Celyce Dombro, Administrative Assistant for Associate Principal, Level 3, effective November 5, 2007.

Joseph Genna, Jr., South Campus Locker Room/Student Assistant, effective November 19, 2007.

Colleen Gibbons, South Campus Special Education/Transition ParaEducator, effective November 6, 2007.

Mary Frances Griffin, South Campus Special Education ParaEducator, effective November 5, 2007.

Ruth Kelly, South Campus Functional ParaEducator, effective October 26, 2007.

John Kiser, Sr., Part-Time South Campus Locker Room/Student Assistant, effective October 22, 2007.

Dina Messino, North Campus Special Education ParaEducator, effective October 29, 2007.

Noreen Murphy, South Campus Special Education ParaEducator, effective November 19, 2007.

Reassignment

Anthony Belmonte, from a South Campus Student Assistant to a Part-Time North Campus ParaEducator, effective October 23, 2007.

Robin Greenidge, from a North Campus Custodian to a South Campus Maintenance position, effective November 19, 2007.

Resignation

Margaret Finley, South Campus ParaEducator, effective November 2, 2007.

Peter Morelli, Building and Grounds Maintenance Staff, effective October 26, 2007.

Family Medical Leave Act

Carol Nawrocki, South Campus Transition ParaEducator, effective October 25, 2007, tentatively for 12 weeks.

LTHS Administrative and/or Certified Staff

Employment

Kathryn Borg, Math teacher for the remainder of the school year. This position was created by a leave of absence beginning on or around December 13, 2007 through the end of the school year, MA30, Step 1.

Leaves of Absence

Susan Murphy, Physical Education, April 11, 2008 – September 18, 2008.

Katy Newcomb, Social Studies, effective February 4, 2008 – June 6, 2008.

Gena O'Malley, English, effective January 7, 2008 – February 15, 2008.

LADSE

Employment

Colleen Kelly - 1.0 ParaEducator, subject to the Local funding program, beginning October 15, 2007.

Francesca Ramirez-Smith - .68 DHH Signing Aide, subject to the Local funding program, beginning October 22, 2007.

Iris Vargas - 1.0 ParaEducator, subject to the Local funding program, beginning October 22, 2007.

Amy Mooney - .4 Occupational Therapist, subject to the Local funding program, beginning November 13, 2007.

Leave of Absence

Kathryn Kunkel - 1.0 Speech Language Pathologist effective 12/12/2007.

Becky Perthel - .3 Speech Language Pathologist effective 1/8/2008.

Resignations

Erin Doyle - 1.0 ParaEducator effective October 11, 2007.

Terminations

Donna Romstedt - 1.0 ParaEducator effective October 12, 2007.

Minutes:

Regular Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions – October 15, 2007

Facilities Committee – October 30, 2007

Special Joint Meeting of the Lyons Township Boards of Education – October 30, 2007

Technology Committee – October 31, 2007
Budget/Finance Committee – November 7, 2007
Superintendent’s Search Ad Hoc Committee – November 12, 2007
Facilities Committee – November 13, 2007
Human Resources Committee – November 14, 2007
Curriculum Committee – November 15, 2007

Stipend Committee Recommendations

Homework Night Stipends: 2 stipends @5% each (\$1998.81 x 2 = \$3997.62)

Ombudsman Credit Transfers

On roll call:

- Ayes: Dr. Polacek, Mr. Purcell, Mrs. Alderman, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Polich, Mr. Kohlstedt, Mr. Pera
- Nays: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

The motion was adopted.

ACTION NO. 11: Adjournment into Closed Session

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, to adjourn the meeting into Closed Session to discuss confidential salary issues.

On roll call:

- Ayes: Mr. Polich, Dr. Polacek, Dr. Sprague, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Kohlstedt, Mrs. Alderman, Mr. Pera
- Nays: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

The motion was adopted, and at 8:17 p.m., Mr. Pera adjourned the meeting into Closed Session.

At 8:35 p.m., the meeting reconvened in Open Session.

ACTION NO. 12: Adjournment

Mr. Polich moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to adjourn the meeting.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

President:

Secretary: