

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
 BOARD-CONFERENCE ROOM  
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008  
 7:30 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>	—
Mr. Kevin McDermott	<u>X</u>	—

**STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Dennis Kelly	Ms. Joyce Marine	Dr. Tim Kilrea
Mr. David Sellers	Mr. Dave Franson	Mr. Scott Eggerding
Ms. Jennifer Bialobok	Mr. Ed Tennant	Ms. Julie Brenson
Mr. Jeremy Vrtis		

**VISITORS PRESENT**

No visitors signed in.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Pera at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ACTION NO. 1: Agenda Approval/Order of Business**

With the request to table Updated District Improvement Plan (New Business, Action Item #3) and to pull only the Business Professionals of America recommendation, a part of the Stipend Committee Recommendations listed in the Consent Agenda (Item IX-E), Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the agenda as amended.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2008 Property Tax Levy**

Mr. Pera opened the Public Hearing regarding the 2008 Property Tax Levy and asked for visitors' comments.

**ACTION NO. 2 Close Public Hearing**

There being no comments from the public, Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, that the Public Hearing be closed.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

**PUBLIC HEARING – To Renew a Waiver of 105 ILCS 5/27-24.3 Allowing for Two Hours of Behind-the-Wheel Instruction and Eleven Hours of Driving in a Controlled Situation as an Equal Substitution for Six Hours of Behind-the-Wheel Instruction**

Mr. Pera opened the Public Hearing on the Waiver of 105 ILCS 5/27-24.3 Allowing for Two (2) Hours of Behind-the-Wheel Instruction and Eleven (11) Hours of Driving in a Controlled Situation as an Equal Substitution for Six (6) Hours of Behind-the-Wheel Instruction and asked for visitors' comments.

**ACTION NO. 3 Close Public Hearing**

There being no comments from the public, Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to close the Public Hearing.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

**OPEN SESSION – COMMUNICATIONS**

Faculty Association President Jeremy Vrtis thanked the Board for providing dinner prior to the Parent-Teacher conferences, wished all a happy holiday, and acknowledged the following members of the Math-Science Division: Jim Mshar, Brian Keller, Kate Meyer and Mark Kropke.

Parent Mary Donnelly asked the Board to investigate how class rank and credit/non-credit courses are calculated; she questioned whether class rank equitably represents a student's efforts. Dr. Kelly will explore these issues and respond to Ms. Donnelly.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Student Representative to the Board, Kevin McDermott, recognized senior Kyle Ludwig for his fundraising efforts on behalf of Toys for Tots. Kyle is selling Brownstock t-shirts to raise money for the Toys for Tots program; additionally, he has designed posters and supplied collection boxes for toy donations. Mr. McDermott also announced the following upcoming school activities: Winter Festival of Music, holiday assemblies and boys' and girls' basketball tournaments over winter break. He then

expressed holiday wishes to the Board members. Mr. Pera added that the previous week's Madrigal performance was outstanding.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT REPORT**

Dr. Kelly began his report by congratulating Kevin McDermott for being accepted into Notre Dame.

Next, he presented this month's Vita Plena award to Jack Dering, Physical Education teacher and head football coach at LT since 1990. Mr. Dering, who recently announced his resignation from coaching, initiated several programs involving his teams that focused on nurturing and molding his players into better human beings: his football players dedicate themselves to service in our community by volunteering hundreds of hours, and senior leaders teach the rest of the student/athletes character education lessons and leadership skills. Mr. Dering also started a scholarship in memory of Jimmy Reynolds—a ball boy at LT for over two decades who participated with and was accepted and supported by the players. Dr. Kelly relayed that Mr. Dering has embodied the values we want in our sports program; he has always conducted himself well and represented LT well.

Mr. Dering expressed his gratitude for the award and to Mr. Pera for the nomination; he also thanked administrators, fellow coaches, parents, players and the LT community for supporting him for doing something he's loved. Mr. Pera thanked Mr. Dering for the service he provided, for embodying the first-class principles, and for being a wonderful role model.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION NO. 4 Adoption of 2008 Property Tax Levy Resolution**

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Mr. Polich, to adopt the 2008 property tax levy resolution.

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.

The corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2008 are \$51,459,848, a 6.8% increase over last year.

#### **ACTION NO. 5: Renewal of Driver's Education Waiver**

Mr. Polich moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to renew a waiver of 105 ILCS 5/27-24.3 allowing for two (2) hours of behind-the-wheel instruction and eleven (11) hours of driving in a controlled situation as an equal substitution for six (6) hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

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.

Mr. Eggerding explained that this action is a renewal of last year's one-year waiver. After reviewing the new configuration of our driver's education program, Mr. Eggerding was confident we are offering a superior driving program that better serves the needs of all students during the regular school day; our student success rate in fulfilling the driver's ed graduation requirement has increased. The revamped program is solid and beneficial to students and the District. After speaking with his peers, Student Representative to the Board, Kevin McDermott, stated that he feels 11 hours of behind-the wheel and range driving are good.

**ACTION NO. 6: 2009-2010 Curriculum Change Proposals**

Mr. Purcell moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve three additional 2009-2010 Curriculum Change Proposals in the Language Arts Division.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

The three curriculum changes will allow for students in the humanities class to transition more effectively to sophomore year and ultimately to independent instruction as found at North Campus. Mr. Eggerding will report on the success of these newly approved curriculum changes in a year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION NO. 7: Ombudsman PLUS**

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve entering into a contract with Ombudsman Educational Services for the purpose of opening up an Ombudsman PLUS center for LT students not to exceed the slot price in tuition of \$23,500 per student.

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.

Ombudsman+ offers a solution that is high quality, affordable and allows the District to significantly lower costs associated with transporting students to therapeutic day placements while also reducing the travel time to and from school for students. The full-day program, which would be housed within our township-wide boundaries, would also enable us to utilize our own social workers. By contracting with Ombudsman Educational Services, the District could realize a savings of more than \$24,000 per student over what is currently being spent on therapeutic day programs. Mr. Eggerding relayed that similar Ombudsman+ programs he visited encompassed a solid organizational plan, a student-centered focus and a low student-to-teacher ratio.

#### **ACTION NO. 8: RtI Plan**

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve the RtI (Response to Intervention) Plan.

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.

The key component of the RtI Plan is to continually monitor student progress and student-progress data to adjust instruction so that all students learn more. The Plan is not geared toward any one particular population but to all students in order to close the gap between expected performance and actual performance. The purpose of the RtI Plan is to provide classroom teachers with tools to intervene first and assist students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally before taking other measures, such as hastily creating IEPs. Mr. Eggerding thanked Mary Lee Lockwood and the Student Services Division for their assistance; he also said that those students identified under the RtI Plan will be assessed often.

Regarding assessments, Data Consortium information has not been provided by Revere as promised; as a result, we will be negotiating with another company to provide services. Mr. Polich cautioned administrators and Board members to be patient.

**School Board Calendar for January 2009**

The Board scheduled upcoming committee meeting dates for the month of January.

**ACTION NO. 9: Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**LTHS Monthly Financials**

Approval of Lyons Township High School monthly bills in the amount of \$4,808,295.68.

Approval of Lyons Township High School financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2008.

**LADSE Financials**

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education monthly bills in the amount of \$1,482,083.26.

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2008.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**LTHS Buildings and Grounds, Classified/Non-Contractual, and  
ParaEducator Staff Employment Recommendations**

**Resignation**

**Joseph Pepitone**, Functional ParaEducator, effective December 8, 2008.

**LTHS Administrative and Certified Staff Employment Recommendations**

**Leaves of Absence**

**Cynthia Flaherty Stamm**, Science Department, March 30, 2009 – June 5, 2009.

**Mica Vahl**, Social Studies Department, May 4, 2009 – start of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, 2010.

**LADSE Staff Employment Recommendations**

**Employment**

**Martha Phillip** - .5 ParaEducator, subject to the Local funding program, beginning October 27, 2008.

**Lila Seeber** - 1.0 DHH Speech Language Pathologist, subject to the Local funding program, beginning January 8, 2009.

Leaves of Absence

**Kirsten Finn** - .6 Physical Therapist, beginning May 14, 2008 through end of school year.

**Virginia Dudzinski** - 1.0 Occupational Therapist, beginning December 3, 2008, for approximately 8-12 weeks.

**Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions – November 17, 2008  
Special Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions – November 24, 2008  
Facilities Committee – December 3, 2008  
Human Resources Committee – December 4, 2008  
Curriculum Committee - December 4, 2008  
Special Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions – December 4, 2008

**IMRF Benefits Protection Leave Request**

**Stipend Committee Recommendations**

--Bowling Club: One additional stipend of 5.28% (\$2153)  
--Business Professionals of America proposal to be tabled pending further discussion

**Public School 403(b) Plan Document for Employee Tax-Sheltered Savings Accounts**

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.

**ACTION NO. 10: Adjournment into Closed Session**

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to adjourn the meeting into Closed Session to discuss confidential personnel issues.

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, and at 8:40 p.m., Mr. Pera adjourned the meeting into Closed Session.

At 9:20 p.m., the meeting reconvened in Open Session.

**ACTION NO. 11: Adjournment**

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Mrs. Alderman, to adjourn the meeting.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

President:

Secretary: