

Lyons Township High School Community Advisory Council

7:00 PM – December 12, 2007

Minutes

Documents sent earlier:

1. Agenda for LTCAC meeting on 12/1/07
2. Minutes from LTCAC meeting on 10/17/07
3. Roster of LTCAC membership

Handouts:

1. *Lion*, November 30, 2007, Volume 98, Issue 3
2. Summary of Table Discussion from October 17, 2007
3. School District Goal 2007-2008: To Improve Student Academic Achievement
4. LEED for Existing Buildings v2.0: Registered Building Checklist
5. Small Group Questions: LTCAC Meeting on "Making LT Green"

I. LTCAC Call to Order: Committee Reports; Secretary's Report (7:05 PM)

A. Joyce McFadden called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes of the October 17, 2007 were approved as submitted.
2. The Summary of Table Discussions from the October 17, 2007 meeting was discussed. (see handout #2) There were no comments, so the recommendations will be forwarded to the Board.
3. Responses to questions from the table discussions at the October 17, 2007 meeting. (Dr. Kelly)

a. Q. Is there a Homework Club at north campus?

A. There are two at south campus. One is for African-American students and Hispanic students on Wednesday evenings. Transportation to south campus is provided. It meets in the library and there is usually an activity in the gym afterwards. The second one is the Stride Program at south campus. Students who are falling behind are strongly encouraged to attend study groups twice a week after school in the library.

b. Q. What is the availability of Mentoring Programs for staff and students?

A. Staff mentoring started about 12 years ago as an orientation program. It is now two weeks throughout the year, and staff receives support and mentoring in group settings.

The youth program is run by Ebony Johnson – Lyons Success Mentoring program for south campus kids who need academic and social support.

B. Superintendent's Report, Dr. Kelly (7:13 PM)

1. The Board approved the calendar for next year. It is the same as in the past, with school starting on Monday, August 25, 2008. The survey results showed youth at 58-42 for changing the calendar, with adults split at 50-50.
2. The Board approved the school district goals for this year and part of next. (see handout #3)

3. The *U. S. News and World Report* high school ratings gave LT a silver medal, which puts LT in the top 3%.
4. There are no active MRSA cases. LT is doing everything it can to prevent cases. By January 1st, there will be hand sanitizers wherever people could exchange germs.
5. Summer activities will concentrate on indoor activities. The south campus Little Theater will be converted into a conference and community room, like this meeting room. We will replace all lockers at south campus. About 36 classrooms on both campuses will be renovated.
6. By this time next year, we should be ready to name a new superintendent. Three consulting firms will be interviewed and one will be hired at the January Board meeting. One of their first tasks will be to meet with the LTCAC as a focus group. The opening will be announced in the fall; candidates will be interviewed in November; and, a decision made in December.
7. Questions.
 - a. Q. Will changes be made to room 33, which is considered historical?
A. We will have to sit down with our architects and see what can be done.
 - b. Q. What is the survey mentioned on the website and in the *Suburban Life*?
A. We are doing three surveys this fall. We finished one on the calendar; we are analyzing the one on school climate; and, the third is a survey of the community. It is on the website, and there have been announcements. We will be sending email to parents, and we will send about 32,800 postcards to every family in Lyons Township about the survey.
 - c. Q. Are the problems with water pooling at the north campus parking lots still being looked into?
A. The problems are being addressed. The contract has not yet been paid since these issues haven't been completed.
 - d. Q. Are you considering hands free sinks in the washrooms?
A. These are called Bradley sinks. There are some on south campus, but none on north.
 - e. Q. What changes are planned for the drivers' education program and the simulator room?
A. There has been no decision, but the State of Illinois legislation has made the simulators and range obsolete. We are applying for a waiver on the range.

C. School Board Report (7:29 PM)

1. No Board member was present, so there is no report.

II. Discussion of Members' Concerns and Issues (7:30 PM)

- A. No further concerns and issues.

III. Conservation Past and Present at LTHS, Ken Brescia (7:31 PM)

- A. The Green Cleaning Act for schools made Illinois the second state with such a law. EPA requires three things to be considered green: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

- B. LT works to become more energy efficient. The district uses paper made from recycled fibers, and uses one sheet dispensers. LT uses green cleaning products, but the disinfectant products are not green since none are available. The cleaning products also rely on a dilution system that uses less water and less product through metered mixing.
- C. Two years ago LT received two grants to retrofit ballasts with electronic ballasts. We also went to a T-8 lamp, which uses less gas, is easier to ignite, and is energy efficient.
- D. We have an energy management system that schedules our heating, univents, and fan units. These are off when no one is scheduled to be in the area. There are motion sensors in the halls that will shut lights off when no one is in the hall.
- E. We are reducing double light fixtures to single fixtures with longer lasting fluorescent lights. The exit lights were retrofit with energy saving lights and ballasts. Ceiling fans were installed in all classrooms.
- F. There is a recycling program using an outside company to pick up bottles, paper, and plastic. Both waste companies go through our garbage and recycle.
- G. We are looking into more new green products. We are getting rid of aerosol cans.
- H. Questions:
 - 1. Q. Was there a recent directive on closing hallway doors?
 - A. Since there are no breaks between the outside doors and the hallways, we're trying to close the stairway doors so the cold air doesn't come in when the kids are coming in.
 - 2. Q. At swim meets, the garbage cans are full of plastic water bottles. Does the waste company actually pick those out for recycling?
 - A. Yes.
 - 3. Q. What is the percentage of post-consumer waste in the recycled paper towels?
 - A. It is more than 50%.

IV. What Does It Mean to be Green? Bruce Dahlquist (7:40 PM)

- A. The construction and design community started strong green movements in the mid-nineties, although there has been an ebb and flow over the years. The terms, green, sustainable, and high performance mean about the same thing. The United States Green Building Council gives guidance to the design and construction industry, as well as the user. They provide documentation in the form of the LEED Guidelines. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. These guidelines are a methodology for explaining to the architect, to the contractor, and to the owner how to design, build, and use the building in a manner that is environmentally friendly. There are six different categories in LEED, and you try to get points in each category. (see handout #4)
- B. As construction is planned, it is important to consider how the building will be used, managed, and monitored. The items suggest areas where improvements could be made and there are points for each item. Adding the points leads to pre-certification estimates for certified, silver, gold, and platinum levels.
- C. The basic principle is that once a building is in place, LEED can assist in putting a system or process together that is sensitive to the people in the space. It has

been proven that the quality of the environment in the space improves student learning.

- D. LEED for Schools has many of the same concepts, but there are some differences. Points are given for
 1. The joint use of facilities. If the school is a community asset, is it being used by the community?
 2. Green power – wind, geothermal, something off the normal grid.
 3. Saving and reusing parts of the building during remodeling.
 4. Using locally manufactured products that do not increase transportation costs.
 5. Recycled materials, like carpet.
 6. Using rapidly renewable materials. For example, bamboo recycles in ten years. There are certified woods – wood from managed forests where there is controlled harvest and growth with a “chain of evidence.”
 7. Using natural lighting.
 8. Preventing mold.
 9. Using the school as a teaching tool for energy conservation.
 - E. *Greening America's Schools* describes a survey of 30 schools that were LEED certified. It shows that the added cost is a nonfactor.
- V. Energy Management, Brian Berg (8:09 PM)
- A. LEED and Green Globe are green rating systems that focus on different items. The main concern of any rating system is to be the least disruptive to the environment as possible. Green means more than energy savings. The 3 R's – reduce, reuse, and recycle – apply to design. Reduce means to engineer the most energy efficient systems available when you put them in. Another consideration is life cycle costing. Reuse means to recover energy and use it somewhere else. Recycle means to design with the end in mind. For example, recovering refrigerant.
 - B. How is LT green? Here are some examples.
 1. We are replacing the chiller in south campus. In '67, someone designed a central chilled water system that was the most energy efficient way to air condition a building. They could have used a cheaper system, which would have been replaced once or twice by now and dumped into a landfill and the refrigerant released to the atmosphere. It will be replaced with another 40-year life span chiller, which is also more efficient and gives greater life cycle cost benefits. Life Cycle Costing is the expected cost of operating the unit over the forty years.
 2. The south campus pool is another example of life cycle costing. It received an excellence in design award for innovative design. It is designed to be maintained and rebuilt in place.
 3. Energy management is something everyone can do – turn things off. We can have sensors in rooms and hallways and turn things off automatically. It is easy and saves much energy.
 4. It is important to work together with physical plant and energy systems for long term energy savings.

VI. Questions (8:25 PM)

- A. Q. Are there other projects that LT could undertake to make it more green?
A. It is a very complex system of about one million square feet. As systems are scheduled to be replaced, determine how to do something better.
- B. Q. What is the validity of roof top gardening?
A. Sometimes it makes sense, sometimes it doesn't. One needs to look at the structure of the roof. If it is designed for it, it is fine. It increases the weight on the roof structure. When it rains, the dirt holds the water and nourishes the plants. It reduces the heat island effect and creates an acoustic barrier.
- C. Q. How effective are the waste haulers in separating out materials, especially paper and plastics? If they do it well, why do residents need to separate for recycling?
A. The transfer stations are very effective. They pull all the wood, metal, etc. It is to their advantage to limit what they put into landfills since they have to pay for that. In communities it is cheaper to have others make the separation. Paper is the hardest to separate, so it is better to do that locally.
- D. Q. Has anyone looked at solar power?
A. Solar panels are very expensive. There are some more tangible improvements planned. We have inefficient boilers that are about 80 years old that would cost about one million dollars to replace. We also want to upgrade the building automation systems. We have limited scope and sophistication right now. We need to spend three to four million dollars to deal with these fundamental systems. A bond issue might be considered in 2013 or 2014, after this round of bond issues are completed.
- E. Q. Is there radiant heat at both campuses?
A. It is steam generated heat with additional radiant heat around outside walls.
- F. Q. Is the ductwork cleaned?
A. The ducts have been cleaned, calibrated, and balanced.
- G. Q. How has the proliferation of computers and technology affected our energy usage and how do we manage that for the future?
A. The more computers, the better the electrical systems are needed to be. So, electrical systems are upgraded where needed. They add on, but not as much as people think.
- H. Q. Where would a \$3-4 million come from?
A. The Board has the ability to issue bonds, once current bonds are paid off.
- I. Q. Is any inventory being taken on CO₂ emissions in order to reduce them?
A. There are not too many areas that we could look at. We don't own our own buses. Boilers are tested and certified for the least amount of emissions annually.
- J. Q. Does LT plan to apply for LEED certifications?
A. We are looking at it, but no decision has been made. We will continue to pursue.
- K. Q. Was LEED certification talked about in the pool and field house?
A. It wasn't, but the pool is pretty much LEED compliant. It was designed in 2001, based on the standards of that time. It is hard to go back.
- L. Q. What would it cost to air condition buildings? If boilers are being replaced, is that a good time to put in air conditioning?
A. If you are replacing everything, it is a good time to have the air conditioning discussion.

M. Q. Are there recycling bins for paper?

A. South campus has about 15 extra, north is missing a few. We need to educate faculty and students to use them for paper, not trash.

N. Q. Could we get a different type of container to eliminate tossing in trash?

A. The bins are donated by our waste companies. The plastic and aluminum bins have lids. Lids are not feasible for paper.

VII. Small Group Discussions (8:47 PM) (see handout #5)

VIII. Meeting Adjourns (approx. 9:08 PM)