

**Lyons Township High School
Community Advisory Council**

7:00 PM – October 15, 2008

Minutes

Documents sent earlier:

1. LTCAC Agenda for the 10/15/08 meeting
2. LTCAC 5/21/08 meeting minutes
3. LTCAC Meeting Dates, 2008 – 2009
4. LTCAC Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and By-Laws
5. 2008 – 2009 LTCAC Membership List

Handouts:

1. Lyons Township High School Student Services, 2008 – 2009
2. Lyons Township High School 2008 – 2009 School Profile
3. Lyons Township High School LT Parent Teacher Council 2008 – 2009 Calendar
4. *The Lyon*, Friday, September 26, 2008, Volume 99, Issue 1

- I. Business Meeting (7:00 PM)
 - A. Marilyn Kosin called the meeting to order.
 - B. Minutes from the meeting of 5/21/08 were approved with corrections to section IV.A.1. The months shown for topics should be one month later.
 - C. No committee reports
 - D. Superintendent's Report, Dr., Kelly
 1. In the eleven year history of this group, it has given the Board some good advice. Two examples are: we still own the Willow Springs property; and, we have a pool at south campus.
 2. The September Board meeting approved a \$63 million budget. It is projected to balance, but there are many unknown factors, like oil prices, property tax appeals during a recession, and interest rates. Most money is in CDs.
 3. The school year started with 950 freshmen, 3857 total students, and 564 employees. We are not projecting an increase in enrollment for at least a decade.
 4. School Board elections are scheduled for April 2009. Four of the seven seats are open.
 5. Kids have performed well on test scores. The ACT average is 24 – the highest it has ever been. In AP tests, 42% received a 5. There are 30 National Merit commended students with 9 finalists.
 6. There are changes this year that should push the averages up. On 9/24, juniors took a practice test to give students familiarity with the test. Study Hall juniors will be able to take a free ACT preparation class. It will be mandatory for those who have not taken another preparation test. An ACT prep class typically increases scores by 2-3 points. We are tweaking the content to help kids learn the material, we are not teaching the test.

7. *Streetcar Named Desire* is the LT play to be presented in the Reber Center on October 23-25.
- II. Discussion of Members Concerns and Issues (7:13 PM)
 - A. Q. Will LT re-visit or re-evaluate class rank?
 - A. Yes, we will look at it. We have looked at weighted and un-weighted averages. Class ranking penalizes kids in good schools.
 - B. Q. How on track are we toward selecting a new superintendent? Will we meet that person at the December LTCAC meeting?
 - A. If everything works right, the Board will interview eight candidates, narrow the selection to three or four, make a final selection, visit the candidate's school district, negotiate a contract, and employ. The target is the December Board meeting, which is two days before the LTCAC meeting.
- III. Overview of the LTHS Crisis Plan (7:19 PM)
(Copies of the Powerpoint slides on School Safety and Security were distributed.)
 - A. David Franson, Principal
 1. Our philosophy on school safety is to balance restrictiveness and permissiveness.
 2. There is an "all-in" mentality – teachers are involved.
 3. Maintain relationships with experts in order to keep up with best practices.
 4. The plan is in a constant state of re-examination.
 5. The more information, the more control.
 6. Target hardening makes it more difficult for someone to create a security or safety problem. Some examples of hardening include restricted access after 7:45 AM, keyless entry systems, visitor management, practice drills (lockdowns), seminars, and relationships with local emergency personnel.
 - B. Kelly Dostal, Assistant Principal, South Campus
 1. In every classroom, there is a wall file that includes emergency plans and reference cards. There is also an emergency call button and window coverings. And, we cannot discount the value of the trained professional inside the classroom.
 2. In each building, there is a trained emergency staff, AEDs, keyless entry, a security coordinator, and a video camera system. A personnel asset inventory is being distributed to all staff. It will ask a variety of questions including who can drive stick and who is trained in CPR/AED. There are also trained social workers and school psychologists in each building.
 - Q. How many defibrillators in each building and who is trained?
 - A. Three in each building. PE teachers and nurses are trained.
 - C. Jennifer Bialobok, Community Relations Coordinator
 1. What can students and parents do to help keep things safe and secure?
 - a. Communicate concerns directly throughout the year.
 - b. Use the "Speak Up" line to anonymously report unsafe behavior.
 - c. Students are encouraged to take six steps toward theft prevention.
 - d. Keep phone and e-mail information current so emergency contacts and web blasts can reach parents.

- D. David Franson, Principal
1. Other aspects of the safety plan include the Police Liaison Program, the Safety Committee, the Student Assistant Staff, and the 2nd Shift Staff.
 2. Other safety resources include the Major Case Assistance Team, and investigative unit; the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System, a SWAT-like group; Rail Safety Information, to educate on rail safety since there are 120 trains in 24 hours; a Co-Curricular Code, to help students avoid problems; and, the Hand Washing Campaign, to prevent illness.
- E. Questions and Answers
1. Q. Can there be extra garbage cans for tissues at the teacher's desk?
A. We'll look into it.
 2. Q. The soap smells bad, so people don't wash hands. Why?
A. Soap at south smells; soap at north is ok. We will follow up.
 3. Q. Not all sinks work.
A. This should not recur. The 2nd shift tries to fix known problems.
 4. Q. What training does the professional in the classroom receive?
A. There is an in-service about what to do in the classrooms. It is sufficient to handle issues and keep the room secure.
 5. Q. Typically the water in the bathrooms is not hot.
A. We'll add this to the list to take to buildings and grounds.
 6. Q. During the cold and flu season, there are no tissues.
A. We'll look into it.
 7. Q. Should we practice a hard lockdown with students or on an institute day?
A. We will be practicing a lockdown with students.
 8. Q. What did the school do for last year's soft lockdown? Is there a level of communication?
A. Information was in the local papers and on the web. The police asked us not to release anything until the investigations were completed.
 9. Q. Should there have been a parental meeting in April?
A. We were focused on returning to normalcy and didn't consider a parental meeting at that time. For clarification, a soft lockdown is designed to keep things running and continue teaching. A hard lockdown requires quiet and stops teaching.
 10. Q. Have weapons been confiscated at LT?
A. In 17 years, there has been 1 gun confiscated, but 9-11 rumors of guns.
- IV. Small group discussion (8:20 PM)
- A. How should LT communicate with students, parents and the community during a crisis?
 - B. How should LT share information about its Crisis Plan with the community?
 - C. What can staff, students, parents and community members do to make LTHS safer?