

**Lyons Township High School
Community Advisory Council**

7:00 PM – April 15, 2009

Minutes

Documents sent earlier:

1. Agenda for the 4/15/09 LTCAC meeting
2. Notes from the 12/17/08 LTCAC meeting
3. Notes from the 2/18/09 LTCAC meeting
4. Membership Commitment Form for 2009-2010
5. Memo re: May 20, 2009 LTCAC Dinner Meeting
6. February 19, 2009 LTCAC Meeting Consensus Table Answers to Board Questions

I. Business Meeting (7:06 PM)

A. Marilyn Kosin called the meeting to order.

1. Joyce Marine, Dr. Kelly's assistant, needs to know who will be attending the May meeting since she needs to order pizza. Please indicate your intention on the signup sheet at the table outside.
2. The mailed packet included a form for you to indicate if you are returning next year. Please respond by the May meeting.
3. Please talk with neighbors, fellow teachers, and fellow students about joining us. We recruit with a notice in *ROAR* and with notices in the backpacks of students at feeder schools. We try to have an equal mix of faculty/staff, students, and community members.
4. The officer slate for next year will be voted at the May meeting. It is:
 - a. Co-chairs: Marilyn Kosin and Joan Rykal
 - b. Membership: Marcia Poore
 - c. Secretary: Ernie Froemel
5. After next year, Marilyn, Marcia, and Ernie will have completed their four years. If you are interested in serving as an officer in 2010-2011, you are invited to join the officers in some of the planning activities this year. Please contact Marilyn.
6. For the consensus report from the table discussions, we need one opinion per table per question. When we receive seven or eight ideas per question, we have to distill fifty different opinions. The Board would prefer a consensus from this group. In the future, we will provide more time for the table discussions, but each table is asked to produce one opinion per question. The opinion should focus on a direction, not how to achieve it. Then, Marilyn and Joan can see a clear opinion from the group and report it to the Board.
7. May is a fun meeting. We talk about what to do next year. As an advisory group, we need to hear what the Board would like us to discuss. But, we also like to have at least one meeting where we address issues from the group. As you think about topics, remember that all meetings do not have to be deliberative. Some valuable meetings have been purely informational.

B. Approval of minutes from December 17, 2008 and February 18, 2009

1. Minutes approved as presented.

- C. Committee Reports
 - 1. None.
 - D. Superintendent's Report, Dr. Kelly.
 - 1. Chipotle gave free burritos to all students instead of just the seniors this year.
 - 2. Introduction of guests: John Polacek, Board member; Mark Pera, Board President; and Matt Castle, intern at South Campus.
 - 3. The following staff vacancies have been filled: a new language arts person, a new Student Services Division chair, and a new football coach. We will be meeting with candidates for Human Resources Director.
 - 4. The recent Board elections re-elected Mark Pera and Bill Purcell. A former Board member, Todd Shapiro, is coming back. George Dougherty is a new member. Al Polich and Jim Kohlstedt will be leaving.
 - 5. The Eurythmics Dance Company will perform May 14-16, 2009 at the Reber Center.
 - E. School Board Report, John Polacek
 - 1. The Administration informed the Board of the reduction of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to .1% and the resultant budgeting difficulties. The Board was asked to look at this as a two-year balance between a higher CPI this year and a lower one next year. The Administration has a plan to control expenses that will result in a two-year balanced budget.
 - 2. The superintendent hiring process has been predominant on the Board agendas for the past year. The Consultants interviewed different groups, including the LTCAC, to develop a candidate profile. They recruited and reduced the number to five, who were interviewed by the Board. Two candidates were brought back for a second interview, resulting in Dr. Kilrea's unanimous selection.
 - F. 2009-2010 LTCAC Agenda Items. See 1.A.7, above
 - G. Consensus Topics. See 1.A.6, above.
- II. Discussion of Members; Concerns and Issues
- A. Subsumed in Section III, below.
- III. Meet the New Superintendent: Dr. Tim Kilrea (7:29 PM)
- 1. Questions taken from the floor.
 - a. Q. Why did you want to be superintendent?
 - A. Dr. Kilrea started with a synopsis of his experience: Dr. Kilrea has been in education for 22 years at the high school level, both large and multiple. He started as a history teacher at Lincoln-Way High School. When he started in 1987, there were 1700 students; when he left in 2003, there were 7000 students. Due to the vertical growth, the staff was required to do a lot with few resources. During that time, he also coached soccer, was a dean of discipline, was a department chair, worked with curriculum, oversaw student activities, and served as assistant principal. These diverse experiences led to the realization that there are lots of components to the leadership role, and hence to the desire to be a superintendent. Opening the new Lincoln-Way High School was a

rewarding challenge. It started six years before the school opened and involved \$60 million in referendum bonds. The kids chose the colors and the mascot. It required splitting the athletic programs and the curriculum. It caused administrators to look very deeply at how schools function. He left to become principal at Thornton Fractional and later assistant superintendent. He came to Lyons Township when the Human Resources job opened. He has family in the area and has always thought highly of LT. He's been married for 16 years and has two daughters.

- b. Q. What is your opinion on snow days?
A. It is a hard decision to make. Safety is the main issue, so snow days won't be automatic.
- c. Q. How old are you?
A. 44.
- d. Q. What is your educational background?
A. A bachelor's degree in social studies/education at the University of Illinois at Champaign; a master's degree from Governor's State at University Park; and, a doctorate in 1998 from Illinois State at Bloomington.
- e. Q. What are the challenges that you anticipate here at LT?
A. The first challenge is to assure a smooth transition. The second is to work on achievement opportunities. We need to look at lower scoring kids and develop programs developed with staff input. The third is professional development of staff. We need to align development to Board goals and develop a consistent, sustained focus. This also requires input from staff and other stakeholders.
- f. Q. Is the broad range of classes at LT too much, too little, or just perfect?
A. Nothing is perfect. I love the wide array of offerings; however, there is a competition for scarce resource with kids. We have classes with 4-5 kids. Maybe we should look at electives and offer them in alternate years. That sounds good, but it needs a lot of detail planning.
- g. Q. The Program Guide doesn't seem to go too far into the future. Is this something that you'd like LTCAC to comment upon?
A. Outside of the staff development team, this would be a good group to look into this.
- h. Q. Which group would be the greatest challenge – staff, students, or community?
A. All are challenges, but none more than the other. The challenge with students is to get to know each other. The challenge with the community is visibility. The staff has been the focus of the HR job. The number one thing is to keep the focus on the kids.
- i. Q. How would you like the student body to view you in a few years?
A. As someone who cares about kids, who loves LT, who is approachable, who has the best interests of LT at heart, and who is a resource.

- IV. Follow-up on Humanities Program Consensus. Scott Eggerding (7:50 PM)
- A. The Board really appreciated hearing LTCAC's recommendations on the Humanities program.
 - B. The Board will hear further ideas in May. Tomorrow, the parents of children who will be in the Humanities Program next year will hear about it. There has been much discussion about what to do sophomore year for these students. There have been discussions about combining a science class and English class in much the same way. There will be a group of four working this summer to prepare a rough sketch of what it might look like. What would a biology/science/English/communication/public speaking course look like? How do we incorporate project inquiry and the scientific method of how to analyze, to develop an hypothesis, and to test it out using the language arts as components? We sent a few teachers to a New Orleans science convention that talked about bridging the gap between science and literacy. And, we would like to bounce ideas off LTCAC as a reality check.
 - C. Questions from the floor.
 - 1. Q. How does this year's incoming Humanities class compare in size to last year?
 - A. It is about the same size. Part is because of the way it is set up. We have teams of four teachers, so we need four, eight, or twelve teachers. The eight is manageable with a morning and an afternoon session and a meeting mid-day. We're not ready to expand that into a third team. Also, we are looking at a targeted group of students who are scoring below a 15 in reading on the EXPLORE test. There are not more than 125-140 of those students and the number is not expected to increase.
 - 2. Q. Is EXPLORE the only criteria?
 - A. It is the initial criteria. We also give them the Ames-Web at the beginning of the year. It gives us baseline skills data and is the same test we give to all prep level students. We are also looking at the MAP test, which is used by elementary and middle school districts. It will allow us to track changes in specific skills from third grade through high school.
- V. Small group discussion, please complete per table and turn-in before leaving. (7:56 PM)
- (Note: We will need someone to take notes at the May meeting since the Secretary won't be here.)
- A. What areas should the new Superintendent focus on during his first year?
 - B. What LT qualities make you most proud of our school?
 - C. Where would you like to see LT in ten years? Please develop a long term goal(s) for LT?
- VI. Adjournment (As small group discussions ended.)