

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
 BOARD-CONFERENCE ROOM  
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2006  
 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>	—
Dr. John T. Polacek	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. Allen D. Polich	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. William F. Purcell	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. Todd M. Shapiro	<u>X</u>	—
Mr. Dan Micek (arrived 7:30pm)	<u>X</u>	—

**STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Dennis Kelly	Ms. Joyce Marine	Mr. Scott Eggerding
Mr. David Sellers	Dr. Attila Weninger	Ms. Jennifer Bialobok
Mr. Ed Tennant	Ms. Amy McNamara	Ms. Leslie Stickels
Mr. Issa Daoud	Ms. Katy Newcomb	Ms. Mica Vahl
Ms. Joann Pyritz	Ms. Jane Ewing	Mr. Dave Kruiswyk

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Pastor Williams                      Ms. Heather Alderman

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & PLEDGE**

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**

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

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Casimir Pulaski Holiday Waiver for 2007-2012**

Mr. Pera opened the public hearing on the Casimir Pulaski Holiday Waiver for 2007-2012 and requested any comments from the public.

**ACTION NO. 2: Close Public Hearing**

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Kohlstedt moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to close the public hearing on the Casimir Pulaski Holiday Waiver for 2007-2012.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted.

**OPEN SESSION – COMMUNICATIONS**

LTHS Faculty Association Vice-President, Amy McNamara, welcomed the following members of the Global Studies Division: Chris Cabaj, Dave Kruiswyk, Issa Daoud, Mica Vahl, Katie Newcomb, and Keith Bailey.

Pastor Williams addressed the Board, asking for feedback regarding the Board's approval to hire an African-American liaison. Mr. Pera responded that because the Board understands the need for and importance of this newly-created position--which will provide an open dialogue with the African-American community and encourage more African-American students to become involved in the fabric of LT—the Board emphatically showed their support with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Student Representative to the Board, Dan Micek, reported that all Homecoming festivities were well attended, including the Variety Show, Pep Rally, and parade. Future Student Council events are the Prom Dress Drive, the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive, and Secret Santa; LT has signed on to sponsor 100 children.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT REPORT**

Dr. Kelly presented the October Vita Plena to Mary Lynn Slepski, ParaEducator in the North Campus health office since 1999. Dr. Kelly described Ms. Slepski as compassionate, calm, reassuring, dedicated, and a friend who is there to help the students. She makes everyone feel better and is wonderful in handling students. Dr. Kelly noted that when the nurse was out ill last year, Mary Lynn Slepski was the glue that held the office together. Ms. Slepski mentioned how much she enjoys her job and that the Vita Plena Award was a very pleasant surprise. She then introduced her husband, daughters, son, and granddaughters, and her sister, Susan Moore, also an LT staff member.

Dr. Kelly next recognized students Alex David and Matthew Rue, who selflessly spent almost ten hours at the home of a single mom cleaning up the damage caused by the October 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> rainstorm. The two sophomore students refused to accept any money for their efforts, and the following week, they organized a group of friends to go over to the woman's home again to further help. Mr. Pera presented Alex and Matthew with Certificates of Recognition on behalf of the Board of Education.

Dr. Kelly announced that the newly revamped website is up and running and 99% complete. He encouraged all to log on at [www.lths.net](http://www.lths.net) to view the site.

Dr. Kelly discussed the issue of school safety, saying that we will be holding a safety drill in the near future as mandated once a year by federal law. Additionally, a meeting of Lyons Township associate

school superintendents, along with representatives of the local police and fire departments, will convene to review the Critical Incident Plan that was originally developed several years ago. The administration is looking at various safety systems, including keyless entry and the use of security cameras; area high schools will also be surveyed. A letter updating parents about safety issues will be going out in the near future. Dr. Kelly stressed the importance of good communication and direct involvement concerning matters of school safety. Mr. Pera suggested that school safety should be addressed at a future Facilities Committee meeting.

Last, Dr. Kelly addressed the topic of the 2007-2008 school calendar. 1000 responses to the well-publicized survey on the LT website indicated that 53% of respondents wanted to keep the calendar as is, with first-semester finals scheduled after winter break. 25% of respondents indicated a preference to end first semester before winter break, and 22% of those who answered didn't have a preference one way or the other. Dr. Kelly did say, however, that most local LT superintendents do not support a calendar change and that we are try to maintain a common calendar with our associate districts. Additionally, Dr. Kelly noted that research indicates that changes in a school calendar won't impact academic achievement unless the school day is lengthened or the number of school days are increased. For the time being, Dr. Kelly recommended keeping a similar calendar as we've had in the past. Mr. Shapiro wondered whether parents should see samples of both calendar options in order to obtain a clearer picture of the choices.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ACTION NO. 3: Casimir Pulaski Holiday Waiver 2007-2012**

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the application to the Illinois State Board of Education for waiver of attendance on the first Monday in March (Casimir Pulaski Day) and in its place declare the first Monday in March to be a regular instructional school day.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Eggerding remarked that the memory of Casimir Pulaski will be honored through Social Studies and other classes.

### **Curriculum Change Proposals 2007-2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Mr. Eggerding shared with the Board the first reading of the Curriculum Change Proposals for 2007-2008. The 27 proposals have been submitted from Applied Arts, Art, English, Foreign Language, Music, Physical Education, Special Education, and Alternative School. Mr. Sellers assured the Board that sufficient storage space would be available to house the equipment needed for the Scuba Diving course proposal. The Curriculum Change Proposals 2007-2008 will again be presented to the Board at

the November meeting as a second reading and will include additional information, as needed, for the proposed courses.

**2007-2008 School-Term Calendar – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

The 2007-2008 school calendar was presented as a first reading. Mr. Eggerding explained that the calendar has been reviewed with associate schools and will be shared with other groups, such as the Boosters, before the second reading in November. Mr. Pera suggested having students surveyed for their input regarding ending first semester before winter break. Mr. Micek believes students would prefer that option.

**ACTION NO. 4: North Campus Student Support Counselor F.T.E. Increase**

Dr. Polacek moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the elimination of the Student Services ParaEductor position and establish a .5 F.T.E. Student Support counselor position.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

This half-time North Campus counseling position will provide a “safety net” to help students who are not on track to graduate.

**ACTION NO. 5: Testing and Assessment Coordinator F.T.E. Increase**

Dr. Sprague moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to approve revising the F.T.E. for the Testing and Assessment Program from .6 F.T.E. to 1.0 F.T.E. effective with the 2007-2008 school term.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

The 1.0 F.T.E. position may either be certified or classified and will involve academic and student achievement data-driven analysis and decision making. Dr. Weninger did say that down the line, the testing office may require additional clerical assistance.

**ACTION NO. 6: Information Technology Reorganization and F.T.E. Increase**

Mr. Polich moved, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the IT Department reorganization and additional F.T.E.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Weninger stressed that along with the approved promotions in the IT Department comes much greater accountability.

### **Title I Funding**

This topic, which will be tabled until further cost analysis is available, will be discussed next month.

### **Authorization to Purchase Automated Phone System**

The Board authorized the administration to pursue the purchase of an automated phone system, which will be presented to the Board for approval at the November 2006 meeting. The automated phone system selected by the District must have a back-up power supply.

### **Summer School Program Report**

Mr. Eggerding thanked Summer Program directors Mike Hogan and Ed Piotrowski for their invaluable leadership. This past summer, the academic program realized an 11% increase and the activity camps experienced a 4.9 % increase over summer 2005. Next year, the possibility of online registration will be explored. Mr. Polich asked to receive a report on the progress of students in the summer literacy and math programs.

### **Summer Curriculum Workshop Report**

Mr. Eggerding relayed that almost \$20,000 in grant monies were used to fund the 2006 Summer Curriculum Workshops, many which addressed Board goals. There were 16 Summer Workshops in six academic and four support areas involving 46 faculty/staff.

### **Releasing Test Score Data**

Dr. Kelly announced that we will be compiling much more data relating to student performances in classes and in various testing programs and subsequently sharing the information with associate school superintendents, articulation groups, and with the public.

### **School Board Calendar for November 2006**

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

**ACTION NO. 7: Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**LTHS Monthly Financials**

Approval of Lyons Township High School monthly bills in the amount of \$4,178,912.19.

Approval of Lyons Township High School financial statement for the month ending September 30, 2006.

**LADSE Financials**

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education monthly bills in the amount of \$1,363,935.03.

Approval of LaGrange Area Department of Special Education financial statement for the month ending September 30, 2006.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**LTHS Buildings/Grounds, Classified, and/or ParaEducator Staff**

Employment

**Maria Virginia Hernandez**, ParaEducator, South Campus, Transition Program, effective September 21, 2006.

**Anthony Ponziano**, South Campus Building Foreman, effective September 6, 2006

Resignation

**Zarko Kuljanian**, ParaEducator, North Campus, Special Education, effective September 18, 2006.

Reassignment

**Jean Zajac**, ParaEducator, North Campus, effective upon Student Assistant replacement, date TBA.

Termination

**James Franzen**, Temporary North Campus Custodian, effective September 12, 2006.

**LTHS Administrative and/or Certified Staff**

Retirement

**Joan Stopka**, Fine Arts Division (Foreign Language), effective June 2010.

**LADSE**

Employment

**Jean Sommerfeld** -.5 School Psychologist, subject to the Local Funding Program, beginning August 18, 2006.

**Patricia Dragisic** – 1.0 DHH Interpreter, subject to the Local Funding Program, beginning October 10, 2006.

Family Medical Leave

**Sarah Prouty** – 1.0 School Psychologist, FMLA, effective March 2007.

Resignation

**Theresa Witterman** – 1.0 ParaEducator

**Michelle Honsa** – 1.0 School Psychologist, effective October 20, 2006.

**Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions – September 18, 2006

Facilities Committee – September 15, 2006

Curriculum Committee – October 11, 2006

Human Resources Committee – October 12, 2006

**Stipend Committee Recommendations**

**Orchestra Trip: Heritage Festival of Gold National Band & Orchestra Invitational Competition in Boston**

**Donation of Equipment/Supplies**

1. Sewing machines to Family & Consumer Science Department, valued at approximately \$2,450.00, by Mr. Gary Steffenson.

**2005-2006 Employee Assistance Program Report**

**Lion Trip to National Scholastic Press Association Convention in Nashville**

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

**ACTION NO. 8: Adjournment into Closed Session**

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

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted, and at 8:31 p.m., Mr. Pera adjourned the meeting into Closed Session.

At 9:27 p.m., the meeting reconvened in Open Session.

**ACTION NO. 9: Student #396xxx**

Mr. Kohlstedt moved, seconded by Dr. Polacek, to expel Student #396xxx through June 14, 2007, the end of second semester of the 2006-2007 school year. However, should Student #396xxx successfully complete an approved anger management program (at the expense of the parent) and additionally signs a behavior contract, the student can return to school beginning second semester of the 2006-2007 school year and remain in school as long as the student complies with all terms of the behavior contract.

On roll call:

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

The motion was adopted.

**ACTION NO. 10: Adjournment**

Mr. Shapiro moved, seconded by Mr. Kohlstedt, to adjourn the meeting.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

President:

Secretary: