

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
JANUARY 24, 2024, 6:00 PM**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sarver, President, called to order the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Thomas J. McCormack Library/Media Center at LaSalle-Peru Township High School, 541 Chartres Street, LaSalle, IL.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Greg Sarver, President, Mrs. Sally Taliani, Vice President, Mr. Matt Merboth, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, and Mr. Scott Pescetto

ABSENT: Mr. Gary Ferrari (arrived at 6:03pm), and Mrs. Carol Alcorn

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Principal, Mr. Dwayne Mentgen, Director Area Career Center, Mr. Christopher Gibson, Associate Principal for Teaching and Learning, Mrs. April Eutis, Associate Principal for Student Support Services, Ms. Kate Lance, Associate Principal for School Safety, Mr. Matt Baker, Director of Communications, Mrs. Jennifer Does, Business Manager, Mr. Attorney Walt Zukowski, Ms. Maribeth Wilson, Shaw Media Reporter, and Mrs. Jennifer Riva

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 20, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the minutes from December 20, 2023, Regular Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Pescetto. Pass on Vote: Mr. Sarver Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 4-0.**

RECOGNITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Division Spotlight:

This month the Board highlighted the Student Support Division. Mrs. Emmy Carney, Counselor and Division Chair of Student Support Services showcased the department presenting on extensive resources available to students through the school Psychologist, Social Workers, Attendance Advocacy Program (AAP) Coordinator, Nurses, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Interventionist and Counselors.

Public Comment: Mr. Sarver asked the attending public and Board Members if there were any comments or questions. No comments or questions were voiced.

FINANCE

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve the L-P Bills as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve the ACC Bills as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the Payroll as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve Financial Report, ACH Report, Activity Fund Report, Treasurer's Report, Bank Reconciliation, Cash and Investments Report and Hometown Cash Management Report as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you card from Mrs. Rendy Halm and Family for the beautiful arrangement in memory of her stepfather, Mr. Edmond Thornton.
- TIF REIMBURSEMENTS:

Village of Tonica – TIF II	\$ 7,248.54
City of Lasalle – Intergovt Agreement TIFS	\$11,478.65
Village of North Utica – TIF I & TIF II	<u>\$ 4,713.70</u>
TOTAL TIF REIMBURSEMENT:	\$39,624.55

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Building and Grounds Committee: Mr. Ferrari, Committee Chair, gave his report from the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, reporting on the following: Phone System Replacements Recommendation, Sports Complex Security Cameras Recommendation, L-P Sports Complex Phase II Update on Concession/Press Box Building and Huby Sarver Field Sign, Spring and Summer 2024 facility Projects Updates: Counseling/PE Office Renovation – Bid Opening 2/7/24, Howard Fellows Stadium Renovation, Weight Room Renovation, and Dolan Building Elevator Modernization – Commences Summer 2024. Mr. Kowalski Supported Projects Updates: Health Occupations Classroom (Dolan Building), and Early Childhood Playground/Learning Lab (Dolan Building). Filed House Planning Update.

Finance Committee: Mr. Merboth, Committee Chair, gave his report from the meeting held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, reporting on the following: Monthly Financials Reports, 2024-2025 District Budget Development Resolution Recommendation, Phone System Replacements Recommendation, Sports Complex Security Cameras Recommendation, New Activity Accounts Recommendation for Mock Trial and CAVS Day, and L-P Sports Complex Phase II Update on Concession/Press Box Building and Huby Sarver Field Sign.

Programs Committee:

Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, Committee Chair, gave her report from the meeting held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, reporting on the following: Final Exam Waiver Recommendation and CAVS Day update.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Steven Wroblewski, reported on the following topics:

1. **FY 2025 Budget Development Kick-Off:** January is the official FY2025 budget development kick-off. An action item in new business asks the Board to officially authorize my office to begin the FY2025 District budget.
2. **Solution Tree Consultant Update:** We have a new Solution Tree consultant to help guide our PLC renewal process. Mr. Jack Baldernann is the Westmont Community Unit School District superintendent in the Chicago suburbs. He has extensive high school leadership experience and is a nationally regarded expert on implementing the PLC framework. We are excited to learn from his experiences. His first on-site visit will be on February 1st.
3. **District Goals Parent/Community Announcement:** I sent a Blackboard message to our parents and community announcing our recently adopted District Goals. An explanation of the goals and strategic pillars (Sense of Belonging, Student Learning, and Adult Learning) is the focus of my January Newstribune community column. Information will also be posted on the District website.
4. **RISE Grant IVCC Partnership:** We have had two meetings with IVCC representatives on the roll-out and installation of the distance learning equipment. We hope to have the equipment on-site on or

before spring break. IVCC's grant partner is installing the equipment and providing the training. This partnership expands dual credit options for our students through IVCC, along with accessing and/or providing course options with other member high schools.

5. **Grant Writer Consultant for L-P Foundation:** Mr. Tom Kowalski's generosity continues to make significant improvements. His most recent commitment is a three-year promise to provide \$65K annually to fund a grant writer supporting the work of the L-P Foundation. Mrs. DePaepe and I are working on a job description and posting notice. The year one focus will be on the auditorium – targeting a new lighting system and completion of the organ restoration project. We are very excited to secure someone with experience working with alumni groups as well as public and private foundations.
6. **FOIA Requests:** We received the following FOIA requests in the past month.

Requestor	Date	Request	District Action
Nathan Mihelich, IL Retired Teachers Association	January 17, 2024	Names and email addresses of any certified staff (teachers, administrators, nurses, counselors, etc.) who are retiring this year.	Complied with the request.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, reported on the following topics:

- We have had a great start to our 2nd semester. Our teachers, counselors, and administrators worked diligently to get all of the finals completed for students who were affected by various reasons for absences prior to the break.
- We conducted our Institute Day on Monday, January 8th. We updated staff with several items for the semester during our opening staff meeting, allowed time to work in their classrooms so they could prepare for 2nd semester, and set aside time for a final exam analysis. Teachers were also allowed to have time for division and Collaborative Team Time meetings.
- As a staff, we continue to work on our two goals of improving the attendance rate and graduation rate. During the first semester, we spent time establishing the goals and considering how we can support the goals from the school level, division level and collaborative team levels. This semester we have asked faculty to focus on what they are personally doing to contribute by reflecting on what practices they want to continue, what else they need to learn, and what strategies they will commit to implementing in the 2nd semester. This next level was introduced at the Institute Day.
- As we enter the Spring Semester, we will begin preparations for assessments. We are administering our STAR 360 Winter Benchmark during the week of January 15th in order to look for growth when compared to the Fall Benchmark. The benchmarking will be administered to students in grades 9-11 in the content areas of reading and math. We will be completing our SEL Benchmarking on January 18th. The ACCESS testing, which is the mandated State testing for EL students, will also be administered on January 30th, February 1st and February 6th.
- We will be hosting our 8th Grade Catholic Schools Shadow Day on Thursday, January 25th. We are always happy to host this annual event.
- Our student registration process is beginning. The automatic enrollment letters were mailed home to families. Our counselors will be meeting with our current students to make class selections in the upcoming weeks and will be reaching out to our incoming 8th grade families to select courses during the first week of February. It is always a time of anticipation to see what interests the students and what classes they will choose.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Steve Hanson, provided a report on the following topics:

1. **Item 1:** Winter Sports
 - a. Boys' Bowling team qualified for the Rockford Jefferson Sectional by placing 4th as a team at the Morton Regional on 1/15. The boys will bowl on 1/20 in Rockford.

- b. The Cavalettes participated in the IHSA Sectional Dance Competition on 1/20 in Fieldcrest. Results were not available at the time of submission of this report.
 - c. The Girls Bowling team has remained undefeated in I8 conference play this year. They continue to impress with their scores and are preparing for a postseason run.
 - d. The Wrestling team will compete in the Rock Island individual Regional tournament on 2/3. Any advancing individuals will compete at Metamora on 2/10.
 - e. The Boys and Girls basketball schedule has been turned upside down due to weather. Currently we have not lost any games but makeup dates are becoming very difficult if we are forced to cancel any future games.
2. **Item 2:** Activities Report
- a. **Mock Trial Club-** Mock Trial Club has been busy preparing for their first tournament January 27th in Normal.
 - b. **Key Club and Interact-** They are excited to bring back the blood drive to LP High School with the help of Verisite Blood Centers. The drive will take place in the east gym on February 15th.
 - c. **CAVS Day-** Our leaders will be trained in February and our Cavs Day will be March 7 for Sophomores and March 8th for Juniors. Mrs. Carol Navarro, Mrs. Andrea Eichelkraut and Mrs. Nicole Kowalczyk have been busy getting prepared for the big event.
 - d. **Computer Club-** Computer Club has been meeting Thursday mornings to work on learning to Code in Roblox, MIT App Inventor, and Java. They are exploring the possibility of doing a coding competition in the Spring semester.
 - e. **Lead/Special Olympics-** Lead has been practicing with Special Olympics all semester for various events. These events include unified bowling, snowshoeing, & unified dance. 2nd semester will consist of snowshoeing, unified bocce ball, unified track & field, the polar plunge, & respect week.
3. **Item 3:** Spring Sports
- a. Track & field can begin on Monday, January 17th, for the indoor season.
 - b. The first day of practice for all other spring sports is Monday, February 28th.

ACC DIRECTOR

Mr. Dwayne Mentgen, provided the following report:

The ACC student of the month is Miya Washkowiak who is a Culinary Arts Student from LPHS. Miya was chosen by Mrs. Turczyn because: Her work ethic, attention to detail, and dedication has contributed to the positive learning environment within our program.

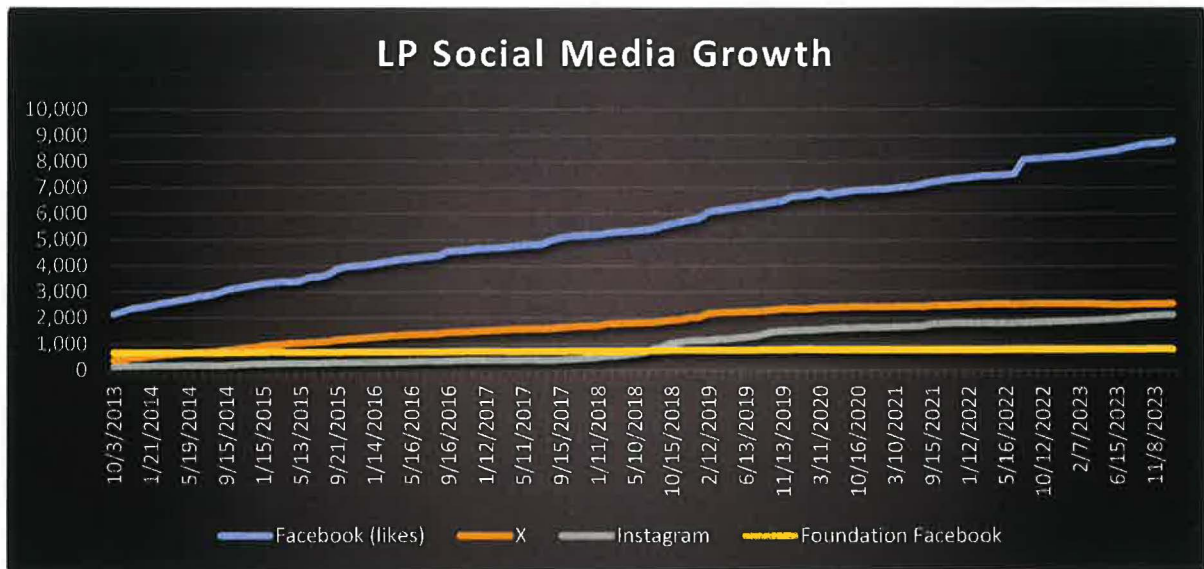
- In the kitchen, Miya exhibits an ability to collaborate with team members, manage time effectively, and maintain a positive attitude under pressure. They approach every challenge with enthusiasm and a genuine passion for the art of cooking. They have consistently gone above and beyond what is expected, and I look forward to their continued success and growth in the Culinary Arts program.
- The ACC thanks HyVee Supermarket for their generous donation of a donut maker. The ACC Culinary students are currently doing a deep clean on it, but will have it up and operational shortly.
- The ACC is starting second semester with 331 students as of 1/16. This represents a decrease due to cancelling of 1 class, and attrition of Aviation students, as well as early graduates.
- The ACC continues to work through Dr. Wroblewski to collaborate with Mr. Kowalski on planned improvements for Nursing and Early Childhood Education.
- The ACC is working with Mr. Tim Tomminello in addressing a heating issue with the Pope Building. Mr. Tomminello is in the process of sorting options for repair, and a deeper report will come once those proposals have been submitted to him.
- Mrs. Johnson in early Childhood reports her five interns for the second semester have been placed, and the ACC is happy to be working with Northwest School, Holy Family, and Peru Elementary.

- The ACC Nursing program has started its clinical sight rotation, and the ACC thanks its partner schools La Moille, Princeton, and Putnam County for their assistance in transport, as well as Mendota for Aviation.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Matt Baker, reported on the following topics:

- We've been providing updates on weather-related cancellations.
- The new website has been launched. Initial feedback has been positive and constructive notes have come in from families and staff members. We'll continue to fine-tune sections of the site, but overall, we're seeing big improvements from the previous site design. The next step is getting relevant staff members trained on how to add and update content in the future.
- The L-P Foundation's next big event is the annual Trivia Night. Additional details will be coming soon.



NEW BUSINESS

Approval of resolution to authorize the superintendent to prepare the FY25 District Budget

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve of the resolution to authorize the superintendent to prepare the FY25 District Budget, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the 2023 Annual Disclosure Report

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve of the 2023 Annual Disclosure Report, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the resolution authorizing Dr. Steven R. Wroblewski as signatory for the Etzenbach Scholarship at Hometown National Bank

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani to approve of the resolution authorizing Dr. Steven R. Wroblewski as signatory for the Etzenbach Scholarship at Hometown National Bank, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to hire Ficek Electric for purchase and installation of the Avaya phone system for \$77,003.00

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve hiring Ficek Electric for purchase and installation of the Avaya phone system for \$77,003.00, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to hire Convergent via the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative for a security camera system at the L-P Sports Complex for \$89,385.61

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve hiring Convergent via the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative for a security camera system at the L-P Sports Complex for \$89,385.61, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to increase the competitive bidding threshold from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts per Public Act 103-0008

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve increasing the competitive bidding threshold from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts per Public Act 103-0008. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to let bids for the following projects:

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to let bids for the following projects:

- a. Early Childhood Playground/Learning Lab
- b. Howard Fellows Stadium Renovation

Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to establish the following activity accounts :

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve establishing the following activity accounts, as presented:

- a. Mock Trial
- b. C.A.V.S. Day

Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the Final Exam Waiver Proposal

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the Final Exam Waiver Proposal, as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the following retirement with regret:

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve of the following retirement with regret, as presented:

- a. Mrs. Sharon Hart, Food Service Production Staff/Cashier, effective January 8, 2024

Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the LP Crunching Cavs Youth Wrestling Program request to host the IKWF West Sectional Regional Wrestling Tournament on Sunday, February 25th, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the LP Crunching Cavs Youth Wrestling Program request to host the IKWF West Sectional Regional Wrestling Tournament on Sunday, February 25th, 2024, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to move to executive/closed session for purpose of: a) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Minutes Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of minutes, b) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee, c) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, and d) Imminent/Pending Litigation, with open session and possible action items to follow.

Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, , Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0 Time 6:47p.m.**

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to return to open session. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver Voting Nay: None.

The motion carried 6-0. Time 8:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Greg Sarver, President, Mrs. Sally Taliani, Vice President, Mr. Gary Ferrari, Mr. Matt Merboth, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, and Mr. Scott Pescetto

ABSENT: Mrs. Carol Alcorn

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Attorney Walt Zukowski, and Mrs. Jennifer Riva

NEW BUSINESS

Approval and retain the Executive Closed Session minutes for December 20, 2023, Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve to review and retain the Executive/Closed Minutes of December 20, 2023, Regular Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to August 1, 2022, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to August 1, 2022, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, as presented.

a. Special Meeting, July 25, 2022

Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None.

The motion carried 6-0. Time: 8:09p.m.


Mr. Greg Sarver
President


Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary