

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
FEBRUARY 21, 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. Gary Ferrari, Mr. Matt Merboth, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, and Mr. Scott Pescetto

ABSENT: Mrs. Carol Alcorn

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Mr. Matt Baker, Director of Communications, Mr. Attorney Walt Zukowski, and Mrs. Jennifer Riva, Board Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the minutes from February 21, 2024, Regular Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RECOGNITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Recognitions: This month nine students and two teachers were recognized for participation and leadership in the 2024 ILMEA. These students represent the best among high school bands and choir programs in the state.

All-State Orchestra: Alton Beck, Bass Trombone, Honors Band: Gabrielle Mosley, Flute, and Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Stevens

All-State Chorus: Sydney Ganskop, Soprano 2, Noah Ruiz, Tenor 1, James Hoehn, Bass 2, Honors Chorus: Nora Maier, Soprano 1, Elisabeth Kamke, Soprano 2, Emily Kmetz, Soprano 2, Adrian Silva, Bass 1, and Instructor: Mrs. Natalie Verucchi

Division Spotlight:

This month the Board highlighted the Science Division. Mrs. Carol Navarro, Division Chair, Mrs. Nancy Kochis, Ms. Madeline Piller and Mrs. Michelle Doerr, showcased the department presenting on extensive projects and units covered in Chemistry, STEM Lab, Biology, AP/Honors Biology, Anatomy, Earth Science, Forensic Science and Sports Medicine. The L-P Education Foundation grant awarded the department 30 microscopes and 20 stereoscopes, and Science News Grant allows teachers to access to teaching materials and workshops.

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 Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the L-P Bills as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, 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 Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the Payroll 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 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 letter from Mrs. Cheryl DePaepe for the Board of Education's donation to the L-P Educational Foundation in memory of Charles Stringfellow (Father of Mrs. Joy Plackett) and Burney Wilkie (Father of Mr. Burney Wilkie)
- Thank you card from the Family of Marvin Getty for the beautiful flowers in memory of Mr. Marvin Getty (Retired L-P Science Teacher and Coach)
- TIF REIMBURSEMENTS:
City of Oglesby TIF - \$5,109.74
TOTAL TIF REIMBURSEMENT: \$5,109.74

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: L-P Sports Complex Phase II Update: a. Concession/Press Box Building b. Huby Sarver Field Sign and c. Interior & Exterior Equipment. The Field House Planning Update, Spring/ Summer 2024 facility Projects Update: Counseling/PE Office Renovation – Review Bid, Howard Fellows Stadium Renovation and Weight Room Renovation. Kwalski Supported Projects Update: Health Occupations Classroom (Dolan Building), Early Childhood Playground/Learning Lab (Dolan Building), and Maker Lab Hallway Rolltop Overhead Door (ACC Wing). Building Repairs Update: Drivers Ed Classroom, Boiler House, Water Leak in the Practice Field, Auto Shop Heating System (Emergency HLS Amendment), Room 317 Science Lab Plaster Repairs/Building Exterior Moisture Testing. The 546 Creve Coeur Home Purchase and Demolition Update, and the reconfiguration of the Maker Lab's East exterior entrance to accommodate equipment.

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, Counseling Office/PE Office Bid Review, Driver's Education Car Bid Update, Auto Shop Emergency HLS Amendment, 546 Creve Coeur Home Purchase and Demolition Update, and the Early Childhood Playground/Learning Lab Update, Employee Benefits Cooperative (EBC) premium increase, and new Bond Detail Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Steven Wroblewski, reported on the following topics:

1. **Staffing Update for FY 2025:** We expect to have nearly all students enrolled for 2024-2025 by the start of March. Once this is complete, we begin the process of sectioning classes to determine our staffing needs for next year. We will have staffing recommendations, if necessary, for the Board at our meeting in March. We have full-time teaching positions open for 2024-2025 in Science, English, Counseling, and Choir.
2. **Cell Phone Policy Work Group Update:** Our work team meets on February 21, 2024. The current focus is on the student handbook policy. The next phase will include surveying students, parents, and the business community. Final recommendations will be made at the April Board meeting.

3. **Advisory Proposal:** Attached to my report is the draft Advisory Schedule, which mirrors our existing AM assembly schedule. Feedback is being collected from staff on the schedule. This will be one of our items for negotiations.
4. **CLI Board of Directors:** I was recently appointed to the Curriculum Leadership Institute's Board of Directors. We partnered with CLI to rewrite and realign our curriculum several years ago. I was honored to be invited.
5. **FOIA Requests:** We received the following FOIA requests in the past month.

Requestor	Date	Request	District Action
SmartProcure, Karen Garcia	February 5, 2024	SmartProcure is submitting a commercial FOIA request to the LaSalle-Peru Township High School District No. 120 for all current employee/staff contact information. The request is limited to readily available records without physically copying, scanning or printing paper documents. Any editable electronic document is acceptable. The specific information requested from your record keeping system is: 1.First Name 2.Last Name 3.Position Title 4.Department 5.Direct Phone Number (if does not exist, list main phone number with extension) 6.Business Cell Phone (if provided by LaSalle-Peru Township High School District No. 120) 7.Email Address 8.Office Address	Complied with the request.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, provided a report on the following topics:

- Administration has been busy conducting their final observations of teachers. Meetings are being held to conclude the evaluation process with all of our teachers who are on the evaluation schedule this year.
- Our renewal and revitalization process of the PLC Framework continues in the district. While the faculty is steadfast in their work during the Collaborative Team Time (CTT), several other activities have been exciting this past month in this area. Our new consultant met with our Guiding Coalition Team. Also, a few members from this team were able to attend the The Summit on PLCs that Work in Phoenix, Arizona. This national level conference strengthened the teams understanding of the principles of the framework, how to better implement it, and how to sustain it.
- We have begun administering some of our mandated State testing and have planned for the other State testing administrations. Our ACCESS testing has been administered during the first two weeks of this month to 104 of our 108 ELL students. We will conduct our mandated State Science Test on March 21 for all juniors. The rest of the mandated State testing occurs in April.
- Our student registration process is active. Our counselors are meeting with our current students to make class selections and anticipate completing the process by the first week of March.

- Our Harbor Homerooms have been meeting each month this school year. Additional meetings will be held each month on the dates of March 20 and April 10. I am pleased that we can offer this program for our students. It allows students the ability to connect with their peers in their homerooms and gives them a chance to discuss issues that are currently affecting them. We can provide Tier 1 SEL instruction to our entire student body.
- We will be conducting our High Scholarship Legion Program on Thursday, February 22 at 7:00PM. While the number is not completely finalized at the time of this report, it appears we will be honoring around the same number of students that we traditionally have honored in the past.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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

1. Item 1: Athletics Update

a. Winter Sports

- i. The Boys basketball is seeded 5th in the Sterling Regional which starts 2/21/2024. The Cavs take on the #3 seed Dixon Dukes. If they win the championship will be 2/23 in Sterling. The boys finished the season in 2nd place in the I8 Conference.
- ii. The Girls Bowling team finished a stellar season at the Sycamore Sectional on 2/10. The girls finished an undefeated dual season with a 5th place finish in the Sycamore Sectional. The weeks before they won their 3rd I8 Conference championship in a row and also their 3rd Regional Title.
- iii. The Wrestling team finished their season on 2/10 as well. The team had 2 female wrestlers advance to the Geneseo Sectional but neither was able to advance to the State Tournament. The Boys team was unfortunately bitten by the injury bug and had no wrestlers advance to the Sectional level.
- iv. The Girls Basketball team finished their season with a first round loss to Morris in the Morris Regional. The Girls finished the season 3 games under five hundred
- v. The Boys Swim Coop team competed in the Swim Sectional last weekend. Results were not available at the time of this report.

2. Item 2: January Activities Report

a. Activities Report

- i. **Blood Drive-** Key Club and Interact Club teamed up to bring the blood drive back to LP. It was a great day and students and adults were eager to donate.
- ii. **Jr High Music festival-** The Junior High Musical Festival was a big hit. The students had a great time collaborating with each other. Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Verucchi did a great job hosting the annual event.
- iii. **Olympics-** Special Olympics attended the state snowshoe competition in Galena. Congratulations to Carlos Arce for placing 2nd, Eric Poole for 3rd, Miles Pangrcic for 5th, and Cameron Shutt for 3rd.
- iv. **Mock Trial Club-** Mock Trial club competed in their 1st ever event in Bloomington on February 12th. Congrats to Mrs. Olivero and her club for all the hard work that took place to get this club up and running.
- v. **Council-** Student Council is heading to Senator Rezin's Youth Advisory Council on March 5th. This event is a unique and exciting opportunity for students to learn about Illinois government, the legislative process and take-home great advice and leadership lessons that will help them in their future endeavors.
- vi. **Yearbook-** Yearbook has been hard at work getting photos taken in time for their deadline. They also have a Sadie spirit week on the 19th, and the Sadie dance on the 24th.

ACC DIRECTOR

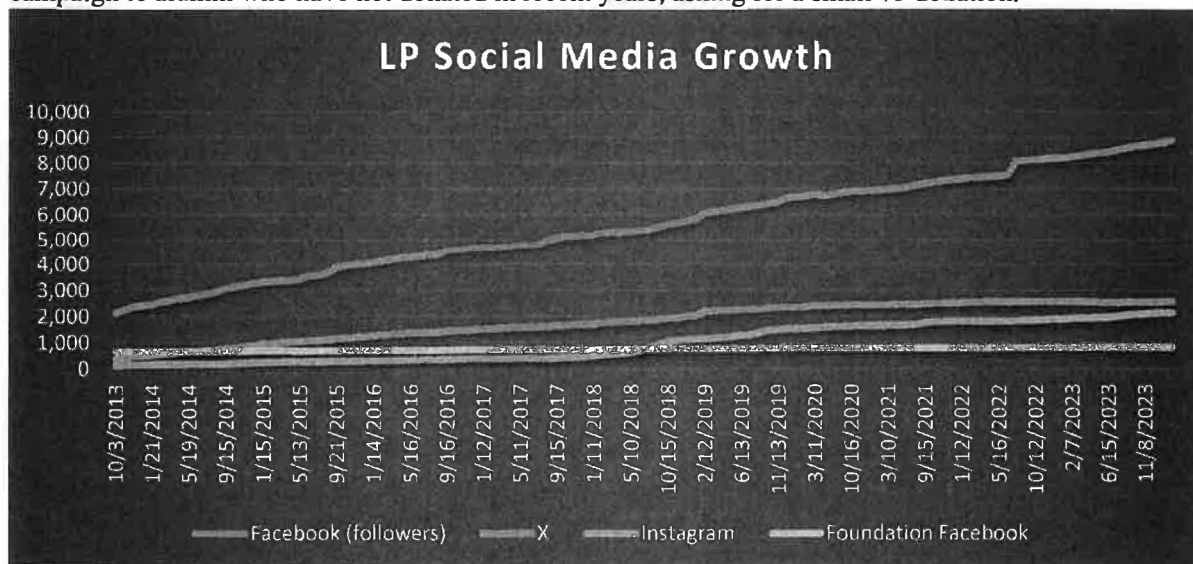
Mr. Dwayne Mentgen, provided a report on the following topics:

- The ACC students of the month are Esmeralda Avila of Putnam County who is enrolled in CAD and Building Trades, and also Alexis Gutierrez of De Pue who is enrolled in residential wiring. Both were recognized for their work ethic, citizenship, and exceptional acumen.
- The ACC has finished up its partner school tours with Henry-Senachwine touring on February 15th. Enrollments will be due by March 5th so the superintendents and the director can determine sectioning requirements. Preliminary numbers indicate another robust enrollment season.
- The ACC and the LPHS PLTW program have had their new Robotic Arm installed and are eagerly awaiting the teacher to go through the training, for implementation into the curriculum.
- The nursing students are in full swing at their clinical assignments at Manor Court. Circumstances at the VA home necessitated suspending that relationship until it is remediated.
- Dual credit agreements with IVCC have been initiated for second-semester, and initial numbers are up for students who have availed themselves of that opportunity. (This is due to our new Dual Credit agreement for Automotive).
- The Automotive program has submitted an approval request for their Fall Back to School Car show.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Matt Baker, reported on the following topics:

- We're in survey season: assisting with the promotion of the annual 5Essentials survey, assisting the Cafeteria staff in creating, sharing and analyzing a student survey to collect feedback on meal services, and creating a survey to collect feedback from families on the new website, which we plan to share in the next month.
- We're preparing for musical tickets to go available to the public soon. This year's show is "Les Misérables" and will be performed the weekend of March 15. As always, Board members, like school staffers, receive 2 complimentary tickets.
- The L-P Foundation's next big event is the annual Trivia Night on April 20, 2024.
- The L-P Foundation will also be bringing back their Alumni High 5 Campaign, which is a mail campaign to alumni who have not donated in recent years, asking for a small \$5 donation.



NEW BUSINESS

Approval to award Vissering Construction the contract for the Counseling Office and PE Office Renovation – Counseling Office Base Bid: \$358,452 and PE Office Alternate Bid 1: \$244,900 (Total - \$603,352)

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve to award Vissering Construction the contract for the Counseling Office and PE Office Renovation – Counseling Office Base Bid: \$358,452 and PE Office Alternate Bid 1: \$244,900 (Total - \$603,352), as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to award Liebhart Construction Inc. the contract for the ACC Wing – New Rolling Fire Door Project - \$34,000

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve to award Liebhart Construction Inc. the contract for the ACC Wing – New Rolling Fire Door Project - \$34,000, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to award Schimmer for the purchase of a 2023 Hyundai Sonata SE with trade-in for \$25,618.03

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani to approve to award Schimmer for the purchase of a 2023 Hyundai Sonata SE with trade-in for \$25,618.03, 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 of the Emergency Health Life Safety Amendment Resolution replacing the Auto Shop Furnace

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve of the Emergency Health Life Safety Amendment Resolution replacing the Auto Shop Furnace, 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 Spring 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of LaSalle on the usage of the Rotary Park Baseball Field

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve of the Spring 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of LaSalle on the usage of the Rotary Park Baseball Field, 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 authorize the superintendent to create a ½ time counselor position for the 2024-2025 school year

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve to authorize the superintendent to create a ½ time counselor position for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval to establish the FMLA request :

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

a. Ms. Alisa Bezely, effective March 26, 2024, returning on or around May 14, 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 following appointments

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

- a Mr. Scott Blessman, Volunteer Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach, effective the 2023-2024 school year
- b Mr. Jake Lipka, Volunteer Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach, effective the 2023-2024 school year

c Ms. Ali Stachowicz, Volunteer Musical Assistant Vocal Coach, effective the 2023-2024 school year

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

Approval of the Varsity Baseball Team trip to Knoxville, TN, over spring break to participate in the ETCBA Invite from April 2, 2024, to April 6, 2024. Expenses will be funded by the Booster Club and Camp Activities Account

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve of the Varsity Baseball Team trip to Knoxville, TN, over spring break to participate in the ETCBA Invite from April 2, 2024, to April 6, 2024, as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the Boys Tennis Team overnight trip to Bloomington, IL, from May 3, 2024, to May 4, 2024, to participate in the U-High Invite. Expenses will be funded by the Booster Club

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve of the Boys Tennis Team overnight trip to Bloomington, IL, from May 3, 2024, to May 4, 2024, 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 for the ACC Automotive Program to host their Annual Car Show at the Pope Building on September 22, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve the ACC Automotive Program to host their Annual Car Show at the Pope Building on September 22, 2024, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the Mock Trial Club's overnight trip to Springfield, IL, to participate in the Illinois State Bar Association's High School Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Illinois – Springfield, from March 16, 2024, to March 17, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve of the Mock Trial Club's overnight trip to Springfield, IL, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mr. Merboth, 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. Pescetto, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0 Time 6:59.m.**

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

The motion carried 6-0. Time 7:41p.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 January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve to review and retain the Executive/Closed Minutes of January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

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

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to September 1, 2022, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, as presented.

a. Special Meeting, August 24, 2022

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

Approval of the following appointments

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

a. Mrs. Jayme Salazar, Associate Principal for Student Support Service, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 (replaces Mrs. April Eutis)

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

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

The motion carried 6-0. Time: 7:43p.m.


Mr. Greg Sarver
President


Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary