

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
NOVEMBER 20, 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, Mrs. Carol Alcorn, and Mr. Scott Pescetto

ABSENT: Mr. Gary Ferrari (arrived at 6:01p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Principal, Dr. Christopher Gibson, Associate Principal for Teaching and Learning, Mr. Steve Hanson, Athletic Director, Dr. Shane Lange, Director Area Career Center, Ms. Kate Lance, Associate Principal for School Safety, Mrs. Jayme Salazar, Associate Principal for Student Support Services, Mr. Matt Baker, Director of Communications, Mrs. Jennifer Does, Business Manager, Attorney Walt Zukowski and Mrs. Jennifer Riva, Board Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 23, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the minutes from October 23, 2024, Regular Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RECOGNITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Recognitions:

Mr. Sarver congratulated and recognized the L-P Girls' Tennis Team and Coaches for their commitment to excellence during and off-season. The team won the sectional championship, and six students athletes qualified for state. Eva Cervantes – Singles Grace, Pecchio – Singles, Elana Leone – Doubles, Kali Mickley – Doubles, Kylee Halm – Doubles, Izzy Pecchio – Doubles, Coaching Staff: Head Coach Aaron Guenther, Assistant Coach Scott Blessman, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Molly Leone

Special Education Teacher Mrs. Kristie Witte (Transitions), Mr. Brent Thomas (GOALS), and Mrs. Mollie Taylor (Life Skills), represented the Special Education Department highlighting enhanced parent engagement through regular meetings and opportunities for parents to actively participate in their child's education. The department has also implemented various ways of celebrating students for their citizenship, positive attitudes, and achievement of personal goals. The department's collaboration with local community organizations offers parents essential tools and resources to bridge the gap between education and career readiness, ensuring students are equipped for future success.

Public Comment:

Mr. Sarver asked the attending public 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, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve the ACC Bills as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve the Payroll as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The Motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded 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, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card from the Pescetto family for the flowers and support in memory of Mr. Paul Pescetto (Father of Mr. Scott Pescetto)

TIF Reimbursements:

City of LaSalle – Intergovt Agreement TIF's \$117,351.93, Village of North Utica – Tax Reimb TIF I, \$29,528.18, Village of North Utica – Tax Reimb TIF II \$6849.60

TOTAL TIF REIMBURSEMENT: \$153,729.71

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Building and Grounds Committee: Mr. Ferrari, Committee Chair, gave his report from the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting on Monday, November 11, 2024, reporting on the following:

Removal of East Gym Parking Lot Trees (East Side), Installation of Door Wraps and Field Signage at the LP Baseball/Softball Complex, Summer 2024 Facility Project Updates: Howard Fellows Stadium Renovation, Dolan Building Elevator, Retractable Goals in Sellett Gym Installation (Oct. 30 – Nov. 2), Replacement of Exterior Door in the Courtyard, L-P Sports Complex Phase II Updates: Press Box Windows, Kowalski Supported Project Updated: Early Childhood Playground, and the Hall of Honor Class of 2024

Finance Committee: Mr. Merboth, Committee Chair, provided the Finance report from the meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, reporting on the following: Monthly Financials, FY25-27 Facility Plan Revised Financing recommendation presentation by Mr. John Vezzetti with Bernardi Securities, and the FY2024 Tentative Levy Recommendation.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Alcorn, Committee Chair, provided the Policy report from the meeting held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, reporting on the following: Press Policy Issue 117 (October 2024) – 1st Reading, Final Exam Waiver Revision Recommendation, and the Make-up/Redo/Retake Policy Review Update.

Public Relations Committee: Mrs. Taliani, Committee Chair, provided the Public Relations report from the meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, reporting on the following: AG Program Community Engagement, Discussion on District Fundraising Procedures, and Review dates for Board Coffees.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Steven Wrobleski, reported on the following topics:

1. **2024 School Report Card Presentation:** Mrs. Cushing and I will present the 2024 school report card results. We continue to maintain our Commendable Designation.
2. **Tentative Levy for Tax Year 2024 for 2025-2026:** The tentative levy was introduced at the November 12th Finance Committee. Based on the LaSalle County Assessor's Office, our EAV is projected to increase 9.7% over last year's extension. These large increases reflect the county's continued efforts to reassess property values at market value. I recommend that this year's levy result in a 2-cent decrease in the tax rate -- which also includes additional debt service to issue \$7.5M in H/LS bonds. Instead of trying to capture the full projected EAV growth, Mrs. Does analyzed last year's extension, which came in 2.3% less than expected. We are using this model to calculate next year's levy.
3. **Veterans Day Program, November 11, 2024:** Kudos to Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Mrs. Barb Franklin, and Mr. Matt Baker for their leadership organizing this year's Veterans Day Program. L-P alum, and current Lt. Commander Michael Shea served as our keynote speaker. He did a wonderful job. Lt. Commander Shea was a classmate of Mr. Matt Glupczynski. Dimmick Grade School students attended again. Our students -- as expected -- exhibited model behavior.
4. **Board Member Appreciation Day, November 15, 2024:** November 15 marked the official statewide observance of School Board Members Day in Illinois. On behalf of the L-P staff, students, and community, I want to thank you for your dedicated support to student and adult learning! We are fortunate to have seven community leaders willing to volunteer, providing invaluable support and oversight to one of democracy's great institutions.
5. **RIF Joint Review Committee on Honorable Discharge Recommendations Update, November 20, 2024:** On November 20, our RIF Joint Review Committee is tentatively scheduled to conduct our required annual meeting, reviewing the negotiable criteria regarding our honorable discharge procedures. Committee members include Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Mrs. Kristen Adams, Mrs. Rachel Patrick, and me.
6. **Triple I Conference, November 22-24, 2024:** We have a team of five Board members and four staff members attending this year's Board conference in Chicago. The conference packet will be shared at Wednesday's Board meeting. Attendees include Carol Alcorn, Matt and Paula Baker, Jennifer and Mike Does, Gary Ferrari, Jennifer and John Riva, Matt and Angie Merboth, Scott and Rachel Pescetto, Sally and Jim Taliani, and Steven and Kristin Wrobleski.
7. **School Meals Administrative Review, December 9 & 10, 2024:** ISBE has scheduled a school meals review audit next month. Mrs. Does and Mrs. Picco are working with Mr. Riahi to prepare for the on-site visit.
8. **FOIA Requests:** We received the following FOIA request.

Requestor	Date	Request	District Action
John Fredericks	10/11/24	1. A complete copy of the personnel file for Steven R. Wrobleski, including but not limited to employment records, performance evaluations, disciplinary records, and any other documents maintained as part of his personnel file. 2. Copies of all W-2 forms issued to Steven R. Wrobleski for the prior five fiscal years. 3. Any and all	We were notified of this FOIA via the Attorney General's office on November 7, 2024. I never received a copy of Mr. Frederick's email. However, our IT department

		correspondence (including emails, letters, memos, or other forms of communication including phone records and text messages) that reference or mention “air horns” or “spectators” or any similar terms within the last 2 business days. 4. District policies on spectator participation including air horn usage as well as related signage.	discovered it on our school network. A response will be sent on November 18, 2024. We have worked with Attorney Zukowski’s office in the preparation of the response.
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PRINCIPAL

Mr. Ingrid Cushing, reported on the following topics:

- I shared last month that the data from the Parent/Teacher Conferences that took place on Thursday, October 17th from 4:30PM-8:00PM and on Friday, October 18th from 7:45AM-11:55AM had not yet been finalized and that it would be ready for this month’s report. The data collection revealed:
 - # of scheduled appointments – 940 (compared to 1129 last year)
 - Thursday - 608 (last year: 655)
 - Friday - 332 (last year: 474)
 - # of scheduled appointments that you had contact with – 912 (compared to 1082 last year)
 - Thursday - 588 (last year: 626)
 - Friday - 324 (last year: 456)
 - # of walk-ins/unscheduled appointments – 107 (last year: 84)
- The ILT meeting was a productive meeting that is helping to bring consistency to our building. We discussed policies in the areas of homework make-ups, homework redos, test corrections, and test retakes. We have begun an audit that will capture all teachers’ policies so that the data can be shared with the PLC Leadership Team as we work toward building more consistency in our building.
- As we work toward our SMART goal for graduation, I have provided a report on grade distribution. We currently have 93.52% of earned grades as passing grades. Of the students of concern, we have 60 students who have 3 or more failing grades, 39 students with 2 failing grades, and 135 students with one failing grade.
- In the assessment area, many exams have been given. We administered the national military test to ten students. This number has significantly increased from previous administrations, and it is a benefit to students who need the test for their future careers. We also administered a fall window of our Seal of Biliteracy on Thursday, November 14th to 15 students. This administration allows any early graduates as well as any other students an additional opportunity to earn this honor. The 8th grade placement testing (PSAT 8/9) was conducted on October 26th, and we officially tested 138 future Cavaliers.
- We have completed almost all our required drills in the areas of fire drills, earthquake, bus evacuations and Code Red Drills. We will complete a tornado drill or one more fire drill in the Spring Semester.
- The Veterans Day Program was held on Monday, November 11th. Our guest speaker was Lt. Commander Michael Shea (Class of ’99). We honored 32 veterans, which was consistent from last year.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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

1. **Item 1:** Athletics Update
 - a. Fall Sports
 - i. The Girls' Swim Coop had 1 swimmer advance to the State meet. Sophomore Samantha Nauman advanced by winning the 100-yd backstroke and the 200 Individual Medley at the Normal West Sectional.
 - b. Winter Sports
 - i. The boys' bowling team competed in their first match of the season recently to begin the winter sports season.
 - ii. The Girls Basketball team opened their season in Somonauk on Monday. They will play 4 games this week.
 - iii. Boys Basketball and Wrestling begin their seasons the week of November 25th. The Wrestling team will open at home on November 27th and the Boys' Basketball team will open at Ottawa on November 25th.
2. **Item 2** – Activities Update
 - a. Our Marching Cavaliers competed in the Western Illinois Marching Classic on October 26th. They placed 1st in Class 4A and received caption award trophies for Best Winds and Best Drum Major. They also received the highest overall score out of 23 participating bands which awarded them Grand Champions. This is our first class victory since 2017 and only the 2nd Grand Champion win in program history.
 - b. FBLA: Matthew Klein, Co-Founder of ReelCreative Marketing, CL Enterprises, spoke to our FBLA students on October 25.
 - c. Special Olympics participated in Sectionals the weekend of October 26th. Roslyn Miller and Eric Poole earned gold medals for bowling and will be attending state in December. Payton Watson and Jasmine Arce earned a bronze medal in the unified doubles competition.
 - d. The TOPS club organized a spirit week, October 28th -November 1st, for our Red Ribbon Celebration. They created dress up days and provided drug free messaging throughout the week.
 - e. The Drama Club entertained audiences with their performance of 'Love of a Pig' on November 15 and 16th.
3. **Item 3:** Hall of Honor Class of 2024-25
 - a. The Hall of Honor committee met on Monday, October 28th to determine the class of 2024-25 Hall of Honor class to be presented to the Board on 11/20.
 - b. The Class of 2024-25 will be recognized on Friday, February 7th at the home basketball game vs Ottawa. The Class of 2024-25 will be inducted on Saturday, February 8th.

ACC DIRECTOR

Dr. Shane Lange, reported on the following topics:

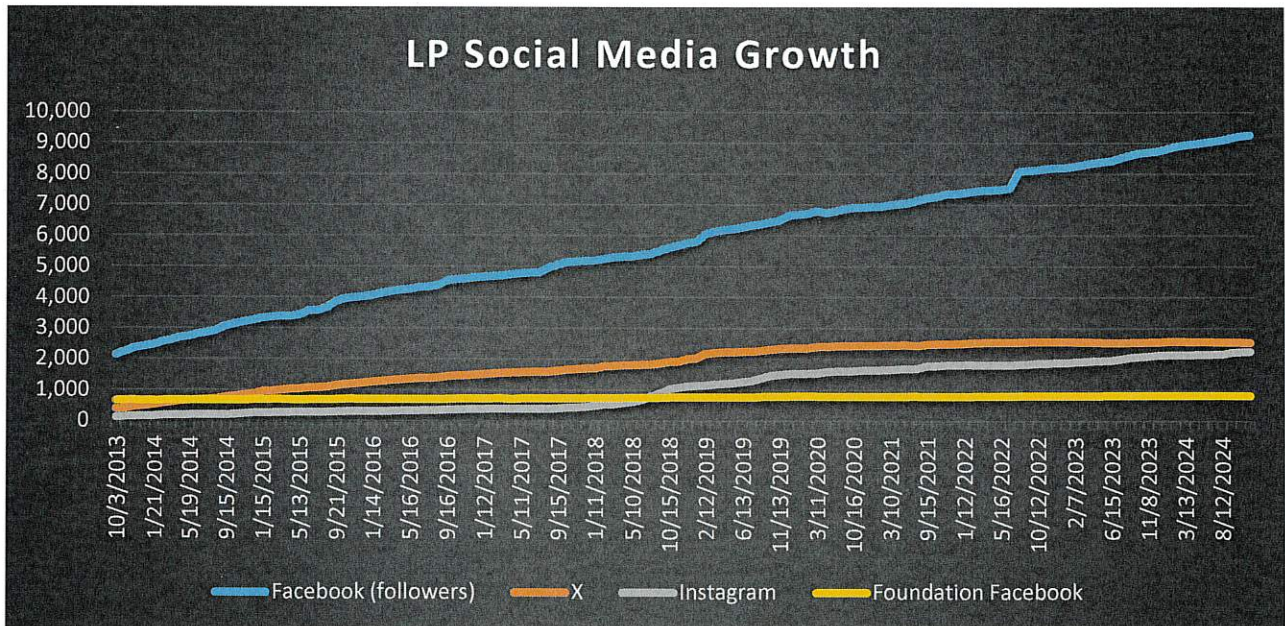
- The Early Childhood Education program began teaching little ones at the beginning of this month. Each student is assigned to one or two little ones, and they are responsible for their care and learning activities for the week. Lori's program provides hands-on learning for the student teachers as well as the younger ones. These activities range from planting seeds and observing their growth, to reflective activities such as painting in response to the story of the day.
- In preparation for stakeholder discussions about the Computer program at the ACC, we recycled 8 pallets of antiquated computers, monitors, and electronic parts. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to assemble a group of interested and relevant community members to discuss the future focus of the program on the direction of the ACC BOC.

- On November 1st, Health Occupations students visited National University of Health Sciences in Lombard where they had an opportunity to experience their anatomy lab. Students viewed a medical cadaver and interacted with kidneys, hearts, and other organs.
- The Welding students completed a project for Cyclops Welding and Manufacturing. The owner reached out to Joe to have the students expand on previous work they completed for his company's Celebration of Lights display for Rotary Park. The display features welders using the GMAW process and will include motion.
- On November 13th 109 Sophomores from Mendota High School visited the Area Career. They began their morning in the Matthiessen Memorial Auditorium where they heard about the benefits of CTE coursework and the wealth of opportunities in the region. Then, they were broken into groups and heard from the program teachers across the ACC. On the 25th, Princeton students will be experiencing a similar tour.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Matt Baker, reported on the following topics:

- We live streamed the Veterans Day Assembly and added a new element of sharing live video of the presenter on the new display board.
- We continue to develop media content for the video display board for Huddles, athletic events, and other activities.



NEW BUSINESS

Approval to place the tentative 2024 tax levy for the school year 2025-2026 on public display in preparation for the truth-in-taxation hearing on December 18, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to place the tentative 2024 tax levy for the school year 2025-2026 on public display in preparation for the truth-in-taxation hearing on December 18, 2024, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the 2025-2027 LP - Lostant Intergovernmental Agreement

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve the 2025-2027 LP - Lostant Intergovernmental Agreement, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval to induct the Class of 2024 L-P Hall of Honor inductees as recommended by the Selection Committee

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve to induct the Class of 2024 L-P Hall of Honor inductees as recommended by the Selection Committee, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the 2024 School Report Card

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve the 2024 School Report Card, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the Final Exam Waiver Policy allowing three college visits per year

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve of the Final Exam Waiver Policy allowing three college visits per year, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PRESS Policy Issue 117, October 2024, 1st Reading - Non-Action Item

Approval of the following retirement:

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

- a. Mrs. Tiara Bedenko-Hill, Business Teacher, effective the conclusion of the 2029-2030 school year

Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the following resignations:

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve of the following resignations, as presented:

- a. Mr. Jose Medina, Head Football Coach, effective the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year
- b. Mr. Patrick Carney, Assistant Football Coach, effective November 1, 2024
- c. Mr. Jason Hartman, Volunteer Assistant Football Coach, effective November 1, 2024

Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the following appointments:

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve of the following appointments, as presented:

- a. Mr. Jose Medina, Head Football Coach, effective the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year
- b. Mr. Patrick Carney, Assistant Football Coach, effective November 1, 2024
- c. Mr. Jason Hartman, Volunteer Assistant Football Coach, effective November 1, 2024

Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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) Purchase or lease of real property for the

use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, with open session and possible action items to follow.

Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0. Time 7:27 p.m.**

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to return to open session. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0. Time 8:20 p.m.**

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to review and retain the following executive/closed session minutes for Regular Meeting Minutes, October 23, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to review and retain the following executive/closed session minutes for Regular Meeting Minutes, October 23, 2024, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval to destruct verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to June 1, 2023, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

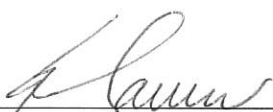
MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to June 1, 2023, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, as presented.

- a. Special Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2023
- b. Special Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2023
- c. Regular Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2023

Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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

The motion carried 7-0. Time: 8:21 p.m.



Mr. Greg Sarver
President



Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary