

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
FEBRUARY 19, 2025, 6:00 PM**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Greg 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 6:06p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, 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 JANUARY 22, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AND JANUARY 30, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the minutes from January 22, 2025, Regular Meeting, and January 30, 2025, Special Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RECOGNITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

The Board of Education recognized Mrs. Andrea Eichelkraut and Mrs. Sue Brooker, CavalCare Co-Advisors, for their exceptional leadership of the program. They have approximately 100 students in the program Mr. Eichelkraut and Mrs. Brooker have trained mentors, prepared them for the experience, and managed data reporting to Marquis Energy. In January, Marquis sponsored the first celebration luncheon, recognizing students who successfully achieved their goals with incentive checks.

Division Spotlight

Mr. Troy Woods, Division Chair and Social Science Teacher, represented the Social Science department along with AP students Nick Olivero, Nathali Aguirre, Stacie Albiter, Cassidy Baker, and Danni Santoy, highlighting the team-based approach the class takes to preparing for the AP U.S. History exam. Students praised the supportive classroom environment and the sense of collaboration fostered by Mr. Woods, which contributed to their success. As a result, the class achieved a record-high average score of 4.11 on the AP U.S. History exam, with a 100% passing rate.

Mr. Nathan McCarthy, CEO of Solar on Earth, provided an overview of the information discussed during an initial meeting with Dr. Wroblewski, Mr. Sarver, and Mr. Merboth. He explained how consumers can support clean energy production by subscribing to a portion of a solar farm, with their subscription based on electricity consumption. In return, subscribers receive solar credits on their utility bills. The

partnership with L-P results in annual savings of approximately \$11,500, with potential additional discounts increasing the total savings to \$13,000. There is no out-of-pocket expense for the district.

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 Mrs. Alcorn, to approve the ACC Bills 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.**

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve the Payroll 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.**

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you letter from Mrs. Cheryl DePaepe for the Board of Education's donation to the L-P Educational Foundation in memory of Mr. Francis Scoma (Father-in-law of Mrs. Jennifer Scoma and Grandfather of Mr. Andrew Scoma) and Marjorie Ann Vincent (Mother of Mrs. Kathy Prosinski)
- TIF REIMBURSEMENTS:
 - Village of Tonica \$9,660.36
 - City of LaSalle \$8,668.56
 - TOTAL TIF REIMBURSEMENT: \$18,328.92

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Building and Grounds Committee: Mr. Ferrari, Committee Chair, gave his report from the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025, reporting on the following: Solar on Earth Partnership Recommendation, Ag Building Construction Design Team meeting on February 18th, Series 2025 update, Update on Existing Facility Projects: Kitchen Freezer Coller Replacement, Sellett Gym North Bleachers Motor Mount Replacement, Dolan Building Elevator, Sip-N-Savor/Dishwasher Room Remodel Phase I, and Kitchen Ansul System.

Finance Committee: Mr. Merboth, Committee Chair, provided the Finance report from the meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, reporting on the following: Monthly Financials, Solar on Earth Partnership Recommendation, Insurance 2025-2026 Preliminary Rate Renewal, Series 2025 Update, Health Occupations Renovation Bid Opening on February 12th Resignation of Mr. Peter Corgiat, and the IL GEAR UP Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Steven Wroblewski, reported on the following topics:

1. **Staffing Update for FY 2026**: We expect to have nearly all students enrolled for 2025-2026 by the start of March. Once this is complete, we begin the process of sectioning classes to determine our staffing needs for next year. If necessary, we will have staffing recommendations for the Board at our meeting in March. Full-time teaching positions open for 2025-2026 are in Science, English, and a Classroom Paraprofessional.

2. **Ag Building Design Team Meetings**: Our work team meets on February 19, 2025, and March 4, 2025. Nearly twenty people have signed up for the team, including students, staff, parents, Board members, and community members. I plan to have a conceptual framework completed following the March 4 meeting. I will share this information as I begin our capital campaign work.

3. **LaSalle County Health Department Food Establishment Inspection Report (1/29/25)**: On January 29, 2025, the Health Department completed an unannounced kitchen inspection. Their report is attached to my report. We received perfect marks – with no violations.

4. **FOIA Requests**: We received the following FOIA requests in the past month.

Requestor	Date	Request	District Action
Illinois Valley Times, Mr. Owen Wang	January 28, 2025	Copy or all emails and memos from the past 12 months that contain the following keywords: “Lucy Calkins” “Units of Study”	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 our teachers who are on the evaluation schedule this year.
- As we ensure that we are working to have a more comprehensive approach with our PLC process, we have instituted quarterly review meetings. We meet with our administration and division chairs each quarter to discuss the data that connects with our SMART goals as well as discussion on the various strategies we can use as solutions to creating a higher achieving student body.
- 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 last week of January to over 100 ELL students. The rest of the mandated State testing occurs in April. The ACT test will be held on April 1st and the corresponding tests for 9th and 10th grade students will occur on April 2nd.
- Our student registration process is very 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 19 and April 9. This program has allowed 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 27 at 7:00PM. We will be honoring 301 students for earning high scholarship for 3 semesters, 5 semesters, and 7 semesters.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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

1. Item 1:

a. Winter Sports

- i. The Boys basketball will finish their regular season on 2/21 at Kaneland. The Cavs are hosting the 3A Regional on February 26th and 28th. The winner of the LP Regional will advance to the Washington Sectional.
- ii. The Girls Bowling will compete in the Oregon Sectional on Saturday February 14th. The Girls won the Regional title on February 7th at Dixon.
- iii. The Wrestling team will be sending 5 boys and 2 girls to the Sectional wrestling meets this weekend in Washington and Geneseo. The boys finished with 5 3rd place finishes last weekend in Kaneland, while the girls had a Regional Champion and 1 3rd place finish in Metamora.
- iv. The Girls Basketball team will play at Metamora on Saturday in the first round of the Washington Regional. The Girls take on a tough Metamora team in round 1.

2. Item 2: - Activities Update

- a. **GSA** members attended a Youth Leadership Summit in Bloomington on January 25th.
- b. **CAVS Day** training is underway. Nicole Kowalczyk and Carol Navarro have been busy preparing our Super Leaders and small group leaders for our CAVS Day on March 6th and 7th.
- c. Six of our students participated in the **Illinois Music Education Association's All-State Festival** that occurred on the weekend of January 31st. The following students were selected for this prestigious honor:
 - a. Alton Beck – All-State Jazz Band, Bass Trombone
 - b. McKenna Fanning – All-State Band, Bass Clarinet
 - c. Victoria Campbell – Future Music Educators Seminar
 - d. Noah Ruiz – All-State Chorus
 - e. Nathan Leffers – Honors Chorus
 - f. Christian Limberg – Honors Chorus
- d. Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Verucchi hosted the **Junior High Band Festival** on Wednesday, February 5th. Members of our feeder schools along with our Band and Choir put on a beautiful performance.
- e. **Key Club and Interact Club** hosted their annual blood drive on Thursday, February 13th.
- f. **ACES** - Sixteen of our students competed at the Academic Challenge for Engineering and Science Regional Competition at IVCC on February 7th. Results are pending.
- g. **Huddles** – On January 31st, we celebrated our AP teachers and 48 current students that passed one or more of their AP exams last year. These 48 students passed a total of 96 AP exams. At our February 14th huddle, our **United Special Olympics and Lead Basketball** team took on our teachers in a friendly game of Basketball. The atmosphere was electric.

ACC DIRECTOR

Dr. Shane Lange, reported on the following topics:

- Several students are taking part in an internship this semester. There are 8 second year Early Childhood Education students that are spending time on location and practicing the skills they learned in the ECE class. Several Welding students are gaining experience with local businesses as well. Vactor of Streator, Black Brothers of Mendota, and Powerlift Doors of Spring Valley are currently hosting ACC students. A few other possible internships in the works are with Kuhn Engineering of Mendota, Alloy Specialties of Blackstone, and HCC of Mendota. The Machining program has a student currently working with Machinery Maintenance in LaSalle.
- The ACC scheduled to have the "Born to Fly" Airforce flight simulator for the Aviation, and any other interested students, on February 27th. On March 11th, many of the ACC students will take a visit to IVCC to meet with representatives from the Illinois Valley Building Trades Council. The students will learn about the different trades unions, their apprenticeship process, and participate in some hands-on activities.

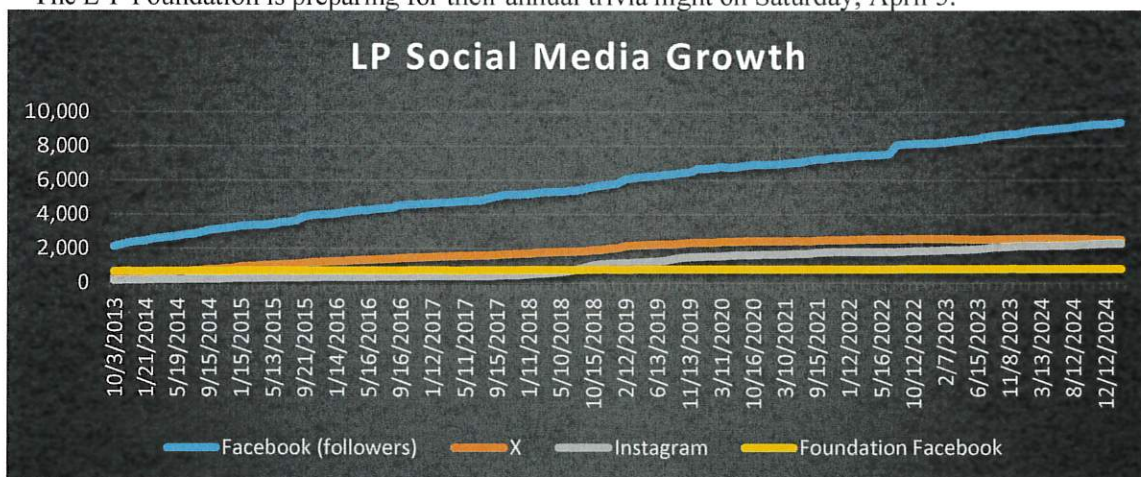
- Registration is underway for the 2025-2026 school year, and we expect similar to somewhat higher enrollments next year based on interest surveys. We look forward to meeting with the ACC Curriculum Committee to research the need and interest for additional programming.



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Matt Baker, reported on the following topics:

- We assisted with promoting and creating materials for the Hall of Honor festivities, as well as live streaming the induction ceremony and sharing photos from the weekend with inductees.
- We're assisting the musical production team with preparing promotional materials and overseeing ticket sales. As a reminder, Board members receive two complimentary tickets to any performance. Please contact Mrs. Riva or Mr. Baker with your preferred performance date and seats as soon as possible.
- We continue to develop media content for the video display board for Huddles, athletic events, and other activities.
- The L-P Foundation is preparing for their annual trivia night on Saturday, April 5.



NEW BUSINESS

Approval to award Vissering Construction Company, Streator, IL, the contract for the Health Occupations Classroom Renovation for \$962,000

MOTION by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve awarding Vissering Construction Company, Streator, IL, the contract for the Health Occupations Classroom Renovation for \$962,000, 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.**

Approval of the L-P Sports Complex 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve of the L-P Sports Complex 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval to authorize the superintendent to sign and execute the IL GEAR UP Participation Agreement with the condition that LaSalle Elementary School District 122 additionally executes the agreement as a partner district

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Dr. Lynch, approve to authorize the superintendent to sign and execute the IL GEAR UP Participation Agreement with the condition that LaSalle Elementary School District 122 additionally executes the agreement as a partner district as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0**

Approval to execute the Solar on Earth Partnership Agreement

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, approve to execute the Solar on Earth Partnership Agreement, 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.**

Approval to let bids for the Beverage/Sponsorship Contract

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve to let bids for the Beverage/Sponsorship Contract, 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 release the identified February 6, 2022, Executive Session recording to Ms. Julie Ajster per the Public Access Bureau

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve to release the identified February 6, 2022, Executive Session recording to Ms. Julie Ajster per the Public Access Bureau, 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.**

Approval of the 2025-2026 District Calendar

MOTION by Dr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve of the 2025-2026 District Calendar, as presented. Voting Aye: Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the retirements with regret:

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve of the following retirements with regret as presented:

- a. Mrs. Wendy Zuchowski, AAP Teacher, effective the conclusion of the 2029-2030 school year
- b. Mrs. Lori Turczyn, ACC Culinary Arts Teacher, effective the conclusion of the 2029-2030 school year
- c. Mrs. Kristen Adams, Teacher, effective the conclusion of the 2029-2030 school year

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

Approval of the following resignations:

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

- a. Mr. Fran Baker, Assistant Football Coach, effective February 6, 2025
- b. Mr. Peter Corgiat, Board of Education Treasurer, effective February 7, 2025
- c. Mrs. Becky Johnson, Paraprofessional, effective February 14, 2025

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

Approval of the following appointments:

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to approve of the following appointments as presented:

- a. Mr. Kennedy Carey, Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. Fran Baker)
- b. Mr. Patrick Carney, Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. JJ Raffelson/split stipend with Mr. Jack Mertes)
- c. Mr. Jared Mundt, Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. Joe Goskusky)
- d. Mr. Matthew Lambert, Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. Pat Carney)
- e. Mr. Joe Goskusky, Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. JJ Raffelson/split stipend with Mr. Jack Mertes)

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 TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, 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. Alcorn, Mr. Ferrari, Mrs. Taliani, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0 Time 7:05p.m.**

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to return to open session. 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. Time 7:53p.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

Imminent/Pending Litigation

Target Corporation, PIN # 17-05-202-001 & 17-05-202-002

Dr. Wroblewski explained that the tax objection to PTAB is over \$100,000 and recommended the Board authorize him to intervene with the Target tax objection and enter an intergovernmental agreement with taxing bodies, IVCC, Dimmick, and LaSalle County Board, to share the cost.

Approval and retain the Executive Closed Session minutes for January 22, 2025, Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mr. Merboth seconded by Dr. Lynch, to approve to review and retain the Executive/Closed Minutes of January 22, 2025, Regular Meeting, 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 review of recommended destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to September 1, 2023, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mr. Ferrari, to approve to review of recommended destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to September 1, 2023, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

- a. August 16, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. August 23, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the following appointments:

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

- a. Mr. Russell Anderson – Director of Technology-elect, effective February 20, 2025 (replaces Mrs. Amy Williams)
- b. Mr. Riley Hintzsche – Ag Teacher, effective the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mr. James Kline)
- c. Mrs. Lori Whalen – District Treasurer, effective February 20, 2025 (replaces Mr. Peter Corgiat)

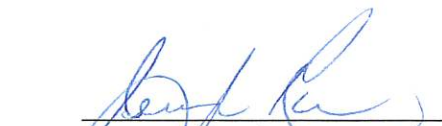
Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Authorized the superintendent to intervene with the Target tax objection and sign an Intergovernmental agreement with taxing bodies, IVCC, Dimmick, and LaSalle County Board, to share the cost.

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to authorize the superintendent to intervene with the Target tax objection and sign an Intergovernmental agreement with taxing bodies, IVCC, Dimmick, and LaSalle County Board, to share the cost, as presented. 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.**

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Merboth, to adjourn. 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. Time: 7:58p.m.**


Mr. Greg Sarver
President


Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary