

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
OCTOBER 22, 2025, 6:00 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sarver, President, called to order the Regular Meeting at 6:01 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. Scott Pescetto, Mrs. Carol Alcorn, Mrs. Chris Krzyaniak, Mr. Gary Ferrari, and Mr. Matt Merboth

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Principal, Ms. Kate Lance, Associate Principal for Teaching and Learning, Mr. Steve Hanson, Athletic Director, Dr. Shane Lange, Director Area Career Center, Mr. Jason Miller, 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, and Attorney Walt Zukowski

APPROVAL TO APPOINT MRS. SALLY TALIANI AS BOARD SECRETARY, PRO TEM FOR THE OCTOBER 22, 2025, BOARD MEETING

Motion by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to amend the agenda to appoint Mrs. Sally Taliani, as Board Secretary, Pro Tem for the October 22, 2025, Board Meeting. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AND OCTOBER 13, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING

MOTION by Mrs. Krzyaniak, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to approve the minutes from September 24, 2025, Regular Meeting, and October 13, 2025, Special Meeting, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RECOGNITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Division Spotlight

Science Teacher, Dan Burkart, represented the Science Division highlighting the wide variety of courses such as Chemistry/AP Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Biology, Honors Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy/Physiology, Forensic Science, and Sports Medicine while showcasing student projects and labs. Mr. Burkart welcomed new teachers, Mr. Glenn Hall, Biology Teacher, and Mrs. Gina Martin, Sports Medicine Teacher, and expressed gratitude for the Board and L-P Foundation's support and the educational resources awarded to the department through Foundation grants.

Public Comment

Mr. Sarver asked the attending public if there were any comments or questions. No comments or questions were voiced.

Presidents Report

Mr. Sarver provided an update on the superintendent candidate search and interview process.

FINANCE

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Report for FY 2025, Mr. Bill Newkirk, CPA, Newkirk & Associates

Dr. Wroblewski provided an update that the auditor was unable to attend due to the government shutdown and related reporting issues.

TIF REIMBURSEMENTS:

• Village of North Utica – TIF 1 3 rd REIM DIS	\$41,492.59
• TIF 2 3 rd REIM DIS	\$14,415.33
• City of LaSalle – Intergovt Agreement TIFs	\$104,454.12
• City of Oglesby – 3 rd Installment	\$ 5,484.12

TOTAL TIF REIMBURSEMENT: \$165,846.16

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Building and Grounds Committee: Mr. Ferrari, Committee Chair, gave his report from the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025, reporting on the following: Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2025 meeting, Ag Building Update, Summer 2025 Facility Project Updates: Sip-N-Savor, Health Occupations Remodel, Chartres Street Courtyard, and Roofing Repair/Replacement and Masonry Restoration.

ROE HLS Walk-through updates 9/24/25, Track Resurfacing Update, Dance Studio Floor Update, and L-P Sports Complex Artwork Update.

Public Relations Committee: Mr. Scott Pescetto., Committee Chair, gave his report from the Public Relations Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025, reporting on the following: Approval of Minutes form the November 14, 2024, meeting, E-Calvaletter, Ag Building Capital Campaign, Board Coffees 2025-2026

Finance Committee: Mr. Merboth, Committee Chair, provided the Finance report from the meeting held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, reporting on the following: Approval of minutes from September 17, 2025, meeting, Monthly Financials, Howard Fellos Stadium Relight Project Update, Ag Building Update, Series 2025/2026 Debt Certificates General Obligation Bonds Update, Bus Contract Update and Const Tracker Update.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Steven Wroblewski, reported on the following topics:

- **Principal Appreciation Week:** The week of October 20-26, 2024, is Principal Appreciation Week, with October 25 being Principal Appreciation Day. Please join me in celebrating the work and commitment of Mrs. Cushing and our entire building administrative team.
- **Tax Year 2024 for School Year 2025-2026 Extension:** We received our tentative EAV numbers from the county. It appears that EAV will increase again. This time, the County Office predicts a 9.7% increase.
- **Update on ROE Health/Life Safety Visit:** My report includes the HLS violations identified by the ROE on their September 23, 2024 walk-through. We had a very good review – only one item to repair.
- **Discover Manufacturing Expo, October 15:** Approximately 60 L-P students attended a field trip to a local manufacturer to learn more about a possible career field. Following the field trip, students were bussed to IVCC for a tour of their vocational/CTE programs, attended a keynote speaker, and learned about programs available at IVCC.
- **Collaborative Team Meeting with Jack Baldermann, October 21:** On October 21, our Solution Tree consultant, Mr. Jack Baldermann, will meet with representatives from the English, Math, and Science divisions. The focus will be on using common assessment data for planning and intervention purposes. We look forward to having Jack on campus again!
- **School Improvement Day, October 23:** October 23 is a ½ day with periods 1-4 meeting. Articulation with our elementary sender schools was the original plan; however, LaSalle Elementary and Peru Elementary cannot attend this year. Since they make up nearly 2/3 of the incoming freshmen, we decided to use the time for building projects. Instead, we have planned an all-school program in which we will examine the results of the 5Essentials, a ProPath needs assessment (from Solution Tree), and collection of feedback on the pre-huddle/huddle experiences.
- **PLC Leadership Team Retreat, October 25:** I am leading our first academic retreat, and our division chairs and building administrators are meeting over periods 1-5 to discuss our progress on our SMART goals. I also intend to lead a discussion wherein we begin to talk about what we need to be “loose” on and “tight” on. This exercise aims to model how we reach a consensus on essential district initiatives.
- **Replanting the Ag Program:** On Friday, October 30, we are hosting a school-wide/community informational meeting on replanting the L-Ps agriculture program. The primary focus is to sign-up parents for one of our three subcommittees: 1) curriculum; 2) Ag shop building design team; and 3) capital campaign.
- **5Essentials:** The results of last year’s 5Essential survey as in! I’ll have more to share on the quality of the results.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Ingrid Cushing, reported on the following topics:

- The first quarter ended on Friday, October 10th. Teachers have been busy wrapping up their grades and beginning the transition to the 2nd quarter.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences took place on Thursday, October 16th from 4:30PM-8:00PM and on Friday, October 17th from 7:45AM-11:55AM. While registration numbers look good at this point in the process, I will provide data at our next meeting with the final totals for attendance.
- Instructional Leadership Team (ILT): Our team met this month to discuss a course proposal, review the student grades, and discuss some logistical updates.
- On October 22nd our Link Crew Leaders, who are student leaders who support our freshmen with their transition to high school, attended a leadership training with Ted Wiese. Then during the early release day, our faculty experienced the leadership training with Mr. Wiese as well.

- Our schoolwide initiative of the Academic Success Program is being established in the classrooms. As with any new schoolwide program, we have been heavily involved with answering questions and explaining how the program applies in various scenarios. The rationale for the program was to help students learn the content in their classes thoroughly and holds them accountable. Based on the students consistently high passing rates, this program is having the intended effect.
- We continue to work toward strengthening our PLC framework with our PLCs at Work consultant, who worked with our PLC Leadership Team, which consists of administration and division members, on Monday, October 20th, on ACT alignment, reviewing our data, and considering how our instructional practices our supporting our district SMART goals.
- Our School Safety Office has been busy with conducting more of our required drills. We have completed the earthquake drill and additional ALICE/Code Red drills this month. We are on track to being able to complete all required drills.
- In the area of testing, the office of the Associate Principal for Teaching and Learning has been busy with administering the PSAT/NMSQT for sophomores and juniors and also administering the preACT 8/9 for the 8th grade placement test. We changed the format to increase our participation by holding the testing during the school day and not a Saturday morning. With this change, we have increased participation by almost 40%.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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

ITEM 1—Athletic Update

- a. The Boys Golf team had 3 individuals qualify for the Sectional Tournament:
 - i. Geno Argubright
 - ii. Adan Chiu
 - iii. Ben Nicholson
- b. The Girls Golf team had 3 individuals qualify for the Sectional Tournament:
 - i. Mary Craven
 - ii. Sophia Chiu
 - iii. Quinn Mertes
- c. The Girls' Swim COOP won our own LP Pentathlon and have not lost a dual meet this season.
- d. The Boys' Soccer team opens up regional play on 10/20 in the Ottawa Regional. They are the number 1 seed in the Regional.
- e. The Volleyball team improved to 24-3 this week. They have received the #1 seed in our sub-sectional and will open regional play on 10/29 at Galesburg.
- f. The Football team sits at 2-5 heading into Kaneland.
- g. Special Events—
 - i. LP sent 12 student leaders to the Interstate 8 Leadership Conference held at Morris Country Club on 10/14.
 - ii. LP will be hosting the Girls' Volleyball Sectional on 11/4 and 11/6

ITEM 2—Activities Update

- a. **FBLA** hosted Connor Cofoid to speak with students about finding their career path and getting into an entrepreneurial mindset.
- b. The **Marching Cavaliers** placed first in Class 2A at the Morton Marching Invitational at Morton High School on September 27th. In addition, they received awards for Best Percussion and Best Winds. On October 11th, our marching cavaliers placed third in 2A at the Illinois State University Marching Band Competition. They also performed at the Burgoo Festival in Utica the following day.
- c. **Junior Board** organized and hosted this year's Variety Show to kick off Homecoming Week. More than 13 talented groups and individuals took the stage to showcase their skills. The

evening concluded with the crowning of the 2025 Homecoming Queen, Claire Boudreau, and King, Gus Konieczki.

- d. **Student Council** prepared a fun and engaging Homecoming Week full of school spirit. The senior girls claimed the title of 2025 Powder Puff Champions, and the parade was a huge success. The pep rally kept the energy high with plenty of spirited activities, including a crowd favorite: Mrs. Kochis and Mr. Raffelson getting pied in the face! Students wrapped up the week with a beautiful lantern-themed dance to celebrate an unforgettable Homecoming.
- e. The **Choir**, under the direction of Natalie Verucchi, delivered a beautiful fall choral concert on October 9th, captivating the audience with stunning harmonies and seasonal cheer!

ACC DIRECTOR

Dr. Shane Lange, reported on the following topics:

Around 50 students from Welding and Machining participated in the Manufacturing Expo on Tuesday. This valuable career and technical education field trip allowed students to engage with our local industry and higher education partners. The students began their day with a tour of HCC, Inc., a manufacturing company in Mendota specializing in agricultural equipment and steel fabrication. This provided them with direct exposure to a real-world manufacturing environment. Following the tour, the students visited Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) for three sessions. These sessions allowed our students to gain practical experience with the skills taught in IVCC's technical programs and meet other industry partners. This is a critical step in bridging the gap between classroom learning and future career opportunities. This collaborative effort with local businesses, SRAVTE, and IVCC provided our students with invaluable insight into potential career pathways right here in our community. We are confident that this experience will help shape their future academic and career decisions.

The culinary program recently hosted and catered breakfast for principals and administrators from our partner schools. This event was a success and a prime example of our students' practical skills and professionalism. Under the guidance of Lori Turczyn, the students planned the menu, prepared all the food, and managed service during the event. This occasion was a valuable real-world learning experience, providing our students with a chance to apply their classroom knowledge in a professional setting. It also served as an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with our partner schools, showcasing the talent and hands-on training our career center provides. It also gave students an opportunity to interact with their administrators in a positive way.

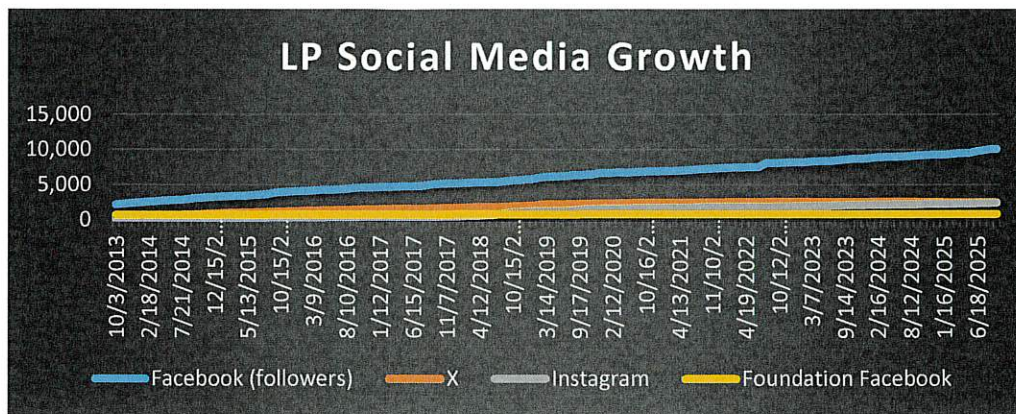
Fire Science students recently visited Waltham Elementary School in Utica to deliver an educational and engaging demonstration for the students for Fire Prevention Week. Our students taught the younger students some critical life-saving lessons, including the fire safety procedures, "Stop, Drop, and Roll" technique, how and when to use a fire extinguisher, and the importance of having working smoke detectors and a family escape plan. This demonstration not only reinforced our students' learning but also allowed them to serve as role models and mentors to the next generation.

The ACC Maintenance grant was submitted last week for the 2nd floor project of the Dolan Building. This project has a scope of renovating the 2nd floor restrooms, adding a preschool restroom, and replacing the rest of hallway flooring.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Matt Baker, reported on the following topics:

- We're still busy creating game day graphics for superfans, volleyball, football, and other fall sports/activities, along with internal hallway graphics thanks in large part to the efforts of our Student Assistants.
- We livestreamed the Fall Choral Concert thanks to Mrs. Does.
- The L-P Foundation has begun meeting. They have also approved hiring an independent part-time grant writer to assist in acquiring additional funds for auditorium enhancements.



NEW BUSINESS

Approval to adopt Governor Pritzker's proclamation declaring October 19-25, 2025, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 24, 2025

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, seconded by Mr. Pescetto, to adopt Governor Pritzker's proclamation declaring October 19-25, 2025, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 24, 2025, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval to hire Tieman Builders for the dishwasher room remodel project for \$46,594.00

Tabled

Approval of the following appointments:

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

- Ms. Kiersten Tieman, Assistant Winter Cheer Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (replaces Mrs. Becky Johnson)
 - Mr. Mike Lynch, Volunteer Baseball Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year
 - Mr. Michael Taylor, Volunteer Special Olympics Coach, effective for the 2025-2026 school year
- Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the following maternity/paternity leave requests:

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve of the following maternity/paternity leave requests, as presented:

- Mrs. Courtney Curley, beginning on or about Wednesday, April 2, 2025, and returning for the 2025-2026 school year. She will use her accumulated sick days and unpaid leave.
- Mr. Aaron Guenther, for one week beginning on or about Wednesday, April 4, 2025. He will use his accumulated sick days to cover the leave.

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

Approval of the LP Crunching Cavs Youth Wrestling Program request to host the annual Crunching Cavs Classic Tournament at L-P High School on Sunday, January 25, 2026

Motion by Mr. Pescetto, seconded by Mrs. Krzyaniak, to approval the LP Crunching Cavs Youth Wrestling Program request to host the annual Crunching Cavs Classic Tournament at L-P High School on Sunday, January 25, 2026, as presented. Voting Aye: Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Ferrari, 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) 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, with open session and possible action items to follow. Voting Aye: Mr. Ferrari, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0. Time: 6:37p.m.**

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Krzyaniak, to return to open session. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0. Time 6:49p.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, and Attorney Walt Zukowski

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to review and retain the following executive/closed session minutes for Regular Meeting Minutes, September 24, 2025

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Krzyaniak, to review and retain the following executive/closed session minutes for Regular Meeting Minutes, September 24, 2025, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Merboth, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

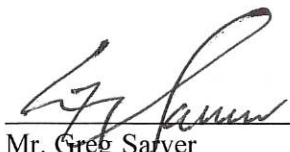
Approval to destruct verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to April 1, 2024, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Krzyaniak, to approve destruction of verbatim audio records from Executive Session held prior to April 1, 2024, per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, as presented.

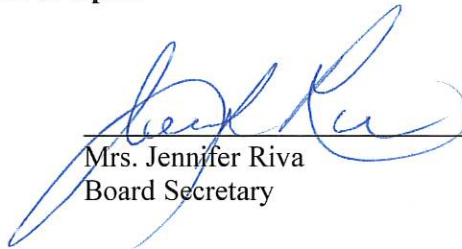
- a. Special Meeting Minutes, March 6, 2024
- b. Regular Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2024

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

MOTION by Mr. Merboth, seconded by Mrs. Krzyaniak, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Krzyaniak, Mr. Pescetto, Mrs. Alcorn, Mr. Merboth, Mrs. Taliani, Mr. Ferrari, and Mr. Sarver. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried 7-0. Time: 6:49p.m.**



Mr. Greg Sarver
President



Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary