

LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
Lake Central High School – LGI Room – Enter Door G
8400 Wicker Avenue, St. John, Indiana 46373
Monday, October 17, 2016 – 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Lake Central School Corporation was held in the Lake Central High School LGI Room, 8410 Wicker Avenue, St. John, IN on October 17, 2016. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Don Bacso, Member
 John DeVries, President
 Janice Malchow, Vice-President
 Howard Marshall, Member

Board Members Not Present

Sandy Lessentine, Secretary

Administration Present

Sarah Castaneda, Director of Secondary Education
 Al Gandolfi, Assistant Superintendent
 Rob James, Director of Business Services
 Bill Ledyard, Director of Facilities
 Theresa Schoon, Director of Primary Education
 Dr. Lawrence Veracco, Superintendent

Administration Not Present

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 17, 2016 @ 7:30 pm

*All Motions Were Passed With a 4-0
 Vote Unless Otherwise Indicated*

I.	Call to Order – <i>John DeVries</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance was led by John DeVries.
II.	Verification of Receipt and Review of Board Packet – <i>Janice Malchow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has each member successfully received the electronic version of tonight’s board agenda, along with the individual supporting documents, reviewed them, and directed any questions or corrections to Dr. Veracco, prior to this meeting? Bacso – Yes DeVries - Yes Lessentine – Not Present Malchow – Yes Marshall - Yes
III.	Agenda: Approval, Deletions, Additions - <i>Dr. Veracco</i> - Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions to the Agenda include additional Professional Leave Requests under Sarah Castaneda’s section and an addition item under section X (Board Calendar) listed as Special Board Meeting November 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. • Don Bacso moved to approve the Revised Agenda. Howard Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried.
IV.	Correspondence – <i>Sandy Lessentine</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no correspondence.

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V.	<p>Liaison Committee Updates – <i>John DeVries</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Lake Joint Managing Board: Howard Marshall 2. Building and Renovation Committee: Janice Malchow 3. Personnel Interview Committee: Howard Marshall 4. Legislative Committee: Janice Malchow 5. Lake Central Education Foundation: Janice Malchow 6. Wellness Committee: Janice Malchow 7. Dollars for Scholars: Dr. Veracco 8. Dyer Redevelopment Committee: Don Bacso 9. St. John Redevelopment Committee: John DeVries 10. Schererville Redevelopment Committee: Sandy Lessentine
VI.	<p>Official School Board Business Topics: Consent Agenda – <i>Dr. Veracco</i> – Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice Malchow moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Don Bacso seconded the motion. Motion carried.
A	<p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 3, 2017: Regular Meeting
B.	<p>Approval of Claims, Payroll and Extracurricular Expenditures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice Malchow had a question about a claim regarding software.
VII	<p>Official School Board Business Topics: Regular Agenda</p>
A	<p>Superintendent – <i>Dr. Veracco</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Safety Update – partnership with private schools in Tri-Town <p>Dr. Veracco:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tri-town Safety Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For over 4 years, LCSC has been meeting with the police and fire department leadership from all three towns in order to build relationships and problem solve • Last spring, during the bomb threat, the relationships were instrumental in planning our response and tackling the problem • From that experience, we decided that in the best interests of all children in our area, we should attempt to assist our private school leaders in devising standard approaches to school safety • Last Thursday, October 13th we met for the first time at the St. John PD to begin the process • We wanted to break the ice with introductions, share our past efforts and successes and to discuss some of the recent training and initiatives we are implementing such as the standard commands from the “I Love You Guys” protocol • We recognize the importance of safety for all children and look forward to sharing what we have learned with our private school peers in our communities

Marty Freeman:

Monthly Tri-Town Safety Meeting

1st Wednesday of each month

Committee Members

School Personnel- Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, LC Principal, LC Assistant Principals, Middle School Principals/Assistant Principals

Police- Police Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Detectives and various personnel when needed

Fire- Fire Chiefs and various personnel when needed

Lake County- Detective from Juvenile Division

Where we are going...

Private School- the chiefs from all three towns asked our assistance to help make contact with the local private schools to improve safety procedures at their respective buildings

Elementary/Middle Schools- middle schools are now sending representatives to the monthly meetings. Police and Fire representatives have participated in drills

Safety Successes

1. Corporation School Resource Officer

2. Lake Central High School Resource Officer

3. Safety Training/Increased Communication

4. Drug Awareness- Stairway to Heroin endorsed by all Departments

2. School budgets and money allocated to the classroom – a review

The 65% Solution
A decade later and this reform initiative still has no foundation in research
Larry Veracco
October 17, 2016

Basic Premise: Cut overhead and increase classroom spending

- › Increase the numerator and decrease the denominator
- › Set a target for schools to meet (65%)
- › Too many administrators and unnecessary expenditures
- › Kiernan– Shepard 2007 reduce the number of school districts (297)

Origins of this “Reform”

- › 2005, Patrick Byrne, CEO of Overstock began the push by creating First Class Education a PAC to lobby legislators across America
- › The same year, S&P subsidiary *School Matters* published a white paper clearly demonstrating no correlation exists between this formula and student achievement
- › ** Counseling activities, staff PD, security, school nurses, and librarians were NOT counted as “instructional expenditures” in the formula

True Reform = Improvement

- › Practical – can expenditures in some categories be reduced?
- › Concrete – can a one size fits all model work given the diversity of school districts in IN?
- › Common sense – what is an essential school service?
- › Research based – where is the research?

Why pick 65% of total budget?

- › Likely selected because most districts were below this threshold
- › Popular with uninformed populace because everyone dislikes “wasteful” overhead
- › **Lake Central was closer to the target prior to building in 2007 and 2012 and the education cuts in 2010
- › Misleads the public since most other school expenses are paid from local revenues and not the *state tuition support*

Indiana Model

State required districts to report data from 2010–2014

Indiana did include counselors, speech services, principals, and librarians

Indiana did not include any supplemental classroom materials, health services, custodial services, extra-curricular expenditures, utility expenses, central office including business department, security, transportation etc.

Recent Political Postcards Mislead Indiana Voters

- › States that only 57% of school budgets go to classroom activities
- › Has there EVER been any research to suggest a significant correlation between % of budget to the classroom and student achievement?
- › In Indiana, the districts with the highest performance also have lower % of expenditures to classroom activities due mainly to significantly higher debt service costs

Why list 57% number first?

- › Give the impression that school districts have lots of unnecessary expenses
- › Use the accounting switch from 2010 (no local support of general fund) to confuse
- › Convince some voters that k-12 school districts need to become better at prioritizing expenses
- › If true, why have 18/20 top performing districts in Indiana gone to their tax payers for general fund referenda?

Major Flaws with one size fits all rhetoric

- › Urban districts need more security
- › Rural districts need more to meet state mandated transportation requirement
- › Suburban districts are often growing and have higher debt service
- › All districts need security, someone to answer parental concerns, nurses to support medically fragile students, and professional development to drive the changes needed to prepare students for an ever changing world

Example 1: utility bills etc.

- › Indiana code forbids using local tax revenues that are raised for transportation operating, bus replacement, capital projects or debt service revenue for classroom expenditures
- › Implying that classroom expenditures could be paid from anywhere other than the general fund misleads the public
- › Indiana code forbids using local tax revenues that are raised for transportation operating, bus replacement, capital projects or debt service revenue from being used to pay for insurance, utility bills, or custodians
- › Implying that utility bills, custodial services or property and liability insurance could be paid from anywhere other than the general fund also misleads the public

Example 2: new construction

- › Prior to building Clark, Protsman and LCHS, LCSC % of total expenditures to classroom was higher, but:
 - › Families were complaining about overcrowding
 - › Students in science courses and CTE were underserved in the high school
 - › Some families were relocating to Crown Point and other communities in the region
 - › Lake Central better meets the needs of students and families but has regressed in this metric due to higher debt service costs

Other changes that will impact a district's reported %?

- › Lots of retirees replaced with new teachers
- › Reduction in state tuition support
- › Decline in student population without closing buildings, cutting bus routes or cutting staff
- › Reduction in instructional staff
- › Increase in cost of energy
- › Need for technology upgrades
- › Addition of bus routes
- › Increase in school security personnel

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Solution: scrutinize only general fund expenditures

- › The number will show 85–90% of operating funds going to the classroom
- › 85–90% will show the average citizen that the problem is not with schools
- › A focus on general fund only would show how little waste there is after school districts itemize utility bills, custodial costs, nurses, building and grounds, insurance costs etc. (our monthly GF cash flow)

“Wasteful Spending”

- › What specifically are our candidates referring to as excessive overhead?
 - › Nurses?
 - › Custodians?
 - › Thermostats set too high in winter and too low in summer?
 - › Sports, performing arts, and clubs?
 - › All security personnel?

Summary: one more talking point to share with our elected representatives prior to and after the election

- › Stop the attack on public education
- › Stop eroding the funding for public education through vouchers and unproven charter schools
- › Stop using one time tests for staff and school accountability purposes
- › End the excessive testing in our state
- › Stop comparing current practice of providing all general fund money from the state to the days when schools received significant general fund support from local tax revenue
- › AND stop implying that the % of spending on classroom activities is too low because schools are spending money on the wrong stuff unless you are able to provide specific recommendations regarding what services should be eliminated

Questions

3. LCSC Miracle Corporation Status 2015-2016

- Dr. Veracco gave a special thank you to Doug DeLaughter for his work on this for the past several years.

4. General Fund Discussion – *John DeVries*

- John DeVries asked this item be on the agenda this evening in light of discussion regarding numerous projects that are being talked about recently. There is no more money coming from the State. We cannot raise any more money for these projects. So, we would be left with the choice of cutting programs or having a general fund referendum.
- Dr. Veracco explained what a general fund referendum would entail.
- The Board discussed the pros and cons of going back to taxpayers for additional support for the general fund. Board members agreed that since funding from the state has grown quite slowly over the past years and though significant increases are unlikely, the need for specific programs must be established before considering a general fund referendum.

B Assistant Superintendent / Personnel – *Al Gandolfi*

1. Personnel Recommendations – Action Required

I. Classified Appointments, Resignations, Transfers, Change of Status and Change of Hours:

A. Appointments:

1. *Denise Frey (Dyer), Bus Driver, Lake Central Transportation Department (effective October 3, 2016).*

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2. *Paul Giordano (St. John), Bus Driver, Lake Central Transportation Department (effective October 3, 2016).*
3. *Evan Zarowny (Munster), Paraprofessional, Clark Middle School (effective October 7, 2016).*
4. *Sheila Immig (Schererville), Paraprofessional-RTI Interventionist, Kahler Middle School (effective October 17, 2016).*
5. *Claudia Vega (Crown Point), Cafeteria Assistant, Non-School Specific (effective October 17, 2016).*

B. Resignations:

1. *Charity Scollon, Paraprofessional-RTI Interventionist, Kahler Middle School (effective October 14, 2016).*
2. *Deb Barlow, Title I Tutor, Peifer Elementary School (effective October 7, 2016).*
3. *Maria Leyva, Food Service Driver, Lake Central Food Service (effective October 19, 2016).*
4. *Glenda Buckner, Cafeteria Assistant, Lake Central High School (effective October 7, 2016).*
5. *Maesa Shurbaji, Cafeteria Assistant, Peifer Elementary School (effective October 14, 2016).*

C. Transfers:

1. *Silvia Pulido, from Custodian to Head Custodian at Homan Elementary School Effective October 3, 2016.*
2. *Michelle Miranda, from Cafeteria Assistant at Clark - 3.25 hours to Cafeteria Assistant at Kolling - 4.25 hours per day effective October 17, 2016.*

D. Change of Status:

1. *Kelly Phares, Cafeteria Assistant, Clark Middle School (moving from Cafeteria Assistant to the Cafeteria Substitute List effective October 6, 2016).*

E. Change of Hours:

1. *Gabrijela Dodig, Product Assistant, Peifer Elementary School (from 6.55 to 7 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
2. *Danijela Jokic, Cafeteria Assistant, Kahler Middle School (from 4 to 5.75 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
3. *Veronica Rojas, Cafeteria Assistant, Peifer Elementary School (from 3.50 to 3.75 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
4. *Barb Jackson, Cafeteria Assistant, Homan Elementary School (from 4.25 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
5. *Waneta Perez, Cafeteria Assistant, Homan Elementary School (from 3.50 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
6. *Bertha Hernandez, Cafeteria Assistant, Kolling Elementary School (from 3.25 to 4.25 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
7. *Sandy Bishop, Cafeteria Assistant, Grimmer Middle School (from 3.25 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
8. *Karen Lakich, Cafeteria Assistant, Grimmer Middle School (from 3.25 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
9. *Kathy Michel, Cafeteria Assistant, Grimmer Middle School (from 3.25 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*
10. *Mary Szpara, Cafeteria Assistant, Grimmer Middle School (from 3.25 to 4 hours per day effective October 17, 2016).*

II. West Lake

Classified Resignations:

A. Resignations:

1. *Michael Brandner, Paraprofessional, West Lake/Lake Central High School*

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	<p>(effective August 16, 2016).</p> <p>2. Karen Dixon, Paraprofessional, West Lake/Grimmer Middle School (effective October 12, 2016).</p> <p>III. Approval of Lake Central School Corporation Substitute Staff Appointments and Terminations – Refer to list of substitutes hired and terminated from September 15, 2016 to October 12, 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Marshall moved to approve the personnel recommendations. Janice Malchow seconded the motion. Motion carried. <p>2. Stairway to Heroin Recap</p>
C	<p>Director of Primary Education – <i>Theresa Schoon</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional Leave Requests – Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Marshall moved to approve the professional leave requests of Alison Mazurkiewicz, Marianne Orfanos & Susan Lomberger, Shirley Baczkowski, Sheryl Schafer, Reyne Plesha, Ashley F. Comer, Dana Hansen, Cassandra Cruz, Sheri Demy, Edith Blush and Susan Thomas. Don Bacso seconded the motion. Motion carried. 2. Field Trip Requests – Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Bacso moved to approve the field trip requests of Katherine Laurich, Jennie Walters, Kristin Fisher and Lisa Alessandri. 3. Camp Invention/Invention Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funded and operated by Camp Invention, not Lake Central - Lake Central Teachers are hired by Camp Invention to work with the students - Open to students of all ability levels - Not all attendees are LC students 4. Professional Development Summary
D	<p>Director of Secondary Education – <i>Sarah Castaneda</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional Development Summary 2. Professional Leave Requests – Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Marshall moved to approve the professional leave requests of Cara Klaich, Tristan Rynne, Meg Alessia, Nicole Saulters, Kevin Lewis, Erica Churilla, Jamie Rodgers, Rick Moreno, Ken Newton, Kristen Camery, Tammy Rush and Michelle Deming. Janice Malchow seconded the motion. Motion carried. 3. Field Trip Requests – Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice Malchow moved to approve the field trip request of Dave Milausnic. Don Bacso seconded the motion. Motion carried.
E	<p>Director of Facilities – <i>Bill Ledyard</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LCHS Soccer Building – Update 2. LCSC Transportation Center Projects – Update
F	<p>Director of Business Services – <i>Rob James</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Hearing on 2017 Budget, Capital Project Plan, and Bus Replacement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As previously noted, there will need to be a redo of the Public Hearing as part of the 2017 Budget process. Mr. James will again give the School Board an update on the 2017 budget, Capital Projects Plan and 12 year Bus Replacement Plan. • Mr. James opened the floor for questions. There were no questions and the Hearing was

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	<p>concluded.</p> <p>2. Donations – Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grimmer PTO made the following donations to Grimmer Middle School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5th Grade Spell Bowl \$100 - Spell Bowl (6-8th grade) \$200 - Science Olympiad \$200 - Yoga Club \$200
VIII	<p>Public Comments– <i>John DeVries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no public comments.
IX.	<p>Board Comments and Consideration of Future Agenda Items – <i>John DeVries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Janice Malchow</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Janice Malchow wanted to clarify statements she made at last meeting about her personal dislike for high ability classrooms. Her opinion was formed over a span of years. High ability is the antithesis to tolerance and approaches the opposition of desegregation. She struggles with it philosophically. She referenced Hattie’s work and the practice of accelerating through the material, much like Bibich 5th grade teacher Archie Mitchell did during Janice Malchow’s time there. Kids were given a 5th grade math textbook. If they were good, they were given a 6th grade math textbook. The students just self-taught themselves through it. This is an idea - to look at self acceleration. She wanted to explain why she is philosophically opposed to the high ability classroom. She finds the separation like a caste system and opposite to what we should be doing as far as teaching tolerance and valuing all individuals no matter where they are and what their talents are. - Janice Malchow asked Theresa Schoon for data that supports the value of the program, i.e., parent input, teacher input and student input. Theresa Schoon referred to the multitude of parents who call all summer asking to get their children tested to be in this program. John DeVries feels that if parents are clamoring to get in to the program that would indicate that they are positive about the program. Janice Malchow disagreed and stated that legally we have to be responsible that our programs are quality. - John DeVries asked Janice Malchow “so you are opposed to pulling students out for the high achieving group – are you also opposed to pulling out children with special needs? You don’t want them pulled out for their needs?” Janice Malchow answered “No. They should be in the classroom unless there is an extreme need.” - Dr. Veracco reminded Janice Malchow that legally we have to have this program. We have to teach children at the level at which they need to be taught. - Janice Malchow asked where is the supporting data that shows this is an effective program. - Theresa Schoon reported that every year the state evaluates the program using student achievement data. Janice Malchow asked if the state looks at input from parents. <p><u>Janice Malchow</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Janice Malchow wanted to talk about a Resolution she thinks the School Board should look at. It’s a model used by Tippecanoe School Corporation in conjunction with Lafayette and West Lafayette and also similar to what Fort Wayne used in the past. The Resolution is regarding alternative assessments. <p><u>Don Bacso</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank you to Dr. Veracco for your passion and information on public education and school budgets. - Would like to see the Stairway To Heroin program tailored to suit the middle schools.

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	<p>- Thank you Marty Freeman for your presentation. <u>Howard Marshall</u>: Echoes Don Bacso’s remarks. <u>John DeVries</u>: Also echoes Don Bacso’s remarks.</p>
X.	<p>Board Calendar of Future Activities – <i>Dr. Veracco</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Board Meeting November 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. • Next Regular Meeting November 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
XI.	<p>Adjournment – <i>John DeVries</i> – Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Bacso moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Janice Malchow seconded the motion. Motion carried.
<p>Minutes of the October 17, 2016 School Board Meeting were approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees at the November 7, 2016 School Board Meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Dr. John DeVries, President</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Sandy Lessentine, Secretary</p> <p>///</p>	