

**LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Lake Central High School**  
**AUDITORIUM – Enter Door A**  
**8400 Wicker Avenue, St. John, IN 46373**  
**Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the Board of School trustees of the Lake Central School Corporation was held in the Lake Central High School Auditorium, 8400 Wicker Avenue, St. John, IN on August 17, 2020. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Janice Malchow, Board Member  
Howard Marshall, Secretary  
Don Bacso, Board Member  
Cindy Sues, President  
Sandy Lessentine, Vice President

Board Members Not Present

Administration Present

Dr. Lawrence Veracco, Superintendent  
Terry Mucha, Director of Human Resources  
Rob James, Director of Business Services  
Sarah Castaneda, Director of Secondary Education  
Theresa Schoon, Director of Primary Education  
Bill Ledyard, Director of Facilities  
Becky Gromala, Director of Student Services

Administration Not Present

Rick Moreno, Director of Technology

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, August 17, 2020**

*All Motions Were Passed With a 5-0  
Vote Unless Otherwise Indicated*

- I. Call to Order – *Cindy Sues*
  - The meeting was called to order, and Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President, Cindy Sues.
  
- II. Agenda: Approval, Deletions, Additions – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**
  - Revisions to the Agenda include
    - Revision to the Executive Session Minutes dated 7-30-2020
    - Revisions to the Personnel Packet under Terry Mucha’s section.
  - Don Bacso moved to approve the Revised Agenda. Sandy Lessentine seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried.
  
- III. Correspondence – *Howard Marshall*
  - Cindy Sues read the following into the record:
    - “I would like to say something in regards to the last Board meeting and to the correspondence I have received from our community:

*To our teachers, administration and staff:*

*On behalf of myself and the Board, we want to thank you for your unwavering passion and loyalty to Lake Central. I want to say that I AM SORRY and I AM DISAPPOINTED that I failed to speak up at our last Board meeting when some of our community made hurtful and unkind comments about you, our teachers and administrators. Please know that without a doubt we value you and know how important you are to each and every child, family and our community. Without you, our schools would not be a highly rated, sought after district. The Lake Central School Corporation is privileged to have such passionate and loyal teachers and staff. We do not take that for granted. Thank you for all you do for Lake Central.”*

- IV. Liaison Committee Updates – *Cindy Sues*
  - A. Personnel Interview Committee: Howard Marshall/Sandy Lessentine
  - B. Schererville Redevelopment Committee: Sandy Lessentine
  - C. Wellness Committee: Sandy Lessentine/Janice Malchow
  - D. Lake Central Education Foundation: Janice Malchow
  - E. Legislative Committee: Janice Malchow
  - F. St. John Redevelopment Committee: Cindy Sues
  - G. Dollars for Scholars: Cindy Sues
  - H. Dyer Redevelopment Committee: Don Bacso
  
- V. Official School Board Business Topics: Consent Agenda – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**
  - A. Approval of Minutes
    - Executive Session: July 30, 2020 - Revised
    - Regular Board Meeting: August 3, 2020\*
  - B. Approval of Claims, Payroll and Extracurricular Expenditures
    - Sandy Lessentine moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Janice Malchow seconded the motion.
    - \*Howard Marshall discussed the vote on return to school under Dr. Veracco’s section numbered VII.A.2: *LCSC Move to E-Learning to Start School Year* from the August 3, 2020 School Board Meeting. Mr. Marshall wants to clarify that his vote on the final motion, to offer the choice of E-Learning or In School Instruction and to begin school on August 17th, was in fact, a No vote. As no roll call was made during the vote, and the cast of all votes was inaudible due to the audience, he wants to have the record reflect that his vote was, in fact, a No. Mr. Marshall suggested a roll call voting format in the future. (*Excerpt of 8-3-2020 Minutes attached.*)
    - Motion carried.
  
- VI. Public Comments Regarding Action Items
  - There were no public comments.
  
- VII. Official School Board Business Topics: Regular Agenda
  - A. Superintendent – *Dr. Veracco*
    - 1. Elementary Class Sizes Per Section
    - 2. Reassignment of Staff
    - 3. Return to School: Other

B. Director of Human Resources/Personnel – *Terry Mucha*

1. Personnel Recommendations – **Action Required - Revised**

*Document Attached*

- Janice Malchow moved to approve the Personnel Recommendations as revised. Don Bacso seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

2. Updated 2020/2021 School Calendar

*Document Attached*

C. Director of Primary Education – *Theresa Schoon*

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D. Director of Secondary Education – *Sarah Castaneda*

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E. Director of Student Services - *Becky Gromala*

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F. Director of Facilities – *Bill Ledyard*

*Document Attached*

1. LCSC 2020 Spring/Summer Projects - Update

G. Director of Technology – *Rick Moreno*

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H. Director of Business Services – *Rob James*

*Document Attached*

1. Donations - **Action Required**

- Howard Marshall moved to approve all donations. Don Bacso seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

2. 2021 Budget Timeline

VIII. Public Comments – *Cindy Sues*

- Holly Rodriguez of Crown Point, a Grimmer Middle School and LC High School parent, expressed her disappointment in the comments that were made at the previous meeting by the community members. She stated that the Board should have spoken up and defended our teachers and she felt that the Board was possibly bullied and that is why they voted against starting school with only E-Learning.

IX. Board Comments and Consideration of Future Agenda Items – *Cindy Sues*

- Sandy Lessentine: If she had been able to comment at the last board meeting she would have. She was not bullied into her decision. Her decision was based upon two weeks of research of talking to people, including doctors, community members, etc. She surprised herself even with her vote, but voted for the option that the community really wanted.

- Janice Malchow: There has been some discussion about her vote last week. She did not know how she was going to vote. She looks at what is best for the children. However, what is best for the children may not always be best for teachers. She has found that our teachers are not worried about COVID but rather letting their students down by trying to manage in person students and eLearning students at the same time. Asked parents to please be patient. Also very proud of our cross country teams. She attended their meets this past weekend at Lemon Lake and thought they both did great. The coaches seem to be following very strict rules about safety all around.
- Don Bacso: Realizes that the last meeting got out of hand. Apologies to teachers for not turning on his mic and taking control. He feels he should have spoken up. He was not bullied into his decision. He feels if you look at the research and what the community wants and what the kids need, the decision to give the parents the choice was the best way to go. When they take their oath as Board Members, they promise to think of the kids and that is what he feels the Board did.
- Howard Marshall: August 3 through August 17 has been difficult. Although he did not discuss it, he was going to side with Dr. Veracco for the all E-Learning option, but the motion was pulled and he didn't have the opportunity to vote on it. He feels caution is best, but the vote was taken and he cannot now throw darts. He may not agree, but has to follow the decision and hopefully the air has been cleared, and he hopes the decision works.
- Cindy Sues: Heard many positive things about the first day of school from bus riding to classrooms and teachers interactions. Her daughter said that “everyone was very kind” to her today and for that she is very grateful.

X. Board Calendar of Future Activities – *Dr. Veracco*

- Next meeting in 3 weeks, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the LGI Room. We will continue with future meetings at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI Room to allow for social distancing until COVID is over, and then move back into the Kay Trapp Board Room.

XI. Adjournment – *Cindy Sues* – **Action Required**

- Janice Malchow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Don Bacso seconded the motion.
- Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the August 17, 2020 School Board Meeting were approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees at the September 8, 2020 School Board Meeting.

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Cindy Sues, President

ATTEST:

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Howard Marshall, Secretary