

LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
Lake Central High School
LGI Room – Enter Door E
8260 Wicker Avenue, St. John, IN 46373

Board Members Present

Nicole Kelly, Secretary
Cindy Sues, President
Janice Malchow, Vice-President
Louise Tallent, Board Member
Howard Marshall, Board Member - *Via Zoom*

Board Members Not Present

Administration Present

Dr. Lawrence Veracco, Superintendent
Sarah Castaneda, Assistant Superintendent
Rob James, Director of Business Services
Yolanda Bracey, Director of Primary Education
Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education
Rebecca Gromala, Director of Student Services

Administration Not Present

Bill Ledyard, Director of Facilities

*To view the archived video of the meeting in its entirety,
go to the School Board section of website at www.lcsc.us*

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 18, 2024 - 7:00pm

- 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 additional Professional Leave Requests under Sarah Castsaneda’s section, additional Professional Leave Requests and Field Trip Requests under Misty Scheuneman’s section, and additional Donations under Rob James’ section.
 - There was an addition under Dr. Veracco’s section as VII.A.1. - Veterans Day Ceremony.
 - Janice Malchow moved to approve.
 - Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

- III. Correspondence – *Nicole Kelly*
 - There was no correspondence.

- IV. Liaison Committee Updates – *Cindy Sues*
 - A. Personnel Interview Committee: Howard Marshall
 - B. Schererville Redevelopment Commission: Nicole Kelly
 - C. Schererville Parks Department: Nicole Kelly
 - D. Lake Central Education Foundation: Janice Malchow
 - E. Legislative Committee: Janice Malchow
 - F. Dyer Parks Department: Janice Malchow

- G. Construction Committee: Cindy Sues
 - H. St. John Redevelopment Commission: Cindy Sues
 - I. Dollars for Scholars: Cindy Sues
 - J. Dyer Redevelopment Commission: Louise Tallent
 - K. Wellness Committee: Louise Tallent
- V. Official School Board Business Topics: Consent Agenda – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**
- A. Approval of Minutes
 - Executive Session: November 4, 2024
 - Regular Board Meeting: November 4, 2024
 - B. Approval of Claims, Payroll and Extracurricular Expenditures
 - Louise Tallent moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
 - Janice Malchow seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
- VI. Public Comments Regarding Action Items
- There were no public comments regarding action items.
- VII. Official School Board Business Topics: Regular Agenda
- A. Superintendent – *Dr. Veracco*
 1. Proposed NIPSCO Electric Rate Hike
 2. Scheduled Pre Session Meeting With Senators Dernulc and Raatz
 - B. Assistant Superintendent – *Sarah Castaneda*
 1. Personnel Recommendations – **Action Required**
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approve.
 - Howard Marshall seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
 2. Professional Leave Requests - **Action Required - Revised**
 - Howard Marshall moved to approve.
 - Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
 3. High School Fall Sports Report
 - This item was tabled and will be brought back at a future meeting.
 - C. Director of Primary Education – *Yolanda Bracey*
 1. Parent Teacher Conferences Recap
 - D. Director of Secondary Education – *Misty Scheuneman*
 1. Professional Leave Requests - **Action Required**
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approve.
 - Janice Malchow seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
 2. Field Trip Requests - **Action Required**
 - Janice Malchow moved to approve.
 - Louise Tallent seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

3. Middle School Learning Target Work Update

E. Director of Student Services - *Becky Gromala*

1. November 20, 2024 SEPAC Meeting

F. Director of Facilities – *Bill Ledyard*

G. Director of Business Services – *Rob James*

1. Teacher Appreciation Grant Update and Approval of Additional Compensation in Employees Outside of the Grant - **Action Required**

- Janice Malchow moved to approve.
- Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

2. Donations - **Action Required - Revised**

- Janice Malchow moved to approve.
- Howard Marshall seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

VIII. Public Comments – *Cindy Sues*

- There were no public comments.

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

- Janice Malchow: I was wondering if someone from the high school could explain to me Mr. Schwartzenuber's award he received from the State. The coaches voted him in? That's very good, quite an accomplishment.
- Nicole Kelly: I was just wanted to wish our students and our families a Happy Thanksgiving next week.
- Cindy Sues: I will say the same, Happy Thanksgiving.

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

- Next School Board Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2024

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

- Janice Malchow moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.
- Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
- Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the November 18, 2024 School Board Meeting were approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees at the December 9, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Cindy Sues, President

ATTEST:

Nicole Kelly, Secretary

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS
FOR MINTUES

Proposed NIPSCO Electric Rate Hike

- I. Citizens Action Coalition hosted a webinar for school Superintendents and Business managers on Thursday 11.14.24
 - II. Proposal would be 25.3% increase for schools (class 523)
 - a. Impacts only electric not gas rates
 - b. Exact rate will vary based on several factors
 - III. Last increase 2022 – 25-30%
 - IV. Two step increase has been proposed
 - a. Part by September 2026
 - b. Phase 2 in March 2026
 - V. Rates impact different buildings differently
 - a. Based on efficiency etc.
 - b. Homeowners are in a different class than school buildings
 - VI. CAC is holding a town hall for residents at Hebron HS on 11.18.24
 - VII. Office of Utility Consumers
 - a. Hearing at IVY Tech Valparaiso on November 26, 2024
 - b. Public comments from residential and business consumers
 - c. School may band together to make a stronger statement
- Region I Superintendents Study council is reaching out to Anne Becker, attorney at Lewis Kappes to see if we can band together as a formal “intervenor”

Lake County Meeting with Senator Raatz and Senator Dernulc
December 5, 2024 10 AM Lake Central High School Door F

- I. IRead 3 Results in Spring
 - a. Parents received letters
 - b. Parents of 2nd graders who did not pass invited to online information session
 - i. This was poorly attended
 - ii. Reality will be shocking to many families
 - iii. More headlines needed from State of Indiana
 - c. IGA needs to be aware that many educators and some parents feel the GCE are too few
 - d. Continuous testing will ensure schools are intentional about "skilling up" 4th and 5th graders

- II. High School Diploma Redesign
 - a. SBOE set to approve in December
 - b. High school scheduling begins in January
 - c. Current plan will result in schools needing to shift some staff
 - i. Fewer foreign language and fine arts
 - ii. Shift in social studies (Economics)
 - d. One extra year would greatly help high schools to pivot
 - i. Shift staff from fine arts to work based learning coordinators
 - ii. Get social studies new licenses to respond to changes (Economics)
 - e. Clarification on complexities of work based learning
 - i. Capacity – what if no takers?
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Supervision
 - iv. Evaluation of experience

- III. True Cost to Educate
 - a. Universal vouchers shift needs to include new APC money for currently unfunded
 - i. Private duty nurses
 - ii. One to one aides
 - iii. Actual cost to provide speech services
 - iv. Homebound for extreme behavior students
 - b. Portion of Special Education Administration cost shared by private schools
 - c. Most public schools are subsidizing special education with tuition support and referendum revenue

- IV. NIPSCO Increase
 - a. Schools rate classification (523) could lead to a 25.3% increase
 - b. Caps to tax supported operations are significantly lower
- V. Other
 - a. Textbook/curricular materials
 - b. School safety grant inequities
 - i. One school entity received 81% of \$50,000
 - ii. Ten school entity received 81% of \$100,000
 - iii. Per student safety allocation would be much fairer
 - c. Clarify referendum language to indicate that the school tax rate is only a portion of the overall property tax bill

Lake Central School Corporation

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Superintendent

Sarah Castaneda
Assistant Superintendent

Yolanda Bracey, Ed. D.
Director of Primary Education

Misty Scheuneman
Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Sarah Castaneda, Assistant Superintendent
DATE: November 14, 2024
RE: Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

Personnel

(Board action required)

We are recommending that the following be approved:

I. Classified Appointment(s), Resignation(s) & Retirement(s):

A. Appointments:

1. Lucas Mago (Schererville), Paraprofessional, Peifer Elementary School (effective November 11, 2024).
2. Isabel Sitkowski (St. John), Title 1 Tutor, Peifer Elementary School (effective November 14, 2024).
3. Luceli Salgado (Hammond), Paraprofessional, Grimmer Middle School (effective November 18, 2024).

B. Resignation:

1. Robyn Scheub, Paraprofessional, Homan Elementary School (effective November 15, 2024).

C. Retirement:

1. Angela Szymborski, Benefits Coordinator, Lake Central School Corporation (effective November 21, 2024); *28 years of dedicated service.*

II. Classified Extracurricular Appointment(s) & Transfer(s):

A. Appointment:

1. Delaney Barcelli, Assistant Gymnastics Co-Coach, Lake Central High School (effective November 18, 2024).

B. Transfer:

1. Sydney Barcelli, Transfer from Assistant Gymnastics Coach to Assistant Gymnastics Co-Coach, Lake Central High School (effective November 18, 2024).

Approval of Lake Central School Corporation Substitute Staff Appointments and Resignations – Refer to attached list of substitutes that have been hired and have resigned.

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TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Sarah Castaneda, Assistant Superintendent
DATE: November 14, 2024
RE: **Board Meeting of November 18, 2024**

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE REQUESTS

NAME	Sarah Castaneda
POSITION	Assistant Superintendent
SCHOOL	District
EVENT	School Law Seminar
DATES	12/11/2024
PLACE	Indianapolis, IN
DESCRIPTION	Seminar on the most recent school law updates
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Indiana School Board Association
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$250 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage
FUNDING	24-030



Lake Central Athletics
Fall Report
2024

Fall Student-Athlete Participation
Total Numbers

▶ **Girls = 123**

▶ **Boys = 230**

▶ **TOTAL → 353**

139 of 353 Fall
Athletes were
Scholar Athletes
3.66 GPA or Higher.
(39.4%)

Duneland Athletic Conference

GIRLS

- › Cross Country- 1st
- › Golf- 1st
- › Soccer- 2nd
- › Volleyball- 2nd

All-Sports Standings

Girls 1st w/ 6 pts

Boys 4th w/ 14.5 pts

BOYS

- › Cross Country- 1st
- › Football- 6th (tied)
- › Soccer- 3rd
- › Tennis- 4th

IHSAA Post-Season Results

- › **Girls Cross Country** -Sectional & Regional Champions and 3rd place finish at State, Macey Thompson placed 4th, Lana Bruggeman placed 15th and Chloe Neal 24th all medaled.
- › **Girls Golf** -1st at Sectional and Regionals and advanced to State
- › **Girls Soccer**-Lost in Sectional Semi-Finals
- › **Girls Volleyball** -Lost in Sectionals

- › **Boys Cross Country** - Sectional Champions and Advanced to Semi-State
- › **Football** - Lost in Sectionals
- › **Boys Soccer** -Lost in Sectionals
- › **Boys Tennis** -Lost in Sectional Semifinals as a team.

INCOME

- › Gate Receipts = \$97,345.00
- › Advertisement = \$5,000.00
- › Season Passes = \$33,735.00
- › Fall Teams Fundraiser/Fees =
\$116,381.35
- › Concessions = \$15,650.42
- › Weight Room/Training Room Fee =
\$7,860.00 (missing 112 payments)

TOTAL → \$275,971.77

FALL EXPENSES

- › Game Workers = \$19,420 (*security, ticket taker, supervision...etc.*)
- › Officials = \$14,687.42
- › Field Equipment/Facility Maintenance = \$49,557.07
- › Equipment/Team Gear/Fee = \$112,536.19
- › Training Room/Weight Room = \$10,034.66
- › Concessions = \$14,164.11
- › Miscellaneous = \$12,358.46 (*Hospitality Rooms, office, flowers, tickets, banquet certificates, letterman awards, plaques, membership dues, coach fees, hotels, programs, etc.*)

TOTAL
\$232,757.91



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Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education
DATE: November 14, 2024
RE: **Board Meeting of November 18, 2024**

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE REQUESTS

REVISED

NAME	Ashley Kline
POSITION	Counselor
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	Counselor Consortium
DATES	11/14/2024
PLACE	Hobart, IN
DESCRIPTION	Opportunity for local counselors to meet and discuss upcoming events, legislation etc.
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Ready NWI
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage
FUNDING	684-5-11300-58000-0002

MS/vv

Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

NAME	Kathryn Clark
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	NCTE and ALAN National Conference
DATES	11/20 - 11/26/2024
PLACE	Boston, MA
DESCRIPTION	Presenter at annual English/ Literature conference
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	NCTE & ALAN
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$35 x (7) Estimated Hotel Cost - \$1400 Estimated Required Fees - \$630 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage & Parking
FUNDING	684-5-11300-58000-0002

NAME	Jereme Rainwater
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	PD for Dual Credit
DATES	11/20/2024
PLACE	Vincennes, IN
DESCRIPTION	Professional Development for Dual Credit
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Project Excel
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage
FUNDING	684-5-11300-58000-0002

Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

NAME	Laura Bloom-Johnson
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Kahler Middle School
EVENT	Girls on the Move Field Trip
DATES	12/03/2024
PLACE	Chicago, IL
DESCRIPTION	Field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Kahler Girls on the Move
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

NAME	Courtney Palasz
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Kahler Middle School
EVENT	IMEA Professional Development Conference
DATES	1/16 - 1/18/2025
PLACE	Ft. Wayne, IN
DESCRIPTION	Annual conference for music educators
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Indiana Music Education Association
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$70 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$110 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Kahler Title II

Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

NAME	Mark Walton
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Clark Middle School
EVENT	IMEA Conference
DATES	1/16 - 1/18/2025
PLACE	Ft. Wayne, IN
DESCRIPTION	Annual conference for music educators
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Indiana Music Education Association
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$35 x (2) Estimated Hotel Cost - \$318 Estimated Required Fees - \$110 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage x Parking
FUNDING	24-684-4-11200-58000-0051

NAME	Mike Swartzentruber
POSITION	Teacher and Coach
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	IHSBCA State Clinic
DATES	1/17/2025
PLACE	Indianapolis, IN
DESCRIPTION	Annual clinic for baseball coaches
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$35 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$130 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage
FUNDING	Athletics

Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

NAME	Rose Kennedy
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	Hispanic Heritage Club Field Trip
DATES	2/13/2025
PLACE	Chicago, IL
DESCRIPTION	taking students to the Hispanic Student Leadership Conference
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LCHS Foreign Language Department
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

NAME	Elliot Smith
POSITION	Band Director
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival
DATES	4/05/2025
PLACE	Arlington Heights, IL
DESCRIPTION	taking the Wind Ensemble to a band conference to perform and attend a clinic
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	John Hersey High School
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

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Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees

FROM: Misty Scheuneman, Director of Secondary Education

DATE: November 14, 2024

RE: **Board Meeting of November 18, 2024**

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

REVISED

Laura Bloom-Johnson, teacher at Kahler Middle School, requests to take approximately (38) members of the Girls on the Move Club to Chicago, IL on December 3, 2024. The members will visit the Field Museum and be introduced to females in STEM. They will go on a guided tour and meet with a female scientist/museumologist. This is a self-funded event.

Rose Kennedy, teacher at LCHS, requests to take approximately (30) students from the LCHS Hispanic Heritage Club to Chicago, IL on February 13, 2025. The students will attend the Hispanic Student Leadership Conference at the Sheraton Hotel where they will listen to a motivational speaker and explore college scholarship opportunities. This is a self-funded event.

Elliot Smith, Band Director at LCHS, requests to take approximately (50) members of the LCHS Wind Ensemble to Arlington Heights, IL on April 5, 2025. The band members will attend the Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival at John Hersey High School where they will perform and attend a clinic. This is a self-funded event.

MS/vv

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Lawrence Veracco, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Rob James
Director of Business Services

To: Board of School Trustees
From: Mr. Rob James, Director of Business Services
Date: November 14, 2024
RE: Board Meeting November 18, 2024

Teacher Appreciation Grant Update and Approval of Additional Compensation to Employees Outside of the Grant (Action Required)

As of today, school districts across the State are yet to receive our distribution of the 2024/2025 State of Indiana's Teacher Appreciation Grant. We are hoping that allocation arrives within the next few weeks. Certificated employees who had a full Lake Central RISE evaluation during the 2023/2024 school year, were rated either Effective or Highly Effective, and are still active LCSC employees would then be able to receive their direct deposit in mid-December, as we have done in the past.

The Indiana General Assembly modified the law during the 2017 legislative session to exclude non-classroom certified staff from being eligible for the grant. This includes Guidance Counselors, Deans, School Psychologists, Social Workers, Education Tech Trainers, Administrators, Assistive Tech Coordinators, etc. The Administrative team feels these employees are just as valuable to the success and achievements of our students as those in the classroom. Therefore, as we have in previous years, the Administration is seeking the School Board's approval to use Education Fund money to pay a stipend to these aforementioned employees in the amount equal to the stipends being paid from the Teacher Appreciation Grant.

Since there is a possibility that the grant payout would occur before our next School Board meeting on December 9th, we are seeking your approval to pay the computed stipend to the aforementioned employees at the same time we would pay the staff members from the grant. Then at the next Board meeting, I would bring the Board a detailed list of the dollar amounts paid to each individual outside of the grant for the Board to retroactively approve. Last year, the cost to the Education Fund was approximately \$53,100.

Donations (Action Required)

Received

Grimmer Middle School National Junior Honor Society received a variety of donations totaling \$516.

The Kahler Middle School Science Robotics Program received a donation of \$300 from an anonymous donor.

Lake Central High School received a variety of donation from their Veteran's Day event. The \$240 collected will go into the War Memorial Fund.

Given

The Lake Central High School Boys Tennis Team sold T-Shirts this past season and would like to donate \$500 to Operation Charlie Bravo, a local non-profit that helps veterans dealing with depression and PTSD.

Homan Elementary recently held a 'jeans day' fundraiser and would like to donate \$250 raised to the Special Olympics / Unified Games.

Bibich Elementary recently held their annual Kids Heart Challenge. They would like to donate the \$198 collected to the American Heart Association.

The Administration recommends approving the donations as indicated above.