

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

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Not Present

Administration Present

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

Administration Not Present

*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
Roll Call Vote Unless Otherwise Indicated*

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 5, 2025 - 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**
 - There were no revisions to the Agenda.
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approve.
 - Louise Tallent 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. St. John Redevelopment Commission: Cindy Sues

- H. Dollars for Scholars: Cindy Sues
- I. Dyer Redevelopment Commission: Louise Tallent
- J. Wellness Committee: Louise Tallent

V. Official School Board Business Topics: Consent Agenda – *Dr. Veracco* – **Action Required**

A. Approval of Minutes

- Executive Session: April 21, 2025
- Regular Board Meeting: April 21, 2025

B. Approval of Claims, Payroll and Extracurricular Expenditures

- Janice Malchow moved to approve.
- Cindy Sues 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. LCSC 2025 Retirees
2. LCSC 2025 Teacher of the Year
 - 2025 Teacher of the Year: Ralph Holden
 - Finalists: Lauren Bridgemen-Kozy, Melissa Miller, Leta Sena-Lopez, Joanne Pratt
3. Unpacking SEA 1

B. Assistant Superintendent – *Sarah Castaneda*

1. Personnel Recommendations – **Action Required**
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approve.
 - Janice Malchow seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

C. Director of Primary Education – *Yolanda Bracey*

1. Professional Leave Requests - **Action Required**
 - Janice Malchow moved to approve.
 - Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.
2. Field Trip Requests - **Action Required**
 - Louise Tallent moved to approve.
 - Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

D. Director of Secondary Education – *Misty Scheuneman*

1. Professional Leave Requests - **Action Required**
 - Nicole Kelly moved to approve.
 - Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried.

2. Field Trip Requests - **Action Required**

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

E. Director of Student Services - *Becky Gromala*

F. Director of Facilities – *Bill Ledyard*

1. Raised Garden Beds Project at LCHS Door “H” by the LCHS Environmental Club & N-Teens Club

G. Director of Business Services – *Rob James*

1. Donations - **Action Required**

- Louise Tallent moved to approve.
- Nicole Kelly seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

2. 2025 Tax Rates

VIII. Public Comments – *Cindy Sues*

- There were no public comments.

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

- Nicole Kelly: Thank you and congratulations to all of our retirees and our Teacher of the Year. I’m looking at Dr. Veracco’s print out of how many years some of these people had with us, served for us, and it’s a real testament to our Corporation that we’ve had employees that are here for 30, 40 and almost 50 years. So, thank you.
- Louise Tallent: This last couple of weeks I’ve had the opportunity to see so many activities going on within our schools, junior high plays and the middle school football teams gathering and having a scrimmage even with Munster, the jazz bands that have pulled together, tracks meets in the evening, softball, baseball. I think it was Erin Novak that said this campus never sleeps. And many of the other don’t either. So, thank you for the staff, parents and students who make all those activities happen.
- Janice Malchow: I think that what the previous two presented was very appropriate, and I’d like to add my support to that. I do believe that the first Thursday in May is circle around the flag pole if anyone is interested. So I happened to come across that date. But thank you, it was a great evening tonight.
- Cindy Sues: I would just like to thank Mrs. Gromala for Friday for Unified Track Day. Absolutely fabulous. And, thank you to food service for this evening’s wonderful feast.

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

- Next School Board Meeting: Monday, May 19, 2025

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

- Nicole Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.
- Cindy Sues seconded the motion.
- Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the May 5, 2025 School Board Meeting were approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees at the May 19, 2025 School Board Meeting.

Cindy Sues, President

ATTEST:

Nicole Kelly, Secretary

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS
FOR MINTUES

2024-2025 RETIREES

<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>Yrs @ LC</i>	<i>Building, Position</i>
ADAMOPOULOS	KONSTANTINOS	15.5	LCHS, Custodian
ANDREWS	BRENDA	16	Transportation
AREHART	KAREN	28	LCHS, Phys Ed
BEECHER	PAM	28	Admin, Secretary
BOLLER	VALERIE	15	Transportation
BOYER	DEBRA	31	Grimmer, Secretary
COOPER	KERRY	13	Clark, Science
CORNWELL	SHARON	21	Protsman, Reading Spec.
KERWIN	LAINE	26	Protsman, Food Service
KOOKEN	KIM	16	Clark, Food Service
LIVINGSTON	WENDY	21	Food Service
MELBY	DIANNA	18	LCHS, English
MISIRLY	LISA	21	Peifer, Paraprofessional
MYERS	JULIE	19	Clark, Secretary
PISHKUR	GRETCHEN	41.5	Watson, Grade 4
ROMBA	CATHIE	17	C.O., Treasurer
RYBICKI	ARLENE	25	LCHS, Paraprofessional
SCHWEITZER	SUSAN	47	Admin, Educ. Tech
SZCZERBOWSKI	CHRIS	16	LCHS, Secretary
SZYMBORSKI	ANGIE	28	C.O., Benefits Coord.
TERRY	ANKA	30	Peifer, Art
WEST	KATHY	19.5	Transportation

Unpacking SEA 1 Property Tax Relief

Clear Impacts of the Legislation

- All referenda must be held at General Election in even numbered years
- Taxpayers "save" \$1.4 billion over the next 3 years
- By 2027, business property (equipment) tax exemption will rise from \$80k to \$2M (profound impact on cities with large manufacturing base)
- 2/3 of property owners will realize a lower tax bill in 2026
- 10% up to \$300 cut to property tax bill for homeowners
- Residential tax cuts are modest compared to business tax cuts
- Communities across the state will debate replacing revenue loss through Local option income tax increases
- Cities and towns with populations over 3500 may adopt their own local income tax (*schools could get a portion of these revenues if passed*)
- When schools lose revenue that supports operations, more tuition support money must be transferred to the operations fund
- 345 page bill had a lot of last minute adjustments
- Update after this week's IASBO annual meeting
- The bill had focused on 2026-2028 but final version impacts us through 2031
- Communities that value public services and high quality public schools will likely be asked to further support those entities
- Income tax credits (lowering state revenues)
 - \$150 for Single Individual who is 65 years of age or older gross income not more than \$60,000.
 - \$150 for Individual filing jointly who is 65 years of age or older gross income not more than \$70,000.
 - \$125 for Individual if blind or has a disability.
 - \$150 for Individual if served in military or naval forces for at least 90 days, honorably discharged and disabled.
 - \$250 for Individual if served in military or naval forces during any war honorably discharged and disabled.

Outstanding Questions (Expecting a heavy dose of SEA 1 information at IASBO 2025)

- What will be the approximate impact to LCSC between now and 2031?
- What will the phase out of the homestead deduction and corresponding 2/3 deduction to AV mean given steady AV?
- When will we have the data regarding the breakdown of 1%, 2% and 3% properties in order to calculate the annual impact of the changes?

CASTANEDA

Lake Central School Corporation

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Lawrence Veracco, Ph.D.
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: May 1, 2025
RE: Board Meeting of May 5, 2025

Personnel

(Board action required)

We are recommending that the following be approved:

I. Certified Appointment(s), Transfer(s), Resignation(s), & Retirement(s):

A. Appointment(s):

1. Kyle Blum (Crown Point), Temporary Physical Education Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective April 21, 2025).
2. Castulo Perez, Jr. (Munster), Spanish Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective August 12, 2025).

B. Transfer(s):

1. Dawn Wojkovich, transferring from Grade 4, Watson Elementary School to Art Teacher, Peifer Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
2. Julie Moore, transferring from Corporation Educational Technology Trainer to Grade 4 Teacher, Homan Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
3. Vivian Garrido-Willis, transferring from Teacher at Campagna Academy to Math Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective August 12, 2025).
4. Cody McCall, transferring from Teacher at Campagna Academy to English Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective August 12, 2025).
5. Lauren Brogni, transferring from Teacher at Campagna Academy to Resource Teacher, Bibich Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
6. Sarah Stamper, transferring from Kindergarten to Grade 2, Protsman Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
7. Courtney Myers, transferring from Grade 1 to Reading Interventionist, Protsman Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
8. Joelle Hopkins, transferring from Grade 2 to Grade 4, Watson Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).
9. Samantha Mikrut, transferring from Grade 1, Protsman Elementary to Grade 1, Peifer Elementary School (effective August 12, 2025).

C. Resignation(s):

1. Melissa Vanderwoude, Grade One Teacher, Homan Elementary School (effective May 29, 2025).

2. John Alessia, Physical Education Teacher, Kahler Middle School (effective May 29, 2025).

D. Retirement(s):

1. Karen Arehart, Physical Education Teacher, Lake Central High School (effective June 30, 2025); *28 years of dedicated service.*
2. Meg Alessia, Early Childhood Teacher, Watson Elementary School (effective May 29, 2025); *10 years of dedicated service.*

II. Classified Appointment(s), Resignation(s), Change of Status & Retirement(s):

A. Appointment(s):

1. Melissa Wood (Schererville), Café Assistant, Lake Central High School (effective July 28, 2025).
2. Carol Thomas (Schererville), Café Assistant, Lake Central High School (effective July 28, 2025).

B. Resignation(s):

1. Wiebke Gloeckner, Paraprofessional, Watson Elementary School (effective May 2, 2025).

C. Change of Status:

1. Renee Morris, from Product Specialist to Cafeteria Manager at Protsman Elementary School (effective July 28, 2025).
2. Nikolina Lukic, from 7.0 hour per day Manager in Training to 8.0 hour per day Cafeteria Manager at Clark Middle School (effective July 28, 2025).
3. Kelly Price, from 7.0 hour per day Manager in Training to 7.75 hour per day Product Supervisor at Lake Central High School (effective July 28, 2025).
4. Ljubinka Stojakovic, from 4.25 hour per day Cafeteria Assistant at Kahler Middle School to 7.50 hour per day Product Specialist at Protsman Elementary School (effective July 28, 2025).

III. Certified Extracurricular Appointments(s) & Resignation(s):

A. Appointment(s):

1. Christina Arroyo, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Music, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
2. Mark Walton, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Music, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
3. Michael Bratcher, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Computers, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
4. Daniel Pimentel, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Computers, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
5. James Simmons, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Physical Education (PE), Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
6. Lori Smith, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Physical Education (PE), Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
7. Beth Szymaszek, Purchase of Plan-Grade 5 Art, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
8. Sharon Lindow, Teach One Section-Grade 5 Art, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).
9. Angela Guzman, Science Department Head, Clark Middle School (effective August 12, 2025).

10. Karen Arehart, Physical Education (PE) Summer School, Lake Central High School (effective June 2, 2025).
11. Andrew Gurnak, Physical Education (PE) Summer School, Lake Central High School (effective June 2, 2025).
12. Brian Tomson, Physical Education (PE) Summer School, Lake Central High School (effective June 2, 2025).
13. Ann Downey, Physical Education (PE) Summer School, Lake Central High School (effective June 2, 2025).

B. Resignations(s):

1. Alison Peda, Grade 12 Class Cabinet Sponsor, Lake Central High School (effective June 1, 2025).
2. Christina Schneider, Grade 12 Class Cabinet Sponsor, Lake Central High School (effective June 1, 2025).

IV. Classified Extracurricular Resignation(s):

A. Resignation(s):

1. Amayah Myszak, Varsity Wrestling Head Coach, Lake Central High School (effective April 22, 2025).

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

5/5/2025

Substitutes - Hired

Employee Name	Hire Date	Job Description
Maria Asche	4/22/2025	Sub Transportation

Substitutes - Resigned

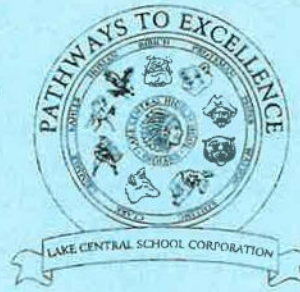
Employee Name	Resignation Date	Job Description
Lynette Verplaetse	4/28/2025	Classified Sub
Sue Peller	4/28/2025	Classified Sub
Piper Spyrka	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
James Saggus	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
Evan Caposey	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
Maximus Hartog	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
Julie Hoyda	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
Sophia Hoyda	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial
Alex James	5/1/2025	Summer Custodial

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Director of Primary Education

Misty Scheuneman
Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees
FROM: Yolanda Bracey, Director of Primary Education
DATE: May 1, 2025
RE: **Board Meeting of May 5, 2025**

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE REQUESTS

NAME	Jennifer Frazier
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Bibich Elementary
EVENT	2nd Grade Field Trip
DATES	4/29, 5/06 and 5/07/2025 (a couple of classes each day)
PLACE	Chicago, IL
DESCRIPTION	2nd grade field trip to Midway Airport
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Bibich 2nd grade
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self Funded

YB/vv

NAME	Erin Durr
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Homan Elementary
EVENT	NCTE/NCTM Joint Conference
DATES	6/16, 6/17, 6/18/2025
PLACE	Chicago, IL
DESCRIPTION	Literacy/Math Conference
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	NCTE and NCTM
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$325 Estimated Travel Cost - Mileage & Parking
FUNDING	District Title II

NAME	Allison Doyle
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	Kolling
EVENT	Ignite to Write Workshop
DATES	6/26 - 6/27/2025
PLACE	Virtual
DESCRIPTION	Writing workshop
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Smekens Education
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$409 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Corporation Title II

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Director of Secondary Education

Rebecca Gromala
Director of Student Services

TO: Board of School Trustees

FROM: Yolanda Bracey, Director of Elementary Education

DATE: May 1, 2025

RE: **Board Meeting of May 5, 2025**

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Jennifer Frazier, Joanne Pratt, Laura Collin, Sarah Darnell and Jennifer Fieleke, teachers at Bibich Elementary, request to take approximately (120) 2nd grade students to Chicago, IL on April 29, May 6 and May 7, 2025 (different classrooms will go each day). The students will visit the Southwest Airlines Hangar at Midway Airport where they will explore an airplane and airplane hangar, and listen to a presentation from Southwest staff. This is a self-funded field trip.

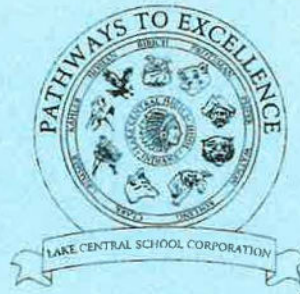
YB/vv

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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: May 1, 2025
RE: **Board Meeting of May 5, 2025**

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE REQUESTS

NAME	Leta Sena-Lopez, Courtney Palasz / Kevin Lewis
POSITION	Band Director, Choir Director / Band Director
SCHOOL	Kahler / Grimmer
EVENT	Field Trip
DATES	5/10/2025
PLACE	Gurnee, IL
DESCRIPTION	Band and Choir end of year field trip
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Kahler / Grimmer Music Department
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost - \$0 Estimated Required Fees - \$0 Estimated Travel Cost - \$0
FUNDING	Self-Funded

MS/vv

Board Meeting of May 5, 2025

NAME	Courtney Palasz
POSITION	Choir Director
SCHOOL	Kahler Middle School
EVENT	Choir Field Trip
DATES	5/31/2025
PLACE	East Lansing, MI
DESCRIPTION	Choir field trip to Hamilton musical
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	Kahler Choir
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$0 Estimated Hotel Cost – \$0 Estimated Required Fees – \$0 Estimated Travel Cost – \$0
FUNDING	Self Funded

NAME	Dustin Verpooten
POSITION	Teacher
SCHOOL	LCHS
EVENT	AP Bio Summer Institute
DATES	7/14 - 7/18/2025
PLACE	Fayetteville, AR
DESCRIPTION	Summer learning opportunity for AP Bio Teachers
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	University of Arkansas
EXPENSES	Estimated Meal Cost - \$140 Estimated Hotel Cost – \$600 Estimated Required Fees – \$675 Estimated Travel Cost – Parking
FUNDING	LCHS AP Fund

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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: May 1, 2025

RE: **Board Meeting of May 5, 2025**

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Leta Sena-Lopez (Band Director) at Kahler Middle School, Courtney Palasz (Choir Director) at Kahler Middle School and Kevin Lewis (Band Director) at Grimmer Middle School, request to take approximately (380) band and choir students to Gurnee, IL on May 10, 2025. The students will visit Great America for an end of year celebration. This is a self-funded field trip.

Courtney Palasz, Choir Director at Kahler Middle School, requests to take approximately (35) 8th grade choir students to East Lansing, Michigan on May 31, 2025. The students will visit the Wharton Center for Performing Arts to see the musical Hamilton, meet A.D. Weaver and take a backstage tour. This is a self-funded field trip.

MS/vv

Proposal for Outdoor Garden Beds to Enhance School Grounds and Provide Student Learning Opportunities

Overview

We propose the purchase and installation of two raised garden beds outside of Door H at Lake Central High School. This project will be a collaborative effort between the N-Teens Club and the Environmental Club, both of which are committed to fostering environmental awareness and community engagement among students. The raised garden beds will serve as both an aesthetic enhancement to the school grounds and a hands-on learning opportunity for students to care for plants, including flowers and vegetables.

Project Goals

1. **Beautification:** The addition of raised garden beds will improve the aesthetic appeal of the school's exterior.
2. **Educational Opportunities:** Students will gain practical experience in planting, maintaining, and harvesting plants, fostering responsibility and environmental awareness.
3. **Community Engagement:** The project will encourage students to take ownership of a shared school space while earning service hours for their participation.
4. **Sustainability:** By growing flowers and vegetables, we promote sustainability and the importance of local gardening initiatives.

Project Implementation

- The N-Teens Club and the Environmental Club will collaborate on purchasing and assembling the raised garden beds. (See Estimated Costs)
- The garden beds will be placed in a designated area outside of Door H.
- A watering schedule will be established to ensure consistent care for the plants. Students who participate in summer watering will receive community service hours.
- The project will be fully funded by the participating clubs, including the purchase of the raised beds, soil, plants, and a hose for watering.

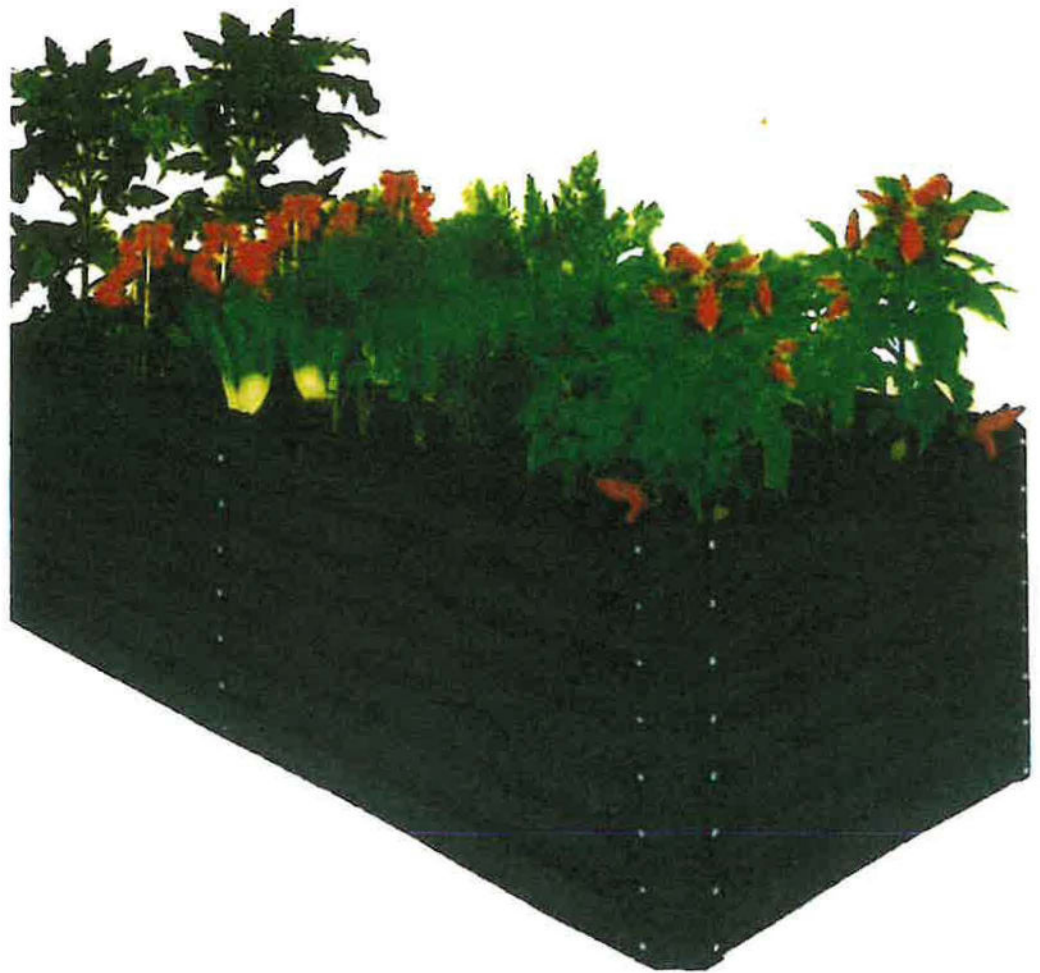
Request for Approval

We are seeking approval from administration to move forward with this project. Our goal is to begin installation in May so that students can start planting this season.

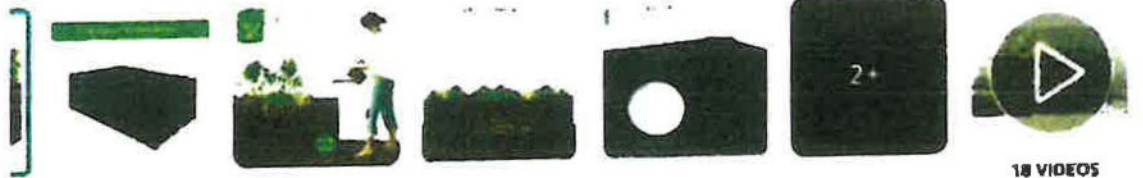
Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your support in making this project a success.

Sincerely,

Anna Herr and Braiden Cooper (N-Teens Presidents) and Salma Jimenez and Madeline McNabney (Environmental Club Presidents)



Roll over image to zoom in



18 VIDEOS

us

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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: May 1, 2025

RE: **Board Meeting May 5, 2025**

Donations (Action Required)

Received

Bibich Elementary School received a donation of \$5,000 from Robert Burish, through the Crown Point Community Foundation. The donor has requested that 40% of the money goes to help offset negative food service balances and the other 60% be used for school educational needs, to be determined by the building principal.

Given

Lake Central High School Student Council held their annual Color Run on April 26th. The Student Council would like to donate \$1,500 of the proceeds to the Indiana Dunes National Park.

The Administration recommends approving the donations as indicated above.

2025 Tax Rates

Now that the 2025 tax rates have been set by the Department of Local Government Finance, I will be giving the school board an update on our Lake Central School Corporation rate, as well as the overall tax rates for the communities we serve.