

## LT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

6:30 PM – October 18, 2006

### Minutes

#### Handouts:

1. Gang Awareness, Identification & Prevention
2. Proposed Motion to Amend Article VI, Section 1 of LTCAC By-Laws
3. Letter to LTCAC membership regarding school calendar changes
4. Letter to parents regarding safety at LTHS
5. Maps of North and South Campus showing camera and entrance locations
6. School Climate Survey

#### I. New Member Reception and Orientation 6:30 to 7:00 PM

#### II. LTCAC Call to Order and Business (7:02 PM)

- A. Co-Chair Joyce McFadden called the meeting to order and introduced the new officers
- B. Minutes from the May 10 meeting were approved as written.
- C. Angela Curran presented the motion to amend the By-Laws reducing the number of meetings per school calendar year and lengthening of the duration of the meetings to 2.5 hours. The motion was carried.

#### III. Superintendent Report (Dr. Kelly) (7:11 PM)

- A. 27 new hires were completed for this semester, mostly due to maternity leaves within the current staff and increased student enrollment.
- B. Facility construction projects are now complete, on time and within budget.
- C. Enrollment projects are on track: leveling off with moderate growth over the next five years.
- D. Staff has been added for student support services at SC (I full time) and NC (part time).
- E. Testing and Assessment office expanding; staff increasing next year by 1 staff position.
- F. School calendar will not be changing due to survey response; Board of Education will keep this issue under study.
- G. Dr. Kelly encouraged the LTCAC membership to test the new website and provide him with feedback.
- H. Jeanne Widing will be undertaking a social & emotional learning curriculum assessment: coordinating the current school programs and services with social and emotional learning concepts and making recommendations for new programs and services; results should be available by April 2007.
- I. Social Norming program is being carefully evaluated and is well underway at both campuses. It is being revised as it evolves; the plan of the Board of Education is to keep the program in place for several years.
- J. School Climate survey will be available on the LTHS website. All faculty and students will be invited to take the survey in November.

- K. Homework policies will be reviewed by Scott Eggerding and the curriculum and staff development team yearly and will be discussed annually with Dr. Kelly.
- IV. School Board Member Report (Al Polich) (7:27 PM) Board of Education Process
  - A. School Board meets monthly on the third Monday at NC at 7:30 PM in Room 103. Board operates on a committee process. Committees present to the Board. The committee meetings are ad hoc and held in the Board Room at 7:00 AM and are open to the public.
  - B. All meetings are open to the public.
- V. Discussion of member concerns and issues (7:40 PM)
  - A. Split campuses: talk about making both campuses 4-year schools, but this was a rumor.
  - B. Concern over overcrowding in the lunchrooms and lack of time to get through the lunch lines and eat the lunchtime meal.
  - C. Unit District (K-12) versus individual school districts; concept is laden with problems, both financial and logistical. Articulation committees help coordinate curriculum goals throughout the district.
  - D. Need for teen pregnancy education and support systems for student mothers
  - E. Lack of effective health education regarding sex, STD issues, pregnancy, etc. at the feeder middle school level.
  - F. Concern over excessive weight of backpacks and the inability to buy extra books so that students can have extra books at home
  - G. Concerns over the electric service outages at both campuses were voiced
  - H. Proposed school calendar changes will be reviewed by the LTCAC before they are put out to the community for feedback. The survey might not have been well publicized due to the lack of responses (about 1000).
- VI. New Business-School Safety and Gangs (8:02 PM)
  - A. School Safety: Gang Awareness, Identification and Prevention presented by David Franson, Principal
    - 1. PowerPoint presentation reviewing the information in the handout
    - 2. Achievement, Acceptance and Affection are the three essential needs for all adolescents. Gangs cater to these needs. In order to be effective in fighting gang mentality, families must offer more than gangs offer.
    - 3. About ½ of the yearly school expulsions are due to gang activities.
    - 4. Student disciplinary files are available to the school staff when students transfer into LTHS.
    - 5. School administrators share information regarding gang activity.
    - 6. LTHS is not aiming at an overly restrictive student environment. It is looking to be centered in the continuum of security measures. School safety is left up to the security staff and the entire adult staff of the school.
  - B. Student Assistants (Security Guards) presented by Mike Hogan, Associate Principal NC
    - 1. General discussion regarding the role of the student assistants and their duties at the campuses.
    - 2. There are 16 student assistants at LTHS.

3. LTHS is looking to fill a student assistant position with a Spanish speaking candidate.
- C. Safety Drills: Code Red Drill (School Lockdown) presented by Therese DeClerk, Associate Principal SC
1. All staff members have copies of the code red drill.
  2. The drill details are developed and coordinated with local police and fire departments.
  3. Basic premise for Code Red is that the students and staff remain locked down in a safe location (classroom, library, etc.) until the staff member in charge is personally advised that the situation has been resolved.
- D. Campaign Against Bullying: presented by Lisa Bollow, Assistant Principal SC
1. Poster campaign in school regarding bullying behavior and options for student recourse.
  2. Students can use drop boxes and email to make reports regarding bullying. Parents can become involved if the student is not comfortable with reporting the problem.
  3. Bullying is best addressed as soon as it is noticed rather than once the situation/behaviors have become problematic.
  4. Safety plan for reported bullying incidents: journal of incidence providing specific details; suggesting remedies; remediation plans for parent, staff, affected student and bully; follow-up with involved students and parents; follow-up regarding the effectiveness of the intervention.
- E. Keyless Entry, Security Cameras and School Climate Survey: presented by Dr. Dennis Kelly, Superintendent
1. Dr. Kelly reviewed the maps showing the entrances and camera locations at both campuses and the challenges involved in securing both campuses.
  2. NC has ground level windows, which are hard to secure against invaders. SC can lock all doors and the first floor windows are not easily accessible.
  3. Staff and students have to be retrained to refrain from opening doors to those wishing access to the school buildings.
  4. All types of more stringent/aggressive security programs have “inconvenient” by-products: carrying/wearing ID’s for keyless access, restricting usable building entrances, closing the tunnel at NC, etc.
  5. Cameras are used today to deter vandalism, theft and illegal activity.
  6. Cameras would have to be physically monitored by 4 full-time employees if a system were installed where all areas of both campuses were under surveillance.
  7. The Board of Education authorized the LTHS administration to purchase an automated phone system for notifying parents about school closings, school emergencies, etc. Families will be asked to provide two phone numbers to be included in the notification system.

8. Dr. Kelly is conducting a survey on suburban safety issues. It stresses communication as the best thing to prevent violence at school. Students have a responsibility in this need for communication, as well.

**VII.** Question and Answer Session, Open Discussion (8:00 PM)

A. Dr. Kelly supplied a list of questions to be discussed (and items to be ranked by importance) regarding the topics presented at the meeting. Results will be reported at the next LTCAC meeting.

**VIII.** Meeting Adjourns (9:30 p.m.)