

LT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

7:00 PM – December 13, 2006

Minutes

Handouts:

1. Staff Training
 2. Summary of the LTHS District 204 Technology Plan
 3. Computer Labs At LTHS
 4. Technologies Expenditures Summary
- I. LTCAC Call to Order and Announcements (7:02 PM)
- A. Co-Chair Joyce McFadden called the meeting to order.
 - B. Minutes from the October 18, 2006 meeting were approved as written.
 - C. Angela Curran reported that she and Joyce attended the November Board of Education meeting to present the results of the school safety survey taken at the end of the October 18 meeting.
 - D. Angela reported that *The Doings* had an article discussing past recommendations that the LTCAC had presented to the Board of Education
- II. Superintendent Report (Dr. Kelly) (7:07 PM)
- A. November 2 Safety Drill took place and local authorities participated in the drill
 - B. Laminate floor plans of all the school buildings in Lyons Township are being circulated to local police, fire departments
 - C. The drill unearthed a few procedural issues that are now being fine-tuned.
 - D. Emergency plan is being review and revised
 - E. The traditional school calendar year for 2007-2008 was approved.
 - F. The automated phone alert system was approved and made ready for use
 1. Parents and teachers will be notified
 2. Number blocking will need to be addressed so that people can be contacted by the system
 3. Messages will also be on the website and the switchboard
 4. Dr. Kelly personally activates the system; 5:45 AM cut-off for determination of snow days; parents and staff start to get notified between 6 and 6:30 AM
 - G. Chinese language art classes have been added at north and south campus.
 - H. Future student enrollments should have school size leveling off at about 4300 students
- III. School Board Member Report (Al Polich) (7:22 PM)
- A. Board of Education would prefer ADVICE from the LTCAC rather than comments or suggestions. They would like consensus on ideas rather than suggestions made for additional research.
- IV. Discussion of member concerns and issues (7:25 PM)

A. The Student Climate Survey has not been administered because the one that was proposed for use is no longer available. A search for a substitute survey is underway. A baseline will be established with the first survey administered and then the survey will be issued every other year.

B. Freshman Experience Day-a few parents reported that the new students did not receive the best sense of a “typical” day at LT. It was reported that the student leaders are well trained but the criticism will be integrated into the training program for the next Freshman Experience Day.

C. Reber Center- 2-year old leak in the Reber Center; Dr. Kelly conjectured that the engineering department did not know about the leak; he promised to fill out a requisition for repair after the meeting.

D. Parents feel that critically ill students are attending school in order to be able to exempt finals. Basically the policy is a privilege, and parents must help their students understand that if they are sick they should stay home and relinquish the final exemption option.

E. The “proposed new” school calendar will be posted on the LTHS website for community review prior to the next vote on changing the calendar.

F. There was some discussion regarding the “appropriateness” of students conducting fund raising for various projects or “needs” at LT.

G. Some criticisms were leveled against the accuracy and timeliness of information on the new website. Dr. Kelly asked that people direct emails to him expanding upon the shortcomings.

V. New Business-Technology at LTHS (7:55PM)

A. The Technology Plan presented by Ed Tennant

1. The technology plan will be in place for three more years
2. Wireless network has issues at North Campus because of the structure of the buildings

B. Tablet Project and Classroom Applications of Technology presented by Jeremy Vrtis

1. Tablets model good study skills
2. Brings everyday world into the classroom
3. Allows teacher to move around the room
4. Encourages better note taking with students because of teacher physical proximity to students inside the classroom
5. Access to “E”ditions of textbooks
6. Tablet program is expanding as more teachers become involved in training

C. Staff Training presented by Rebecca Rivan

1. 4 staff developers with weekly training schedules for teachers
2. Individualized Technology Plan for teachers
3. Training is dynamic; basic skills and curriculum expansion
4. Teachers training other teachers

D. Use of Computer Labs presented by Ed Tennant

E. Technology Budget for 2006-2007 presented by Dr. Kelly

1. 4 year replacement product cycle for desktop equipment is favored

- a) Operating systems stay current
- b) Equipment doesn't break down as often
- c) Prefer to maintain a Windows house
- 2. Established hardware and software are employed at the school; Lyons Township is not testing or using cutting edge technology; they are using products that have been tested and vetted out by others.
- 3. 25% of the desktop equipment has been replaced in the past year
- 4. The technology budget is growing; how much is enough?
- F. Future Use of Technology
 - 1. It is thought that each student will have a laptop for school use in the not too distant future. If you can take it home, you will work on it at home, hence, increased productivity.
 - 2. By nature of the younger age of the many new staff members at LTHS, technology familiarity in the classroom is on the rise
 - 3. Tablet program responsibilities & considerations may be driven to division chair/level for expansion
 - 4. There was a discussion regarding the necessity for basic computer technology and proficiency testing or establishment of baseline skill sets for students as prep for or requirements for admittance to high school and college
 - 5. Touched briefly on the topic of the "dark" side of technology: phishing, cyber stalking, plagiarism

VI. Question and Answer Session, Open Discussion (9:10 PM)

- A. Teachers made a plea for additional Proximas for permanent use (mounted) in the various classrooms that do not have them.
- B. Small groups filled out technology surveys

VII. Meeting Adjourns (9:30 p.m.)