

Lyons Township High School Community Advisory Council

7:00 PM – May 16, 2007

Minutes

Handouts:

1. LTCAC End-of-Year Survey Results – April 07
2. LTCAC Transition Program Questionnaire Results -- Draft

- I. LTCAC Call to Order: Committee Reports; Secretary's Report (7:29 PM)
 - A. Joyce McFadden called the meeting to order.
 - B. Membership: Next year, the LTCAC will need about ten community members, nine to ten students, and four to five staff. The application forms are on the table outside and on the LTCAC web site. Please return by June 15th or 16th. All should be returned to Dr. Kelly's office.
 - C. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.
 - D. Election of officers for 2007-2008.
 - E. Officers for 2007-2008 was presented, moved, seconded, and approved.
 1. No nominations from the floor.
 2. Slate was presented, moved, seconded, and approved.
 3. Officers are:
 - a. Co-chair: Joyce McFadden
 - b. Co-chair: Marilyn Kosin
 - c. Secretary: Ernest Froemel
 - d. Membership Committee Chair: Patty Rocco
 - F. Introduction of Board Members: Mark Pera, president; John Polacek; Dr. Arthur Sprague; and, Heather Alderman.
 - G. Recognition of retiring members. The following retiring members were recognized and thanked:

Members retiring after 4
years of service

Mary Kevorkian
Tom Kokontis
Mark Magee
Deb Pusinelli
Deb Wach

Other non-returning
members

Denise Jiminez-Adams
Steve Jones
Bill Rodey
Pamela Roman

Graduating Students

Jacob Bryzgalski
Jill Cammarata
Moira Forberg
Graham Johnson
Lindsey Kremer
Elizabeth Hussey
Jaime Ove
Bob Olzewski
Karilyn Murray

Retiring Staff Members

Julia Brenson
Jim Mshar
Meredith Sheriff
Guido Arquilla

- II. Superintendent's Report, Dr. Kelly (7:37 PM)
 - A. The Board has reorganized. The newest member is Heather Alderman, who was Woman of the Year in Western Springs and is an experienced Board member of District 101.
 - B. Oak Park – River Forest has selected Dr. Weninger, LTHS Director of Human Resources, as their new superintendent. He will start July 1. The process for finding a replacement has started.

- C. The Countryside Rotary has honored seventy-five Lyons Township students for making the biggest leap in GPA in one year. This is the first time that some of these students have been recognized for academic achievement.
- D. The Senior Honors Assembly is scheduled for 6/1/07. Around 250 members of the senior class will be recognized for all kinds of awards, honors, and scholarship.
- E. Baccalaureate is an inspirational ceremony done by students on 6/3/07. LTHS is one of the few high schools in Illinois that has a Baccalaureate.
- F. Prom is 6/7/07 and will be held at Navy Pier. Last year's decision to hold it at Navy Pier was a wonderful decision.
- G. Last day of finals is 6/7/07.
- H. Graduation is 6/10/07 at 2:00 PM and will last about an hour.

III. Old Business, Angela Curran (7:46 PM)

- A. Transition Program Questionnaire Results – Draft
 - 1. Copies have been given to Scott Eggerding, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.
 - 2. Draft was accepted as final by the group.
 - 3. The final form will be submitted to the Board at a later time.
- B. Feedback on the new LTCAC meeting format.
 - 1. People liked the format -- fewer meetings, longer meetings, time for community questions and concerns.
 - 2. Tweaks for next year – questionnaires, incorporating other issues.
 - 3. Seventeen people volunteered to help plan next year's meetings, but didn't include their names on the form.
 - 4. Joyce McFadden presents a token of thanks to Angela Curran, the outgoing co-chair..
- C. New Business, Angela Curran (7:49 PM)
 - 1. Questions and answers with Board
 - a. Q. Is this the last year that seniors will not have to take finals?
A. This is not changing.
 - b. Q. Will there be a change in the calendar?
A. There will be a survey in the fall on the web. The options are 1. keep the existing calendar or, 2. a modified calendar that starts 4-5 days earlier so the first semester ends right before winter break. This would be for the '08-'09 year.
 - c. Q. Is school starting three days earlier?
A. No, school starts the last Monday in August.
 - d. Q. Which recommendations were most useful this year?
A. Recommendations about technology were right on track. The most interesting discussion was about the transition program.
 - e. Q. What kind of response was received from the students when Chinese was added to the curriculum?
A. The response was quite good. It was enough to create a full time position and classes at both campuses.
 - f. Q. How did adding Chinese impact the Latin program?
A. No change.
 - g. Q. Will Riverside-Brookfield use one of our pools when their pool closes?

- A. Both LT pools are booked full time. We are trying to find some time for them, but can't during the day.
- h. Q. Will changes in Drivers' Education laws have a major impact on LT's Drivers' Education program?
A. Yes, if the laws pass, simulators will become obsolete. LT is one of the few schools with a four-phase program that used simulators. We need to review the program in light of these changes; and, we hope there will be a year's transition.
- i. Q. Newspapers have reported that some students at some schools were asked not to take the PSAT on the given date in order to improve the school's ranking. What is LT's view on this?
A. We think it is disgraceful, and have sent a letter to the State Superintendent asking for an opinion.
- j. Q. How big is the incoming class of freshmen?
A. It is between 990 and 995.
- k. Q. How many of that freshman class will be in the transition program?
A. We don't know that at this time.
2. Topics that the Board would like the LTCAC to address next year.
- a. Jan/Feb: discussions about a new Superintendent.
 - Use the LTCAC as a focus group.
 - b. Mar/Apr: a review of student achievement goals.
 - How to incorporate Applied Arts, Vocational Programs for transitional students.
3. Topics suggested by the LTCAC
- a. Changes in cafeteria food and nutrition.
 - b. Improving student-counselor relations.
 - Counselor accountability
 - Student-counselor ratio
 - Time allowed in groups and individually
 - c. Curriculum for creative and practical arts.
 - d. How are athletic coaches selected, reviewed, and retained?
 - e. Air conditioning buildings.
 - Making LT green
 - f. Alternative programs.
 - g. School climate and social emotional learning.
 - An update from the Jean Whiting Task Force
- IV. Consensus with Board on meeting topics
- A. Board interests: 2a, 2b, making LT green, but not air conditioning(3e), cafeteria(3a), coaches(3d), counselors, maybe expanded to the entire student support staff(3b)
 - B. Table exercise: Agree on priorities for discussing these topics at next year's LTCAC meetings.
- V. Meeting Adjourns (8:57 PM)