

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**A Special Board of Education Meeting  
for  
Lockport Township High School District No. 205  
Will County, Illinois,  
was duly held at the  
East Campus,  
1333 East Seventh Street,  
Lockport, IL,  
on this 29th day of October, 2009,  
in said District**

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE TO FLAG, ROLL CALL**

President Ronald Svara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Member Lewandowski led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following members were present:

Michael Lewandowski, Member  
Cindy Polke, Member  
Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary  
John Lukasik, Member  
Susan L. Forbes, Vice President (entered the meeting at 7:13 p.m.)  
Ronald Svara, President

A quorum was present.

Absent were: Members Angela Kamely and Susan Forbes

Administrators present:

Garry W. Raymond, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Todd P. Wernet, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
Peter M. Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Richard A. Lesniak, Director of Business Services  
K. Brett Gould, Principal, East Campus  
Dennis P. Hicks, Principal, Central Campus  
Matthew R. Dusterhoft, Director of Technology

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PETITIONS**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

A presentation was provided by Dr. Michael Early, Superintendent, Richland School District 88A, who wanted to share their district's Strategic Plan experience with the Board members and administrators of District 205. He introduced the individuals who came with him that evening: Julie Starasinich, Board President; Gill Valencia, and Mava Zeilka. He also stated that Dennis Hicks, Principal, Central Campus, was also a part of team. He informed them of their objectives and the four strategies that evolved. He explained that they spent three days—a total of 37 hours—with a crosscut of community members, parents, students, district staff, and school board members who volunteered their time on September 17, 18, and 19, to build a draft of their Strategic Plan with one goal in mind—"How do we move forward?" Fifty percent of the team members were parents and they followed the Cambridge Guidelines. They divided into four action teams to identify four strategies to focus on. The Action Teams will reconvene in February or March to look at the plan, accept it, send it back, or reject it all together. This team will address their Board in April with the final Strategic Plan. President Svara asked that they come back to LTHS in a year for review. Member Johnson stated that she might be interested in joining their group because she lives in District 88A.

**INFORMATION REPORT #0910-08 – DIVERSITY UPDATE**

Todd Wernet, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, explained that the Equity Action Committee which was created at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, had its first meeting today for initial planning. The committee's main mission is educating students and their performance. This committee consists of 11 staff members: Michelle Cannon, Mickey Conway, Pamela Hoefling, Jeff Krohn, Jillian Meldgin, Courtney Oxley-Turner, Pat Stanley, Deborah Summers, Larry Thompson, Jeff Wood, and Stacy Yarmoska, who represent the diversity of our school district in race, ethnicity, gender, role, district experience, and cultural awareness. The committee members were selected from 20 surveys that were completed used to gather information regarding their prior training and experiences related to diversity, passion for the initiative, and reasons for participating. The committee will meet approximately twice a month. The initial core mission is to draft a diversity mission statement for the District; develop ideas and recommend goals and timelines related to diversity objectives; assist with implementation and evaluation of diversity activities; and sponsor district and community activities. On November 6, the committee will meet for in-service training to facilitate common language and focus regarding diversity and to facilitate group dialogue. The committee will update the Board periodically regarding its progress. It is anticipated that they will present out to the Board in either January or February 2010. Superintendent Raymond stated that today's meeting was dynamite!

**INFORMATION REPORT #0910-07 – BOARD GOALS**

Superintendent Raymond stated that there was a lot of information to share with the Board regarding the Board Goals; but before he updated the Board on the Goals, he explained that he had just come back from the Annual Superintendents' Conference in Springfield and there was a new software that was demonstrated at the conference called Dashboard. The software allows a person to look for information in a more graphic way through gauges and scoreboards on a district's web site.

Each Board Goal was reviewed separately. Superintendent Raymond stated that what he needed from the Board tonight was consensus from the Board to move ahead—and consensus was to move ahead.

*Goal #1 – Provided there are no substantial changes in the socioeconomic characteristics of the District, the average ACT and related achievement test scores, as measured by the results of such tests, shall exceed the State average for such tests.* Several Board members would like to see the District compared to the top 10% of local schools—not State scores. Compare to other local schools of the same size and demographics, and would like to see an actual number instead of the term “exceeds.”

*Goal #2 – Establish a citizen’s advisory council for LTHS.* Mr. Lesniak stated that there would be 12 citizens and eight LTHS administrators on the LTHS Citizen’s Advisory Council and that it would not be appropriate for the School Superintendent or members of the Board to participate in the Advisory Council so the members would not feel threatened. Parents should be given some type of guidelines/training. Administration liked the Lincoln-Way model where they assign the Advisory Council one task to study per year. The Council’s first meeting will be January. Dr. Raymond stated that the Superintendent goals need to be different than the Board goals.

*Goal #3 – Given the consequences with changes in student schedules, evaluate, monitor, and provide support initiatives for our at-risk student population.* The Board was informed that the comments provided were not in rank order but alpha order, and those listed were accounts with reoccurring themes. Some Board members stated that they would like to see more open-ended questions, and that a follow-up on these comments should be done. A way to provide more programs should be considered for the at-risk students. Regarding the Equity Action Committee, preliminary information should be available next week. Next year, we should have graphic interface with new software. Regarding student classification, some Board members felt that freshmen should be identified as well. The memo line in the email from Blackboard needs to be more descriptive. Also, the District must consider that not everyone has email or a computer. It was felt that when educating students we have to remember that they are more than just a number...and numbers aren’t everything.

### **REFERENDUM DISCUSSION**

Discussion began with, “Do we put an Advisory Question on the ballot about a referendum?” Would there be any cost involved to put a question on the ballot? The advisory questions would be: would you support a 2 + 2, two four-year schools, or an expansion of East Campus. It was also felt that the price of the school should be lowered. What is the timeline to have a question put on the ballot? Superintendent Raymond stated that he thought that a ballot questions needed to be submitted 90 days prior to an election. However, he felt that if the Board decided to put an advisory question on the ballot, it should not be done until the Summit Meetings were all over for fear of losing the support of our communities by “putting the cart before the horse.” There will be an opportunity in again in the Fall. Some Board members felt that perhaps we could attain a sense of how the communities would feel about putting an advisory question on the ballot at the Summit Meetings. However, consensus of the Board was that no question would be put on the April ballot.

**OTHER DISCUSSION**

Regarding the Board meeting agendas, it was felt that the list could be tweaked and that critical issues could be the topics for the Special Board meetings. Move some of the information reports to the Special Board meetings. Also, perhaps a subcommittee should be formed. The suggested criteria for the Request for Qualifications should be ready for review/approval at the November Board meeting. Superintendent Raymond encouraged Board members to check their email every day for information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Member **Polke** moved, Member **Lewandowski** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOICE VOTE:** 7 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Ronald Svara, President

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Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary