

CITY OF LOCKPORT
HIGH SCHOOL SUMMIT MEETING NOTES
Thursday, April 22, 2010 (7:00 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

A High School Summit Meeting was duly held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, in the Auditorium at the Lockport Township High School District 205 East Campus. Mayor of Lockport, Dev Trivedi, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. On behalf of the City of Lockport, he thanked the Lockport Township High School Administration for hosting the Summit Meeting at the High School, and introduced himself, Mayor Jim Daley, Village of Homer Glen, and Mayor Ray Soliman, City of Crest Hill. He also introduced Tim Schloneger, City Administrator, and Bob Perretta, Alterman, and two dignitaries present in the audience, Alterman Bob Morris, and Will County Treasurer Pat McGuire. He thanked Pat for coming to the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Mayor Trivedi explained that the Summits began about a year ago beginning with an informational meeting held at the City of Lockport, followed by one in Crest Hill, and another in Homer Glen, where input was sought from all of the residents who were present. He asked those in attendance to take an agenda if they liked and to sign-in so there would be a record of who was in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to seek input from the audience and any ideas as to what needs to be done regarding addressing the main concern of the high school which is the overcrowding.

Those seated at the table were asked to introduce themselves: Tim Schloneger, City Administrator for Lockport; Renee Vulgaris, Steering Committee Member, Crest Hill; Mary Niemiec, Trustee, Homer Glen; Russell Knaack, Trustee, Homer Glen; George Yukick, Trustee, Homer Glen; Laurel Ward, Trustee, Homer Glen; Bob Perretta, 4th Ward Alderman, City of Lockport; Jim Daley, Mayor, Homer Glen; Dev Trivedi, Mayor, City of Lockport; Ray Soliman, Mayor, City of Crest Hill; Ronald Svara, President, Board President; Susan Fobres, Board Vice President, Lou Ann Johnson, Board Secretary; Michael Lewandowski, Board Member; Cindy Polke, Board Member, John Lukasik, Board Member; Angela Kamely, Board Member, and Garry Raymond, Superintendent, Lockport High School.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO SPOKE:

Members of the Public were requested to sign-in and then state their name and city where they lived, and the committee would discuss what was presented later. Being this meeting was video- and audio-taped, the public can see and hear what was said by these individuals that evening, by going to the Internet, typing in the web address www.thls.org, scrolling down to the last item on the LTHS web page entitled, "Summit Meetings," click on Video Gallery and choose, "Summit Meeting in Lockport, April 22, 2010," or any of the other meetings listed.

Some of those who spoke were: Tom Quinn, 16748 W. Oneida; Tom Polke, 12326 Mackinac; Glenn Martin, 15824 Chancellor Drive; Charlie Convery, 21227 Barth Pond Lane; Ann Lopez-Cavena, 305 E. 11th Street; Adam Woodworth, 911 Valley Lane; Marcos Czako, 504 N. Creekwood Court; Pat McGuire, 302 N. Chicago Street, Will County Treasurer; Darren Deskin,

1650 East Street; Glen Cavanaugh; Tom Buckley; and Laura Biciste, 16431 S. Cedar Road, Homer Township.

Some Closing Statements

Mayor Jim Daley, Homer Glen, thanked everyone for attending these Summit Meetings and their ideas. He stated that there is an issue and we need to get it resolved. He explained that they were a steering committee formed to gather the public's comments and suggestions and hopefully would be able to package something that the School Board would agree with to move forward to see a new school build for the Lockport District.

Mayor Ray Soliman, Crest Hill, thanked everyone for coming and had hoped that there would have been a larger crowd, but wanted to say that all three mayors (Crest Hill, Homer Glen, and Lockport) were all unified for passing a successful referendum. For the past six years, the District had asked the three mayors to join forces, but for whatever reason, they chose not to do that. He gave credit to Mayor Trivedi for bringing all three communities together and for having the mayors step forward to have the guts to sit in front of a group of people and say that education is a priority for each of the communities and to say that there have been a lot of problems in the past, misconceptions, and misunderstandings. We are here to listen to the opinions of the public for solutions that they might have and to talk about the issues of trust in the past, perceptions of the past, the diversities of all three of our communities, and that communication was poor in the past, and to say that we are here to make communication better, and to make government more transparent—more open. He stated that there has to be a reason why the referendum had failed five times. Something was done wrong and it needs to be changed. He asked the public to remember that communities are only as strong as their school districts. He stated that they were here to promote a referendum that will pass to offer more opportunities to all students of our communities. All we can do is to educate people to make the right decision when they step into the ballot box.

Superintendent Garry Raymond explained that this process for him has been very humbling and I think it's been said a few times that our common agenda is to take care of our kids and to do the best that we possible can for all 4000 students that are in Lockport Township High School every day. He stated that Administration does get accused that we did the same thing for five times—no we didn't—each referendum was tweaked and changed and modified based on what we thought the community would.

Announcements

Consensus of the Board was to move the next Special Meeting of Thursday, May 6, to Wednesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss goals, budget, and negotiations.

Adjourn

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Member (**M. Lewandowski**) Moved, Member (**Angela Kamely**) seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. By Voice vote, all members present voted Aye, and the Motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Ronald Svara, President

Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary

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