

## INFORMATION REPORT #1810-12

To: Dr. Todd Wernet

From: Dennis Hicks, East Campus Principal  
Kerri Green, Central Campus Principal

Date: October 15, 2018

Re: Information Report - Homecoming Dance 2018

LTHS has received a number of questions related to the attendance, supervision and procedures for the Homecoming Dance. This informational report is a historical perspective on the attendance at the dance as well as the dance processes and procedures.

As illustrated in the table below, the LTHS Homecoming Dance is a popular and well-attended event.

Number of students in attendance			
Year	Total Students	Outside guests attending	Behavior Incidents*
2014	2084	152	0
2015	2152	135	1
2016**	2373	144	1
2017	2475	153	0
2018	2343	146	2

\*An incident may involve more than one student

\*\*A fire alarm sounded during the 2016 Homecoming Dance. All students exited the dance in a calm and safe manner. Lockport Fire Department cleared the alarm and the dance resumed with no incident. The fire alarm was the result of a faulty sensor in a different area of the building.

### Dance Procedures

#### Entrance

- Students enter through the cafeteria doors.
- Most students purchase tickets prior to the dance, but tickets are available for purchase at the door.
- All students must present his or her ID to enter the dance. All student ID's are scanned to verify his or her standing prior to entrance.
- Any student bringing a guest who is not an LTHS student must submit a guest approval Form to his or her Dean prior to the dance.
- Students on Social Suspension are not eligible to purchase a ticket or attend any dance.

#### Exit

- Students exit the dance through the cafeteria doors.
- Students may not re-enter once they have left the dance.

## Supervision

- **Chaperones** (approximately 25 - 30)
  - Administration
  - Deans
  - LTHS Teachers
  - Paraprofessionals
  - Other LTHS Staff
- **Security**
  - SRO (School Resource Officer) (2)
  - Lockport PD (7)
  - Emergency Management Personnel (3)

## September 29 Event

At approximately 7:55 p.m., Lockport PD informed LTHS administration that a student had been taken into custody. The student identified was suspected of having a gun at the dance based on information provided by another student at approximately 7:45 p.m. Lockport police reported that the student admitted to having told other students that he had a gun but he stated that he really did not bring a gun, and no weapon was found on his person.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., the Lockport PD informed LTHS administration that upon further questioning, the student admitted that he had brought a BB gun to the dance and had passed it to another student. Lockport police began searching for the student in the Field House at that time.

At approximately 8:42 p.m., the student police were searching for returned to the school and was detained. The student admitted to taking the BB gun and burying it off campus. Lockport PD then recovered the BB gun. The BB gun was not loaded with either a CO 2 cartridge necessary to fire, or a projectile.

At approximately 8:45 p.m., a large group of students became startled and began rushing for the CWC exit. We believe this to be the result of Lockport Police searching for the second student along with social media messaging. The CWC was not a designated or primary exit, and a table for water sales was set up in the corridor by the exit. This resulted in several students falling into the table and to the ground.

An announcement was made at approximately 9:06 p.m. to the students in the Field House. The announcement was intended to calm students. After assessing the situation, the dance was concluded at 9:30 p.m., and an email and phone message was sent to all parents and staff at 9:45 p.m.

## Next Steps

LTHS has a District Crisis Management Plan that the District Safety Committee reviews and updates annually. The District Safety Committee evaluates safety plans and procedures and is comprised of district and building staff and administration with input from Lockport area police; the committee

reviewed and revised the current plan in October 2017. In addition, the District's Threat Assessment Team evaluates student behavior and ensures an appropriate level of response to student concerns. This team is comprised of district and building staff and administration. Both the Safety Committee and Threat Assessment Team will convene shortly to assess our current practices and policies, review the events of September 29, and make recommendations for changes or revisions, particularly as they apply to after school events. Included in this review will be an assessment of our dance entrance and exit procedures, chaperone training, supervision, communications, and any procedural changes that can help ensure the safety of our students and staff. An informational report with recommendations and an update will be provided to the Board at a future Board meeting.