

LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lancaster, New York

Board of Education Retreat
RECORDER: Richard D'Arcy

September 13, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.
Lancaster Country Club

Attendees: Kenneth Graber, President
David Ehrle, Vice President
Joseph Casimino, EdD, Trustee
Richard Foley, Trustee
Mary Kless, Trustee
Joseph Maciejewski, Trustee
Marie MacKay, Trustee
Edward Myszka, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Valley, PhD, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Pupil
Personnel Services
Richard D'Arcy, Director of Finance & Support Services

MINUTES

Review of OGS Audit

R. D'Arcy and E. Myszka presented an overview of the courtesy exit conference given by the OGS auditors. The "draft" audit report is expected to be received in early 2009.

Review of 2007-08 Goals (copy attached)

President Graber lead a discussion on the accomplishments met on the 2007-08 Board of Education Goals.

Goal #1 – Student Achievement

Dr. Valley presented the report titled "District Testing Data Summary 2007-2008" which highlighted the many testing achievements of Lancaster's students and faculty.

Dr. Valley also highlighted data regarding the Math B and Science testing scores.

The Board questioned what attributed to the success in scores. Dr. Valley and Mr. Myszka cited various examples including the Professional Development Program, the Mentoring Program, a challenging curriculum, Board supported resources, good information and the support of administration, teachers and support staff.

Further discussion ensued on increasing participation and results in AP courses.

Consideration of District paid AP exam fees, possibly tied to Free & Reduced Lunch participants was also discussed.

Also discussed was an article from the August 18, 2008 issue of NYSSBA's *On Board* newsletter regarding high school student achievement with respect to attitudes toward learning as perceived in other countries.

Issues concerning the guidance counseling and placement in Honors courses were also addressed.

In review, it was determined that all initiatives in Goal #1 were addressed and met during the 2007-08 school year.

Goal #2 – Health & Safety

R. D'Arcy presented the highlights of the District Safety Committee meeting including an update on the in-process District emergency plan.

The Board was informed of progress of the "School Safety Audit Checklist" that was being conducted at each individual building.

Building security was reviewed and a discussion took place regarding security measures and the use of cameras in the buildings and on the buses.

R. D'Arcy gave an update on the status of the district-wide implementation of photo I.D.'s to all employees, including substitutes. Full implementation is targeted for October 15, 2008.

A discussion took place regarding the various conduits for mass communication to employees, parents, etc in the event of an emergency. E-mail, cellular telephone/texting, and the upgrade of the Districts telephone system were discussed. The convergence of the eSchool data base with other District data bases was also discussed.

In review, it was determined that all initiatives in Goal #2 were addressed and met.

However, the Board indicated, as in student achievement, that safety is an on-going and ever-evolving goal.

Goal #3 – Increase Board of Education Knowledge Base

President Graber led a discussion on this goal which included recognizing that the C4E issue was a side-track in 2007-08.

The Board discussed their involvement and individual board member involvement in ECASB (Erie County Association of School Boards), NYSSBA (New York State Association of School Boards) and PPPE (Promoting Partnerships in Public Education).

Discussion ensued on the possibility of working with the Buffalo School District or another district in efforts to further the initiatives under this goal.

2008 – 09 Goals

See attached 2008 - 09 Goals – transcribed by Dr. Vallely.

Review of NYSSBA 2008 Convention Resolutions

Trustee Maciejewski reviewed the proposed resolutions to be presented at the 2008 NYSSBA Convention.

The Board discussed the various resolutions, giving direction to Trustee Maciejewski who is the voting delegate.

In addition, should the "Not Recommended" resolution to support funding of SRO's be brought to the floor, the Board polled 6-1 (Foley) for Delegate Maciejewski to support this resolution.

Future Considerations

Superintendent Myszka led a discussion on the following items for future consideration by the Board:

- K-12 Gifted and Talented Program
- Personnel Administrator/Attorney
- Transportation Center move to Walden Avenue
- Alternative Education facility

In each of these areas, both rationale and concerns were discussed by the Board, Mr. Myszka, Dr. Vallely, and Mr. D'Arcy. Future discussions and rationale will be accompanied by cost savings analyses.

Labor relations/Negotiations

General discussions ensued regarding the timeframe and process for upcoming negotiations with the LCTA (Lancaster Central Teachers Association) and LASP (Lancaster Association of Service Personnel)

The Board will meet in Executive Session on November 18 to begin contract discussions.

12:13 - Motion to Adjourn

Moved by M. Kless

Seconded by M. MacKay