

**MINUTES
OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING
OF
LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL
WITH THE
LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD AT GARFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
13114 DETROIT AVENUE
APRIL 22, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Special Meeting of the Lakewood City Council called to order at 7:03 PM by Board of Education President Linda Beebe.

Present from Lakewood City Council: Thomas R. Bullock III, Meghan F. George, John Litten, Samuel T. O'Leary, Daniel O'Malley, Tristan Rader

Present from Lakewood Board of Education: Vice President Emma Petrie Barcelona, President Linda Beebe, Tom Einhouse, Edward Favre, Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy

Also Present: Mayor Michael Summers, Planning and Development Director Sylvester, Public Works Director Beno, Human Services Director Gelsomino, Finance Director Pae, Fire Chief Gilman, Superintendent Michael Barnes, Treasurer Zeman, Security Supervisor John Crane, LHS Principal Mark Walter, Helen Serrano, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, Leslie Favre Krogman, Recreation Department Coordinator, Deputy Clerk Nick Lascu, Clerk Maureen Bach and 9 members of the public.

Board Property Updates

Superintendent Barnes provided an update on the Board's Warren Rd. headquarters, explaining that the Board has a purchase agreement in place with Liberty Development. Its due diligence period is set to expire shortly. The Board will lease its space for free from Liberty for 6 months to continue its central office functions. Once the renovations at Taft Elementary are complete, central office functions will re-locate to Taft. This will be in January 2020.

Superintendent Barnes provided an update on the renovations currently underway at Taft Elementary. Abatement is currently underway. He discussed the plans for the space once renovation is complete. Board headquarters will be upstairs. Downstairs will be equipped for an expanded preschool program as well as professional development space for teachers and

distance learning labs for students. The downstairs is set to be complete for the 2020-2021 school year.

School Safety Update

Mr. Crane provided an update on school safety topics. ALICE training has been provided to teachers for many years. In September 2018 the Board held a community meeting to discuss providing ALICE training to the students for the first time. Three separate training curricula were developed for elementary, middle, and high school students. With the exception of Roosevelt and Emerson which will be completed this week, all schools have now received the training. All trainings have gone very well.

Mr. Crane discussed efforts to improve and add security cameras on school properties. Cameras will now be integrated with the Lakewood Police Department and can be directly viewed by LPD.

Mr. Crane also mentioned that LHS and Hayes elementary were being used during spring break for training by LFD, LPD, and the FBI. He noted that students are utilizing an anonymous app to report safety issues and that parents are using a 24 hour hotline to do the same.

Council and the Board discussed the importance of keeping students current on their ALICE training as they move through the grades so that they have received the most age-appropriate curriculum.

Community Recreation & Education Department Update

Superintendent Barnes reported that annual and monthly memberships at the rec center have increased from last year. The facility was accepted as Silver Sneaker facility in March. He expressed confidence in the quality of programming for youth and adults. He provided statistics on the number of pool visitors (58,000), staff (130) and staff hours (2,400). He noted that pool admission fees have not increased since 2009.

Council President O'Leary remarked that Council acted last week on the Board's proposal to increase pool admission fees. The proposed changes to the family pass were adopted but Council chose to retain the other fees as-is. He stated that Council expressed a desire to have a more robust discussion on admission rates before making additional changes.

Leslie Favre Krogman provided information about the week-long lifeguard training provided by the Rec Department each year and the material covered in the training. She reported that lifeguard wages are low compared to other communities and the Metroparks and start at \$11/hour. She reported that the pools are now fully staffed with guards, managers, attendants, and swim instructors for the 2019 season. In response to a Councilmember's question, Ms. Krogman stated that the City's pool admission rates are relatively low. Any request for an increase would likely not be followed by another request within five years.

Vice President Barcelona asked if the City has contemplated future investments in the pools and if it has a long-term strategic plan for them.

President O’Leary responded that while a long-term plan will take many years to develop that some short-term improvements have been initiated by Council such as increased pool chairs and shade.

Councilmember O’Malley reported that Council recently approved another one-year lease with Cornucopia to operate the snack bar at the pool. School Board members expressed agreement with this decision.

Councilmember Bullock expressed his perspective that the pools should be improved but that the costs and the trade-offs need to be first fully considered. He noted that pools are never going to be a revenue generator for the City but a service that is provided. He noted that some neighboring cities maintain large rec centers with impressive pools but that they have had to pass levies to sustain these facilities.

Strategic Planning Update from Board of Education

Superintendent Barnes reported on the district’s key initiatives that will set the stage for its 3-5 year strategic plan.

- I. Expansion of Pre-K to ensure Kindergarten readiness
- II. “Portrait of a Graduate” initiative – a community engagement campaign to hear from parents, teachers, students, businesses, and faith leaders about what they believe the essential mindset and skills that an LHS graduate should have. He described the five competencies that have emerged from these discussions:
 1. Critical and creative thinking
 2. Collaboration
 3. Effective written and oral communication
 4. Growth mindset
 5. Global citizen
- III. Professional learning network – investments in professional development for teachers. Taft will be used as a space for more of this.
- IV. Ranger College – students to be able to graduate LHS with Associate’s or higher and build college pathways. Space at Taft will be turned in distance learning labs to facilitate this. The district has partnerships with University of Akron, Tri-C and other colleges.
- V. Innovation Engagement – academics, wellness, and civic engagement of students

In response to a Councilmember's question, Superintendent Barnes reported that the district has approximately 4,800 students. He discussed enrollment trends, concluding that this number is expected to hold steady for a while.

Councilmembers complimented the Superintendent on his plan and leadership to carry it out.

LHS Academic Programming

LHS Principal Walter reported to Council about the vast offering of academics and electives at LHS. He remarked that the school's goal is to meet the needs of all students. Its programming is designed to achieve this. Some of the offerings include:

- 15 AP courses where students can earn college credit for successful completion of exams
- College Credit Plus courses in partnership with Tri-C, LCC, and University of Akron
- General college prep courses open to any student including electives in math, art, English and others subjects.
- Westshore program – a partnership with industry leaders that offers students professional certifications
- Alternative education - designed for students where the traditional path isn't working. Offerings include off campus, online, and face to face instruction.

Principal Walter reported out on some of the prestigious colleges where LHS graduates have attended. Graduates are also present in all branches of the military.

Other

Councilmember Litten reported on the City's recent effort to raise the age for sale of tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21. He offered to work together to help students avoid tobacco and nicotine.

Principal Walter responded, noting that vaping is a huge problem among teens and that there has been a big increase in it. Traditionally students have been suspended for smoking but the administration is now exploring options such as education in place of suspension. He expressed appreciation for the City's legislative efforts.

Councilmember Bullock credited the School Board for investing in the school buildings and for promoting diversity, noting that these efforts have contributed to Lakewood's renaissance. He noted that there are several large housing development proposals currently before the City and noted that this will affect the school district. He stated that in order to grow its population, the City will have to add housing units and different kinds of housing units. He reported on trends in the City's housing market. He asked the Board to weigh in on these proposed developments and their impact on the school district.

Treasurer Zeman responded that \$10 million in new market value would bring \$150,000 annually per year to the schools. He stated that while this amount is significant that it is not a game changer. He also noted that the new housing could result in additional costs to the district if they attract many more families with children.

Mr. Favre added that family-friendly housing would be welcome so that the schools can maintain their breadth of offerings and staff levels.

Ms. Shaughnessy and President Beebe remarked that the increasing cost of properties and rent are putting a strain on the system's low income families, some of which must relocate in the middle of the school year to find more affordable housing.

Mayor Summers and Treasurer Zeman briefly discussed state funding formulas as they relate to the school district.

Mayor Summers reported to the Board that the City is working to establish a Youth Council by first setting up a Youth Council Planning Task Force. He discussed the applications the City received and the work ahead of the Task Force. The Task Force is set to meet this Wed.

Motion made by School Board President Beebe, seconded by Vice President Barcelona to adjourn the School Board meeting.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Motion made by Council President O'Leary, seconded by Councilmember Rader to adjourn the City Council meeting.

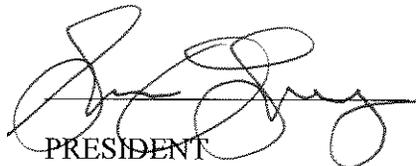
All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lakewood Board of Education and Lakewood City Council adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved: 5/6/19



CLERK


PRESIDENT