

COUNTY WIDE SAFE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2017
LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL, 0805 E 075 N, LAGRANGE, INDIANA

This meeting is being held pursuant to and in accordance with I.C. 5-2-10.1-10.

Cathy Phillip called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance were: Cathy Phillip, Carlos Olivares and Dr. Eva Merkel, Lakeland School Corporation; Gaylon Wisel, Damon Witherspoon and Brad Jones, Prairie Heights School Corporation; Jim Hostetler and Randy Miller Westview School Corporation; Tracy Harker, LaGrange County Sheriff Department; Maureen Bartow, Office of Family & Children

The group received a presentation from Mr. Robert Albaugh and Mrs. Amu Garl and students from the Breakfast Club program. Students who presented were: Mr. Albaugh and the students explained the program and the students shared personal stories of their experience.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and commented on their departments.

Tracy Harker commented he really likes the Breakfast Club program. Anytime we can provide support for kids is a good thing. Tracy added that if he or other fellow officers would be of any assistance they are glad to do those things. They (law enforcement) wants as many students to see law enforcement in a positive setting, not always a negative one.

Maureen Bartow shared that Barb Burgi is retiring and that Nikki Arroyo is being shifted from Angola to their office to cover her retirement. Maureen reported that the first ever Family Fun Day held this past weekend at Lakeland Middle School was a huge success. They are already starting plans for next year's event. Maureen added that adoptions are way up in our area. They are now doing in one or two months the same amount they used to do in a whole year. Maureen indicated one of the contributing factors is the change over in meth use from snorting to injecting via a needle.

Carlos shared that kids are getting a bit antsy as they look to the end of the school year and not being able to be here at school vs being at home. Cathy Phillip added that some of the current theories are that student behavior worsens when breaks are eminent as they would much rather come to school where there is food and a safe place versus being at home. Eva concurred on these issues dealing with students.

Jim Hostetler shared that he is retiring in June and is looking forward to that. He thanked Cathy for her leadership with this group and thanked the group members for all they do through their daily work in the world of safety.

Randy Miller shared that typical "spring time" issues are hitting at Westview and the "mean girl" drama is picking up. Nothing really special, just that time of the year.

Gaylon Wisel shared that today was stop arm violation survey day. This coming Saturday, 4-29 is the Prairie Heights Prom. All prom goers are notified in advance that Gaylon and others from law enforcement will be at the door and each person entering will be breathalyzed prior to entering into the prom.

Damon shared that things are wrapping up nicely at Prairie Heights. However as an observation, the freshman class has not matured quite as much as he had hoped.

Brad Jones from PHM indicated he is seeing much the same things are what Randy Miller from Westview reported.

Tracy Harker made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session meeting from November 9, 2016, seconded by Jim Hostetler, motion passed unanimously.

The committee having no further business did not hold an Executive Session and Cathy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Cathy J. Phillip, Chairperson