

Township Trustees of Schools

TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST
www.lyonstto.net

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Shakana L. Kirksey, President
Jessica A. Doherty, Trustee
Carol A. McGowan, Trustee
Zachary T. Stokes, Trustee
Tonisha Sibley, Trustee

William G. Channell, Trustee
Dr. Troy J. Whalen, Trustee
Steven J. Smidl, Trustee
Dr. Catherine A. Hannigan, Trustee

Griffin L. Sonntag, Trustee
Joseph M. Bonomo, Trustee
Ryan M. Leonard, Trustee
Dr. Joseph R. Rojek II, Trustee

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Countryside, IL 60525
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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office May 20, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

President Kirksey called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

	<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ms. Shakana L. Kirksey	X	
Ms. Jessica A. Doherty		X
Ms. Carol A. McGowan	X	
Mr. Zachary T. Stokes		X
Ms. Tonisha Sibley	X	
Mr. William G. Channell	X	
Dr. Troy J. Whalen		X
Mr. Steven J. Smidl	X	
Ms. Catherine A. Hannigan	X	
Mr. Griffin L. Sonntag	X	
Mr. Joseph M. Bonomo	X	
Mr. Ryan M. Leonard		X
Dr. Joseph R. Rojek II		X

Staff Members Present

Mr. Kenneth T. Getty, Treasurer

Other Guests Present

Ms. Claudia E. Castro, Attorney for LTTO
Ms. Cynthia Schilsky, LaGrange
Ms. Kathleen Graffam, Indian Head Park

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments—

Ms. Schilsky of LaGrange raised concerns on the Lyons Township High School District 204 uncollected pro rata funds for fiscal year 2000 to 2012 billed to the LTTO Member Districts in December 2024 asking where they were deposited.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Trustee Sibley motioned to approve the April 15, 2025, Open Session meeting minutes. **Trustee Channell** seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Trustee Hannigan motioned to approve the May 6, 2025, Open Session meeting minutes.

Trustee McGowan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Getty read the following statement as his Treasurer's Report:

Madam President and Members of the Board,

I want to formally state—both for the record of tonight's meeting and in writing for full transparency—my growing concern regarding conduct that may constitute a violation of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as well as patterns of behavior by Trustee Stokes that I believe warrant immediate review.

Over the past several weeks, I have received a series of communications from Trustee Stokes that go beyond the bounds of routine inquiry. His emails have increasingly taken on a pointed, accusatory tone—seeking written responses to issues that are not within my statutory authority or responsibility but, rather, fall squarely within the purview of the Board and/or my yet-to-be-appointed successor.

I believe this pattern of correspondence is not accidental. The communications appear to intend to assign blame for matters that originate with Board-level governance, not with the administrative office I lead. It also seems clear that these efforts are, in part, to protect himself ahead of his assumption of full responsibility as Treasurer of District 101, effective July 1, 2025. In my professional opinion, these communications are structured in a way to encourage me to opine on sensitive matters in writing that may be selectively quoted or misused at a later date, likely without full context or fair representation.

More broadly, the nature and timing of recent Trustee communications—particularly those referencing shared understandings or requests made on behalf of other Board members—raise legitimate questions under the Illinois Open Meetings Act. When deliberation, coordination, or consensus-building occurs outside of properly noticed public meetings, it compromises transparency, risks violating state law, and erodes the trust that should exist between this Office and the Lyons Township taxpayers it serves.

Therefore, I request the following:

That the Board consult legal counsel to evaluate whether recent communications among Trustees—including those initiated or led by Trustee Stokes—constitute a violation of the Open Meetings Act;

That the Board affirm, on the record, the appropriate boundaries between Board governance and Treasurer responsibilities, particularly in matters of operational oversight, financial reconciliation, and public communications; and

That any future requests for written statements, reports, or official positions from the Treasurer be made through formal Board action or in open session, so that intent, content, and context are clearly preserved.

I raise these concerns in furtherance of my fiduciary duty and to uphold the integrity of this Office, to our legal obligations, and to the people we serve. I remain fully committed to a transparent and successful transition through the remainder of my tenure.

Finally, I respectfully request that this statement be included verbatim in the official meeting minutes of the May 20, 2025, Lyons Township Board of School Trustees Meeting

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Getty, Treasurer.

Following Treasurer Getty's statement, Trustees discussed the concerns raised. Trustee Hannigan stated that she had not engaged in any violation of the Open Meetings Act and, based on her individual communications with Trustee Stokes, did not believe a violation had occurred. President Kirksey added that she had not received any email communications from Trustee Stokes and could not confirm whether a violation had taken place.

Board Attorney Claudia Castro addressed the Board, underscoring the importance of transparency, compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and the distinction between governance and operational responsibilities. Attorney Castro informed the Board that she would review the matter and report her findings at the next regular meeting. Trustee Sonntag advised the Board to remain mindful of the potential costs associated with any legal investigation or review.

Review the Lyons Township Treasurer's Financial Reports

The Board of School Trustees reviewed and discussed the Lyons Township School Treasurer's April 2025 financial statements.

Review/Approval of Payables Lists

Trustee Channell motioned to approve May 20, 2025, LTTO payables in the amount of \$57,412.39, as presented. **Trustee Sonntag** seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
	Abstain:	None

Motion carried.

Review of Review School Districts Official Records

The Board of School Trustees reviewed and discussed the Member Districts' March 2025 financial statements.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY2025 Audit Engagement Letter – GW & Associates

Trustee Smidl motioned to approve the FY2025 Audit Engagement Letter with GW & Associates, as presented. **Trustee Hannigan** seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

D204 Uncollected Pro Rata FY2000-FY2012 Receivables

Treasurer Getty presented an informational chart outlining District 204 Uncollected Pro Rata's outstanding receivables for FY2000-FY2021.

FY2024 Pro Rata Billing

Trustee Hannigan motioned to approve the FY2024 Pro Rata Billing, as presented. **Trustee Sonntag** seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Matters related to the withdrawal of Member Districts from the Township Trustees of Schools, Township 38 North, Range 12 East, County of Cook, State of Illinois at the conclusion of FY2025

Board attorney Claudia Castro informed the Board that Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and corresponding financial exhibits had been distributed to all five school districts planning to withdraw from the LTTO at the conclusion of FY2025. Trustees discussed the ongoing coordination with each district's legal counsel and the use of a standardized IGA template, adapted from the previously finalized agreement with West 40. It was noted that while the core language of the agreement remains consistent, individual financial worksheets are tailored to each district's specific situation. Trustees expressed the importance of transparency and reviewed the potential need for a special board meeting on June 30, 2025, to approve final agreements and process end-of-year transfers using the most current available balances. Several members emphasized the value of establishing bylaws and standardized procedures to guide future withdrawals and clarify the respective operational and oversight roles of the Treasurer, Board, and legal counsel.

Trustee Smidl made a motion at 7:04 p.m. to suspend the Open Session Board Meeting for the purpose of entering Closed Session.

- ***Illinois Open Meetings Act, (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)***, “Discussion on the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.”

Trustee McGowan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Motion to reconvene the Open Session Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Trustee McGowan motioned at 7:30 p.m. to reconvene the May 20, 2025, Open Session Board Meeting. Trustee Smidl seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Action as a Result of Closed Session

Trustee Hannigan motioned to approve the Treasurer's position contract (effective 07/01/2025) with Closed Session updates and signatures to follow, as presented. Trustee Sonntag seconded the motion.

Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried

Adjournment

Trustee Smidl motioned at 7:32 p.m. to adjourn the May 20, 2025, Open Session Board Meeting. Trustee Hannigan seconded the motion.

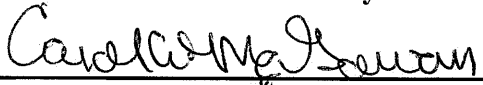
Roll Call: **Ayes:** Kirksey, McGowan, Sibley, Channell, Smidl, Hannigan, Sonntag, Bonomo
 Nays: None
 Absent: Doherty, Stokes, Whalen, Leonard, Rojek
 Abstain: None

Motion carried

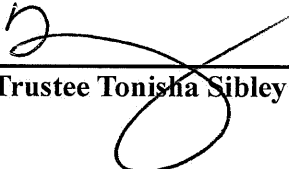
The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:

President Shakana L. Kirksey



Trustee Carol A. McGowan



Trustee Tonisha Sibley

Trustee Dr. Troy J. Whalen

Trustee Dr. Catherine A. Hannigan

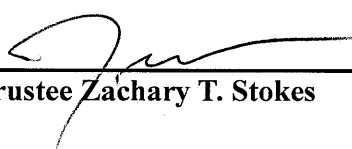


Trustee Joseph M. Bonomo




Trustee Dr. Joseph R. Rojek II

Trustee Jessica A. Doherty



Trustee Zachary T. Stokes

Trustee William G. Channell



Trustee Steven J. Smidl



Trustee Griffin L. Sonntag



Trustee Ryan M. Leonard

Date: 6/17/2025