Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Shinn called the October 17, 2006, board meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Ketra Bolster called the roll. Seven board members were present.

Public Comment

Mr. Dave Krider, 102 E. 16th Street, LaPorte, asked the Board to consider naming the Slicer gymnasium after former LaPorte High School coach and athletic director, Norm Hubner.

Miss Sara Dwight, LPHS Senior, commented on the new security policy at LaPorte High School, expressing concern for students who need to enter early in the morning to participate in extracurricular activities.

Miss Michelle Michaels, LPHS Senior, addressed the Board regarding the enforcement of a dress code at LaPorte High School, adding that she feels this effort would be better spent on curriculum issues.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. DeMuth:

✓ Thanked Mr. Jim Mandeville and Ms. Chris Gooch of Howmet/Alcoa for presenting two donations to LaPorte Community Schools. The first in the amount of $30,000 for Project Lead the Way, the Introduction to Engineering class at the middle schools, and a Partner in Education donation of $5,000 to Lincoln Elementary School.

✓ Announced that the Missoula Children’s Theater will perform ‘The Pied Piper’ at Kesling Middle School on November 11th. Auditions will take place at Kesling on November 6th.

✓ Announced that Wells-Fargo recently became a partner of the PNC College Bound Program. She welcomed and thanked them for their support.
✓ Thanked Mrs. Donna Larson, Mrs. Arlene Parthun, and Kingsbury students for the artwork on display in the board room.

Celebration of Success

Dr. DeMuth congratulated the Board for receiving the Outstanding Board Award from the Indiana School Board Association. She added that Tom Dermody achieved Level I status as a board member and congratulated him on this honor.

Dr. Shawver congratulated Principal Kim Rehlander and the staff and students of Indian Trail Elementary School for being recognized as a ‘distinguished’ Title I school.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of the September 19, 2006, Executive Session
B. Minutes of the September 19, 2006, Board Meeting
C. Personnel Recommendations/Travel Requests
D. Claims – October 3, 2006, and October 17, 2006
E. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for September, 2006
F. Acceptance of Donations
G. Permission to Begin the Legal Advertising Process for the Receipt of Bus Bids
H. Consideration of Amendment to Resolution 05-02
I. Consideration of Amendment to Purchasing Resolution
J. Travel Requests by LPHS Winter Color Guard, 2006 – 2007

Carol Shinn presented the Consent Agenda for approval which included an addendum to the Personnel Recommendations. Item ‘I’ was removed from consideration.

Action: Tom Dermody moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Ron Gigliotti seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0.

Jim Dermody recognized Jerry Harder on his retirement.

Construction Report

Vince Taylor introduced Ken Hebard, of Hebard and Hebard Architects, Inc., to review the ongoing construction at Crichfield. Mr. Hebard stated the Crichfield project is winding down and well ahead of schedule. John Arndt provided slides of landscaping and finishing work continuing inside the school. He suggested the Board schedule a time to walk through the building and see the progress.

Change Orders

Vince Taylor asked Ken Hebard to review the change orders for Crichfield and Kingsford Heights. Mr. Hebard explained that the Board first discussed these change orders during a September work session.
**Action:** Mary McDermott moved to approve the change orders as presented. Tom Dermody seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0.

**Curriculum and Instruction**

A. Follow Up on Staff Training and Communication - Dr. Shawver provided a follow up report regarding the commitment to provide CPR/Heimlich/AED/first aid training to staff members throughout the Corporation. He reported that in the past month, 29 staff members have been trained by LaPorte Hospital and 51 staff members have been trained by the LaPorte YMCA. An additional 120 staff members will receive training from the LaPorte County Red Cross on November 8th. The Red Cross will also be providing emergency posters and wallet cards at no cost to the Corporation after January 1, 2007. Dr. Shawver added that the nursing staff will be trained as instructors in order to meet the needs of training additional employees and new staff members. Also, our coaches will be trained through the High School Athletic Department. He introduced Jim Dermody for an update regarding communication devices.

Mr. Dermody announced that, in an effort to increase communication and security within the schools, each elementary building will be receiving additional walkie-talkies which will bring the number to five sets at each school as well as a radio. Special Education and Child Care will receive additional walkie-talkies and the middle and high schools will receive two additional radios (walkie-talkies are not used at the secondary schools due to the size of the building and student population). Mr. Dermody stated that these additional devices will greatly improve communication throughout the buildings.

Dr. Shawver added that safe eating habits will be reviewed with students and Automatic Electric Defibrillators (AED) will soon be placed in a few buildings, in addition to the ones currently in the corporation. These will be easily accessible to staff should a need arise.

Dr. Shawver thanked LaPorte Hospital, the YMCA, and the Red Cross for their generosity and assistance with this training. He also thanked Ms. Steele for her help in organizing the training sessions. Mary McDermott also thanked LaPorte Hospital, the YMCA, and the Red Cross for their response to our need for assistance. She said their commitment is admirable. Dr. Shawver closed by saying that there is now an even greater cross section of staff trained in first aid at all levels across the corporation and training will continue into the future.

**Body Safety Presentations** - Dr. Shawver reminded the Board that last spring they had approved the presentation of a Body Safety Program at all elementary schools. He presented the Board with a schedule of the presentations, beginning in late October and continuing through November.

**Helping Staff Understand and Value Diversity** - Dr. Shawver reported that on October 10th an all day in-service entitled ‘Helping Staff Understand and Value Diversity’ was held at LaPorte High School. He told the Board that although the presenters came highly recommended, the overall presentation did not live up to the expectations of the administrative team. Dr. Shawver added that he viewed the entire presentation and did come away with some good ideas, however, was
disappointed that more classroom strategies for teachers to use with their students were not presented.

**DIBELS Assessment Review (K-1)** - Dr. Shawver recalled that the DIBELS assessment program was implemented in spring for students in Kindergarten and first grade. He asked Patty Steele to report on the progress of the program. Ms. Steele explained that students are tested in the fall to see how prepared they are for reading at their respective grade levels. This helps teachers target areas of weakness and focus on those particular skills. Additional benchmark tests are given two more times throughout the school year. Tests are submitted to the University of Oregon, the home base for DIBELS, and teachers receive instant reports regarding the data submitted. Ms. Steele commented that the DIBELS assessment does show the benefits of the all day Kindergarten program and plans are underway to expand the program to the 2nd grade this school year. She thanked Dr. DeMuth and Dr. Shawver for pursuing the implementation of DIBELS assessment as it has become a great tool for teachers to target instruction and improve achievement.

**School Safety Plan Review**

Jim Dermody reported on a mock crisis incident that was enacted on October 4, 2006, in all school buildings. After the drill, principals were asked to assess the response at their buildings and modify their safe school plans accordingly, if necessary. He explained that LaPorte High School has become the subject of concern, not only as a result of the drill but also due to the recent wave of school shootings across the country. Mr. Dermody has been working with Vince Taylor, Greg Handel, and John Shei to review security measures at LaPorte High School and brainstorm ways to improve the current system. Mr. Dermody reported that there are 39 security cameras at LaPorte High School which operate all day, every day and allow for a great deal of surveillance. Recently, adult supervision has been added outside before and after school. Mr. Dermody also reported that beginning October 18, 2006, entry will be restricted before school hours to three doorways with all doors, except the front, being locked after the beginning of school each day. A new buzzer system and monitor will also be installed at the front entrance. This individual will control access to the building, record visitor information, issue visitor passes, and direct visitors to their desired destination. Mr. Dermody said these measure will enhance the current security system at LaPorte High School, adding that he will continue to monitor safety procedures at all buildings in an effort to maintain the safest possible environment for the students of LaPorte Community Schools.

**2006 – 2007 Enrollment Report**

Jim Dermody presented a history of enrollment dating back to 1976. He reported to the Board that enrollment has increased 80 students from 2005 to the 2006 school year.

**Consideration of Modification of Policy 5610, Second Reading**

Jim Dermody presented board policy #5610, Suspension and Expulsion of Students, for second reading. He recalled that this change is due to a recent Court of Appeals decision mandating school boards to hear all suspension/expulsion appeals, unless they previously voted not to hear
any suspension/expulsion appeals. Mr. Dermody recommended a change in the current policy language that relieves the board from hearing student suspension/expulsion appeals and directs the appeals to the county court.

**Action:** Ron Gigliotti moved to adopt the modification to Policy 5610 as presented. Tom Dermody seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0.

**Other Business**

None

**Board Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Carol Shinn adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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Carol Shinn, President             Ketra Bolster, Secretary