

2021 LWVLA Observer Corps Report Form

Thank you for participating as a member of the Observer Corps for the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. Our goal is to educate LWVLA members on local government activities with the potential to refer topics for further study and advocacy.

Your Name: Martha Linville

Name of Governmental Body (City/County/Town) Board or Committee: Board of Education of the La Crosse School District

Time and Date of Meeting: February 7, 2022, 6:00 pm

Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.): In attendance: Annie Baumann, Dawn Comeau, Laurie Cooper Stoll, Juan Jimenez, Brenda Leahy, Brad Quarberg. Absent: Rob Abraham, Pelli Lee. Arrived late: Shaundel Spivey

Link to the public posting of meeting information: <https://bit.ly/3qu8fYC>

Meeting Purpose and Content

- A regular meeting of the board of education.
- No speakers had asked to speak.
- The Operational Expectation Monitoring report was presented by Dr. Engle.
- The Results Monitoring report was presented by Dr. Michael Lichucki.
- Dr. Lichucki also presented the Achievement Gap report.
- Wisconsin State Education Convention report by Dawn Comeau and Brad Quarberg.
- WASB Delegate Assembly Report by Dawn Comeau and Brad Quarberg.
- Annie Baumann for the La Crosse Public Education Foundation Report.

Identify issues that the League may want to follow for further study or advocacy:

Note any additional comments or feedback regarding this meeting:

The reports presented by Dr. Engle and Dr. Lichucki both generated some discussion. In the discussion of the report by Dr. Engle, Ms. Baumann asked if the way complaints are generated for the public at large is too cumbersome. Ms. Cooper Stoll reported that the board has discussed this in the past, and it continues to be a source of questions about how easy it is to do. There seemed to be a feeling that the process may be too cumbersome, or that it doesn't allow the public to understand that when the district says there have been no complaints, that means there has been no complaints that have risen to the level of being in a written complaint to the Superintendent, Dr. Engle. Ms. Baumann seemed to say that a district that shows no complaints on its books for a given year seems an impossibility. Dr. Engle said most complaints are handled at lower levels, many even in buildings at the teacher/principal level. The discussion ended with some sense they may address it again, as the problem seems to be in the language used to convey what a complaint is: if it doesn't end up as a written document on the superintendent's desk it is not really a complaint.

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The report on Reasonable Progress for the district for the last two years was by necessity impacted by the fact of the pandemic creating a loss of data during that time. The consensus was that the district is coming out of the pandemic holding its' own in the face of the adversity of the last two years. There was discussion of the mental health concerns because the students have been denied sports and other extra-curricular activities because of the pandemic.

During the report on the Wisconsin State Education Convention, Ms. Comeau said she attended a session on mental health in schools and was pleased to report that the La Crosse district is already doing what is recommended for students going forward. Both she and Mr. Quarberg spoke positively about their experiences at the convention and the WASB Assembly.

Ms. Baumann reported that the La Crosse Public Education Foundation will dispense \$40,000 in grants to teachers.

In an announcement by Dr. Jimenez, he reported he will participate in a Lunch and Learn hosted by the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

In an announcement by Dr. Engle, he reported on the good response to the January 31, 2022, Candidate Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. He encouraged everyone to vote in the February 15 primary election.

After agenda planning and board debriefing, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

WI Open Meetings Law Checklist

- ☒ Public notice (time/date/location/content) was readily available no later than 2 hours prior to the meeting.
- ☒ The meeting was held in a location that was open to the public and readily accessible to members of the public who wished to attend.
- ☒ The agenda provided enough specific detail to inform interested members of the public about the content of the meeting.
- ☒ A quorum was present to conduct business.
- ☒ Meeting content was limited to only noticed agenda items, including business discussed in closed session.
- ☒ A record of motions, seconds, and roll-call votes from the meeting will be (was?) created and preserved.

Good Practice for Public Accessibility Checklist

- ☒ The meeting was available to view or listen to on-line.
- ☒ Copies of the agenda and handouts were available to the public. Important information was available for viewing via handouts, web links, or projector.
- ☒ Roll call was conducted, and the public could identify members who were present or absent
- ☒ Speakers were identified and could be easily heard.

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- ☒ The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.
 - ☒ Minutes and/or a recording of the meeting will be made available to the public.
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Thank you for participating in the LWVLA Observer Corps. Your responses will help us ensure transparency in local government and assess the need for future LWVLA actions!