

ISC GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 8, 2013

Guest Speaker: Barbara Giorgio, Supervisor of English, Social Studies, Art and Music

Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund Report

Juli Gruber-May, a Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund (LMTSF) board member, encouraged parents and guardians to consider supporting the LMTSF. The program was created almost 50 years ago by a group of community leaders, with the support of the LMSD School Board, to assist students graduating from our district's high schools. During the last five decades, LMTSF has awarded almost \$3 million in scholarships to 3,790 students. Awards are based solely on need, using information provided by the students and their families, on a confidential basis, to an outside financial aid consultant who determines the amount of need for each applicant.

To be eligible, a student must have graduated from Harriton High School or Lower Merion High School; must have resided in the Township and attended schools in the Lower Merion School District for at least four years; and must be attending an accredited college, university, or trade or vocational school on a full-time basis.

Consider purchasing Recognition (Tribute) Cards to remember friends and relatives on important occasions, or to thank teachers for their work on behalf of our students. Please contact your school's LMTSF representative to contribute and receive your cards.

Upcoming School Board and Committee Meetings

Amy Norr, ISC co-president, reviewed the schedule of school board and committee meetings for the next two months. These include:

- Friday, Oct. 11, 8:30 am – Policy Committee
- Mon., Oct. 14, 8 pm – Education Committee and Special Board Meeting
- Thurs., Oct. 17, 8 am – Facilities/Purchasing Committee
- Mon., Oct. 21, 8 pm – Regular Business Board Meeting
- Wed., Oct. 23, 8 pm – Communications Committee – Public Hearing on Choice Expansion Proposal, Public Comment
- Mon., Nov. 4, 8:30 am – Curriculum Committee
- Fri., Nov. 8, 8:30 am – Policy Committee
- Mon., Nov. 18, 8 pm – Education Committee & Special Board Meeting – scheduled vote on expanding the LMHS choice area

Any highlighted meetings related to the proposal to expand the choice area for LMHS. Also, she noted that committee meetings are open to the public and provide a chance to hear school board members and LMSD administrators discuss key topics in detail.

Presentation by Barbara Giorgio, Supervisor of English, Social Studies, Art and Music

Ms. Giorgio reported on changes in the writing curriculum for LMSD middle and high schools. She and a faculty committee are in the second year of a three-year initiative to develop and implement a new writing program aimed at providing grades 6 through 12 with more “consistent, research-based ... effective instructional practices and increased continuity from grade to grade.” The attached slides describe the initiative's timetable, goals and core principles; LMSD's collaboration with the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project; and new professional development opportunities for secondary teachers.