

Student Leadership Council

of Ledyard High School



MEETING RECORD

1st Meeting (Special)

Thursday, 24 March 2016, 2:15 PM EST

Ledyard High School Media Center

I. Call to Order

- *Gianni Jannke called the meeting to order at 2:21 PM EST.*

II. Roll Call

- Chairpersons: Gianni Jannke, Rachelle Robeson, May Zhang
- Present: Kelly Banach, Richard Gebhard, James Griffin, Amanda King, Jacob Money, Emma Robinson
- Also Present: Mr. William Casertano
- Absent: Joe LoDuca

III. Comments From Community Members

- Gianni noted that this agenda item will be opened up at each meeting for comments and concerns from students, teachers, and the community. There were no community comments.

IV. Council Member Comments

A. Introduction of Council Chairpersons and Members

- Rachelle asked all members to introduce themselves.
- Gianni provided a final welcome and thanked members for stepping up and taking on the role.

V. Approval of Meeting Record(s)

A. None

- Gianni noted that this is the first meeting, so the Council has no meeting records to approve.

VI. Communications and Correspondence

A. None

- Gianni noted that the Council received no correspondence.

VII. Information Items

A. Discussion on Council Purpose and Operation

- Rachelle went over the vision of the Council as a platform for student voice. Members should gather student opinions/concerns and bring forward as many as possible to seek solutions. The Council will make every effort to work along with administration to create a stronger community. Within the broad constraints of the Charter, members have the power to shape Council's purpose, standing, and role as the years go on.
- James asked about the freshman representative position. He wanted to confirm that there will not be a ninth grader in the group until next year.
- Gianni confirmed that this Council will serve through July 1, 2017 and referenced the Addendum to the Charter, which outlines that the present Council will serve through the remainder of the year and for the entirety of next year. So rather than having a current freshman come on now and then lose the seat immediately when they become a sophomore in the fall, members will serve through this year and next. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education will be selecting the freshman representative from the newly elected Freshman Officers. Mr. Casertano will orchestrate those elections, hopefully in October or November.
- Mr. Casertano suggested that this was correct, but ideally elections will occur as soon as possible in September. He stated that this year's elections were in November, but he will try to get it on the AIM Schedule as soon as possible.
- Rachelle clarified that the role of the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education is to serve as Chairpersons of the Council. They are non-voting members and next year there will just be two people in the spots, Joe and one other person.
- Gianni reminded the Council that the Chairpersons' main goal is simply to guide the Council as a whole and see what "decisions" they want to bring to a Board of Education level or to a local admin level at the high school.
- Mr. Casertano wanted to confirm that at the end of present Council members' term in 2017, they can remain interested and pursue another term as long as they are not graduating.
- Gianni stated that this was correct. Current freshmen and sophomores will be able to pursue another term in the selection process that will occur in the spring of 2017. Members can continue to move up through their seat, as long as they remain eligible, or could switch if they like. Ultimately, members could continue for as long as they like until they graduate.

B. Discussion on Council Member Roles and Responsibilities

- Gianni moved on to review SLC/DOC/2016/1, “*Robert’s Rules of Order Overview*.” He noted this is an extremely condensed version of Robert’s Rules. The Charter does state that the Council must follow these guidelines for its operation. This document is an important summary of how the Council votes and works on different things. The two main points that the document covers are main motions and subsidiary motions. Common subsidiary motions can amend the main motion, postpone a motion for a set amount of time, end a discussion and force a vote, or refer a question to a committee.
- Gianni then reviewed SLC/DOC/2016/2, “Writing Resolutions,” with the Council. Essentially, a resolution is a written motion. Resolutions are usually orchestrated before meetings for a particular action. The first block of writing in resolutions is the preambulatory clauses, providing background information that precedes the action items. The action items are authorized from a particular element of the Council’s Charter. The Council’s power lies in these action items. All of the motions, except simple ones to adjourn a meeting, approve the minutes, etc., should be done in resolution format.
- James asked if we would be writing resolutions as we act on various issues.
- Gianni confirmed that this should be the case, and suggested that Council members work on particular issues with other Council members cooperatively. Gianni noted that the Chairpersons will be drafting a few resolutions for procedural clarifications, and Council members can use these as examples.

C. Discussion on the Council’s Website

- May stated that the Council has a webpage through ledyard.net/lhs. The “Contact Us” page provides information on how to contact the Council as a whole through BOEstudentreps@ledyard.net. She also mentioned that members’ personal emails will be listed on the “Membership” page if students want to contact their representatives directly. All correspondence should be forwarded to the Chairpersons to be logged as correspondence and shared with the full Council.
- Rachelle reminded the Council that a major goal is interacting and communicating with students. A main role of being a representative is finding out the students’ opinions and relaying them to the Council for consideration.

- May stated the importance of the fact that members cannot speak on behalf of the Council as a whole. Individual correspondence should be for the purposes of gathering information for presentation to the Council only.
- Rachele suggested that members reach out to their organization, explain their role, share their contact information, and encourage communication.
- Gianni reminded members that the BOEstudentreps@ledyard.net email can always be used to contact the Council as a whole.
- Gianni explained the purpose of the webpage: to function as a reference for Council members and for the community. He emphasised the importance of communication and outreach and encouraged members to visit the page after the meeting. Members can find the page at ledyard.net/lhs as a quick link or under the “Students and Parents” dropdown menu.
- Mr. Casertano emphasised the positive attributes of streamlining the process and publicizing the BOEstudentreps@ledyard.net email as a point of contact to reach the Council as a whole. He encouraged members to spread the word about the website and streamlined point of contact.
- Gianni reminded Council members that they can also encourage individuals to come speak during the open forum session at the beginning of meetings. The main goal is to encourage communication.

D. Request for Personal Bios of New Council Members

- May requested bios from Council members. Council members should send their bios to the Chairpersons before the next meeting. May suggested that members’ bios should include their overall involvement, but focus on their involvement with the particular group they represent. Bios should be 5-6 lines and in the third-person.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. None

- May noted that this is the first meeting, so the Council has no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. New Business

A. Discussion of Duties and Responsibilities of Council Secretary

- May reminded Council members of the duties of the Council Secretary outlined in the Charter.
- *May Zhang left the meeting.*

B. Election for the 2016-2017 Council Secretary

- Gianni asked for nominations for Council Secretary. Members were allowed to nominate themselves or another member.
- **MOTION:** It was moved by Amanda and seconded by Emma to elect Amanda King as the Secretary of the Student Leadership Council through July 1, 2017. The motion passed, 5-0-1.

In Favor: Kelly, Richard, James, Jacob, Emma

Against: None

Abstaining: Amanda

C. Discussion and Possible Action on the Establishment of a Regular Meeting Time for the Council

- Rachelle outlined three suggested regular meeting times: after school, Friday mornings at 7:00 AM EST, or during AIM Periods (not Activity Period). She also requested that the Council meet at least twice a month, preferably the alternating weeks of Board of Education meetings. Rachelle asked for feedback.
- Council members unofficially expressed approval for a Friday morning regular meeting time.
- Jacob noted that AIM Periods could be used for special/emergency meetings if needed.
- Gianni stated that the Chairpersons will have a list of proposed dates (Fridays) for the Council to approve at the next meeting.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on Establishing a Timeline for Council Actions

- Gianni asked Council members for immediate concerns that the Council could begin to act on.
- James suggested that the Council look into returning Morning Meeting to the Ledyard High School schedule and implementing a school store.
- Jacob suggested that the Council look into installing a turf field and upgrading the bathrooms at Ledyard High School.
- Amanda suggested that the Council look into upgrading elements of the Ledyard High School Auditorium.
- Emma suggested that the Council look into increasing the passing time between blocks at Ledyard High School.
- Gianni commented that a main role of the Chairpersons is to simply help guide the Council and to direct issues to either a high school administration level or Board of Education level.
- Rachelle suggested that the Council look into the effect the cancellation of late buses is having on students.
- Council members unofficially expressed unanimous backing to pursue the restoration of Morning Meeting as an initial, primary focus.

- Amanda added that she was willing to put off addressing improvements to the Ledyard High School Auditorium until after Morning Meeting has been addressed.
- Jacob added that he was willing to put off looking into a turf field until after Morning Meeting has been addressed.
- Emma added that the Council should try to implement a school store as a trial run before the end of the school year.
- Rachelle noted that before the next Council meeting, members should begin speaking with students about their specific feelings regarding Morning Meeting.

X. Adjournment

- **MOTION:** It was moved by Jacob and seconded by Amanda to adjourn at 3:24 PM EST. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

In Favor: Kelly, Richard, James, Amanda, Jacob, Emma

Against: None

Abstaining: None

Respectfully submitted,

Gianni Jannke, Chairperson

Please Note:

No Council Secretary had been elected at the time of this Council meeting. Therefore, the Chairpersons transcribed this Meeting Record.

This record has not yet been approved by the Council. Please refer to the next meeting's record for the vote to approve/reject this draft and for possible corrections.