

**DRAFT**

Dear Representative Durkin:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Board of Education presidents of School Districts 101 (Western Springs), 102 (LaGrange), 103 (Lyons), 105 (Countryside, Hodgkins, LaGrange), 106 (LaGrange Highlands), and 107 (Pleasantdale).

Over the course of the past several years, we have discussed the possibility of our districts having the opportunity to leave the Lyons Township Treasurer's Office (LTTO). As you know from previous communications and meetings, it is our stance that many of the services provided by the LTTO are redundant and unnecessary. Likewise, the lack of transparency, unwillingness to share information about our finances, and culture of secrecy that surrounds the office create an atmosphere of mistrust. Member districts are forced to usurp control of funds to the LTTO with no say as to how or whether these funds should be used. Further, the LTTO is spending local school district funds without obtaining approval from elected boards of education who serve as fiduciaries for their respective school districts. Two examples of this are the hiring of LTTO staff and the implementation of legal actions. Finally, this office is no stranger to criminal activity, as the previous LTTO Treasurer is currently incarcerated for stealing public funds--funds that belong to our respective school districts.

Our group, with our Boards behind us, is energized to develop a plan that will provide our districts the flexibility to leave the LTTO. Due to the legal mandate to remain an LTTO "member," this is no small task. This is where we need your help. We would like to meet with you to discuss the possibility of legislation which, if passed, would allow our districts the option to leave this office. The legislation we seek is not new and it has been approved by lawmakers for elementary and high school districts in Cicero, Berwyn and Oak Park. We respectfully request this meeting take place within the next two weeks, and at a time when all Board of Education presidents can attend.

As duly elected Board of Education members, each one of us has taken the oath of office and has sworn to respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets. Additionally, each one of us serves as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our communities' schools. We ask for your assistance in fulfilling our duty to our constituents and, by proxy, your constituents. We look forward to meeting with you in the next two weeks.

Respectfully,

Julie O'Connor  
Western Springs SD 101

Brian Anderson  
LaGrange SD 102

Marge Hubacek  
Lyons SD 103

Dave Herndon  
LaGrange SD 105

Robert Hiatt  
LaGrange-Highlands SD 106

Mark Mirabile  
Pleasantdale SD 107

Thomas W. Cushing  
Lyons Township High School District 204

**DRAFT**

The Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District respectfully requests answers to the below questions in writing. We thank you for your participation in helping to add clarity to the services provided.

**I. Operations**

- a. What state bylaws or regulations mandate or govern the TTO above and beyond the three member trustee board?
- b. Where can one obtain copies of bylaws, policies, and other public documents?
- c. When can we expect that these documents will be available on the TTO website?
- d. Is the TTO held to the same Open Meetings Act Standards as other public entities (e.g. schools, park districts, village meetings, etc.)?
- e. When did the Lyons Township Treasurer's Office come into existence?
- f. How have the TTO's services changed since its inception?
- g. What caused other TTOs to be dissolved?

**II. Services**

- a. Please provide the district with a list of services that the TTO currently provides.
  - i. How do these services differ from those that we could provide "in-house"?
  - ii. Please provide a breakdown of how/why the services provided are more cost effective than if PSD107 handled these services "in-house"?
  - iii. Provided the district can perform the above services, please list the benefits of staying with the TTO.
- b. What changes have been made over the course of the last several years to improve efficiencies of services offered to school districts?

**III. Investment Services**

- a. What was the total return on investments last year?
- b. Of the total return on investments, what amount was distributed to the member districts?
- c. What financial strategies are implemented to increase future returns on investments?
- d. Based on previous discussion and public record, a little over \$1,000,000 was recovered from the previous treasurer.
  - i. How was that money used?
  - ii. How did the recovery benefit the member districts?

**IV. Billing**

- a. Rate increases in excess of the consumer price index (CPI) are not sustainable for a school district.
  - i. Please outline what cost containment processes have been put in place to ensure that only manageable rate increases are applied.

- ii. Is there any limit to the increases that the TTO can apply to member school districts?
- b. How do member districts (or the public) obtain detailed bills lists prior to each trustee meeting?

**V. Other: Meeting Request**

- a. We would like to schedule a meeting with all member districts and the TTO leadership.
  - i. Can you provide us with dates/times so that we can coordinate this meeting?
  - ii. If you are not able to identify a date/time, we will contact the member districts to provide you with three meeting option times/dates.