



**LAKELAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Committed to Academic Excellence ... Dedicated to Student Success

### **Board Agenda Item Request**

**AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Item with possible action - Veterans Memorial at LHS**

**PURPOSE: Follow up regarding next steps for this memorial**

**MEETING DATE: April 16, 2025**

**PREPARED BY: Lisa Arnold**

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The last action taken on this item was on October 9th. We have provided the notes for this item just as a reminder of what was approved and what additional information was requested.

Sorry it's lengthy, but there was a lot of conversation.

Mr. Hoffman and Lisa discussed potential locations for the Veterans Memorial on Lakeland High School property. Hoffman suggested moving it further down on the grassy area next to the teacher parking lot to ensure accessibility for visitors. Lisa reached out to Megan for feedback, and she raised no concerns apart from avoiding anything overtly religious since it would be on school grounds. Lisa expressed urgency in moving forward with the project so that Larry Quimby could enjoy the benefits of the memorial.

They acknowledged that previously the proposed location had been a stumbling block. Lisa felt that moving it away from the center of the campus could help avoid further issues. Michelle argued that a central location would serve the purpose of visibility better and support use of the space. There were concerns from other board members regarding the central placement, and Lisa wanted to ensure that location did not become a barrier for progress.

Lisa stated that they needed board approval to move the project ahead and start organizing donations. Michelle noted they were not currently gathering donations since Larry was waiting for confirmation on the project. Lisa questioned whether they would need to follow bidding rules even if it was not strictly a district project but on district property. Michelle suggested consulting legal on these issues while they were trying to proceed with Timberlake.

Bob raised that if the memorial is to be placed on school property, it would become a school district asset, which would require standard protocols to be followed. They discussed that if this involvement was in partnership with a city organization, it could be similar to existing projects on



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the property. Lisa brought up the importance of clarifying if they needed to follow the bid process and expressed her intention to check on that.

Randi mentioned that protocols for regular construction would apply to the project. The financing being processed through the district further complicated the situation. Lisa compared this project to companies donating scoreboards, highlighting the potential for it to be viewed as a gift to the district and community. They explored ideas like leasing the land for a nominal fee while ensuring the land would not be given away permanently.

Lisa indicated she would reach out to Amy White for further information and sought board approval for the proposed location. Bob supported moving the memorial to the suggested location, noting it would allow easier access without having to walk across the school yard. He raised necessary questions about maintaining the site and who would be accountable if it were vandalized or required upkeep.

Lisa reiterated that, since it would be a gift to the district, they would be responsible for its maintenance, emphasizing that there was no specific entity to take care of it in this case. In response to the location issue, Michelle moved to approve the Veterans Memorial at LHS where it was originally requested in the center. Randi seconded the motion, and the board voted with three in favor and one opposed, with Bob expressing his opposition.

Bob explains that the dirt mound near the school district sign was placed there for safety. It is positioned to stop vehicles that might crash through the intersection before hitting the high school. He warns that any construction could remove this safety feature. Dave mentions there will be a rod iron fence around the memorial area that might also prevent vehicles from passing. Michelle suggests ensuring there is a protective barrier around the school grounds after the memorial is built, similar to stanchions seen at post offices, to stop vehicles that might run a light.

Bob recalls discussions about where the memorial should be placed in relation to the building. He suggests that a long placement could mean it is too close to the building. Dave agrees and prefers placing it along the fence to save space. Michelle makes a motion to bring the project's layout and design back to the board for approval. Lisa asks if this is a motion or request, and Michelle confirms it is a motion. Randi seconds the motion, and they call for a vote. All ayes, none opposed, motion carried.