

**ISU Laboratory Schools**  
**Laboratory Schools Advisory Council**  
**University High School, Library**  
**August 19, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**  
Zoom Link: <https://illinoisstate.zoom.us/j/93037439346>

**LSAC Members**

|                                  |                                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Liz Austin (end term 2026)       | Liz Kinsella, Booster Representative    |
| Megan Bozarth (end term 2026)    | Lyndsey Carney, PTO Representative      |
| Christine Chiodo (end term 2027) | Katherine Smith, Faculty Representative |
| Meredith Diaz (end term 2028)    | Kara Story, Faculty Representative      |
| Christina Doxsie (end term 2028) | Antonio Causarano, ISU Representative   |
| Mike Jones (end term 2026)       | Anthony Jones, Director                 |
| Kathy Murdoch (end term 2027)    |                                         |
| Ryan Scritchlow (end term 2027)  |                                         |
| Andy Shirk (end term 2028)       |                                         |

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**I. Call to Order @ 6:08pm**

**II. Roll Call**

- A. Present- Liz Austin, Chrisitne Chiodo, Meredith Diaz, Mike Jones, Kathy Murdoch, Andy Shirk, Lyndsey Carney (V), Liz Kinsella, Ryan Scritchlow (V), Anthony Jones, Katherine Smith
- B. Absent- Kara Story, Megan Bozarth, Christina Doxsie, Antonio Causarano

**III. LSAC Purpose**

- A. To assist the superintendent in maintaining a viable relationship between the Illinois State University Laboratory Schools and the University, community, and State regulatory systems
- B. To provide recommendations regarding both short- and long-term goals of the Laboratory Schools
- C. To promote parent and community representation on committees as determined by the superintendent
- D. To provide a liaison between the administration, faculty, and parents of students attending the Laboratory Schools
  - 1. Dr. Jones shared- He has been going back to our why & our purpose and is on the agenda- goes back to Simon Sinek's Why.
    - a) He shared the quote from Simon " People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it"

**IV. Minutes of Prior Regular Meeting**

- A. Discussion none
- B. Approval of Prior [Regular Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2025](#)
  - 1. MSP Shirk/Austin (U)

**V. Announcements**

- A. PTO

1. President of the PTO Cat Poffenbarger went to faculty breakfast and shared with staff how PTO is there to help throughout the year (room parents, wish lists, great opportunities, and events we help with or sponsor throughout the year) . It was a great time where staff asked questions. [Document here](#)
  2. Cat Poffenbarger will do Weekly 15 minute checkins with Dr. Bergman-discussion of school and/or parent needs
  3. Metcalf Family School- Sept 5 from 5-7 at Horton Field House
- B. Boosters
1. Encourage parents to get involved and join the Remind group class name @uhsparentboosters class code@uhsparentb
  2. Working hard to get volunteer groups together
  3. Have grants for organizations that benefit students, have not had many student organizations apply
  4. Looking for a day to have a day of service in September where families can come help U-High with school needs (Shed mentioned)
  5. Booster meeting dates will be finalized for the year shortly

## VI. Reports from the Director

- A. One-on-one meetings with LSAC members
  1. Dr. Jones has been able to meet with 2 new members and will work to schedule the meetings with the remainder of the LSAC members
- B. Director's Facebook page (Laboratory Schools at Illinois State University) and Instagram (labschoolsisu)
  1. Encourage parents to follow
- C. Final New Staff Update
  1. Announcement of new staff and who are they replacing
  2. There will still be a few more updates to come

| Location      | New Hire          | Title                                | Replaced              |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Metcalf       | Megan DeBarr      | 2nd Grade/Metcalf                    | Cassandra Mattoon     |
| Metcalf       | Jessica Lawent    | 5/6th Grade Math/ Metcalf            | Christine Mitchell    |
| Metcalf       | Cassandra Mattoon | Interim Assistant Principal          | Dr. Robert Fitzgerald |
| Metcalf       | Alex Tanaka       | School Social Worker/Metcalf         | Emma LaMont           |
| Metcalf       | Traci Verdery     | Family and Consumer Sciences/Metcalf | Jennifer LaFrance     |
| HILIA Metcalf | Amy Broich        | Interpreter                          |                       |

| Location        | New Hire               | Title                  | Replaced      |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| HILIA Metcalf   | Ali Douglass           | Deaf/Hard of Hearing   | Sarah Hllade  |
| HILIA Itenerant | KayLee Melton          | Deaf/Hard of Hearing   |               |
| HILIA Metcalf   | Katen Filipatos        | Vision Teacher         |               |
| U-High          | Derek DeBarr           | Social Science Teacher | Kate Pole     |
| U-High          | Shannon Maney-Magnuson | Instructional Coach    |               |
| U-High          | Caitlin Smith          | Social Science Teacher | Micah Bradsha |

D. [Facilities Capital Projects](#)

1. Metcalf and U-High are still on the list
2. Dr. Jones and Dean Bryan working on:Letter to state representatives to tour the school, within that letter include some requests (our capital projects), focus is capital projects \$ 2 million or less these would be federal funds. Possible ideas are #s 3, 4 and 5 immediately following ↓
3. Metcalf- renovation of the pool to create a space for a kitchen and cafeteria, a transition space that can be utilized for many purposes
4. Teaming- at Metcalf looking to renovate some space to allow a common meeting space with individual spaces on the outside of the pod
5. For the high schools- the chemistry labs are almost complete. Dr. Jones is putting in a request for a 2nd chemistry lab,updates to band/chorus spaces, it would be nice to have our own athletic facility since ISU is charging us more
6. Plan to have state legislatures in this Fall. Working with a company called Mercury, who works with universities and state legislatures . If Fall is not available then Spring.
7. 2 faculty associates- Mr. Webb and Mr. Goveia helped get the ball rolling

E. [Holly Kelley](#) (ROE 39) spoke on Technology and Human Centeredness- AI and the impact on education. She wants to make sure we are not afraid of the technology but understand it and utilize it. There was an ask to have Holly come back and speak to parents on the topics. She talks from the educator and parent role.

1. KS shared her views of the speaker
2. Q-Purpose and why the speaker?
  - a) Innovation in the Lab Schools
  - b) Took place on the Lab Schools welcome back day

- c) Engaging in these hard conversations that are being had in organizations
- 3. Q-How is ISU teaching teachers about AI?
  - a) The new Dean, Bryan, discussing what we (ISU) can do, Bryan made a point to call out we have a Lab School is a great place to try these things with our future educators, we do have some teachers engaged in AI, take info back to ISU
- 4. Q-Are we educating our students about how to responsibly use AI?
  - a) KS shared- Small committee of U-High staff working on how to use appropriately, enhance their learning and not replace critical thinking skills, develop some AI policies and language, teachers are trying to teach students to use it as a tool
  - b) Teachers are very aware of AI and students using it inappropriately, they can tell, can look at the version history
  - c) Ethics of using AI
  - d) Education tends to sit in the middle of adoption and Dr. Jones feels the Lab Schools need to be chasing the shiny thing and be on the side of early adoption
- 5. Q- Do you feel the Lab School should have a purpose and clarity for AI?
  - a) No, this will be worked into the mission and handbooks
  - b) There is an honor code in place already
- 6. Q-Can Holly provide the staff with what is presented and how to implement it in the classroom.
- 7. Metcalf has been given Magic school to use and time to use and play with the tool-meets student privacy requirements
- 8. Dr. Jones wants to make sure the conversations are not around AI shaming, but conversations around honor code and ethics.

## **VII. Open Discussion**

- A. Play the Wildcat Way Follow up
  - 1. KM-The playground opportunities over the summer-we had good turnouts each Tuesday. Kindergarten teachers came to one event and engaged with their new kiddos. Parents were very happy with the Tuesday events
    - a) Next year we will set the standard that if the temp is 90 degrees we will cancel
    - b) Would be a great place for PTO to recruit and talk about getting involved.
    - c) Nick and summer camp kids were very welcoming and inviting for all parents and kids to
    - d) Every other week would work
    - e) Suggestion to have it at different locations and find a way to incorporate the older jr high kids
  - 2. The block party
    - a) ISUs policy is there cannot be food trucks on property. However, they can be on a public street. The town of Normal told us to fill

out paperwork to close Dry Grove and have a food truck. Cannot have an electrical outlet coming from the school, they need to bring their own generator. We used A to Z Catering and had the Carl's Trolley cart. A to Z did a wonderful job of catering to our needs-created a special menu and priced reasonably.

- b) Parents were asking why we waited until 530 to plan this? Parents wanted it earlier.
- c) Not all middle schoolers were able to attend due to practices and pictures conflict-maybe try to coordinate the activities/athletics to clear that evening

**B. LSAC Survey Results**

- 1. The plan was to put a response about the survey in the opening year letter but the letter began getting too long
- 2. Dr. Jones plans to send out the survey results around August 26th
- 3. Next survey goes out in October after parent teacher conferences

**C. Next LSAC meeting we will have a picture of this year's LSAC if most are in attendance**

**D. ISU Homecoming is coming up and Lab Schools can participate.**

- 1. Q- are we having a Lab Schools entry?
  - a) Dr. Jones talked to Andrea, but Dr. Bergman said there are pockets of groups who participate
  - b) KM encouraged getting involved by walking and being present in parade. The campus has a decorating competition. October 10th-suggestion is to enter.

**VIII. LSAC Meetings for FY 2025**

- A. **Dates:** September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, **March 17**, April 14, May 12
- B. **Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- C. **Location:** UHS Library or via Zoom

**IX. Next Meeting Date:** September 9th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**X. Adjourn @ 7:32**

- A. MSP Shirk/Jones (U)