

**ISU Laboratory Schools
Laboratory Schools Advisory Council
University High School, Library
October 14, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Zoom Link: <https://illinoisstate.zoom.us/j/81464855823>

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)	TBD, ISU Faculty 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**
 - A. Present- Liz Austin, Chrisitne Chiodo, Meredith Diaz, Mike Jones, Kathy Murdoch, Andy Shirk, Lyndsey Carney, Liz Kinsella, Anthony Jones, Katherine Smith, Kara Story, Megan Bozarth, Christina Doxsie, Ryan Scritchlow
 - B. Absent-
 - II. **Roll Call**
 - III. **LSAC Purpose**
 - A. To assist the director 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 director
 - D. To provide a liaison between the administration, faculty, and parents of students attending the Laboratory Schools
 - IV. **Minutes of Prior Regular Meeting**
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Approval of Prior [Regular Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2025](#)
 1. MSP Diaz/M.Jones (U)
 - V. **Announcements**
 - A. PTO updates
 1. PTO conference followup- a request came in for conference feedback. PTO worked with admin to create a survey and the survey was pushed by PTO on socials and send through constant contact/email on 10/10/25 to families

2. Montage- January 24th from 5-10:30pm at Castle Theater, Theme: Live Band Kerokee
 3. Staff Grants- today was the last day for submissions. The grant committee will begin to review the submissions soon
 4. Trunk or Treat at Metcalf- Thursday, October 30, back parking lot of Metcalf, 5:30-7pm-only pull in the back lot if you are decorating and handing out candy from your car
- B. Boosters updates
1. This weekend is the Give Back- the Sign up Genius link was sent through Remind and to parent emails
 2. Booster meeting is Wednesday, October 15th 6:30 at U-High in Room 240.
- C. Amy and Stacy the-U-High Librarians were awarded the the AISLE Exemplary School Library award and only in 1 in 6 schools in the state of IL get this award
- D. Boys Golf won state- the school will be celebrating them this Friday
- E. Food Drive, October 1-20 (will extend through 21st since Monday is no school)
The food drive is Metcalf vs. U-High and a “fun” trophy will go to the winning school
- F. Family Forum, Monday, October 27, 2025, 7 pm -8 pm @ U-High Library
1. Zoom link for those who cannot make it will be available
- G. Trustee in Residence Visit, October 30, 2025 (Trustee Navaro)
- H. Calendar Committee Meeting, November 13, 2025
1. Looking to align the start/welcome back date with the College of Education
 2. Potentially could lead to a later start date
 3. Will not have any impact on late start or early dismissal
 4. The dates for students being out of school- Dr. Jones wants to allow staff time to work together more and have both u-high and Metcalf aligned
 5. Need to continue centering the purpose of the lab school and then see where we end up
 6. Q-frequency of early dismissal days-working parents and trying to get the children picked up. Can the school do more of an early release vs. early dismissal at 1pm?
 7. Statement from K.Story- Faculty at Metcalf did NOT vote for the 2nd early release-this is a rumor being circulated among parents
 8. Dr. Jones is getting more clarity from the ROE as to what constitutes a school day, early release, etc. He has asked for more information.
 9. E-Learning days- still have to go the approval process-on pause, cannot change working conditions of employees-need to establish a few things with facility associates first
 10. Suggestion to add a parent or 2 to the calendar committee like we do with the Handbook Committee

VI. Reports from the Director

- I. [25-26 Lab Schools Enrollment](#) (attached or linked)
 - 1. Classroom space, cafeteria, gym, electives all need to be taken into consideration when determining the capacity of each school
 - 2. U-High max capacity is 630 students
 - 3. Request-Kindergarten use to be 18 and now it is 20-building size and capacity can the class size for kindergarten be reconsidered?
 - a) K-3 15:1- based on # of low income in the district (per Dr. Jones's resource)
 - b) K-3 20:1- not low income (per Dr. Jones's resource)
 - c) The student to teacher ratio is based on cost and funding-need to have the funding to support growth numbers
 - 4. Continued discussions about admissions and enrollment numbers
 - 5. If we aim to be a model school then we need to increase the diversity and then some difficult conversations about what needs to happen about admissions-what do we want it to look like?
- J. Dr. Jones received some comments and questions below from the staff who visited and work at James Madison University Laboratory School that Dean Brian Z came from.
 - 1. Not alot of staff or student diversity, how can the Lab School not have SPED (LBS1), do we accept high achieving students (gifted), admissions questions, standardized assessments like other public schools
 - 2. Who makes the decisions and rules for the schools?

VI. Open Discussion

- A. Model school discussion-
 - 1. Who makes the decisions and rules, holds discussions and things to think about in regards to the Lab Schools: Parents working with the director or the university
 - 2. Back to the [purpose, mission, and pillars](#)
 - a) Let's make sure we are keeping in mind what we want the child/students to get out of their time at Metcalf & U-High (ex. Whole child, AP Classes, what does success look like)
 - 3. Each traditional public school and other laboratory schools Dr. Jones has visited are unique and so different
- B. Dr. Jones follow up- Will reach out to the Foundations employee to see what they can pull to look at donor contributions for the last number of years
- C. Open question-Where does the lab school fit into ISU's strategic plan? Do the Lab Schools have one? Who should be involved in creating that?
 - 1. What's the purpose in education?
- D. Dr. Jones goal for schools- adaptable, kids love coming to school, schools are flexible, focus on what students need, we have to be adaptable where all students are welcome.
 - 1. Need communication and clarity
 - 2. He has seen a lot of pushback or vocalness on trying initiatives

3. Comment- staff need to feel united and not split in the schools, how can this be accomplished?

- E. K. Story comment- We have the ability, at the moment, to meet the needs of the kids. Lab School staff are given the autonomy to meet the needs of our lower learners. This would not be possible if the class size were any larger and support staff removed from younger grades.
- F. Send out the parent survey- Dr. Jones did create 2 separate surveys so we can split U-high and Metcalf
 - 1. Survey will be open October 20-November 3

VII. **LSAC Meetings for FY 2025**

- A. **Dates:** 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

VIII. **Next Meeting Date:** November 11th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

IX. **Adjourn-** MSP Bozarth/Schritchlow (U)