

## —Crist (continued from Page 1)

The school board accepted Crist's resignation at the March 2 school board meeting that more than 150 parents, teachers, and students attended.



Robert Crist

More than a dozen people spoke in support of Crist, including students.

After a closed session, the crowd became more passionate, shouting at the board and demanding answers. Members of the school board addressed the community's concerns to the best of their ability, but said they had to respect the privacy of Crist. Many attendees and students were frustrated with the outcome of the meeting. Sabatino says the biggest complaint he received was because of a lack of communication.

"There are certain aspects of communication that are restricted...The community is just going to have to say, 'We have some intelligent people in there looking at the best interests of our

situations, and so we have to trust their thinking and best decisions, even though we aren't privy to all the information,'" Sabatino said.

When reached at home on March 15, Crist acknowledged a difference of opinion between the superintendent and himself. Crist was hired by former superintendent Dennis Hockney. Sabatino's visions for the district were different, Crist said.

"On Feb. 24, I was directed to, over the weekend, vacate all my personal effects from my office and leave my key on the desk," Crist said. "I was suspended until the board met Thursday evening."

Previously, Crist had asked, if he needed to leave his position, that he be given adequate time to secure a new job and prepare staff and students.

## FCCLA goes to state

By Sarah Horsch  
Staff Reporter

Twelve students from Lakes earned their way to compete at the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) state competition on April 20-22.

Students have been working on various projects since the beginning of this semester. At state, they will be competing in culinary arts and clothing construction competitions. There are also different aspects of the state competition, including the interview and the preschool lesson.

Lakes FCCLA was previously at regionals, where they took first place. Sophomore Troy Kenny was awarded a first for his two-piece outfit and Lisa Raetzman was awarded first for her semi-formal outfit. At state, they will compete for the Most Outstanding, 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards.

Junior Katrina Ramos hopes to get first in the clothing construction competition; she is competing in the prom dress competition.

Students are making corrections or adjustments to their projects in preparation for the state competition.

"I'm putting a lining in my dress and making a sash for it," said Sophomore Amanda Burdette. "I at least want 2<sup>nd</sup>."

Other competitors hope to do

well in the speaking portion, where they will present their project to the judge with a time limit of three to five minutes.

"Decorating and speaking in front of the judge is the students' most difficult part during this competition," said teacher Karen Schneider.

In the culinary arts portion of the competition the students will have to make a cookie before the competition and decorate it in front of a judge.

While they are not competing, the students will get a chance to look around at the other projects.



Sophomore Megan Larson models the dress she designed for competition.

Contrary to rumors, Crist said on Feb. 28, he was not escorted out of the building by security; he went to school on Monday to briefly give directions to his secretary.

Many students said they were supportive of Crist because of his support of the fine arts and his willingness to listen to students.

Many of the public comments at the meeting touched on the fact that this is the second time a principal in District 117 has been asked to resign in the middle of the school year.

Parent Tracy McGrath was one of the parents who addressed the board. She commended Crist's leadership and questioned the speed by which his resignation took place.

"He's been wonderful," McGrath said.

Matt Kastor, Lakes' band director who did not attend the meeting, said that, "[It's a] difficult situation, the board and superintendent doing what they feel is right, but it's hard when it's someone you respect and look up to."

Currently, Crist is working on his resume and looking for a new job. He has yet to apply for a new position.

## Participation in clubs depleats

By Devon Dittmer  
Photo/Art Editor

In the beginning of the school year student involvement in clubs at Lakes were at a high. Now, student participation in clubs appears to be dwindling.

Spanish Club, which started out the year with about thirty to forty members, is now down to only a few.

"I think people are just too involved. We offer so many things for students to do and that's a really, really good thing because that way if kids are interested in something there's definitely something out there for them, but a lot of our kids are spread really thin. They're involved in FCA [Fellowship of Christian Athletes], and they're involved in Amnesty, and they're involved in Spanish Club, and they're also in a sport

and something's got to give. A lot of times it's the littler clubs, like Amnesty and Spanish Club, that give," said Spanish Club sponsor Amber Carter.

Unfortunately, Spanish Club is not the only organization faced with this problem. Student Council is also on the decline. Again, Student Council started out the year with about sixty-seven students on the roster, but is now down to about ten.

"This is an important time for our school's future. We are still struggling to create our own identity as a school, but nothing can be accomplished without the involvement of our students," said Katie Cook, Student Council advisor. "We can only hope that the students of LCHS realize this before big events are taken away due to a lack of student participation."

## —GPA (continued from Page 1)

An A grade in an honors course will receive 5 points of credit. The current system of credit gives only half of a point of credit extra for honors courses.

Assistant Principal Ron Bode said the purpose of the new weighting system is very clear. Presently, a student who receives a B in an honors class will receive less credit than one who receives an A in a regular course; 3.5 points in the honors class as opposed to 4

in a regular class.

"We looked at the way other schools were running their programs," said Bode. "Our way penalized kids for taking honors courses."

Bode hopes the new system will encourage more students to take higher level courses. "There's no punishment involved," said Bode. "I think we're going to get more kids to try for honors courses, and that's the way it should be."

## AUGS marching band performs in New York's St. Patrick's Day parade

By Jessica Chernich  
Staff Reporter

Antioch Upper Grade's Senior Marching Band marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City.

The band, conducted by Earl Bush, was the only band in Illinois that marched in the parade. However, for a middle-school band they play phenomenally.

The song that the band was playing while marching was "Back in Black" by ACDC. The students who partook in the music program were ecstatic when they found out about going to New York.

"We received an application from the St. Patrick's Day Committee in New York and knew it was a good opportunity, so I sent the application back in and they were accepted," said Bush.

For years now Antioch Upper

Grade's Marching Band has been renowned. The band has performed during several parades throughout the year as well as graduation ceremonies.

The excellence of the band is due to its practicing. However, that is not the only reason. Bush is an exceptional band director and ever since he has come to Antioch the band has maintained outstanding performances.

Bush attended Eureka College in Illinois where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies. He then went on to Western Illinois University and got a Bachelor's Degree there for Music Education.

He loves his job and has been teaching for 30 years total, 25 of them spent at Antioch Upper Grade.

"I enjoy my job because of the students and the challenge of teaching them," said Bush.

Being on the Senior Band at Antioch Upper Grade requires

dedication. Many practices are held after school as well as practices during school. Bush takes the music program very seriously.

If a student forgets an instrument it can sometimes result in a detention. Although it sounds rather harsh, it seems that Bush knows what he is doing. He feels that the band deserved to go to New York.

Although the program is a lot of hard work, hearing the harmony produced and seeing their progression seems to be all worth it.

Committing such dedication to a non-sport activity with such high expectations is not an easy thing, especially for the students who are in the band as well as other activities.

There are high hopes for the band next year, and you can count on Bush to continue to lead them towards excellence.