

utility costs make action necessary.

- Board President Dr. Jeff Ferguson said that excellence in education must be the driving force behind any board action. He acknowledged possible hardship in paying the fee, but said that this is one of few options available.

It was stressed that any change in the fee must come before the board for a vote.

Homeschool academy update

Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Lori Benton reported that the proposed homeschool academy is designed to support and enrich learning among homeschooled students. Art, music, and physical education will be offered.

Benton presented an estimate of the cost of beginning the project, to include the hiring of a lead teacher, preparation of the building, and operating costs. She said that 18 students have enrolled.

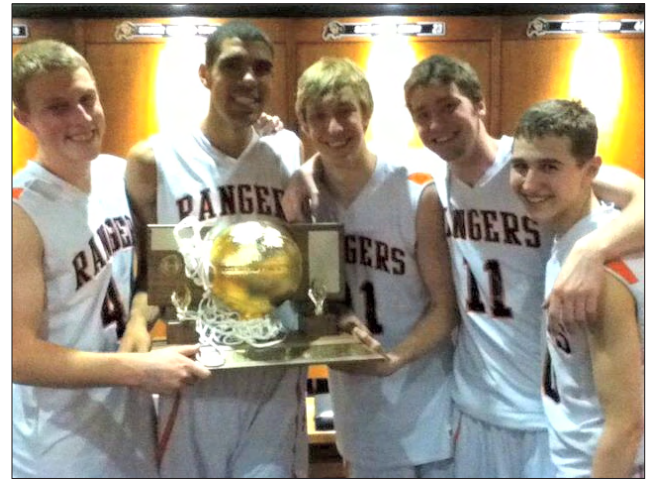
The next step is to hire a lead teacher and hold an open house in May to encourage additional enrollment.

The revenue per student is equivalent to that for a half-day kindergarten student.

Wilson said that she was encouraged by the community's interest, and Ferguson said that creating such an academy is an appropriate thing for the district to do.

Adjustments in capital reserve budget

Wangeman increased the projected revenues in the budget by \$306,490 for the school year 2012-13. Contributing to this increase are savings in utilities, success of the food



Above (L to R): Seniors Scott Hawkins, Josh Scott, Ethan Riker, Tim Helwege, and Ethan Hollenbach celebrate LPHS state championship in the 4A division. Photo provided by David Hollenbach.

service department, increased tuition due to increased enrollment, and other factors.

Fees in lieu of land

Wangeman said that \$720,000 remains in the fund collected by the county from developers, based on the number of residences constructed. The purpose of the fund is to purchase land on which to build schools. Because the district does not require further land for schools at this time, it is entitled to withdraw from the account and apply the funds to capital maintenance and improvement in the district. The board had originally intended to withdraw the funds over three years. The first withdrawal was made last year.

Wilson said that the district should withdraw the entire amount to expedite improvements in intervention and enrichment for students who are falling behind. She said that if students are weak going into high school, it will adversely affect their post-secondary education.

Mann questioned the use of \$350,000 for a one-time

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