

Lackawanna Trail School District  
Reorganization/Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the CDC recommendations to have groups adhere to social distance guidelines, the Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for their reorganization/regular meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law. The Executive Session prior to the meeting began at 6:35 pm and ended at 6:58 pm. Items discussed during the Executive session, include: coaching stipends/contracts, personnel and the Superintendent's contract.

President Dave Thorne called the meeting to order and directed the secretary to call the roll. Present: Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Minick, Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern, Ms. Naylor, Mr. Petula, Mr. Ross, Mr. Stark, and Mr. Thorne.

Administrators present: Mr. Rakauskas, Mr. Glynn, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Kearney, Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Schofield and Miss Talarico. Also in attendance: Solicitor, Attorney Mr. Audi.

Mr. Stark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, to accept the minutes from the November 9, 2020 regular board meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

The reorganization meeting was the first matter of business.

#### **TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. NOMINATION: Temporary President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Mulhern nominated Mr. Stark as the temporary President, seconded by Mr. Thorne. There were no other nominations.
2. CLOSE NOMINATION: Temporary President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Thorne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick to close the nominations. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9 in favor and 0 opposed.
3. ELECTION: Temporary President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Thorne made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould to elect Phillip Stark as the Temporary School Board President. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### **PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. NOMINATION: President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Thorne nominated Mr. Mulhern as President of the Board of Education, seconded by Dr. Mould. There were no other nominations.
2. CLOSE NOMINATION: President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Stark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thorne to close the nominations. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Mulhern abstained his vote.

3. ELECTION: President of the School Board of Education  
Mr. Stark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross to elect Kevin Mulhern as the President of the Board of Education. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Mulhern abstained his vote.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. NOMINATION: Vice-President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Thorne nominated Robert Minick to be Vice-President of the Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Bianchi. There were no other nominations.
2. CLOSE NOMINATION: Vice-President of the Board of Education  
Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stark to close the nomination of Robert Minick as the Vice-President of the School Board of Education. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Minick abstained his vote.
3. ELECTION: Vice-President of the Board of Education  
Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thorne to elect Robert Minick as the Vice-President of the Board of Education. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Minick abstained his vote.

### **SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Since Mr. Mulhern accepted the nomination and election as the new School Board President, his position as the School Board Secretary became vacant. The Secretary position will be up for an election in July, the new Secretary of the School Board is will serve the for the remainder of Mr. Mulhern's original term, ending June 30, 2020.

1. NOMINATION: Secretary of the Board of Education  
Mr. Ross nominated Dave Thorne to be Secretary of the Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Minick. There were no other nominations.
2. CLOSE NOMINATION: Secretary of the Board of Education  
Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stark to close the nomination of Dave Thorne as the Secretary of the School Board of Education. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Thorne abstained his vote.
3. ELECTION: Secretary of the Board of Education  
Mr. Stark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi to elect Dave Thorne as the Secretary of the Board of Education. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Mr. Thorne abstained his vote.

## Regular Meeting of the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education

The meeting began with allotted time for public participation. The Solicitor cautioned board members and the public that they should not read aloud or discuss the letters addressed to the board of education about the superintendent, relating to his performance, stating that the letters are not public record for three (3) reasons: 1) they are pre-decisional and do not fall subject to right-to-know and are covered under personnel during executive session where each Board member was allotted time to review all letters received; 2) contain subjective information and contract evaluation requires objective and measurable criteria; 3) Letters contain or may contain references to superintendent's family's confidential matters, which are covered under privacy rights of federal law including FERPA. The public was asked to participate if they chose within a three-minute time limit per participant and to keep these privacy, subjective and pre-decisional limitations in mind before making their comments. Mr. Joseph Strauch of Clinton Township asked several questions, regarding the Covid-19 Travel Policy motion on the agenda. The public was asked several more times if anyone else would like to make a public comment. The Business Manager made note to the School Board President that there were no comments for public participation in the Chat section of the Zoom meeting. Since there were no more participants from the public, the President closed the public discussion timeframe and the school board meeting commenced.

1. Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stark to approve the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education will conduct the monthly work sessions and board meetings at 7:30 PM in the boardroom and or virtually the following dates:

### WORK SESSIONS

Monday, January 4, 2021  
 Monday, February 1, 2021  
 Monday, March 1, 2021  
 Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
 Monday, May 3, 2021  
 Monday, June 7, 2021  
  
 Monday, August 2, 2021  
 Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
 Monday, October 4, 2021  
 Monday, November 1, 2021  
 Monday, December 6, 2021

### REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday, January 11, 2021  
 Monday, February 8, 2021  
 Monday, March 8, 2021  
 Monday, April 12, 2021  
 Monday, May 10, 2021  
 Monday, June 28, 2021  
 Monday, July 26, 2021  
 Monday, August 9, 2021  
 Monday, September 13, 2021  
 Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
 Monday, November 8, 2021

Monday, December 6, 2021 Reorganization/ Regular Meeting

The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9-0.

2. Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9-0.
3. Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross that the board approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9-0.

4. Mr. Thorne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stark that the board revise the current COVID-19 Travel Policy, to include:
  - Students traveling into and returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from any other State or Commonwealth or an international location, must produce evidence of a negative SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth, or quarantine for 14 days upon entering, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions specified in Section 4.
  - Employees traveling into and returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from any other State or Commonwealth or an international location, must produce evidence of a negative SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth. Without a test the employee may not return to school for 14 days. The 14 days does not qualify for FFCRA, but the employee may use his/her accrued leave.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8-1. Mr. Minick voted No.

5. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick that the board remove from the table the motion to approve the Superintendent's contract. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 9-0.
6. Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mulhern that the board approve the Superintendent's contract renewal for Matthew Rakauskas for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026 at a salary of \$125,198 as per first year of the contract. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 7-2. Mr. Petula and Ms. Naylor voted No.
7. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick that the board approve Maddie Lengel for the Maintenance II position, starting at a rate of \$14/ per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, to begin December 8th, 2020. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
8. Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thorne that the board approve Kristin Pietrzak as a Level I Personal Care Assistant starting December 17, 2020 with a pay differential of \$2.50/hr. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
9. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stark that the board approve Michael Kishbaugh as a Private Vehicle Substitute Driver for the 2020-2021 school year. All clearances are currently on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
10. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould that the board approve James Michael Vasky as a Substitute Bus Driver for the 2020-2021 school year. All clearances are currently on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
11. Mr. Thorne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick that the board approve Kelley Buck's request to extend her intermittent FMLA leave to conclude on January 14, 2021. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

12. Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi that the board approve the Van Strien Consulting Proposal of Services for the E-Rate program in the 2021-2022 Funding Year at a rate of \$ 3,000 for Category One requests and \$2,000+ 2% of committed funds for Category Two requests be approved. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
13. Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi that the board approve contracting of electrical services to repair and replace out-dated wiring at the Junior Senior High School sewer plant not to exceed \$10,000. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
14. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Naylor that the board approve the purchase of 50 Dell Chromebooks from assigned fund balance at a cost of \$14,706. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
15. Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi that the board approve purchase of My Math and Glencoe Math consumables from Smethport Area School District in the amount of \$6,000. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
16. Mr. Stark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi that the board delay the start of the winter sports season for the 2020-2021 school year until January 4, 2021, and allow the continuation of voluntary workouts, conditioning, and open gyms from December 14th-20th. On December 21st the official start of winter sports practices may begin, dependent on local conditions related to COVID-19 data. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
17. Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thorne that the board approve Tyler Rzucidlo as a Volunteer Junior High Boys Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.
18. Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick that the board acknowledge the resignation of Laura Evans from her JR. High Field Hockey coaching position. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

David Thorne  
Secretary, Board of Education