

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting, on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:37 pm, public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law.

A mixture of live and virtual Google Executive Session was previously held on August 15, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 7:12 pm for Solicitor interview. Mr. Petula was absent, all other board members were present for the Executive Session. Administrators in attendance were Mr. Rushefski, Mr. Glynn, Ms. Talarico and Mrs. Kuchak. Attorney Larry Moran was also present.

A mixture of live and virtual Google Executive Session was held prior to this School Board meeting from 6:30 pm to 7:11 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel and Legal Updates. All board members were present for the Executive Session.

President Mulhern called the meeting to order and directed the secretary to call the roll. Board Members present: Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Minick, Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern, Mr. Petula, Mr. Ross, Mr. Schmidt, and Mrs. Wescott.

Administrators present: Mr. Glynn, Mr. Kearney, Dr. Murphy and Mr. Schofield. Mrs. Kuchak was absent. Solicitor David Conn was present.

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment:

Joe Strauch – Thanked Board for Solicitor decision. Asked for more specific public description of executive meeting agenda items.

Mike Bass – Echoed and supported comments of Joe Strauch.

An announcement was made that the voting process would change to voice voting from roll call voting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the minutes from the August 8, 2022 School Board Meeting and September 6, 2022 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Old and Unfinished Business:

- a. Request for an update on playground funding and repair.
 - i. Assigned to Buildings and Grounds and Budget and Finance Committees to review replacement and/or replacement and upgrade depending on donation availability.

- b. Donated supplies for softball field, approve and schedule work.
 - i. On September agenda.
- c. Request for a description of the Reserve Fund.
 - i. To be addressed at the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting on September 19, 2022.
- d. Request for another Comprehensive Plan presentation.
 - i. Addressed in September Superintendent's Report.
- e. Request for a Data dive on LTSD academic data, classroom specific.
 - i. Will be addressed in the future when the full Administrative Team and more data is available.

Bill Listing

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

E-Rate Consultant

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, that the board approve the Van Strien Consulting Proposal of Services for the E-Rate program in the 2023-2024 Funding Year at a rate of \$3,000 for Category One requests and \$1,000 per funding request for Category Two requests be approved. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

ACA Reporting

Mr. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the contract with Conrad Siegel for ACA reporting for 2022 for a cost of \$5,200. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Applied Behavioral Mental Health Counseling Service

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the contract with Applied Behavioral Mental Health Counseling PLLC for board-certified behavior analyst services at a maximum cost of \$5,000. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Food Service Wage Agreement

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board retroactively approve the wage revision agreement with The Nutrition Group. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Solicitor Appointment

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petula, that the board appoint David Conn from Sweet Stevens Katz and Williams firm as solicitor from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Cafeteria Fund Balance Equipment Purchases

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to amend the motion to include the word "cafeteria" and approve expenditures to Rices Food and Equipment for the following pieces of equipment to be spent from **cafeteria** unassigned fund balance: Hot Serving Line: \$6,403.89. Cold Serving Line: \$11,065.57. Utility Serving Line: \$4,467.99. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

HVAC Improvements

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the purchase of HVAC units for the High School gymnasium from assigned fund balance in the amount of \$140,173 from McClure Company via CoSTARS contract #008-376. The motion passed with a vote of 5-4. Mr. Minick, Mr. Petula, Mr. Schmidt and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Policies for Second Reading

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the second reading of the following policies:

- 005 Organization
- 240 Athletic Awards
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- 255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

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

Policies to Retire

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board retire the following policies:

- 008 Organization Chart
- 120 Human Development Program
- 315 Disqualification by Reason of Health
- 316 Non-Tenured Employees
- 327 Management Team
- 348 Unlawful Harassment
- 808.1 Student Meal Charging

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

Elementary Student Handbook

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the updated 2022-2023 Elementary Student Handbook. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Jr/Sr High School Student Handbook

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the updated 2022-2023 Jr/Sr High School Student Handbook. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Field Trip Request

Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petula, that the board approve the Field Trip request for the Gifted Program on October 26, 2022 to Harrisburg at a cost to the district of fuel and one substitute. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Private Vehicle Contracted Driver

Mr. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Amy Smith as a contracted private vehicle driver for the 2022-2023 school year. All clearances are currently on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Temporary Interact Advisor

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petula, that the board approve Kelly Hopkins as temporary Interact Advisor for the first and second marking periods of the 2022-2023 school year at a prorated stipend of \$2500 per the LTEA contract. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Paraprofessional Resignation

Mr. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Dana Steffy from her paraprofessional position effective September 23, 2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Basketball Cheerleading Resignation

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Danielle Dwyer as Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Advisor effective immediately. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Basketball Cheerleading Volunteer

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve Danielle Dwyer as a Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Volunteer for the 2022-2023 school year. All clearances on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Basketball Cheerleading Advisor

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve Lauren Keyes as the Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Advisor to begin the 2022-2023 school year at a stipend of \$2550, according to the LTEA contract. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0. Mr. Mulhern abstained due to a personal tie with Ms. Keyes.

Extracurricular Marching Band Volunteer

Mr. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve David Borys as a Marching Band Volunteer for the 2022-2023 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Junior High Field Hockey Volunteer

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott that the board approve Elena Nicholoff as a Junior High Field Hockey Volunteer for the 2022-2023 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Softball Field Renovations

Mr. Mulhern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve up to \$25,000 from unassigned fund balance for materials to complete a softball field renovation. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

The following was read for the Superintendent's Report:

*The **2019-2022 Comprehensive Plan** included three overarching goals carried out through actions plans:*

Goal 1: *Expanded Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) to include additional grade levels, content areas and school-wide positive behavior support (SWPBS) so that district-wide, at-risk students receive the interventions and supports necessary to achieve academic proficiency, as measured by state assessments. This goal was achieved and will continually develop and expand as part of the new plan.*

Goal 2: *Develop a long range (3-5 year) professional development plan that is intensive, ongoing, connected to practice and focused on student achievement. This goal was not achieved in full. Due to the pandemic, professional development shifted to fine tuning our one-to-one chrome book initiative and virtual learning.*

Goal 3: *Create a scope and sequence for courses that is aligned to the standards and helps students attain proficiency on state assessments and/or content area exams. This goal was achieved in part, but will continually develop as one of the duties of our temporary Director of Curriculum.*

*The **2022-2025 Comprehensive Plan** includes three overarching goals which will be carried out through specific action plans as follows:*

Goal 1: *By 2025, student performance on state standardized assessments in ELA and Math will reach or exceed the state average performance in achievement and/or growth. The district will ensure that 100% of students receive data-driven instruction that is supported by valid benchmarking assessments and tiered invention programming in reading and math for grades 3-9.*

Goal 2: *By June of 2025, 100% of the 2021 Pennsylvania State Police Risk and Vulnerability Assessment will be communicated, reviewed, and evaluated by the Safe Schools Committee. Fully implemented policies and recommendations will be evaluated for ongoing compliance. Policies and recommendations that were partially implemented or nonexistent in the 2021 report will be reduced by 20%.*

Goal 3: *By 2025, all students in grades K-8 will receive direct instruction on school-wide behavior expectations at least once quarterly. Office discipline referrals and disciplinary actions will be reduced by 5% or more in each of the behavior focus areas.*

In addition, it is important to point out that the district is in great shape moving forward. In the last few months, we have completed and submitted to PDE the Comprehensive Plan (2022-2025), the Special Education Plan (2022-2025), the Gifted Education Plan (2022-2028), and the Teacher Induction Plan (2022-2028). As a result of this demanding work and collaboration, the Lackawanna Trail School District is poised to be a leader in education in our area.

Future business was presented, including:

Brian Petula – Requested written report on Comprehensive Plan be sent to each Director per Policy starting with 9/12 report

Joe Strauch – Requested board to vote on solicitor’s contract

Joe Strauch – Asked the Board to consider retiring Board Policy using a 3 readings process.

Mr. Mulhern announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Petula, Secretary Board of Education