

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:30 pm, public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law.

Public interviews for School Board Director were held prior to the meeting from 5:41 pm to 6:30 pm.

An Executive Session was held from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The following items were discussed: Discussion of school board director candidates, Solicitor's report and Personnel. Mark Carpenter was absent. Adrian Bianchi, Jaclyn Litwin, Robert Minick, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross and Tracy Wescott were present for the executive session.

President Ross called the meeting to order and directed the secretary to call the roll. Board Members present: Adrian Bianchi, Jaclyn Litwin, Robert Minick, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross, Nolan Schmidt, and Tracy Wescott. Absent: Mark Carpenter.

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

Correspondence to the board was shared from Ronda Norman asking the board to consider feedback from Region I residents on the replacement of former board member, Kevin Mulhern.

The meeting began with a Cummings Insurance Health Benefits Proposal by Michael Cummings.

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

Joseph Strauch: Questioned the township for motion #3, Assessment Appeal Stipulation, was answered West Abington. Offered opinions regarding Policy 800 - Records Retention. Asked that better directions be given for field trip request.

Michael Bass: Asked that the board delays and gets feedback from the public for the Region I board appointment.

Candace Haft: Questioned the benefits of being a member of the NEIU#19. Commented on dress code for semi formal.

Mitchell McElwee: Would like to speak with the district about her three children returning from cyber school.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the minutes from the January 16, 2023 School Board Meeting and February 6, 2023 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Bill Listing

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the January Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Assessment Appeal Stipulation

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the Assessment Appeal Stipulation for the following property: PIN number 0790100006 to the assessed valuation of \$54,500 as of January 1, 2021 in West Abington Township. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Settlement Authorization

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the settlement authorization for Sweet Stevens Katz and Williams regarding property at PIN 04801030003 in Benton Township. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

NEIU #19 Proposed Budget

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the budget for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Lackawanna Trail's contribution is \$12,961.81. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

School Board Director Resignation

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Nolan Schmidt as School Board Director representing Region III from the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education effective January 26, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

School Board Director Resignation

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Kevin Mulhern as School Board Director representing Region I from the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education effective February 13, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Region III School Board Director

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board appoint Brendan Dwyer as School Board Director representing Region III to complete the portion of Nolan Schmidt's unexpired term through December 2023. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-1, Mr. Ross abstained..

NEIU #19 Board Representative

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board nominate Jaclyn Litwin to represent Lackawanna Trail School District on the Intermediate Unit #19's Board of Directors from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Policies for Adoption

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the adoption of the following policies: 217 Graduation and 240 Athletic Awards. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Policy for First Reading

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the first reading of the following policy: 800 Records Retention. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Field Trip

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the Art field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York City on April 14, 2023 at a cost to the district of substitutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Extracurricular Resignation

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Scot Wasilchak from his assistant track and field coach position. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Extracurricular Track and Field

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Tim Ronchi as Assistant Track and Field coach to begin the 2022-2023 season, at a rate of \$3125, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, to include motions #15-25 in a consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0. The following motions were included in the consent agenda:

Extracurricular Volunteer Track and Field

Move that the board approve Jennifer Boccadori as a volunteer Track and Field coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Track and Field

Move that the board approve Mary Smarkusky as a volunteer Track and Field coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Track and Field

Move that the board approve Mark Lloyd as a volunteer Track and Field coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Track and Field

Move that the board approve Max Brewer as a volunteer Track and Field coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Unified Track and Field

Move that the board approve Jessica Bentley as a volunteer Unified Track and Field coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Baseball

Move that the board approve Charlie Cobb as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Baseball

Move that the board approve Jeff Edwards as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Baseball

Move that the board approve Mark June as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Baseball

Move that the board approve Luke Ryon as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Softball

Move that the board approve Lindsay Howard as a volunteer softball coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Volunteer Field Hockey

Move that the board approve Lindsay Howard as a volunteer field hockey coach for the 2022-2023 season. All clearances on file.

The following Future Business was discussed: Mrs. Wescott asked that replacement of the Elementary Gym flooring be brought to the attention of maintenance and the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

TO: Board Secretary, School District

FROM: JOSEPH NOTI Board Member

DATE: 3/2/23

Pursuant to Pennsylvania's "Public Official and Employee Ethics Law" I hereby declare that I am required to abstain regarding the following issue/motion:

Region III School Board Director Motion
Meeting 2/17/23

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

Mr. Brendan Dwyer was appointed for
position and motion was made to appoint
Mr. Dwyer. Mr. Dwyer is self employed
financial consultant and I am a client
of Mr. Dwyer, therefore I believe there is
a conflict or would be a perceived conflict
from the community

Signature of Board Member

NOTE: Section 3(j) requires the following procedure:

"Any public official or public employee, who in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to vote on a matter that would result in a conflict of interest **shall abstain** from voting **and, prior to the vote** being taken, **publicly announce and** disclose the nature of his interest as a public record **in a written memorandum** filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes for the meeting at which the vote is taken"
(emphasis added)

This memorandum does **not** have to be utilized when a conflict is defined "by any law, rule, regulation, order or ordinance;" for example the School Code (Section 1111) prohibits voting to hire certain relatives.