

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

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

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting from 6:30 pm to 7:06 pm. The following items were discussed: Solicitor's report, health insurance contract and personnel. A second executive session was held after the meeting from 8:53 pm to 9:05 pm to discuss Administration procedures and personnel. Mark Carpenter was absent. Adrian Bianchi, Brendan Dwyer, Jaclyn Litwin, Robert Minick, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross and Tracy Wescott were present for both of the executive sessions.

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

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

Correspondence to the board was shared from Joseph Strauch in the form of two emails, one on the subject of Policy 918 and the other on the subject of Senate Bill 355.

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

Robyn Nichols:

1. Peoples Security Bank Health and Educational Opportunities grant.
2. Complaint about school resource officer parking in bus lanes and request for installation of new no parking signs.
3. Academic eligibility for athletes, not enough rigor required.

Robert Baker: Asked why Wyoming County residents running for the school board in Region I are required to be certified by Lackawanna County Board of Elections.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the minutes from the February 13, 2023 School Board Meeting and March 6, 2023 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Bill Listing

Dr. Mould 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 7-0.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board approve the February Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Approval of Audit

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the 2021-2022 Financial Statements and Single Audit Report prepared by Murphy, Dougherty & Company as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Tower North Contract Renewal

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the Tower North contract renewal from April 30, 2023 to April 30, 2024 for the sum of \$750.00. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Resolution and Agreement to join Public Schools Health Insurance Cooperative

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the resolution and agreement to join the Public Schools Health Insurance Cooperative effective July 1, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Withdrawal from NEPA Public Schools Health Care Consortium

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the Business Manager to issue notice of withdrawal to the NEPA Public Schools Health Care Consortium effective June 30, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Policy for Second Reading

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the second reading of the following policy: 800 Records Management. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Policy for First Reading

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the first reading of the following policy: 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Region I School Board Director

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board appoint Heather Clark as School Board Director representing Region I to complete the portion of Kevin Mulhern's unexpired term until December 2023. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-1. Dr. Mould abstained.

Level I Personal Care Assistant

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Jessica Chaya as a part-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.50 per hour plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I Classroom, per the LTESPA

collective bargaining agreement, to begin March 15, 2023. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Contracted Driver

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board retroactively approve Tara Basile as a contracted driver with Burns Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year as of February 14, 2023. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Field Trip

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the Class of 2026 field trip to Dorney Park in Allentown, PA on May 5, 2023 at no cost to the district. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Field Trip

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the sixth grade field trip to Dorney Park in Allentown, PA on May 12, 2023, at a cost to the district of one substitute. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Junior High Sports MOA

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the Memorandum of Agreement to add Assistant Baseball and Assistant Softball coaches to the list of extracurriculars, and to authorize administration to post and fill the same, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the next business meeting following the appointment. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mr. Ross announced that Brendan Dwyer would be serving on the Buildings & Grounds Committee and Tracy Wescott would be serving on the Safe Schools Committee.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

TO: Board Secretary, School District

FROM: M.W. MOULD Board Member

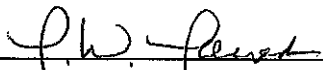
DATE: 3/13/22

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

MOTION 9. BOARD MEETING 3/13/22

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

I BELIEVE THE MANDATED PROCESS
IS TERRIBLY FLAWED.


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.