

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2023

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 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 7:19 pm. The following items were discussed: Scheduling of new board member orientation, personnel and solicitors report. All board members were present for the executive session.

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

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

Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Kearney and Dr. Murphy presented the 2023-2024 Curriculum Guides.

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

Joe Strauch: Commented on policies 3, 610, 827, 121, 123.1.

Vern Croasdale: Concerns about tax increase due to Wellness Center.

Missey Bower: Concerned about cost of Wellness Center.

Dianne Mitchell: Would like the Wellness Center to be decided by public vote.

Jamie Schirg: How much more can we take on taxes?

Mike Bass: Comments on tax rates and school ratings.

Candace Haft: Focus on education over wellness.

Kevin Mulhern: Support of Wellness Center.

Heath Gumble: Comments about a field trip to Wilkes Barre School District, tax rate.

Steve Jervis: Support of Wellness Center benefiting all students.

Christy Clarke: Comments about poverty level.

Todd Peters: Support of Wellness Center.

Robert Clarke: Support of Wellness Center without an associated tax hike.

Jeff Edwards: Support of Wellness Center.

Ronda Norman: Questions about the operating cost and furniture cost for Wellness Center.

Colin Golden: Support of Wellness Center, would not like taxes to go up.

Jeremy Choplosky: Not in favor of Wellness Center, questions about tax increase.

Luke Ryon: Support of Wellness Center.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the minutes from the March 13, 2023 School Board Meeting and April 3, 2023 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Bill Listing

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, 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

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the March Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Nutrition Group

Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the contract with Nutrition Group, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Architecture and Engineering Services - Wellness and Recreation Center

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the contract with Hemmler + Camayd Architects for Architectural and Engineering services related to the Wellness and Recreation Center to a 100% Design threshold at a cost of \$21,630 from assigned fund balance. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-3. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Wellness Center Bids

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve advertisement of a request for sealed bids for the Wellness and Recreation Center. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-3. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Elementary School Playground

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the expenditure from the assigned fund balance for future capital projects for the replacement of the Elementary playground with Recreation Resource as the vendor up to \$175,000 through COSTARS contract # 014-E22-249. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

2023-2024 Academic Calendar

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Jr. and Sr. High Curriculum/Course Description Guide

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the Jr. and Sr. High 2023-2024 Curriculum/Course Description Guide. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Elementary Curriculum/Course Description Guide

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the Elementary 2023-2024 Curriculum/Course Description Guide. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Textbooks

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the purchase from assigned fund balance of the Big Ideas Math Series from Cengage Learning at a cost of \$124,775. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for Adoption

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the adoption of the following policy: 800 Records Management. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for Second Reading

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the second reading of the following policy: 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for First Reading

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board approve the first reading of the following policy: 827 Conflict of Interest. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Retirement

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board acknowledge the retirement of Dale Gow from his Maintenance II position, effective June 2, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Retirement

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board acknowledge the retirement of Keith Youtz from his Mathematics Teaching position, as well as his resignation from his positions of Head Cross Country Coach, Head Wrestling Coach, Assistant Track and Field Coach and Mathematics Department Chair effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Resignation

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Levi Bennett from his Maintenance II position effective March 29, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Resignation

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Jessica Chaya from her Level I Personal Care Assistant position effective April 14, 2023, date to be amended from previously posted agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Level I Personal Care Assistant

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve JoAnne Wright 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 April 17, 2023. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Contracted Mental Health Intervention Counselor

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the contract with Janine Fortney as a grant-funded contractor for mental health intervention as stipulated in the service contract at a rate of \$39,000 for the 2023-2024 school year with supplemental hours for services for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$30 per hour as scheduled by management. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Contracted Driver

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board retroactively approve Tammy Yankelitis as a contracted driver with Burns Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year as of March 20, 2023. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Contracted Driver

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board retroactively approve Willard Randy Holgate as a contracted driver with Burns Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year as of March 22, 2023. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Contracted Driver

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve James Cilento as a contracted driver for the 2022-2023 school year to begin upon completion of required documents. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Junior High Baseball Assistant Coach

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Mark June as Junior High Baseball Assistant Coach beginning March 22, 2023 at a rate of \$3100, prorated, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Junior High Softball Assistant Coach

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Gary Wilmet as Junior High Softball Assistant Coach beginning April 12, 2023 at a rate of \$3100, prorated, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Assistant Volleyball Coach

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve Ryan Laubach as Assistant Volleyball Coach beginning April 12, 2023 at a rate of \$3125, prorated, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Amend Agenda

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, to amend the agenda to act on a proposal received April 11, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Trane Letter of Commitment

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the letter of commitment for Trane. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education