

Lackawanna Trail School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2023

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, June 26, 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 5:01 pm to 7:04 pm. The following items were discussed: Due process complaint, school safety report, personnel, staffing, solicitor's report, three interviews. 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 Sharon Montayne was present.

Public Presentation: Mr. Rakauskas made a public statement of tenure for Lauren Gratz, Jennifer Boccadori and Ashlinn Simpson completed on July 1, 2023.

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

Joseph Strauch: Motion 5, do not pass budget, motion 6 tax rates, consent motion 14-17, motion 25, policy 202.

Carole Hegedty: Wellness Center motion 14-17

Susanne Green: Tax increase

Betty Booth: Wellness Center, tax increase.

Mike Bass: Tax increase, Wellness Center

Candace Haft: Lawn mower, unpaid taxes, should find space in building for lockers due to enrollment down.

Lisa Scango: Wellness Center

Courtney Barhite: Thank you for welcoming to Lackawanna Trail for internship

Lynn Stevenson: Against Wellness Center only for a few students.

Verne Croasdale: Wellness Center not meeting budget

Kevin Mulhern: Support for Wellness Center

Ricky Davis: Not in support of Wellness Center

Jennifer Reid: Not in support of Wellness Center, should use Keystone College's gym

Heidi Davis: Wellness Center, not in support

Eric Johnson: How many students participate in athletics? Support for Wellness Center

Therese Chamberlin: Not in support of Wellness Center

Patty Spencer: Community can't afford tax increase.

Heath Gumble: Against Wellness Center  
Steven Green: How many students are in sports?

#### Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the minutes from the June 5, 2023 School Board Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Bill Listing

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### July Bills

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the business manager to pay any necessary bills due for the month of July 2023. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board approve the May Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Settlement Agreement

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the Settlement Agreement with student #30115. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### 2023-2024 Budget

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the Lackawanna Trail School District 2023-2024 final budget at the amount of 23,584,773.69. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Litwin and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

#### Tax Rates 2023-2024

Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the following tax rates: Earned Income Lackawanna County 0.5% earnings, Wyoming County 0.5% earnings, Real Estate Transfer 0.5% sale price, Wyoming County 0.5% sale price, Real Estate Tax Lackawanna County 190.57 mills of assessed value, Wyoming County 92.16 mills of assessed value. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Litwin and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

#### Homestead Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the 2023 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Athletic Event Stipend Matrix

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the Athletic Event Stipend Matrix effective July 1, 2023. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Student Meal Prices

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the following student meal prices for the 2023-2024 school year:

High School Lunch	\$3.00
High School Breakfast	Free
Elementary Lunch	\$2.90
Elementary Breakfast	Free
Reduced Price Lunch (District-wide)	\$0.40

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

High School Heating & Cooling Contract

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board approve the contract with Summit Mechanical Contracting for \$2250.00 from unassigned food service fund balance to move the existing hydronic unit heater to a new location. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

High School Roof Curb Replacement

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve the contract with Dunmore Roofing & Supply for \$5595.00 from unassigned fund balance for the demolition of old curbs and cut in of new curbs in existing high school roof with 30 year warranty. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Elementary Seal-Coating

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board award the elementary school seal-coating bid per sealed competitive bids to M.Mayo Striping and approve the contract in the amount of \$14,748.04. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

High School Seal-Coating

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board award the high school seal-coating bid per sealed competitive bids to M.Mayo Striping and approve the contract in the amount of \$24,931.20. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Recreation and Wellness Center General Contracting

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board award the LTSD Recreation and Wellness Center General Contracting bid per sealed competitive bids to Mar-Paul Construction Co, Inc, and approve the contract in the amount of \$2,507,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Recreation and Wellness Center HVAC

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board award the LTSD Recreation and Wellness Center HVAC bid per sealed competitive bids to Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling Service, Inc. and approve the contract in the amount of \$264,181.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Recreation and Wellness Center Plumbing

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minick, that the board award the LTSD Recreation and Wellness Center Plumbing bid per sealed competitive bids to Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling Service, Inc. and approve the contract in the amount of \$180,514.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Recreation and Wellness Center Electrical

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board award the LTSD Recreation and Wellness Center Electrical bid per sealed competitive bids to Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc. and approve the contract in the amount of \$289,890.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 3 no. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Solicitor Fee Agreement

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the appointment of Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams as solicitor for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in accordance with their fee agreement for such legal services as may be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Kelly Services

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the continuation of services with Kelly Services for substitute teacher and support staff services for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Substitute Rates

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the following pay scale for substitutes:

Dean of Students \$150 per day.

Teaching

\$120 per day for building substitute (must commit to every day of school)

\$110 per day for daily substitute

Maintenance and Secretarial \$13.35 per hour

Paraprofessional \$12.65 per hour

Nurse

\$125 per hour for RN

\$100 per hour for LPN

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Physician Appointment

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the appointment of Dr. Rajan Mulloth as the school district physician for the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$10,000. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

School Resource Officers

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the agreement between Lackawanna Trail School District and Dalton Borough Police Department for \$42 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year and \$44 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year for School Resource Officer (SRO) services. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Pivot OT/PT Contract

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve the contract with Pivot for Physical Therapy (\$110 per hour) and Occupational Therapy (\$110 per hour) for the 2023-2024 school year pending solicitor review. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Athletic Trainer Contract

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to table the motion to approve the contract with \_\_\_\_\_ for Athletic Training (\$\_\_\_\_\_ with additional hours billed at \$\_\_\_\_ per hour) for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for Second Reading

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the second reading of the following policy: 202 Eligibility of Non-Resident Students. The motion failed by a roll call vote of 1 yes, 8 no. Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Litwin, Dr. Mould, Mr. Ross and Mrs. Wescott voted no.

Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Shannon Kuchak as Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs effective July 1, 2023 at a salary of \$95,000. This will be reflected in an addendum to the current Act 93 Contract. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extended School Year Speech and Language Pathologist

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the board approve Quinn Kelley as an Extended School Year Speech and Language Pathologist from July 10 to August 10, 2023 at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Gifted & English as a Second Language Teacher

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Juliana Muta as a Gifted and ESL Teacher at a salary of \$55,376.20, bachelor +12 level, step 1, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Mentor

Mr. Minick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the appointment of Jim Kotz as a mentor to the Gifted and ESL Teacher, Juliana Muta, at a stipend of \$450 for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the LTEA agreement. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

High School Mathematics Teacher

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Jessica Tighe as a secondary mathematics teacher at a salary of \$54,414.22, bachelor level, step 3, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Mentor

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the appointment of Katie Biechler as a mentor to the mathematics teacher, Jessica Tighe, at a stipend of \$450 for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the LTEA agreement. The motion passed by a vote of 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Mr. Ross abstained from voting. Abstention form was filed.

Special Education Teacher

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve Natalie Cocchini as a special education teacher at a salary of \$54,414.22, bachelor's level, step 3, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Special Education Teacher

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Courtney Barhite as a special education teacher at a salary of \$57,251.20, bachelor's +12 level, step 4, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, that the board approve Linde Maurer as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$14.05 plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Kara Waters as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$14.05 plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve Stacey Shafer as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.90 plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Nancy Brown as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.90 plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Paraprofessional

Mr. Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve Colleen Kozubal as a part-time Paraprofessional at 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.75 per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, to begin the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Contracted Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to table the motion to approve the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as an outsourced independent contractor for BCBA Services for the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$\_\_\_\_\_. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to consolidate motions 40 through 50 in a consent agenda and approve motions listed below. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

40. Extracurricular Girls Volleyball Head Coach

Move that the board approve Scott Wert as Girls' Volleyball Head Coach beginning the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$3,850, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.

41. Extracurricular Wrestling Head Coach  
Move that the board approve Adam Johnson as Wrestling Head Coach beginning the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$5,550, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.
42. Extracurricular Football Assistant Coach  
Move that the board approve Caleb Darling as Football Assistant Coach beginning the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$4,200, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.
43. Extracurricular Field Hockey Junior High Assistant Coach  
Move that the board approve Jan Engle as Field Hockey Junior High Assistant Coach beginning the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$3,100, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.
44. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Michelle Fahey as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
45. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Shawna Darling as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
46. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Elena Nicholoff as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
47. Extracurricular Football Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Jake Adcroft as a volunteer football assistant coach for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
48. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Jeff Kuchak as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
49. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Brendan Dwyer as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.
50. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer  
Move that the board approve Jennifer Perry as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.



Future Business:

Joseph Strauch: Audio in gym not good, agenda should be amended by 6/27/2023, discussion on Policy 202, final budget, have solicitor look at section 672.

Susanne Green: Make solicitor aware of the auditor general report.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**Conflict of Interest  
Abstention Memorandum**

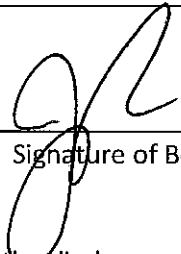
**TO:** Board Secretary, Lackawanna Trail School District  
**FROM:** JOSEPH NOSI Board Member  
**DATE:** 6/26/23

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

6/26/23 MOTION #31     Abstention due  
to appointed 11 & FEA  
relative of mine

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
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.