

Lackawanna Trail School District  
Reorganization School Board Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2023

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:30 pm, public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law.

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, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Rakauskas, Mr. Schofield and Ms. Talarico. Mrs. Kuchak was absent. Solicitor Christopher Bambach was present.

The oath of office for new and re-elected school directors was performed by District Justice David Plummer.

## **REORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### NOMINATION: Temporary President of the Board of Education

Mr. Bianchi nominated Dr. Michael Mould as the temporary President, seconded by Mr. Ross. There were no other nominations.

#### CLOSE NOMINATION: Temporary President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, to close the nominations. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### ELECTION: Temporary President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, to elect Dr. Michael Mould as the Temporary President of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

### **PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### NOMINATION: President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Haft nominated Joseph Ross to be President of the Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Dwyer. There were no other nominations.

#### CLOSE NOMINATION: President of the Board of Education

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, to close the nominations. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

ELECTION: President of the School Board of Education

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, to elect Joseph Ross as the President of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

**VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

NOMINATION: Vice-President of the Board of Education

Nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Education were as follows:

Mr. Bianchi nominated Brendan Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Ross.

Mrs. Clark nominated Tracy Wescott, seconded by Mrs. Litwin.

There were no other nominations.

CLOSE NOMINATION: Vice-President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to close the nominations. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

ELECTION: Vice-President of the Board of Education

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to have a roll call vote for the Vice-President of the Board of Education. Votes were cast for Brendan Dwyer by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Bianchi and Dr. Mould and Mr. Ross. Votes were cast for Tracy Wescott by Mrs. Wescott, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Haft, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Litwin. Tracy Wescott was elected Vice-President of the Board of Education.

**Regular Meeting of the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education**

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment: Joseph Strauch suggested changes to prior meeting minutes, questioned the Act 93 contract and a right to know request, commended administration for Veterans day program.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the minutes from the November 13, 2023 School Board Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

2024 Board Meeting and Committee Meeting Dates & Times

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education will conduct the monthly work sessions and board meetings at 7:30 pm in the boardroom.

Work Sessions

January 8	June 3
February 5	August 5
March 4	September 3
April 2	October 7
May 6	November 4

Regular Meetings

January 15	July 8
February 12	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 15
May 13	November 11
June 24	
<u>Reorganization/Regular Meeting:</u>	December 2

Committee Meetings:

Buildings & Grounds

March 18	6 pm
May 20	6 pm
September 16	6 pm
December 9	6 pm

Curriculum

March 18	8 pm
May 20	8 pm
September 16	8 pm
December 9	8 pm

Budget & Finance

March 19	6 pm
May 21	6 pm
September 17	6 pm
December 10	6 pm

Wellness

March 19	8 pm
May 21	8 pm
September 17	8 pm
December 10	8 pm

Bill Listing

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

December Bills

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

Act I Resolution

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve a resolution pursuant to Act I of 2011 indicating that the Lackawanna Trail School District will not raise the rate of tax support of its public schools for the 2024-2025 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of of Education for the district of 6.8%. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for Adoption

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the adoption of the following policy: 202 Eligibility of Non-Resident Students. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for First Reading

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the first reading of the following policies: 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources, 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Substitute Nurse

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Heidi Davis as a school nurse substitute for 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. Bianchi, that the board approve JoAnne Wright as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.75 plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective December 6, 2023. All clearances are on file.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, to consolidate motions #9-15 into a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Matthew Zumbach from his level I personal care assistant position effective December 5, 2023.

Retirement

Move that the board acknowledge the retirement request of Peggy Smith, Maintenance II employee, effective February 12, 2024.

Sound and Lighting Assistant

Move that the board approve Dan Maurer as the Sound and Lighting Assistant for the Spring 2024 Musical at a stipend of \$300. All clearances on file.

Bass Accompanist

Move that the board approve Chris Hooker as the Bass Accompanist for the Spring 2024 Musical at a stipend of \$300. All clearances on file.

Set Artist

Move that the board approve George Barbolish as the Set Artist for the Spring 2024 Musical at a stipend of \$300. All clearances on file.

Extracurricular Wrestling Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jeff Marx as a wrestling volunteer for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

Extracurricular Girls' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Amanda Golden as a girls' basketball volunteer for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session after this meeting and prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

An Executive Session was held after the meeting from 8:37 pm to 9:23 pm. The following items were discussed: Act 93 contract. All board members were present for the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**NEW BUSINESS REPORTS ADDENDUM:****Superintendent's Board Report 12/4/23**

There have been a few webpage upgrades as of late and more to come. Last month I pointed out the revamped committees page, and tonight I'd like to highlight our Feature Educator. Our January 8 th Work Session will be held in the PS Bank Auditorium to accommodate a larger crowd for our Standardized Test Score Presentation which will be led by Mrs. Shannon Kuchak, our Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs. Because part of this presentation directly relates to our Comprehensive Plan objectives, I'll take some time to review our progress as well. During our January 15 th Regular Board meeting we will celebrate School Board Recognition Month. Flexible Instruction Days (FIDS). Dr. Murphy and Mr. Kearney will communicate to the students and parents the details. Traditional Snow Days will be used first, then FIDS. At next week's Wellness Committee meeting there will be a review of the Health & Safety Plan, resulting in a recommendation to the board for updates in January. On December 18th at 7:00 we will conduct a Fundraising Kickoff Campaign for the purchase of fitness equipment for our Wellness Center at the PS Bank Auditorium. It is a community event, with special invitations to our sports teams and coaches, non-student athletes, parents, and alumni. Our objective is to raise \$175,000 so we can purchase the equipment without dipping into our fund balance. This will be advertised with more information over the next few weeks through multiple forms of media.

**Elementary Principal Board Report December 4, 2023**

- Playground Update
  - Buddy Benches installed
  - Backboards installed
- PPL Presentation
  - PPL Electric Utilities, in conjunction with the National Energy Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, is proud to sponsor the THINK! ENERGY educational programs.
  - These programs teach students in grades 2-12 the importance of energy, natural resources and environmental issues. Each participating student's family receives energy-efficient technologies to install at home.
- Chorus Concert on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm
- Lackawanna Trail Elementary Students sing Christmas Carols
- Holiday Kick-Off
  - 12/18-12/22

**LTHS Principal's Report 12/4/23**

- 1.) 3 Important Weeks of MP2 before the Winter Break
  - a.) Exciting time with winter sports, holidays, activities
  - b.) But it is important to focus.
  - c.) Winter Keystones right after break
  - d.) Winter CDTs in January as well. So we're not slowing down.
  - e.) Need to stay focused.
- 2.) Upcoming Dates:
  - a.) This week:
    - i.) Elem Band/Chorus concert at PS Bank Auditorium on Tues, 7pm
    - ii.) Fall Sport Awards, also PS Bank Auditorium, Weds 6pm
    - iii.) Friday: Cal King Tournament as well as first wrestling invitational away
  - b.) Later in the month:
    - i.) Dec. 19th, Tues, JSHS band and chorus concert, rescheduled due to conflict, please come out and support our musicians
  - c.) January:
    - i.) 10th - ASVAB for Juniors
    - ii.) 16th-26th - CDTs for 7-8th grade and Keystone subjects.
      - (1) Incredibly help, please don't schedule vacations during testing windows.
- 3.) Mentioned Fall Sports Awards on Weds, 6pm
  - a.) Individual Achievements:
    - i.) VolleyBall: Gretchen Rejrat selected 2nd Team LIAA All-Star
    - ii.) Football: Undefeated Reg. Season, 2-1 in the playoffs.
      - (1) NPF, Division III NPF Sports
        - (a) Lucas Gumble MVP
        - (b) Hunter Patterson, Defensive POY
        - (c) Alex Castellano, Lineman of the Year
        - (d) Steve Jervis Sr., Coach of the Year
      - (2) Also award 7/14 First Team Offense awards and additional 5 Second Team Awards
    - iii.) Field Hockey:
      - (1) Great Team season, finished runners up, state silver medalists
      - (2) Individual awards
        - (a) All Region Scranton Times:
          - (i) Lena Ryon, POY
          - (ii) All Region Team: Tea Burns, Nora Evans, Laurent Fahey, Greta Krimmer
          - (iii) Coach of the Year: Lara Evans
      - (3) Wy Co Examiner:
        - (a) Player of the Week: Lena Ryon and Nora Evans
      - (4) Max FH All Tournament Team:

(a) Lena Ryon

4.) Not to be outdone, our music programs continue to flourish

a.) Congratulations to

- i.) Isabelle Maure
- ii.) Bianca Guzzon
- iii.) Braydn Clarke
- iv.) Avery Ronchi
- v.) Madison Palmer

(1) All qualified for PMEA District 9 Band in January. Will audition for a shot at Regions as well.

vi.) In addition to:

(1) Jaiden Trunzo, Ethan Gorton, and Deana Wilhelm who qualified as alternates.

(2) Madison will also perform with the PMEA District ORchestra in Feb.

5.) It has been a great start to the year and overall a great year to be a Lion.

Congratulations to those students, their coaches, and their directors. We're extremely proud of each and every one of them and wish them the best in upcoming performances, games, and the new sports seasons ahead.

**Special Education Director's Report**

The Bureau of Special Ed monitors will be on sight tomorrow and we should have our Cyclical Monitoring wrapped up by next week.

Project ABLE will be December 7. 6th grade students will participate in a disability awareness day run by The Center for Independent Living. Ms. Stevens, our elementary life skills teacher, set this up and she also has set up some inclusion awareness activities at the elementary center.

The first Unified Bocce match is Home v. Mountain View on January 9 at 4:00 PM. Ms. Stevens and Mrs. Buck are coaching.

**Maintenance and Transportation Director's Report**

Effluent water at the sewer plant had its yearly calibration by flow tech. More water testing is required at high school. Markey is working on pricing with labs to get us the best price possible. Trucks and equipment ready to move snow.

**Business Manager's Report**

The Budget and Finance Committee will cover bond issuance options next week at its meeting. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will review the capital projects list and AI equipment options.