

Lackawanna Trail School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2024

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024 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 6:35 pm to 7:15 pm. The following items were discussed: Level 4 student discipline, staffing, personnel. 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, Heather Clark, Brendan Dwyer, Candace Haft, Eric Johnson, Jaclyn Litwin, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross and Tracy Wescott.

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

Public Presentation: Raymond James Bond Issuance Presentation, Allie Macchi and Recognition of School Board Appreciation Month.

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

Robert Minick: Public comment about a board member, looking for public apology.

Joseph Strauch: Act 93 contract, policy 815 and student discipline.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the minutes from the December 4, 2023 Reorganization School Board Meeting and January 8, 2024 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Bill Listing

Dr. Mould 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.

#### Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the November and December Treasurer's Reports as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Reimbursement Resolution

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the reimbursement resolution related to tax-exempt debt issuance. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that motions 4, 9, 12-21 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### 4. Freezers Sale

Move that the board approve the sale of two high school freezers to Gin's Tavern at a cost of \$50 each.

#### 9. Field Trip

Move that the board approve the senior class trip to Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in N. Long Branch, New Jersey on May 19-20, 2024, at a cost to the district of one substitute.

#### 12. Bus Driver

Move that the board retroactively approve Connor Crock as a bus driver with Padula Bus Company effective December 19, 2023. All clearances are on file.

#### 13. Personal Care Assistant

Move that the board approve Jessica Chaya as a part-time personal care assistant, 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.75 per hour plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective January 16, 2024. All clearances are on file.

#### 14. Paraprofessional

Move that the board approve Brenda VanLuvanee as a part-time paraprofessional, 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$13.75 per hour per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective January 23, 2024. All clearances are on file.

#### 15. Extracurricular Vocal Music Director

Move that the board approve Dan Maurer as vocal music director at a stipend of \$1575 for the spring musical, The Sound of Music. All clearances are on file.

#### 16. Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jillian Fumanti as a volunteer for the spring musical, The Sound of Music. All clearances are on file.

#### 17. Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Janine Fortney as a volunteer for the spring musical, The Sound of Music. All clearances are on file.

#### 18. Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Becky Burdett as a volunteer for the spring musical, The Sound of Music. All clearances are on file.

19. Wrestling Volunteer

Move that the board approve Joe Thomas as a wrestling volunteer for the 2023-2024 season. All clearances are on file.

20. Boys' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Keith Glynn as a volunteer with boys' basketball for the 2023-2024 season. All clearances are on file.

21. Track and Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Melissa Flynn as a volunteer with track and field for the 2023-2024 season. All clearances are on file.

Dimmer Switch Replacement

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the solicitation of bids for a dimmer switch replacement in the PS Bank Auditorium at the Junior Senior High School. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Act 93 Contract

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the Act 93 Administrative contract for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1. Candace Haft voted no.

Health & Safety Plan

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the 2023-2024 Health & Safety Plan with revisions. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Grievance 2023-24-02

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board deny grievance 2023-24-02. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Field Trip

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the sixth grade field trip to Museum of Modern Art, Radio City and Rockefeller Center on a date TBD in November 2024, at a cost to the district of substitutes. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for Second Reading

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

Student Disciplinary Action

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the Disciplinary Action for student number 25038. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Amend Agenda

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to amend the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Student Disciplinary Action

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the Disciplinary Action for student number 26005. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

There was a second opportunity for public participation provided on the subject of future business. The following persons shared public comment:

Keith Glynn: Wellness Center furniture and fixtures (including lockers and classroom furniture would be on the agenda for a vote in February. BMC is the recommended vendor.

Christy Clarke: Recruitment information for athletes.

Joseph Strauch: Policy 215, section 153.1.

Joseph Ross: February is Love the Bus Month.

Tracy Wescott: Policy 232 and Title IX.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**ADDENDUM:****Superintendent's Report**

Matthew Rakauskas

1/15/24

- Thank you to the Board of Directors for your support of the updates to our Health & Safety Plan. This meets our requirement to publicly review and evaluate it every six months, and it will be posted on our District Webpage on Tuesday.
- On Friday we will conduct our second Act 80 Staff Development Day of the school year. It will feature several committee meetings, Pride Time grade level planning, phase two of our Cultural Awareness and Diversity Sensitivity Training, and curriculum and special education trainings.
- The second quarter ends this week – marking the midpoint of a very successful academic year.
- Last week's Five Year Academic Overview by Mrs. Kuchak has received well deserved good press. Last week's edition of the Wyoming County Examiner and today's edition of the Scranton Times both featured Mrs. Kuchak's presentation. For those of you who were not able to attend last week, the slide show is available on our webpage. Thank you once again to the current members of our Board of Education as we celebrate School Board Recognition. As per PSBA's statement that "*strong school board governance equals increased student achievement,*" we are witnessing this now more than ever. The time and dedication you put forth toward strengthening public education at Lackawanna Trail does not go unnoticed.

**LTHS Principal's Report**

Dr. Mark Murphy

January 15, 2024

**1.) END OF Q2 GRADE REPORTING SCHEDULE**

- End of Q2: Fri., Jan. 19th
- Grades Due in MMSfor Teachers: Mon., Jan. 22nd, 8am
- Report cards distributed at Evening Conferences: Thurs., Jan. 25th
- Unclaimed report cards will be mailed home: Fri., Jan. 26th
- Honor Roll, usually on two week delay

- 2.) **LTHS Evening Conferences** Thursday, January 25th from 5-8pm. We will offer our conferences virtually and in-person again for Q2, and will be using the Calendy scheduling page to facilitate conferences. Expect a Remind with Conference links to go out by Wednesday of this week.

- 3.) **Transportation / Bus Reminders** - There have been a number of requests recently to ride buses other than the one assigned to a student for a number of reasons - sports practices, convenience, going to a friend's house. As a reminder, students are to ride one bus to/from school and are only permitted to load and unload at their assigned stop. This has been the practice for a number of years now and it is really an important safety measure for our students and the drivers. Parents, please do not make individualized bus stop requests, as they cannot be honored. We apologize for the inconvenience but it is in our students and staff's best interest.
- 4.) **CDTs** - Winter benchmark exams have kicked off in ELA, Math, and Science. It is important we gauge our students' progress mid way through the year to ensure they are on track to make their projected growth measures in each content area. Earlier in the year classroom teachers reviewed the results of the fall benchmarks with students and set goals for this administration. We'll do the same this time around with the intention of honing in on material that will be on the spring standardized assessments. Our students and our teachers take these diagnostic exams seriously and it's important as a community we understand and support their purposes as well. As a reminder to parents - please reinforce with students that anytime you put your name on something it should represent your best work - don't take these assessments for granted. Prepare for these assessments just like the spring exams. Students should get a good night's sleep, be sure they have breakfast at home or take advantage of our breakfast program, and give their best effort on each exam. It goes without saying that attendance is also critical during this time as makeup exams can be administered but students feel rushed to get back into instruction rather than focusing on their performance. Good luck to our test takers!

PSSAs and Keystones are coming in April and May - a reminder to avoid unnecessary absences and vacations during that time for grades 7, 8, 9 and 10.

- 5.) **ASVAB exam for juniors was rescheduled to Thursday, Jan 25th due to last week's delay-** This is a free aptitude test that supports our students college and career readiness. It is administered by military personnel, however, results are only reported to military branches IF a student chooses that option. Otherwise, it is a required artifact that is used in their graduation portfolio and reviewed with their school counselor when discussing post secondary plans. Many of students affirm their post secondary plans with this exam or find an interest in an area that had not already been exposed to. Again, just like the CDTs and other local exams, we encourage our students to do their best on this exam and prepare themselves for test day just like any higher stakes testing exam.

- 6.) **District Band & District Chorus** - like to congratulate our District Band participants - Brayden Clarke, Biancca Guzzon, Isabelle Maurer, Madison Palmer, and Avery Ronchi. Concert was held at Blue Ridge HS last Friday. As well as our District Chorus participants - Lilyanne Hunting and Jaiden Trunzo. Their concert is next Friday (Jan. 26th) in Dallas. Good luck and thanks for representing LT Music!

**Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center**

Brian Kearney

**Board Report**

January 15, 2024

January 5th: 5th/6th Grade Dance

January 8th through the 10th: Victims Resource Center (Diversity and Equity) January 8th through the 31st: Aimsweb Plus Benchmark (K-4)

January 9th: ROAR Meeting

January 19th: End of Second Quarter

January 19th: No School

January 15th through the 26th: Winter CDT Testing (3-6)

January 22nd and 23rd: Victims Resource Center (Cyberbullying and Social Media Safety)

January 24th: K'NEX Competition

**Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs Report:**

Shannon Kuchak

Board Report for January 15, 2024:

- 1. Winter Benchmarking is under way in both the elementary center & high school. The schedule is as follows:

Aimsweb Plus	K - 4	READING	January 8 - 31, 2024	WINTER BENCHMARK
Classroom Diagnostic Tests (CDTs)	7 - HS	ELA, MATH, SCIENCE	January 15-26, 2024	WINTER BENCHMARK
		ELA	January 16-17, 2024	WINTER BENCHMARK
		SCIENCE	January 18, 2024	WINTER BENCHMARK
		MATH	January 23-24, 2024	WINTER BENCHMARK

2. We're in the final stages of our ELA K-6 Program review process. We will have a recommendation for the Board's approval in February.
3. Last week, the Administrative Team presented a 5-Year Academic Overview Presentation at the Work Session. The slideshow for this presentation can be found on the district website on both the Board Meeting & Curriculum Department webpages.

### **Special Education Report**

Amie Talarico

- Thank you to Ms. Stevens and Mrs. Buck for setting up our home match for Bocce and thank you Mr. Carey and Mrs. Haus for officiating. I appreciate everyone that could come out.
- Mr. Dwyer and Mrs. Litwin have agreed to be on the steering committee for the special ed plan. We will meet one time to review the plan. Thank you for your support.
- The Autistic Support class is doing a t-shirt fundraiser. I will make sure it goes out again on Facebook in case anyone missed it and would like a shirt.

### **Maintenance Report**

Tom Schofield

Copper - Lead, High School, DEP testing, Markey

Both elevators 3 year pressure test.

Dishwasher - elementary

Pass through ovens, high school

Floor tiles on Friday.

Wellness Center Skeleton almost complete.

### **Business Manager Report**

Keith Glynn

Fencing contract signed for repairs at LTEC and new fence at junior high field hockey field. Bith fit with 2023-24 maintenance budget.