

Lackawanna Trail School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2024

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, February 12, 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 6:29 pm to 7:19 pm. The following items were discussed: 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. Ms. Talarico was absent.

Public Presentation: Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) Presentation by Brian Kearney, Courtney Gwizdz and Becky Burdett.

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

Joseph Strauch: Questioned whether purchasing from a coop is violating PA law Act 14.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the minutes from the January 15, 2024 School Board Meeting and February 5, 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. Wescott, 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 Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the January Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Certificate of Deposit Resolution

Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the resolution for a certificate of deposit with PS Bank. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

ELA Curriculum

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the purchase of the Wonders K-6 ELA program at the cost of \$139,976.88 from assigned fund balance. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

PS Bank Wellness Center Furnishings

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board amend the motion from \$100,000 to \$97,000 and approve the purchase of the PS Bank Wellness Center furniture and fixtures from BMC Office Furniture at a cost of up to \$97,000 from unassigned fund balance per CoSTARS Contract #4400025613, GSA Contract and competitive bids. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

NEIU #19 2024-2025 Budget

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the budget for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Lackawanna Trail's estimated contribution is \$14,905.88. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for Adoption

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the third reading and adoption 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.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that motions 8 through 25 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

8. Retirement

Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Maria Del Prete from her elementary secretary position at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

9. Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Tiffany Carpenter as elementary special education teacher effective April 5th, 2024.

10. Field Trip

Move that the board approve the High School Art field trip to the Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York, NY on Friday, April 12, 2024 at the cost to the district of substitutes.

11. Field Trip

Move that the board approve the sixth grade field trip to Dorney Park in Allentown, PA on Friday, May 17, 2024 at no cost to the district.

12. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Charlie Cobb as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

13. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Luke Ryon as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

14. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve John Yanniello as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

15. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jeff Edwards as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

16. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Mark Lloyd as a volunteer with the track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

17. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Mary Smarkusky as a volunteer with the track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

18. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Lucas Stage as a volunteer with the track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

19. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jessica Bentley as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

20. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Emily Baileys as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

21. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Kelly Carey as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

22. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Deb Joyce as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

23. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Dan Demora as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

24. Unified Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Melissa Flynn as a volunteer with the unified track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

25. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jennifer Perry as a volunteer with the track & field team for the 2023-2024 school year. All clearances are on file.

Reports of New Business were provided by the Superintendent, Elementary and Secondary Principals, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs and Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor.

There was an opportunity for public participation provided.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

**Superintendent's Board Report 2/12/24**

Matthew Rakauskas

Policy adoption: Thank you to the Board of Directors for adopting policy 815 and 819. Both will be published on our online policy directory later this week.

Safe Schools: On January 19<sup>th</sup> our Safe Schools Committee held a meeting in executive session. Those in attendance included Dr. Murphy, Mr. Schofield, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Swartz, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Wescott, Mrs. Lengel, and me. Reports were shared with the committee from the admiration, board of directors, Wyoming County EMA and teachers and several items were discussed. The full minutes can be accessed on our webpage under board of education menu – committees.

Traffic Study: Clinton Township will be setting up a traffic/accident study at the intersection of Tunnel Hill Road and Route 11 to help evaluate a recurring problem. The last study was conducted in 2010. We have been working as a team to try to resolve this problem, where through the years numerous accidents have occurred when drivers traveling north on Route 11 turn left across traffic to turn up Tunnel Hill road toward the high school and collide with oncoming traffic. The majority of those involved have been inexperienced teen drivers. I'm hopeful that this study ends in the recommendation for the installation of a yellow caution light or reduced speed limit signs.

Academic Calendar 2024-2025: Due to the HVAC upgrade at the high school this summer my proposal is that the school year begin after Labor Day to give adequate cushion for this installation. The first teacher day will be tentatively planned for Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the first student day Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>. I plan to propose the full calendar in March.

FID: Tomorrow we will use our first Flexible Instruction Day due to impending inclement weather. There are no in-person or virtual classes. Students will log into their homeroom or first period class, then work on assignments in their Google Classrooms, and have the ability to check in with teachers through virtual office hours.

March Committee Meetings: March 18 Buildings & Grounds and Curriculum, March 19<sup>th</sup> Budget & Finance and Wellness. Agendas will be posted prior to each committee meeting and minutes posted within a few days after.

Webpage upgrade: Prior to the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year our webpage will be getting a facelift. A new format, cleaner graphics, and more efficient navigation will highlight our focus on improved communication. Our current webpage was created four years ago through Design Done Right, and it is time for an upgrade.

No classes: There will be no classes for students this Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> due to an Act 80 Staff Development day, and on Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> in honor of Presidents' Day.

**LTHS Principal's Report**

2/12/24

**HS FID OVERVIEW -**

- Homeroom to begin at 8am, not 7:45am, including Study Hall and Senior Privilege
- No Homeroom for AM vo-tech students, they should access their work Asynchronously
- Work posted by 9am to Google Classrooms.
- Live office hours with faculty from 9am-11am.
- After school activities tomorrow (Tuesday) are canceled.

**VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTATIONS -**

- 9th and 10th - Bystander / Upstander presentations - Last Week
  - See notes on this program
- 11th and 12th - Expect Respect - This Week
  - The Expect Respect Program is a comprehensive, school-based program designed to promote safe and healthy teen relationships. This curriculum is a nationally recognized evidenced-based, primary prevention program that targets the underlying causes of violence in order to change social norms and prevent relationship violence before it occurs. It is aimed at preventing teen dating violence and promoting safe and healthy relationships. This program empowers students to become role-models and leaders in preventing teen dating violence, sexual harassment, and bullying.

**STUDENT CLIMATE SURVEYS -**

Climate surveys for students were sent out last week through student email addresses. Links are also available online for community members and parents. We are asking everyone to complete the surveys by Friday, Feb 16th.

**SPRING TESTING SCHEDULE -**

Full Schedule now available on our website. Curriculum page as well.  
PSSAs begin April 23rd, two week window. ELA, MATH, 8th grade Science  
Keystones begin May 14th, two week window. ELA 10, BIO, ALG  
AP Exams begin May 6th

Reminder: PLEASE do not schedule travel or appointments during the testing window. Participation is essential and while make ups are available, only increases test anxiety.

**WINTER SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT -**

Save the date: Monday, March 18th, 6pm - PS Bank Auditorium at LTHS

**WINTER DANCES -**

SH, grades 9-12 - This Sat. Feb 17th at Stonehenge in Tunkhannock  
JH, grades 7-8 - Fri March, 15th at Factoryville Fire Hall

## LTEC Principal Report

- SWPBIS Presentation
- Bingo Night is on Thursday, February 15th from 5:00-7:00
- Congrats to Mikaela Hanock for placing 2nd in the state in the Stock Market Challenge
- Congrats to Pierce Carpenter for placing 1st in the state in the Budget Challenge

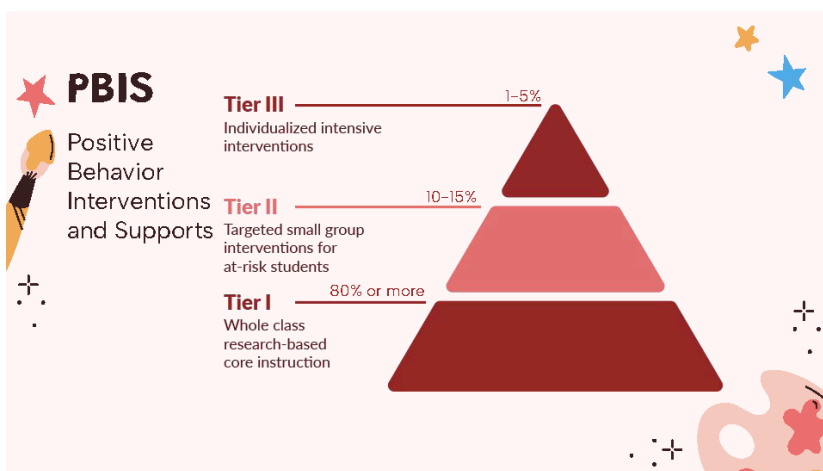
## Director of Curriculum & Federal Programming Board Report: February 12th 2024: Shannon Kuchak

1. Thank the Board for approval of Wonders program. Their decision tonight allows us to schedule PD for teachers on the March 22nd inservice and have teacher materials in their hands for this training. You can give no greater gift to our students than to give their teachers time with curricular materials so that they can do their best preparation. I've been with the district since 2005, and I cannot remember a time when we've been able to do this with such a large textbook adoption. It's not an easy task- all of the stars need to align to make this happen. So I truly thank you for your decision tonight.
2. We'll be finishing up the WIDA testing window in the next week. This is an English Language proficiency assessment given to all English Language Learners K-12. I want to thank Mrs. Berrios for her diligence with accomplishing this task with minimum disruption to her ELL and Gifted students' schedules. This has been no small feat, as many of these assessments are administered 1-on-1.
3. Our High School teachers will complete their Therapeutic Behavior Management training this coming Friday during the inservice day. This is a 6 hour course in crisis prevention skills that places an emphasis on balancing rules and relationships when handling behavior problems. This training also meets the state's Act 55 Trauma-Informed practices requirement.
4. PCCD School Safety & Mental Health Project update- PCCD has approved our request to extend MHIC position to June 2026. Initially we were to have this position for 1 year, though June 2024. We've had 2 extension requests approved through PCCD, and we are truly excited to offer this resource to our students for much longer than we initially anticipated when we first applied for this grant.
  - As part of the current round of PCCD grant funding, the district has sent out a series of school climate surveys. These surveys will provide us with climate data that we will use as we continue to develop Health and Safety goals for the district. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey that best corresponds with your role in the community. Thank you.

## Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor Report

Elem Ctr fence damaged during flood has been repaired. 170 ft of fence installed where jr high hockey field will be next year.

elem ctr elevator was inspected, NO operational issues 3 findings 2 were code changes. We to move light switch in elevator pit and label power to and from disconnect switch and mark panel and breaker location. High school and elem ctr elevators had their 3 year pressure test (done by otis elevator, witnessed by Nagle elevator inspector) both passed. With Peg Smith's retirement we are looking for new employees contact me if interested





## Tier II Team

**01 Team**

- Courtney Gwizdz
- Brian Kearney
- Janine Fortney
- Brittany Young
- Amie Talarico/Fran Loughney
- Leanne Lombardi

**02 Meetings**

- Once a month

**03 Interventions**

- Strategies that work best for the students

## Tier I Team

**01 Team**

- Courtney Gwizdz
- Brian Kearney
- Becky Burdett
- Jen Boccadori
- Karen Shaw
- Jim Kotz
- Katie Loughney
- Rachel Sapio
- Leanne Lombardi

**02 Meetings**

- Once a month

**03 Fundraisers/Events**

- Plan events, Blow-outs, and Fundraisers to help promote positive student behavior

## Office Discipline Referrals

**89%**

**0**

89% of our current students have not received a discipline referral.

**11%**

**1 or more**

11% of our current students have had 1 or more discipline referral.

**5%**

**2 or more**

5% of our current students have had 2 or more discipline referrals.

## Tier I - Whole School


- Teaching period
  - Re-teaching opportunities
- Mid-year check ins






## ★ Tier I (continued)


Available and accessible to all students in the building

- Ticket system
- Blow-outs
- ROAR Store



## Family & Student Events

		
<b>Family Events</b>	<b>Student Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bingo Night</li><li>• Family Movie Night</li><li>• Someone Special Dance</li><li>• DEFY</li><li>• Mayfield Rink</li><li>• Railriders</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5th &amp; 6th Grade Dance</li><li>• March Madness</li><li>• Blow Outs</li></ul>	



## ROAR Videos

- Recreation of each video targeting specific areas in the school building
  - Bus
  - Cafeteria
  - Hallway
  - Classroom
  - Car Pick-Up
  - Bathroom
  - Recess
- Used for re-teaching



## ROAR Video link



## Thank You!

Do you have any questions?  
gwizdzc@ltsd.org

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