

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2024

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:35 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 7:30 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel. All board members were present for the executive session, Joseph Ross attending via phone call.

Vice President Tracy Wescott called the meeting to order and directed the secretary to call the roll. Board Members present: Adrian Bianchi, Heather Clark, Brendan Dwyer, Eric Johnson, Jaclyn Litwin, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross, Tony Vanko and Tracy Wescott.

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

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. No public comments were made.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the minutes from the March 19, 2024 School Board Meeting and April 2, 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 March Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Tax Abatement

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the tax abatement of \$33,500 assessed value in the amount of \$6,384.10 for Pin # 02813-010-01401 and authorize the County of Lackawanna to remove interest and penalties related to this tax claim. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Food Service Management Proposal

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the proposal for FSMC services from The Nutrition Group for the 2024-25 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that agenda items #5, 6, and 9-17 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

5. Resolution 2024-02

Move that the board approve resolution 2024-02 urging amendment of the school code section 672.1 for multi-county school districts.

6. Resolution 2024-03

Move that the board approve resolution 2024-03 requesting a Public School Facility Improvement grant of \$5,000,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for efficiency, safety and accessibility improvements for the district's Jr/Sr High School.

9. Elementary Curriculum/Course Description Guide

Move that the board approve the Elementary 2024-2025 Curriculum/Course Description Guide.

10. Junior and Senior High School Curriculum/Course Description Guides

Move that the board approve the Junior High and Senior High Curriculum/Course Description Guides.

11. Field Trip

Move that the board approve the elementary gifted students field trip to The Hershey Story Museum and Hershey Gardens in Hershey, Pennsylvania on May 28, 2024 at a cost to the district of substitutes.

12. Field Trip

Move that the board approve the Jr/Sr high school gifted students field trip to The Hershey Story Museum and HersheyPark in Hershey, Pennsylvania on May 31, 2024 at a cost to the district of substitutes.

13. Retirement

Move that the board acknowledge the retirement notice of Craig Muller, Jr/Sr high school math teacher and math department chair, at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

14. Retirement

Move that the board acknowledge the retirement notice of Stan Harder, Jr/Sr high school teacher, at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

15. Retirement

Move that the board acknowledge the retirement notice of Sarah DeBree, Assistant Business Manager, to be effective in September of 2024.

16. Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Ann Miner from her part-time paraprofessional position effective April 2, 2024.

17. Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Mary Ann Puerner from her part-time paraprofessional position effective April 11, 2024.

Policy for Second Reading

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve the second reading of the following policy: 903 Public Comment in Board Meetings. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policy for First Reading

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the first reading of the following policy: 137 Home Education Programs. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Maintenance II

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve Mary Ann Puerner as a full time Maintenance II employee at a rate of \$23.04 per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective April 11, 2024. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Maintenance II

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Serge Grega as a full time Maintenance II employee at a rate of \$14.75 per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Extracurricular Girls' Basketball Head Coach

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Tara Conway as the Girls' Basketball Head Coach beginning the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$5,550, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

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

An opportunity for public comment on future business was provided. Joseph Strauch requested that the board review and update policy 215.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

MEMO

LACKAWANNA TRAILSCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Lackawanna Trail Board of Directors
From: Matthew Rakauskas, Superintendent
CC: Adrian Bianchi and Heather Stage
Date: 4/8/24
Re: Public Report

REPORT: The following employment opportunities are posted on our district website:

- Jr.-Sr. High School Mathematics teacher
- Jr.-Sr. High School Business, Computer, and Information Technologies teacher (later this week)
- Part Time Maintenance II Day shift to cover the Wellness Center

Congratulations to Mrs. Tara Conway on her appointment to the Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach position.

Last week we began the process of upgrading our webpage through Design Done Right. My objective is to roll out the new design by mid-summer.

LTHS Principal's Report

Dr. Mark Murphy

Apr 8, 2024

- 1.) Spring Musical, The Sound of Music - over the weekend (April 5-7) -
 - a.) Congratulations to the Cast & Crew!
 - b.) Three fantastic public performances!
 - c.) Special Performance for our EC Students on Thursday, which was wonderful!
 - d.) Exception job, thanks to our Directors Mr. Dan Mauer and Mrs. Elissa Loubet as well as Mr. Dikeman, Mrs. Burdett, Mrs. Fortney, Mr. Hooker, Mr. Lengel, Mr. Barbolish, Mr. Fumanti.
- 2.) Boys' Volleyball -
 - a.) Congratulations to the Boys' Volleyball program starting the year 3-2
 - b.) First win since reinstating the program last year, including a 2 game win streak!
 - c.) They are in action tonight against Berwick and take on Western Wayne tomorrow at home beginning at 5pm
- 3.) END of Q3 -
 - a.) Report cards sent out today (Monday), parents can expect those to be delivered this week.
 - b.) Honor Roll Friday on or about April 19th.
 - c.) Less than 45 school days left - finish strong!
- 4.) Safe Prom Presentation, April 25th
 - a.) PSP will be presenting to our juniors and seniors
 - b.) Reminders about the dangers of Prom Season
 - c.) Appreciate everyone in our community pitching in to keep our students safe.
- 5.) Meeting with Senior Class - End of April
 - a.) Class Night and Graduation Plans
 - b.) Will receive a packet with details information which will also be posted on the high school website
- 6.) Final Round of CDTs now begin administered, gearing up for PSSAs (April 23-May 2), Keystone exams May 13-24.

Good evening,

I would like to share with everyone some updates as they relate to the elementary center.

A reminder to parents that PSSA exams will be starting on April 22nd with our ELA exam. I cannot reiterate enough the importance of students attendance during our testing period. Also, please ensure that students have proper rest.

On Friday, April 5th we welcomed Prasmatic Laser Light display to the elementary center as part of our SWPBIS program. This was a celebration for our third quarter blowout.

On Thursday, April 11th 4th grade students will be traveling to Harrisburg for their annual field trip.

On Wednesday, April 17th 3rd students will be going on their field trip to Quiet Valley in the Poconos.

On May 7th and 8th Officer Collins has arranged for two police dogs to come to LTEC as an educational session with students.

Congratulations to Jake Evans and Cole Golden who recently competed at the PJW State Wrestling Championships in Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to Seamus Dwyer who is playing the lead role in Olaf Jr. at Imagine Nepa.

--

Brian J. Kearney

Principal

Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center

Board Report

Shannon Kuchak

Monday, 4.08.2024

1. We'd like to congratulate Caleb Shupp for receiving a Gold Medal in Power Equipment Technology at this year's Skills USA competition in Hershey. SkillsUSA is a career competition event that showcases Career and Technical Education students. They are evaluated on their technical knowledge, production skills, and creative abilities. It's a great networking opportunity where students can even gain industry credentials from the experience. Congrats, Caleb! You make us Lion Proud!!
2. The district's application for the LTSD Safe Campus Initiative grant has been awarded through the PCCD in the amount of \$30,000. This grant will allow the district to purchase and implement various safety and security measures. Notably, a Visitor Management System through Raptor Technologies will be implemented in both the Elementary Center and Jr/Sr High School. Both buildings will be equipped to scan all visitors' driver's licenses or other government issued ID cards to conduct an immediate background check using a national sex offender database. The system also allows the district the ability to provide alerts on individuals who may jeopardize the safety of students or staff. Once entry is granted, the system will print a detailed badge that identifies the visitor's name, role type, destination, date, time of entry, and photo. Visitors will have to return to the building's main office to return the badge and check out of the system upon leaving. The district will also be able to provide additional training for our SRO's in the area of student mental health and provide us with funding to obtain additional resources for our School-Wide Positive Behavior Programs with this grant funding.

3. PSSA testing begins on April 22nd. To help students and families prepare for these exams, we have updated the FAQ document as well as the Calculator and Electronic device policies on our district's Curriculum page. We will also send these out through Remind notifications and through the district's Facebook page.
4. We will be sending out our annual Title I survey later on this month through Remind notifications, Facebook, and the district's website. The information we gather through this survey helps guide our decision making to provide better services to our students. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. We appreciate your feedback.



Tom Schofield

Maintenance & Transportation Report April, 2024

We have been cleaning out garages and hauling scrap metal as well as working on getting the baseball and softball fields ready for play.

We have been informed of upcoming road projects. Bridge work planned for Rt 11 is expected to be completed over the summer months and should not affect transportation. Transportation may possibly be affected by Lithia Valley Road closure for bridge work between Carpenter Rd and Kehrlie Rd. We do not have exact dates for that project yet.