

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, June 24, 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 7:31 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel, staffing report and Safe School report. All board members were present for the executive session except for Eric Johnson and Jaclyn Litwin.

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, Jaclyn Litwin, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross, Tony Vanko and Tracy Wescott. Eric Johnson was absent.

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

Public Presentation:

Public Statement of Tenure: Emily Baileys, Courtney Gwizdz completed on July 1, 2024.

Junior Varsity Softball and Baseball discussion.

Committee chairs and appointments 2024-2025 school year: Tony Vanko was appointed to the Wellness Committee and Brian Kearney and Cody Opalka will co-chair the Wellness Committee.

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

Joseph Strauch: Update on solar project.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the minutes from the May 14, 2024 School Board Meeting and June 3, 2024 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

School Board Treasurer

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Dr. Michael Mould as Lackawanna Trail School Board Treasurer for the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend of \$600. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. Dr. Mould abstained.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the May Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

2024-2025 Budget

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the Lackawanna Trail School District 2024-2025 final budget at the amount of \$24,548,585.74. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Student Activity Funds

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the account activity for the elementary and high school student activity funds. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Tax Rates 2024-2025

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the 2024-2025 tax rates. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

	Lackawanna County	Wyoming County
Earned Income	0.5% earnings	0.5% earnings
Real Estate Transfer	0.5% sale price	0.5% sale price
Real Estate Tax	196.60 mills of assessed value	92.17 mills of assessed value

Tax Stipulation

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the Stipulation agreement for PIN 0281301001401 for tax year 2023. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Homestead Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the 2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

LTEC Food Service Generator

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the purchase of a generator system for the Elementary Center cafeteria from the food service unassigned fund balance for \$166,720 from Trane Building Services via Omnia Partners contract #3341. Purchase is pending Department of Food & Nutrition approval. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Playground Equipment

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board amend the previous approval of the purchase of a swing set from Recreation Resource for \$14,084.00 via CoSTARS contract 014-E22-249 to specify \$9,620.85 from assigned fund balance and \$4,463.15 from the Elementary Student Activity playground fund. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Fitness Equipment

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the purchase of fitness equipment from Fitness Headquarters up to \$56,690.00 from unassigned fund balance. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Student Meal Prices

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the following student meal prices for the 2024-2025 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 8-0.

Advertising Rates 2024-2025

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the following advertising rates in the elementary and high school gyms for 2024-2025, on the recommendation of the superintendent:

- a. 3' x 4' \$250
- b. 4' x 6' \$300
- c. Annual renewal \$75

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Settlement Agreement

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the Settlement Agreement with student #33068. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Bus Contracts

Mr. Bianchi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the contract for bus contractors for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services with the NEIU 19. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Dual Enrollment Agreement

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the dual enrollment agreement with Keystone College for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Policy for Adoption

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the third reading and adoption of the following policy: 137 Home Education Programs. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Resignation

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board acknowledge the resignation of Jessica Tighe from her secondary mathematics teacher position effective June 20, 2024. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Assistant Business Manager

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve Emily Hickox as Assistant Business Manager at a salary of \$53,000.00, effective August 5, 2024. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Cody Opalka as the Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal at a salary of \$67,500 upon release from his current employer. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Business/Technology Department Chairperson

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Boyd Semken as the Business/Technology Department Chairperson effective July 1, 2024 at a stipend of \$2470, according to the LTEA contract. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Maintenance II

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Mark June as a part time Maintenance II employee at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective August 5, 2024. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Extracurricular Game Manager

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Mark June as game manager at a stipend of \$2500, beginning the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Extracurricular Equipment Manager

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Jim Kotz as equipment manager effective July 1, 2024 at a stipend of \$2600, according to the LTEA contract. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Extracurricular Fall Weightlifting Coach

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott that the board approve Matt Landsiedel as Fall Weightlifting Coach starting the 2024-2025 season at a stipend of \$1950, according to the LTEA contract. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Extracurricular Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve George Bragan as Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach starting the 2024-2025 season at a stipend of \$4300, according to the LTEA contract. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that agenda items #27-49 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

27. Extracurricular Cheerleading Volunteer

Move that the board approve Rachel Sapio as a volunteer assistant with the football and basketball cheerleading teams for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

28. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer

Move that the board approve Holly Colvin as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

29. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer

Move that the board approve Shawna Darling as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

30. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer

Move that the board approve Courtney Dwyer as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

31. Extracurricular Field Hockey Volunteer

Move that the board approve Michelle Fahey as a volunteer assistant with the field hockey team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

32. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer

Move that the board approve Brendan Dwyer as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

33. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer

Move that the board approve Melissa Flynn as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

34. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jeff Kuchak as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

35. Extracurricular Cross Country Volunteer
Move that the board approve Jennifer Perry as a volunteer assistant with the cross country team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
36. Extracurricular Golf Volunteer
Move that the board approve Steve Beckish as a volunteer assistant with the golf team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
37. Extracurricular Golf Volunteer
Move that the board approve Spencer Lunger as a volunteer assistant with the golf team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
38. Extracurricular Girls' Volleyball Volunteer
Move that the board approve Jessica Bentley as a volunteer assistant with the girls' volleyball team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
39. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Daniel Brown as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
40. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Jordan Edwards as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
41. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Dale Gow as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
42. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Steve Jervis, Sr as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
43. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Vince Kalinoski, Jr. as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
44. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Tim Ronchi as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.
45. Extracurricular Football Volunteer
Move that the board approve Jeff Stage as a volunteer assistant with the football team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

46. Extracurricular Marching Band Volunteer

Move that the board approve Kelsey Borys as a volunteer assistant with the marching band for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

47. Extracurricular Marching Band Volunteer

Move that the board approve David Borys as a volunteer assistant with the marching band for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

48. Extracurricular Marching Band Volunteer

Move that the board approve Dave Hopkins as a volunteer assistant with the marching band for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

49. Extracurricular Marching Band Volunteer

Move that the board approve Haley Valvano as a volunteer assistant with the marching band for the 2024-2025 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, Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor and Business Manager. Ms. Talarico's Special Education Report was also read by Mrs. Kuchak.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

Superintendent's Board Report
Matthew Rakauskas
June 24th , 2024

The following changes are being made to our committee's membership, which is located on our website under the dropdown menu entitled Committees.

Mr. Vanko has been added to the Wellness Committee as a board representative.

Mr. Kearney will co-chair the Wellness Committee with the new jr.-sr. high school assistant principal

The Comprehensive Planning Committee will become part of the Curriculum committee. Mrs. Kuchak, who is the current chair of the Curriculum Committee, will chair the Curriculum & Comprehensive Planning Committee

Dr. Murphy will chair the Disciplinary Review Committee

Please note that all these committees and the dates and times they meet are posted on our website. Prior to each meeting agendas are posted, and after each meeting minutes are published.

The district website upgrade is targeted to be completed by late July. Ultimately my goal is to make the website more informative, accessible, and interactive for the students, parents, and community. In addition, it will have a fresh look.

Congratulations again to the class of 2024 on their recent commencement, and to our incoming seventh graders on their recent Sixth Grade Recognition.

LTHS Principal's Report
June 26th, 2024
M. Murphy, Principal

1. Commencement Ceremony, Class of 2024
 - a. Thank you to everyone who supported the Class of 2024 and attended the Class Night and Commencement Ceremonies. We had a great Class Night event where we awarded over \$45k in scholarship monies earned by our graduates. It was a warm night in the auditorium but a great way to kick off the graduation festivities and feature our seniors on stage. That was immediately followed up by graduation on Friday, the 7th. We got the ceremony in outside in between rain showers and really couldn't have asked for a better evening to celebrate with our seniors. Congratulations one last time to the Class of 2024! I know they will go out into the world and make us Lion Proud!
2. Welcome Mr. Opalka
 - a. First, thanks to Mr. Barbolish and Mr. Wert who have carried the mantle of Dean of Students for the last two years as we went without the Assistant Principal position. Both professions did a great job and I am very grateful for their commitment to serving our students.

- b. Ultimately, we felt the administrative team, our students, and our staff would be better served in the long run with a certified individual in that position but you have to find the right person to serve in that capacity and we have found that in Mr. Opalka. I look forward to introducing him to the faculty and staff as well as the students this fall and I truly believe he will do great things for us here at Lackawanna Trail and enjoy working with the Traill community.
3. Interview & Hiring Process -
 - a. This summer has been all about interviews so far! We had some great interviews for the open History position and I'm very excited to welcome Mr. Coslett to our district who will be picking up the mantle from Mr. Pierce.
 - b. We are also interviewing for two open math positions as well as several Paraprofessional positions at the elementary and JSHS.
4. Construction at LTHS -
 - a. We are in the midst of two building projects - the Wellness Center completion and the HVAC project in the main building. Our offices are open and we are available by phone and email, however, the area is an active construction zone. Visitors are not permitted into the building. We often meet people who need to drop off/pick up items in the building foyer. ESY will be at the elementary center. Sports camps are being shuffled around the construction schedule the best we can with the limited areas and times we have. Both jobs are going well and look to be on schedule. It is in our best interests to let the workers do their job as effective and efficiently as they can so we can open the building on time in the fall. Thanks to Mr. Schofield and the maintenance crew for helping facilitate the needs of the building and staff so far this summer.
5. Summer School
 - a. Summer School Courses through VLN started today. They run four weeks asynchronously. We encourage all students on a summer program to commit to two hours per day and check in with their teacher regularly. Any technical questions can be directed to Mrs. Kurpis and students or families can contact the main office with questions related to academics.
6. Scheduling
 - a. Just the beginning of a long process - a reminder to NOT to look at any schedules in MMS Focus until late July/mid August.
 - b. More information on Back to School orientations and supply lists in July.
7. Raptor System
 - a. Both buildings will be using the Raptor Visitor Management system beginning in late August. Visitors should be prepared to scan their photo ID when accessing the building. More information will be provided in July, posted to our social media pages and district website.
8. Have a happy and safe summer!

Lackawanna Trail School District Elementary Center Board Report June 24, 2024

- Kindergarten Registration was completed during the week of May 27th. If you have a student who is of age and have not registered, please contact the elementary center office at 570-945-5153.
- Our Summer Program will begin on July 8th. This program runs from the 8th to the 12th and from the 15th to the 19th. Time is from 9:00 am - 11:30 am.
- The 2024/2025 will feature two Open-House Opportunities. Kindergarten Open-House will be held on Wednesday, September 4th from 5:00-6:00 pm. Grades 1st-6th will have an Open-House on Wednesday, September 11th from 5:00-6:00 pm.
- Please note that classroom supply lists will be posted to our webpage in the latter part of July. These are only suggestions for what students need.
- 2024/2025 Curriculum Guide and Student Handbook will be posted to the web site after the July 8th meeting.
- Our new swing set has arrived and Tom and I will be working with the contractor in order to arrange for installation.

Board Report

Shannon Kuchak

Monday, 6.24.2024

Curriculum & Federal Programs Report:

1. The Curriculum Committee held the last public meeting of the year on May 20th. During this meeting the Committee discussed the transition to Standards-Based report cards for K-2 for the upcoming school year and reviewed the new report card and companion document templates. This project has truly been a collaborative effort. I'd like to thank Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. Wright, our two Reading Specialists, who have worked closely with me as we met with each grade level to gather teacher input as well as Mrs. Kurpis, our IT Specialist. Mrs. Kurpis is currently working with me on uploading our new report cards to FOCUS, the district's student management system.

Another main topic discussed at this meeting was the transition to STEELS standards and the district's plan to review science materials that are more aligned to the STEELS during the upcoming school year. Once we have had the opportunity to review and possibly pilot some of these materials, we will bring a program to the Board to recommend adoption for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Special Education Report:

1. The Special Ed plan is complete and approved by PDE.
2. Extended School Year starts on the 8th. Thank you to Fran Loughney and Brink Powell for setting it up. We have a few of our special Ed teachers teaching this year, as well as new hires.
3. We have interviews set up for para and PCA vacancies. If you know of anyone that is interested, please direct them to the employment section of the website. We are still accepting applications even if it is after the official date posted on the website. We keep applications on file for three years.
4. Amie returns on July 1. She is looking forward to onboarding new teachers, following up now with last year's hires, and getting people settled in new positions.

Maintenance Report

Tom Schofield

Wellness Center: All are finishing up on their punch list. We will do our punch list Wednesday after our building meeting. Working on the occupancy permit.

HVAC project is moving right along.

Playground: Swings will be installed this summer.