

Unapproved, unofficial Minutes of the June 7, 2021 Lackawanna Trail School Board Meeting

The LTSD Board of Education had a ZOOM meeting on June 7, 2021 @ 7:32pm in the Board room and ZOOM, public notice having been given in accordance with Pa.C.S.A. § 709 (Sunshine Act) & LTSD Procedure #006. The President called the meeting to order. Present: Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Minick, Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern, Ms. Naylor, Mr. Petula, Mr. Ross, Mr. Stark, Mr. Thorne. Administrators present: Mr. Rakauskas, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Glynn, Ms. Talarico, Ms. Kuchak, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Gaidula and the Solicitor David Conn.

There were up to 50 participants and one reporter in the ZOOM session.

Public Participation:

Joe Strauch offered questions about several policies being considered for the second reading.

Elementary Emotional Support Program Proposal was explained as to create an inhouse service rather than paying to use outside services from other school districts.

The following motions were approved by unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated.

- + Motion by Thorne, Ross to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings.
- + Motion by Ross, Bianchi that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved.
- + Motion by Mould, Mulhern to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.
- + Motion by Ross, Bianchi to approve the Lackawanna Trail Emergency Instruction Time
- + Motion by Stark, Minick to approve the Title III MOU with the NEIU19 Consortium for the 2021-2022 school year.
- + Motion by Ross, Naylor to approve the updated Pivot Athletic Training Services contract for 1200 hours of service for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$29, 520 with additional hours billed at \$35 per hour.
- + Motion by Thorne, Mould to approve the Business Office to seek qualifications and pricing for engineering and architecture services related to the construction of an Recreational Athletic Facility from Hemmler Camayd, BDA Architects and Quad 3.

+ + Motion by Thorne, Mould to approve the second reading of the following policies:

113 Special Education	613 Cooperative Purchasing
113.1 Discipline of Students With Disabilities	614 Payroll Authorization
113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education	615 Payroll Deductions
Student Information	616 Payment of Bills
117 Homebound Instruction	617 Petty Cash
137 Home Education Programs	618 Special Purposes Funds
137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home	619 District Audit-Public
Education Students	620 Fund Balance
601 Objectives	621 Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights
602 Budget Planning	622 GASB Statement 34
603 Budget Preparation	624 Taxable Fringe Benefits
604 Budget Hearing	626.1 Travel Reimbursements
605 Tax Levy	626.2 Conflict of Interest
606 Tax Collection	701 Facilities Planning
607 Tuition Income	702 Gifts, Grants, Donations
608 Bank Accounts	810.1 School Bus Drivers and School
609 Investments	Commercial Vehicle Drivers
610 Purchases Subject to Bid Quotation	810.2 Transportation Video Audio Recording
611 Purchases Budgeted	810.3 School Vehicle Drivers
612 Purchases Not Budgeted	

- + Motion by Naylor, Bianchi to approve Emily Baileys as the Secondary Science Teacher at a salary of \$59,572.35, Master's Level, Step 3, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Thorne, Naylor to approve Katie Beichler as the Secondary Math Teacher at a salary of \$73,027.02, Master's + 36 Level, Step 8, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained).

- + Motion by Naylor, Bianchi to approve Laura Hardiman as the Secondary English Teacher at a salary of \$63,679.47, Master's + 12 level, step 5, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained).
- + Motion by Minick, Thorne to approve Danielle Dwyer as the Elementary Teacher at a salary of \$64,415.66, Master's level, step 7, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained).
- + Motion by Naylor, Mould to approve Morgan Doerner as the Elementary Teacher at a salary of \$53,140.78, Bachelor's + 12 Level, Step 1, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained)..
- + Motion by Minick Naylor to approve Courtney Gwizdz as the Elementary Teacher at a salary of \$51,674.37, Bachelor's Level, Step 2 according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained)..
- + Motion by Thorne, Bianchi to approve Becky Burdett as the Elementary Music Teacher at a salary of \$67,248.44, Master's + 36 level, step 3, according to the LTEA contract, effective at the beginning the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Ross Abstained)..
- + Motion by Bianchi, Petula to approve the appointment of John McNulty to the full-time Maintenance II position with a start date of June 14, 2021 at a rate of \$14.00/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Naylor to acknowledge the retirement of Marie Pawelzik effective June 30, 2021.

What are COVID-19 Compensatory Services? According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education In this guidance document, the term "COVID-19 Compensatory Services (CCS)" refers to services as determined by an IEP team needed to remedy a student's skill and/or behavior loss and/or lack of progress that resulted from an LEA's inability to provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) while using alternative instructional models due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- + Motion by Naylor, Minick to approve Jessica Tighe as the Compensatory Services Teacher from June 14 to July 1, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Mulhern to approve Rachel Hain as the Compensatory Services Teacher from June 14 to July 1, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Naylor, Stark to approve Marena Horan as the Compensatory Services Teacher from June 14 to July 1, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Naylor, Thorne to approve Jessica Tighe as the Extended School Year Teacher from July 7 to August 10, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Mulhern, Bianchi to approve Rachel Hain as the Extended School Year Teacher from July 7 to August 10, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Mulhern to approve Marena Horan as the Extended School Year Teacher from July 7 to August 10, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Stark, Thorne to approve Megyn Stevens as the Extended School Year Teacher from July 7 to August 10, 2021, at a pay rate of \$25.50/hour. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Bianchi to approve Kelly Berry as the Science Department Chairperson starting the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year at a stipend of \$2,470 as per the LTEA contract.
- + Motion by Stark, Thorne to retroactively approve an unpaid half-day request from Wendy Semken that took place on Friday, May 28, 2021.
- + Motion by Naylor, Minick to approve Danielle Dwyer as a Fall Cheerleading Advisor to begin the 2021-2022 season, at a rate of \$2,400, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.
- + Motion by Mulhern, Petula to approve Kelly Hopkins as the Marching Band Color Guard Advisor to begin the 2021-2022 season, at a rate of \$2,175, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. Public comment by Cathy Strauch thanking Ms. Hopkins for returning to Trail and for her excellent past service in that position.

- + Motion by Thorne, Naylor to approve Kristen Kurpis as the Head Softball Coach to begin the 2021-2022 season, at a rate of \$5,100, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file. Passed 8-0-1 (Mould Abstained).
- + Motion by Mulhern, Ross to approve Steve Jervis Sr. as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Thorne to approve Ben Simmons as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Bianchi to approve Vince Kalinoski Jr. as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Ross, Thorne to approve Jeff Stage as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Mulhern, Stark to approve Jeff Edwards as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Minick, Bianchi to approve Colin Golden as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.
- + Motion by Mulhern, Ross to approve Lauren Keyes as a volunteer Assistant Football Cheerleading Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances on file.

Graduation is expected to be Thursday June 10, weather permitting.

Many at the meeting expressed thanks and gratitude to everyone for doing a great job during the trying circumstances of this school year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

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There was an Executive Session before the meeting from 6:05 to 7:30pm to discuss Bus Contract negotiations and various Legal Matters.

There will be an Executive Session before the next meeting related to position interviews

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Public ZOOM CHAT Comments during meeting

Is public comment not an opportunity to address the Board on a matter not included on the evening's agenda?

From Sam to Everyone: 07:52 PM

They might be writing it in chaat

From Lynn Stevenson to Everyone: 07:58 PM

My only question this evening is why was the board asked to stay away from graduation ?

The board members sit away from all students and parents. I'd like the truth now.

There is plenty of room on the field.

This is why people don't ask questions at board meetings.

I'm sorry. That is still not clear enough but nothing I wouldn't expect.

The 'official' response was that the Board members would not attend the Class Night or Graduation for Health and Safety concerns.

From Jamie to Everyone: 07:58 PM

Can the solicitor address the change.org petition?

From Lynn Stevenson to Everyone: 07:59 PM

Thank you Jamie. That is a significant elephant in the room.

How does the public remove a board member before an election ?

From Wright to Everyone: 08:04 PM

Good question, Joan.

The 'official' response was Board members cannot be removed by the Board.

From Jamie to Everyone: 08:05 PM

We understand that the board does not have the authority to remove. However you have a moral responsibility to protect our children and I would appreciate all efforts made by the board to ensure the safety of our child

The 'official' response was that full review of charges has been conducted in accordance with Policy 104. Nothing more would be said.

From Wright to Everyone: 08:07 PM

Thanks for clarifying the District's position of decisive indifference. Good moral character matters to me. I'll remember that when I vote in November. To the brave student who shared their story: I support you.

From Lynn Stevenson to Everyone: 08:08 PM

Once again, to get my point across, there is plenty of room on the field for the board members to attend. I believe the reason given is smoke and mirrors. I am sure others do also. This is an opportunity for the public to voice their views.

From Sam to Everyone: 08:10 PM

Originally he was going to still be at graduation but not hand out the diplomas. In light of the petition, the decision to allow board members to attend has been revoked. It has nothing to do with Covid. We just want everyone to be honest.

From Joan Peterson to Everyone: 08:14 PM

Under Act 153, anyone who has regular contact with students is required to have clearances - not just those who are responsible for supervision of children.

From Wright to Everyone: 08:15 PM

Our elementary school requires parents who help at just one classroom party submit clearances, so why not Board members?

Last year notice was given by the Pennsylvania Attorney General that " Pennsylvania school districts must comply with the law. Regardless of education, training or background, any employee or volunteer who serves in those capacities within Pennsylvania's schools must submit the appropriate clearances to the schools and those schools must maintain all required clearances as mandated by law.

Exceptions to this requirement should not be made for anyone – police officers, judges, attorneys, doctors, elected officials, clergy or anyone who serves in a position of authority or trust are not entitled to special exception. The law applies to everyone equally.

Parents entrust your schools with the care and safety of their children. Anyone your school is allowing to come into contact with students must comply with the necessary clearances required by law. I know you join me in our shared commitment to keeping the children of Pennsylvania safe. Please take any necessary steps to ensure your compliance with Title 23 and thank you for your cooperation in this matter."

From Wright to Everyone: 08:28 PM

When was the last textbook adoption?

From Jamie to Everyone: 08:29 PM

I'd like to remind the Board of the old adage "you are the company in which you keep". I hope that you act as if these allegations in the petition were from your own child and be thorough and just in your investigation. Be the moral compass we try to instill in our children. This administration and staff play a tremendous role in molding these young minds. Be transparent. Show our kids that they matter and their well being matters. Speak up for what's right and what's wrong. You're the elected officials that we chose. And if we need to make the necessary changes to put our children's well being first, we will.

From Wright to Everyone: 08:33 PM

Has the district replaced the 8th grade science textbook from 1997 yet?

Dr. Murphy explained that a new series of texts will be provided.

From Hannah Whitney to Everyone: 08:33 PM

Welcome Coach! ❤️👍👍

From Wright to Everyone: 08:33 PM

Will the biology students have a new textbook for the start of the new year?

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Will the biology students have a new textbook for the start of the new year?

From Wright to Everyone: 08:40 PM

Can Administration update the public at a future meeting on progress toward the District's current Comprehensive Plan goals?

From Hannah Whitney to Everyone: 08:43 PM

Jervis and his talented staff 👍❤️👍👍👍

Coach Keyes 👍👍❤️👍

From Sam to Everyone: 08:47 PM

It's sad comments are being ignored regarding the sexual assault petition. Imagine if it was YOUR child!!

From Shannon Kuchak to Everyone: 09:05 PM

Tomorrow, June 8th:Seniors: Senior Check-out, 11amJuniors: 1pm for in-person learners Wednesday, June 9th:Sophomores: 10am for in-person learners Freshmen: 11am for in-person learners8th Grade: 12pm for in-person learners 7th Grade: 1pm for in-person learners Thursday, June 10th:Virtual learners grades 7th-9th: 8am Virtual learners grades 10th-12th: June 10th. 9am Additional collection periods will be also be held on Thursday for all grades from 1pm-3pm & again on Friday, June 11th from 10am-12pm.