Lehighton Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehighton, PA 18235
Monday, December 6, 2021 - 7:00 PM
BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING - MINUTES

1. Opening Exercises

A. Call to Order
Board Secretary, Edward Rarick, called the Meeting to order at 7:02 PM and read the names of the following Holdover Members:
Richard Beltz
Nathan Foeller
Jeremy Glaush
April Walker

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Notice of the Organization Meeting
E. Rarick read the following Notice of the Organization Meeting:

The date of the Lehighton Area School District Reorganization Meeting was advertised in the Times news on Friday, December 4, 2020 as well as Wednesday, December 1, 2021 and as required by Board Policy 005 and the Public School Code, all members of the board of the Lehighton Area School District were given five days' notice by mail, by the secretary of the retiring board, of the time and place of meeting for organization" . . .
Whereas the notice was mailed on Thursday, November 23, 2021 that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on/at:
Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Lehighton Area School District
Administration Board Room
1000 Union Street,
Lehighton, PA 18235

D. Public Comment
R. Bowman asked the Board to select B. Shaner for the alternate term remaining for W. Zlomsowitch.

J. Bowman said a request was sent to counsel, J. Cleaver and the Board about a request for a list of books in the District. She said if they would not furnish the list, to please let her know why. She said she had an issue with an "adult book room" for elementary, middle or high school. She stated that parents don't know what students are reading and the books come from the PA Library Association. He requested professional development information for teachers and staff. She felt they were using CRT through their professional development. She questioned grants and the projects involved with the grants. She said students were re-enacting plays asking for sex. She mentioned when mental health steps in, parents are removed from the equation. She explained that parents give their permission by signing off on mental health clinics.

D. Bradley discussed picking committees for the Board. He spoke about threats and felt the Board failed to comply with the law. He said the Board moved funds to a controlled fund and after a year, it was raided and not used for its purpose but for a multi-purpose stadium. He spoke about the Auditor General's report and the date of a resignation of a teacher that was prior to an arrest. He said they found other issues and problems with voting records and wished they would hold to their own moral standard. He said the Board blocked proper governance and it was wonderful to see nine applicants for the vacancies. He asked the new Board to hold common sense. He spoke about bullying and holding the bullied and bulliers accountable. He mentioned students bringing weapons to school and asked the Board to act morally. He questioned when the protection of students would take action. He said the laws need to be followed and formal written complaints should be filed to see that the rules are being enforced. He also asked for diversity with the Policy Committee and said the Board President did not belong on committees.

D. Krause asked to adjust the term for item J. He said the position is a 5-year term which was from June 30, 2018 until July 1, 2024. He mentioned he had been on the committee since 2015 and he will be the chair next year. He stated there are 15 Board members and 2 at-large members. He said they had not increased funding during his term and they are always trying to keep costs down. He said LCCC has been in the top 2-3 community colleges compared to all other community colleges across the state. He mentioned how LCCC has articulation agreements to transfer to other schools with Allentown being the largest contributor. He stated he would be happy to help with any questions and could bring a committee report to the Board. R. Bowman asked how many students were from Lehighton area School District. S. Holland said the class of 2019 was the first class. D. Krause said he would get that information and share it with the Board.

2. Reorganization

A. Nominations For and Election of a Temporary President
Until the Temporary President was elected, the Secretary remained the presiding officer. In that role, the Secretary called for nominations, held the election, and declared the winner.

MOTION by J. Glaush to elect R. Beltz as the Temporary President from the holdover members. E. Rarick asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. E. Rarick stated nominations were closed and R. Beltz was the only candidate nominated. E. Rarick moved for R. Beltz's election by acclamation for the position of Temporary President.

VOTE: YES - 4 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Once all nominations had been accepted and the vote was taken, E. Rarick turned over the gavel to the Temporary President, R. Beltz.

B. Reading of Election Certificates
Temporary President, R. Beltz reviewed the certificates of election and read aloud inserting the name of each of the following newly elected members:
Barbara Bowes
Joy Beers
Kerry Sittler
Walter Zlomsowitch (4-year Term)
Walter Zlomsowitch (2-year Term)

Walter Zlomsowitch declared that he wished to choose the 4-year Term.

C. Seating of Any Newly Elected Board Members
Temporary President, R. Beltz administered the following oath of office for the new Board Members:
"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

All newly elected Board Members were seated to the Board.

D. Nominations For and Election of President
Temporary President, R. Beltz presided over the election of a President to hold office for the ensuing year.

MOTION by W. Zlomsowitch to elect J. Beers as the Board President with a term of December 6, 2021 until the reorganization meeting in December of 2022. R. Beltz asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. R. Beltz stated nominations were closed and J. Beers was the only candidate nominated. R. Beltz moved for J. Beers' election by acclamation for the position of Board President.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

The Temporary President, R. Beltz turned the meeting over to the Board President, J. Beers who presided over the remainder of the meeting.

E. Nominations For and Election of Vice President
Board President, J. Beers oversaw the nomination and election of a Vice President. W. Zlomsowitch nominated R. Beltz as the Vice President. J. Beers asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. J. Beers closed the nominations.

MOTION by B. Bowes , SECONDED by W. Zlomsowitch, to elect R. Beltz as the Board Vice President with a term of December 6, 2021 until the reorganization meeting in December of 2022.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

F. Signature Stamp
J. Beers asked if a new stamp would be needed. E. Rarick said no. J. Beers recommended tabling this item. The Board agreed.

J. Beers recommended tabling items G-J. She stated all representatives and committee members could be announced and voted on at the next general business meeting and anyone interested in serving, or continuing to serve, should contact J. Beers. B. Bowes suggested that names be submitted prior to the December 8, 2021 Board Meeting so the Representatives in items G-I may be chosen since there was a vacancy in those roles. The Board agreed.

G. Carbon County Area Vocational-Technical School Authority Representative to the Operating Committee
The CCAVTS Authority Representative to the Operating Committee would have a 5-year term of January 2022- December 2026

H. Carbon Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee Representative Alternate
The CCTI JOC Representative Alternate would have a 1-year term of December 2021-December 2022

I. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Representative
The CLIU Board of Directors Representative would have a term for a term beginning immediately until June 30, 2022.

J. Committee Appointments

K. Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Beltz, to approve the Board Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

L. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by B. Bowes, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the Finance Committee Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

M. Approval of Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by B. Bowes, SECONDED by K. Sittler, to approve the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

N. Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by W. Zlomsowitch, to approve the Policy Committee Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

O. Approval of Athletic Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by A. Walker, SECONDED by J. Glaush, to approve the Athletic Committee Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

P. Approval of Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the Building & Grounds Committee Meeting dates for the 2022 Calendar year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Q. Discussion on Board Vacancy
The Board discussed how the 2-year term, which Mr. Walter Zlomsowitch did not choose, would become a Vacancy and that they recently held interviews for Board vacancies. They felt they could utilize the pool of candidates from the recent interviewing process. J. Beers explained that Mr. Brian Shaner was the next highest scorer and could contact him to see if he would still be interested. B. Bowes felt he would be a valuable addition because of his human resources experience. J. Beers also appreciated his opposing view on masking along with his experience with healthcare and felt it would be a more rounded addition to the Board.

A. Walker stated how she appreciated D'Ache Zelrick's information given at the interview and questioned if she could participate in the Academic Affairs Committee. J. Glaush said the committees needed strong minds and diversity. W. Zlomsowitch said he would appreciate having some teachers involved with committees also.

3. Communications

A. Comments From the Board
J. Beers announced there would be a New Director training on December 15, 2021 with PSBA. She mentioned how she spoke with a PSBA representative and they mentioned there was an opportunity to have a one on one question session with PSBA if the Board would be interested in attending this session. She asked if J. Cleaver could send the cost for that workshop.

J. Beers reviewed the Occupancy permit status for the Elementary Center and discussed the findings from Loren at Fox Rothschild, who was working on the project. She said they were working on getting all the documentation needed and looking to find out if the District needed to sign an agreement. E. Rarick explained that Loren reached out to him for a copy of the original agreement with PennDOT. He mentioned that after the school was built it was recommended to do a traffic study to see if a traffic light would be needed. The Board discussed the costs involved with installing a traffic light. B. Bowes questioned if the Borough would be responsible for part of the cost. W. Zlomsowitch felt the construction of the traffic light should be removed from the agreement. E. Rarick explained that removing the light from the agreement would lead to the District signing a new agreement. He commended Lorens work on the project and said he would give advice on what he found with the original agreement that was received today. J. Beers said an analysis would be given at the December 8, 2021 Special Board Meeting. The community asked some questions about the occupancy permit.

J. Beers mentioned that a recently retired part-time employee had submitted a complaint that they were required to get a financial advisor to receive their $500 ($1,000 for full time employees). E. Rarick stated he was not sure what they were talking about. J. Cleaver mentioned that they may need a PSERS meeting. E. rarick said he would look into it.

B. Bowes thanked the community for their votes.

W. Zlomsowitch thanked the voters and their team. He welcomed the new appointees and said he hoped to work well together to get the District into a good financial place. He asked E. Rarick for a 5-year projection on tax increases for the December 8, 2021 Special Board Meeting. E. Rarick explained he would need more time than that to prepare a projection. He mentioned that there is software called Forecast5 that would be able to prepare the projection more easily, but the District does not have that software. He said he could reach out to the solicitor to see if they could assist with that. W. Zlomsowitch asked if Atty. Filer was handling any outstanding lawsuits. E. Rarick explained that any outstanding lawsuits would be Special Education suits and KingSpry would deal with those. B. Bowes explained that she was unsure how to deal with the transition of suits to the new solicitor. J. Cleaver said he would contact KingSpry for the information.

B. Comments from the Superintendent
J. Cleaver thanked the outgoing Board for all of their time and efforts as well as their patience with the Zoom meetings while dealing with the pandemic. He welcomed the new members and mentioned that the new members would be attending a training on December 15, 2021 with PSBA to get an Act 55 Certification for their file.

C. Public Comment
D. Bradley asked if the AFR was on schedule for filing. He said it was due on October 30, 2021. E. Rarick stated how the state gave an automatic 30-day extension and the District filed for an extension until December 31, 2021. He said it would be submitted three months earlier than the previous year. He mentioned how there were issues securing dates for the auditors to complete the audit which held up the process.

D. Adjournment
J. Beers announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the Reorganization Meeting.

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by B. Bowes, to adjourn the Meeting.

The December 6, 2021 Board reorganization meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Rarick, Board Secretary
by Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary