

Lehigh Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehigh, PA 18235
Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES



1. Opening Exercises

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order

Board President, J. Beers called the Special Board Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

C. Roll Call

PR/AB

PR	Ms. Joy Beers	PR	Mr. David F. Bradley	PR	Mrs. Gail Maholick
PR	Mr. Richard R. Beltz	AB*	Mr. Nathan Foeller		Vacancy
PR	Ms. Barbara Bowes	AB	Mr. Stephen Holland		Vacancy

*N. Foeller arrived via conference call at 8:22 PM after listening on livestream.

Also Present:

Mr. Edward Rarick, Business Administrator
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent
Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Janice Bowman, April Walker, Brian Shaner, D'Ache' Zelrick, Gerry Berger, Janice Collins, Jason Baker, Jeremy Glaush, Kyle Elsasser, Zachary Kudla and Amanda Citro.

D. Purpose of Special Meeting

J. Beers explained that this meeting was to discuss, interview and appoint two Candidates to fill Board Member vacancies for a term from December 2, 2021 until the December Board Reorganization Meeting in 2023. She mentioned that the questions were pre-prepared with the solicitor and posted for preparations. She explained there is a voting tally sheet given to each member where each question would have a score of 1, 2 or 3 given. She stated that 1 would be negative, 3 would be positive and 2 would be mediocre. She asked that each Board Member circle a 1, 2 or 3 and not issue their own point system. She explained that after scoring was completed, there would be a recess and she and J. Partenio would tally the votes. She said the highest scoring candidates would be brought to the Board for approval and that the Board currently had seven people, so a candidate must pass by a majority of four yes votes.

E. Public Comment

J. Bowman wanted to discuss issues with the new Board. She stated she was unable to access the online library for the Elementary Center. She asked for a list of books to verify against her list. She spoke about a book she wrote about common core and sex standard. She explained how she spoke to D. Bradley about going into the library. She said he visited the Middle School and found that 35 books were put on a back shelf and put for parent approval. She claimed some books were curriculum tied with SEL. She stated that she wanted parents to go into the library and do an audit. She said the federal government put books about pedophilia in the libraries through grants. She asked the Board to protect the children and remove the books from the schools. She stated the 9th grade curriculum advocated to youth playacts for homosexual or transgender sex. She asked the Board to stand up to the federal government. J. Beers asked J. Cleaver to comment on the library books. J. Cleaver explained that there are some books that are held in a separate area for parent approval in order to be taken out of the school library. He said these books would be by choice and not a requirement.

D. Bradley spoke about the oath of office and following it. He stated the Board needed a moral majority and public participation. He also recommended that complaints be filed with the Board. He discussed the enforcement of policies, school choice and how there was little enforcement with government agencies. He said two new directors would be appointed today to work for the people. He submitted a list from the Auditor General consisting of 31 issues and proposed policies to the Board President. J. Beers said she would scan the list and share it with the Board.

2. Board Vacancies

A. Board Vacancies Interviews

J. Cleaver reminded everyone that the Board had received all information and resumes submitted by Board Member Vacancy Candidates and they may be reviewing them during the interview process.

The Board interviewed the following Board Member Candidates:

April Walker
Brian Shaner
D'Ache' Zelrick
Gerry Berger
Janice Collins
Jason Baker
Jeremy Glaush
Kyle Elsasser
Zachary Kudla

The Board asked each candidate to answer the following prerequisite questions:

Are you over the age of 18?

How long have you been a resident of the District?

Are you employed by the District or do business with the District?

The Board asked each candidate to answer the following interview questions:

1. How do you feel the School District can improve the academic achievement of students and the professional development of the staff?
2. Are you aware about any conflict of interest you may have in participating in the upcoming negotiations between the Board and the teachers union as it relates to their expiring collective bargaining agreement? A conflict of interest could include being a member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the National Education Association, or having a spouse or immediate family member in the teachers bargaining unit.
3. Bullying has been a recent community topic of discussion: what do you think is the best way to address and reduce bullying within the District?

Each Candidate was eligible by passing the prerequisite questions asked. Each candidate answered all interview questions and the Board completed their tally sheets. D. Bradley thanked the Candidates for coming and speaking with the Board. He said he appreciated their thoughts and ideas. A recess was called at 8:12 PM by J. Beers to review tally sheet scores with J. Partenio.

J. Beers called the Meeting back to order at 8:22 PM. N. Foeller joined the Meeting via conference call at this time.

J. Beers mentioned that J. Glaush and A. Walker were the highest ranked candidates by the tallies counted by J. Beers and J. Partenio..

B. Board Member Selection for Vacancy 1

MOTION by G. Maholick, SECONDED by R. Beltz, to approve Jeremy Glaush as a Board Member for the term of December 2, 2021 until the Reorganization Meeting following the municipal election in 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	0	0	X	0
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Barbara Bowes, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	0	X	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, President	X	0	0	0

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 1 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

C. Board Member Selection for Vacancy 2

MOTION by B. Bowes, SECONDED by G. Maholick, to approve April Walker as a Board Member for the term of December 2, 2021 until the Reorganization Meeting following the municipal election in 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Barbara Bowes, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	0	0	0	X
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Joy Beers, President	X	0	0	0

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 0 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 1

D. Swearing-In of New Board Members

A Notary, A. Citro, was present to perform the Oath of Office for newly appointed Board Member, J. Glaush. A. Walker had left the meeting earlier and was unable to be sworn in at that time. J. Beers asked to email A. Walker to have her come into the office for her swearing-in prior to the December 6, 2021 Board Reorganization Meeting.

3. Communications

A. Public Comment

J. Glaush recommended that everyone stay involved. He said there are committees and their ideas may compliment the Board. He thanked everyone. B. Bowes asked about the additional vacancy. J. Beers said she would reach out to the applicants to see if they would still be interested in filling the vacancy.

B. Adjournment

MOTION by B. Bowes, SECONDED by J. Glaush, to adjourn the Meeting.

The December 2, 2021 Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Rarick, Board Secretary
By Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary