

**Lehigh Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehigh, PA 18235**

**Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM
BOARD MEETING - AGENDA**



1. Opening Exercises

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order

Board President, L. Stern called the September 20, 2021 Board Meeting to order at 7:05 PM

C. Roll Call was Recorded

PR/AB:

PR	Ms. Joy Beers	PR	Mr. Nathan Foeller	PR	Mrs. Rita Spinelli
PR*	Mr. Richard R. Beltz	PR	Mr. Stephen Holland		Vacancy
PR	Mr. David F. Bradley	PR	Mrs. Gail Maholick	PR	Mr. Larry Stern

**R. Beltz Present via Conference Call*

Also Present:

Mr. Edward Rarick, Business Administrator

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent

Attorney Eric Filer, Solicitor

Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Brian Shaner, Barbara Bowes, April Walker, Janice Collins, Bernadette Rodrigues, David Krause, Jennifer Liable, Walter Zlomsowitch, Ryan Bowman, Suzanne Howland and Janice Bowman.

D. Presentations/Recognition

None at this time

E. Public Comment

B. Shaner asked to mirror Jim Thorpe's COVID Tracker by separating out Students and Staff. He asked if the Board was involved with the hiring of the individual for 3B. Members of the Board said no. B. Shaner questioned L. Stern or R. Spinelli what the procedure was on writing policies and who recommended the policies. L. Stern mentioned that the administration brings forward the recommended changes or revisions to policies from PSBA to the Committee. B. Shaner asked if policies were required to be recommended from the Policy Committee in order to be added to the agenda. He questioned if masks were required for the building. He mentioned that he was pro-choice for masking and felt it would be difficult for teachers to enforce mask wearing if the administration was not enforcing mask wearing at the administration building.

B. Bowes questioned why the CLIU Overdrive Agreement dated 5/4/21 was just being brought to the Board now. J. Cleaver said it was just received. B. Bowes questioned the 2020-2021 close-out report asking how the year was closed out if there were items that were overspent. She felt funds should be moved to balance those areas. She said transportation mainly. E. Rarick explained that the expenditures were coding correctly and did not feel that moving budget dollars to those allocations would correct anything at this point. B. Bowes felt it should be balanced prior to closing out the year.

B. Bowes questioned the payment of bills including two payments to the US Treasury. She asked why these were being paid now for 2019. E. Rarick explained that the District did not know that it was not being paid last year. He said when he researched it, they made arrangements to get it paid. B. Bowes asked E. Rarick to keep an eye on those payments.

B. Bowes questioned if the job description for the Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent could be more consistent with the title by using Assistant/Assistant to the Superintendent. She asked if any confidential secretaries sign a confidentiality agreement. J. Cleaver said there is no official agreement for employees to sign. B. Bowes felt it is something that should be done.

B. Bowes stated she could not find Sarah Dunchack on the staff directory and asked if she was a new hire. S. Howland said she was a Middle School teacher and she may have been listed under a different last name in the directory. B. Bowes asked if the District would be replacing resignations. J. Cleaver said yes, they are currently in the process.

B. Bowes asked about the District Technology Plan on Page 3 how it mentions sustainable funding sources. She asked if that meant taxes and if it would be placed in a restricted fund. J. Cleaver and B. Bowes discussed the budgeting options. B. Bowes questioned what embedding digital citizenship at each level actually meant. T. Tkach explained it was for cyber courtesy and proper procedures for going on the internet.

B. Bowes felt the First Reading of policies should not have been recommended to go to the Board since L. Stern was not in attendance at the meeting, R. Spinelli left and J. Cleaver closed the meeting early. J. Cleaver said it would be the first reading for the public to have input on the policy since the meeting did start and the policies were advertised on the Policy Committee Agenda. He said he was making the recommendation. R. Spinelli reminded everyone that they have not had a normal Policy Committee Meeting in a very long time and many of the policies have been posted online for months. She explained that the policies are for the Board to approve and the Committee is just for discussion. J. Cleaver said there are two Committee and Board Meetings available for discussion for each policy. B. Bowes expressed her issues with policy 815. J. Cleaver said they had addressed those issues and added the adjustments into the policy already. B. Bowes said she would look at the policy again .

A. Walker expressed her concerns with the Health and Safety Plan and the mandate of masks. She read various data on the subject and mentioned that she did not agree with the requirement of a mask and asked for parental choice. She questioned if anyone had reached out to the Superintendent or School Board of the Tamaqua Area School District to see how they were handling the masking option. L. Stern said that Tamaqua is going against the recommendation of the state and the state has issued a warning letter to all districts about violating the order. D. Bradley stated he reached out to Tamaqua and said they were listening to the parents who wanted a choice. A. Walker said she was waiting for information regarding the legality of the order. She asked if the Board would change their decision if the court decided that the Acting Secretary of Health's order was not legal. J. Cleaver said possibly. L. Stern expressed that the District needs to follow what the state is mandating. The public was very upset. J. Cleaver read the warning of violation order letter that was sent out to school Districts from the Secretary of Education, listing the penalties of violation which included financial penalties for each board member individually and personal liability. He explained that it is very difficult because the decision is being made from the state to be enforced at the local level. A. Walker hoped that if the order was deemed illegal and all of those violations went away that the District would follow the wishes of the parents asking for freedom of choice. J. Cleaver reviewed the District data on COVID-19 positive cases and how that would affect the increase of student quarantine cases if masks were not mandatory. He also explained the contact tracing process for quarantined students. A. Walker discussed the definition of child abuse and how masking interferes with the breathing of a child. R. Bowman agreed. A. Walker addressed some comments from the last meeting. She discussed VAERS data and how she believes in the truth and the constitution.

Atty. Filer read a letter that was sent to Tamaqua Area School District regarding their choice to violate the masking order and the liabilities involved with it as well as insurance cancellations. He explained that the issue is to be dealt with at Harrisburg, not here at the District. They discussed the legalities of the mandate. R. Bowman asked if the students who were not wearing masks would be arrested by the school resource officer. J. Cleaver said no. He mentioned that there are medical exemptions by law and they would need to be submitted to the school from the student's physician. The public debated the exemptions. J. Cleaver explained that a religious exemption is not warranted.

J. Collins asked the District to not mandate vaccines. She said masks are 1% effective and testing cannot differentiate COVID from other coronaviruses. She said the vaccine was experimental and discussed the Nuremberg code. She asked how long we will allow the government to bully us. She said COVID is 99% survivable. She asked if there was COVID testing at school. J. Cleaver said no, there was no testing done at school; however, there have been vaccine clinics done at the school. He said there is a third one planned and students wishing to get vaccinated would need parents permission. J. Collins asked if the District had to teach CRT in order to get ESSER funds. J. Cleaver said not at this point.

B. Rodrigues thanked half the Board for meeting with her that day to discuss information regarding an issue with her son and bullying. She said there is money allocated for bullying professional development and the incident that occurred with her son was appalling. She stated he was sent to sit in the study hall where the students were already located that were bullying him. She questioned where the respect was for the children. J. Beers questioned what type of training the staff receives. J. Cleaver explained the SEL program and the training that goes along with it for staff. He also mentioned that staff learns de-escalation techniques. S. Howland said there was just a 3-hour session with a CLIU consultant on the first in-service day where they discussed the curriculum and ATSI. B. Rodrigues felt the District was not living up to their policies and procedures and wanted something done. D. Bradley asked if B. Rodrigues filed a formal complaint. B. Rodrigues said she met with the staff and is working on the situation with her son. G. Maholick asked if there was a form to fill out for a complaint. J. Cleaver said no. G. Maholick asked if they could create one.

D. Krause introduced himself as a candidate for the Board Vacancy. He said he had been with LCCC since being involved with the Board for 10 years.

J. Liabe introduced herself as a candidate for the Board Vacancy. She said she was a voice for academics and extracurricular activities. She felt the next two months would be a nice opportunity to share with the Board. She asked the Board about how much time they spend on Board related items weekly. G. Maholick said about 2 hours. R. Spinelli said about 8 hours. N. Foeller said about 6 hours. J. Beers said about 4 hours. S. Holland said he would support any of the candidates that sent in their resumes. R. Beltz said 2.5-3 hours. He explained that he spends very little time on Board items on a non-Board Meeting week since he was working 7 days per week. D. Bradley said about 14-20 hours per week and 5-6 hours per week on a state level with PDE and 4-5 Hours per week with the Open Records and Atty. General's office.

W. Zlomsowitch asked about the substitute issue. J. Cleaver explained how the state of Pennsylvania is experiencing a sub shortage. W. Zlomsowitch asked what the pay was. J. Cleaver said about \$90.00 per day and \$120.00 per day for retirees because they are exempt from PSERS payments. He mentioned that even districts paying more money were still having shortages.

K. Sittler asked about a 9th grade class that has 42 kids in it. S. Howland said there is one math class in 9th grade that is at the highest capacity at 32 students.

W. Zlomsowitch asked who made the agenda. L. Stern said the administration. W. Zlomsowitch was concerned that the Health & Safety Plan discussion was put at the rear of the agenda and asked about moving it up. He said masks are a mandate and not a law. He believed that COVID numbers were about the same at Tamaqua as they are in Lehighton and that is with masks versus no masks. L. Stern said children are resilient; however, older staff are not as resilient, nor are grandparents of students that they may go home to. W. Zlomsowitch felt it was bogus.

R. Bowman asked the Board to review the scientific data and asked for parental choice on masks. He felt that masks do not work and they make it difficult for children to focus. He believed that he had put forth the energy into that choice as a veteran and felt the Board had the backing of the taxpayers at the end of the day.

J. Cleaver discussed the revised job description. He said it was not a new position and all Act 93 secretaries are confidential. He also mentioned how he is horribly disappointed with any child bullying.

D. Bradley asked to have a student representative on the Board. J. Cleaver said a student would be able to come to the Board meetings to give a report. He said they would not be able to sit at the Board table and make decisions on items. D. Bradley asked to send a petition to the state on the mask issue. He mentioned that he was not supporting D. Krause with the Board vacancy because he felt that D. Krause did not represent the people. D. Bradley questioned the policy on the refusal to wear masks. S. Howland explained that any student that does not have a mask would be given one to wear. D. Bradley questioned the payment of bills and the reports saying there was no payment for the safe schools training. He said there was a complaint about that on the Auditor General's Report especially when spending money in excess of a budgeted line item.

F. Superintendent Report

J. Cleaver gave a report stating that the start of the school year had been a success and enjoyed welcoming so many students back for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. He stated the District is operating with full in-person education for grades pre-k-12. He said all laptops have been assigned to all students in grades 7-12 and thanked Mrs. Volski and her IT Team for the efforts in making this a successful process.

J. Cleaver announced that all buildings have had their meet the teacher evenings and/or student orientations and buildings reported that the programs were all well attended with a lot of positive feedback received from parents.

J. Cleaver mentioned the Lehighton School District would be partnering with Lehigh Valley Health Network by offering a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on October 7th and October 21st at the Lehighton Middle School from 5PM-7PM. He said it would be by appointment or walk-in and additional information will be shared via social media outlets and District communication.

J. Cleaver requested that masks be worn at the Board Meetings as part of the Health and Safety Plan.

G. Business Administrator Report

E. Rarick reported the total local tax revenue received thru August 31st of \$7,191,900, represented 39% of the budgeted amount for the fiscal year. He mentioned the total revenue received for the same period of \$11,288,188, represented 26% of budgeted revenue for the fiscal year. He explained the increase in total revenue represents a 217.5% increase over the prior year same time period, primarily driven by the District's improvement in our local tax billing process. He mentioned the total Expenditures for the same time period were \$2,547,344, which represented a 19% reduction from the prior year same period.

E. Rarick stated the 2020-2021 school year had been closed in the accounting system with total expenditures of \$41,079,761. He said it closed at 1/10 of a percent over the expected budget. He explained for the same time period the District also received \$45,346,478 which was \$4,199,210 over budgeted revenue, primarily driven by additional money from a PSHIC refund and reimbursement of Plan con money due to the District.

H. Minutes

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Board Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	0	0	0	X
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	0	0	0
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	0	0	0

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

2. Financial Matters

A. Chromebook Donation

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by S. Holland, to accept the donation of chromebooks from CDW. To be used for C. Jeannie Weiss' classroom as part of a Donor's Choose request.

J. Cleaver explained that a teacher put in for a donation and was able to secure 11 chromebooks for her class.

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

B. Title I Reading Program Donation

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to accept the donation of \$135.00 from Griff's Ale Haus & Grille. To be used for the Title I Reading Program at the Elementary Center.

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

C. Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church Food Donations

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to accept the donation of food items from Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church. To be used for the District Back Pack Buddy Program.

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

D. United Way Donation

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by S. Holland, to accept the donation of \$1000.00 from the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc. To be used for the G2 (Girls Group) program.

R. Bowman questioned what the G2 Program was. S. Howland explained it is a girls group that is taken to a horse farm as an incentive for attendance to school.

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

E. Consolidated Grant Agreement

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve and accept the Consolidated Grant Agreement for the 2021- 2022 School Year. Title I Part A - \$636,945.00, Title II Part A - \$79,132.00, Title I D - \$23,220.00 and Title IV Part A - \$48,119.00. Total Grant Award - \$787,416.00

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

F. ESSER II Agreement

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve and accept the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Lehigh Area School District for the 2020-2023 school years. Total Grant Award \$2,364,259.00.

J. Beers questioned what LEA was. J. Cleaver explained it was an acronym for Local Education Agency meaning the school district.

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

G. Per Capita/Occupational Tax Exemptions

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the attached exemptions from Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax.

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

H. Tax Refunds

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to refund the following:

1. Occupational Tax for year 2020 in the amount of \$122.50 to Dale Dreher;
2. Occupational Tax for year 2020 in the amount of \$122.50 to Shane Dreher;
3. Occupational Tax for year 2020 in the amount of \$122.50 to Tris Kunkle;
4. Occupational Tax for year 2021 in the amount of \$122.50 to Tris Kunkle;
5. Occupational Tax for year 2020 in the amount of \$490.00 to Vincent Risteter;
6. Occupational Tax for year 2020 in the amount of \$125.00 to Paul Simmons.

B. Shaner questioned why some occupational taxes were so high. L. Stern mentioned that it varied based on occupation.

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

I. BHA

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the contract between Behavioral Health Associates (BHA) and the Lehigh Area School District (LASD) effective for the 2021-2022 school year, as attached.

D. Bradley said he was surprised to see how many referrals there were for BHA and thought Behavioral issues were not being addressed. J. Cleaver stated the District does many things for behavioral health including two District Social Workers and a contract with LVHN for support. S. Kistler explained that BHA is an educational facility and not just a disciplinary placement. She said it encompassed many students with autism and not just students with behavioral issues.

D. Bradley felt Lehigh Area School District was above the curve with Safe School Reporting than other Districts. J. Cleaver and S. Howland questioned the reporting categories that D. Bradley mentioned. R. Bowman felt there were issues with the reporting matrix.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

J. VisionQuest

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the "Cyber School" agreement and terms between the Lehigh Area School District and Vision Quest National, LTD. ("VisionQuest") for the 2021-2022 school year. The cost of the program will be recovered by billing the appropriate school districts of participating students.

T. Tkach mentioned this was a 24-hour facility with court appointed placements. He said the District receives some funds though Title I-D and recovers other funds with appropriate billing. He said it could be anywhere from 2-12 students.

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

K. CLIU Overdrive

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by S. Holland, to approve the OverDrive Consortium Agreement with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 and the Lehigh Area School District, for the 2021-2022 school year. At a cost not to exceed \$2000.00. Funded through the ESSER II Grant.

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

L. CLIU Intergovernmental Agreement

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Title I Equitable Services between Lehigh Area School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for School District students in Non Public schools.

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

M. Activities Funds

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by S. Holland, to approve the Lehigh Area High School and Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Funds for 2021

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

N. Reports

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by S. Holland, to approve the following Reports:

August 2021

1. Expenditure Report
2. Expenditure by Object Report
3. Revenue Summary
4. Expenditure Comparison Report
5. Revenue Comparison Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. 2020-2021 Close Out Report

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

O. Payment of Bills

MOTION by R. Spinelli SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the following Payment of Bills:

September 2021:

General Fund:

--Manual Checks	\$ 84,612.29
--Regular Checks	\$ 2,042,085.46
--Credit Card	\$ 0.00

Debit Card: \$ 489.90

Payroll (August): \$ 1,010,684.68

Food Service Fund: \$ 4,524.37

Total: **\$3,142,396.70**

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3. Personnel

A. Job Descriptions

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve and implement the following job descriptions for the 2021- 2022 School Year:

Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent

D. Bradley wanted to table this item to find out first if the position was needed and in the budget. He stated he would rather put the money into the classrooms. E. Rarick stated the position was already budgeted for since it is currently vacant due to internal movement. J. Cleaver said the description was updated due to S. Howland's position being Assistant Superintendent versus Assistant to the Superintendent. D. Bradley asked to table the item.

MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by G. Maholick to table the Job Description.

Roll Call Vote to Table:

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

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

Motion Failed

Roll Call Vote for Job Description:

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

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

Motion Failed

B. Candidates for Employment

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the following candidates for employment in accordance with the respective contracts:

Amanda Citro – Confidential Secretary to the Assistant/Assistant to the Superintendent – Date effective October 15, 2021, at an annual salary of \$35,000 in the Act 93 Agreement, and prorated for the 2021-2022 school year.

JoLynn Gazo - High School Learning Loss - ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Louann Dietz - Middle School Learning Loss - 8th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Cody Schuler - Middle School Learning Loss - 8th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

Hallie Seiwel - Middle School Learning Loss - 7th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Sarah Dunchak - Middle School Learning Loss - 7th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

Sharon Focht - Middle School Learning Loss - 6th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Jennifer Kunkel - Middle School Learning Loss - 6th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

Bryan Buffington - Music Department Head for the 2021-2022 School Year

D. Bradley said he wanted a 5th member before voting on this item.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Failed

J. Cleaver mentioned that the Board just denied giving learning loss assistance to students who needed it, by not passing this item. The public was irate. They discussed bringing this item back later under new business.

C. Candidates for the Substitute List

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the following list of requested candidates for the 2021-2022 Substitute List, pending any necessary paperwork:

Emma Sawyer - Substitute Teacher

Mona Hamby - Substitute Teacher

J. Beers questioned if these were the only subs being hired. N. Foeller said they were new subs since last month when there were about 25 on the list. J. Cleaver said there is a sub shortage right now and a lack of certified teachers.

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

D. Candidates for Athletic Coaching/Manager or Extracurricular Activities

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the following requests for Athletic Coaching/Manager Candidates, as per contracted rates, pending any necessary paperwork:

JV Boys Basketball Coach – **JC Dietz**

Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach – **Skylynn Faust**

Extracurricular Activities for 2021-2022

Fall Weight Training Co-Advisors – **Terry Haberman & Nick Costantino**

Middle School Drama – **Jonathan Blackwell-Rodgers**

D. Bradley was discussing anti-hazing. J. Cleaver mentioned how coaches go through training with the Athletic Department as well as with clearances. D. Bradley wanted their information sent to the Board when their paperwork was completed.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

E. Pre-Approval of Courses/Programs of Study

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the following requests for pre-approval of courses/Programs of Study for continuing education:

1. **Employee #1434** – October 25 - December 12, 2021/Technology Leadership (\$1,566.00)

2. **Employee #1434** – October 25 - December 12, 2021/Technology to Support Curriculum (\$1,566.00)

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

F. Resignations

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the following resignations:

Karie Mallory - Part-Time Paraprofessional effective 8/30/2021

Gregory Kosciolk - Special Education Teacher effective 10/29/2021

J. Cleaver explained that G. Kosciolk went to another District in an administrative role and K. Mallory was hired for a full-time position elsewhere.

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

4. Programs

A. District Technology Plan

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the Districtwide Technology Plan as reviewed/discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting.

J. Cleaver explained that this item was discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting and was a plan to get the District up to speed with the 1:1 Technology roll-out and that it discusses budget and costs involved.

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

B. First Reading of Policies

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to move the following policies for First Reading for Public Review and Comment:

815 - Acceptable Use Of Technology and Electronic Resources (will replace current 815)

815.2 - Use of District Network and Internet (New Policy)

816 - Use of Livestream Video on School District Property (New Policy)

D. Bradley did not agree with moving forward with the policies. He also asked about the Anti-Cronyism and the Anti-Bullying & Anti-Assault policies he sent to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by J. Beers to table the first Reading.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Failed

J. Beers asked if the policies were recommended by PSBA. J. Cleaver stated the policies were brought to the Committee in coordination with the District's 1:1 Technology Plan.

Roll Call Vote for First Reading:

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

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

Motion Failed

C. Second Reading and Final Approval of Policies

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the following policies for Second Reading and Final Approval:

140.1 - Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students

815.1 - Use of District Owned Technology (New Policy)

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by G. Maholick to table the Second Reading.

J. Liabe questioned students choosing to repeat a grade. J. Beers asked about cyber/charter school funding. E. Rarick explained the funding formula in detail.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Failed

Roll Call Vote for Second Reading:

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

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

Motion Failed

D. CBI Trips

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by J. Beers, to Approve Community Based Instruction (CBI) Trips for the 2021-2022 School year, observing all necessary COVID-19 mitigation precautions.

S. Kistler explained how these trips were for special needs students who have them written into their IEP's.

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

E. School Enrichment Journeys

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by S. Holland, to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests, observing all necessary COVID-19 mitigation precautions:

1. Emergency Services/Red Cross Club (Stephen Ebbert) - 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/19, 12/10/2021 & 2/11, 3/4, 3/18, 4/8, 5/12, 5/13, 5/20/2022 - 1:00 PM-2:20 PM- provide experiences and volunteering in the Red Cross/Emergency Services.

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

F. Use of School Property

MOTION by S. Holland, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve Use of School Property for the following requests:

1. **Middle School Intramurals - Fall (Tim Sharrow)** - September 13-November 5, 2021 (Monday-Thursday) - 2:30-3:30 PM - Middle School Gym/Outside of Building - Middle School Intramurals Fall.
2. **Leighton Touchdown Club (Amy Rarick)** - 10/21, 11/18, 12/16/21 & 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19/22 - 7:00-8:00 PM - High School Classroom- Monthly Football Meetings.
3. **Christmas Concert 6-8 Band and Chorus (Beth Kutzner)** - December 16, 2021 (Snow Date December 20, 2021) - 6:00-9:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium & Band/Choral Rooms - Middle School Christmas Concert.
4. **Middle School Chorus (Beth Kutzner)** - May 10, 2022 - 6:00-9:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium & Band/Choral Rooms - Spring Chorus Concert.
5. **Middle School Band (Beth Kutzner)** - May 18, 2022 - 6:00-9:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium & Band/Choral Rooms - Spring Band Concert.
6. **5/6 Band (Beth Kutzner)** - September 21, 2021 - 7:00-8:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium - 5/6 Band Parent Meeting.
7. **Baseball Parents Club (Edward Rarick)** - 9/22, 10/27, 11/24, 12/22/21 & 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25, 6/22/22 - 7:00-8:00 PM - Middle School Cafeteria & A5 - Baseball Parents Club Meetings.
8. **LAHS Band (Bryan Buffington)** - May 26, 2022 - 6:30-9:00 PM - High School Auditorium & Classroom - Jazz Concert.
9. **LAHS Band (Bryan Buffington)** - May 2 & 4, 2022 - 7:00-9:00 PM - High School Auditorium & Classroom - Jazz Concert Dress Rehearsal.
10. **LAHS Band (Bryan Buffington)** - May 5, 2022 - 6:30-9:30 PM - High School Auditorium & Classroom - Spring Concert.
11. **LAHS Band (Bryan Buffington)** - December 9, 2021 - 6:30-9:30 PM - High School Auditorium & Classroom - Winter Concert.
12. **LAHS Band (Bryan Buffington)** - December 6 & 8, 2021 - 7:00-9:00 PM - High School Auditorium & Classroom - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal.
13. **Choral Booster Program (Lydia DeLong)** - 9/27, 10/18, 11/15/21 & 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/11, 5/16/22 - 7:00-9:00 PM - High School Classroom - Monthly Parent Booster Meetings.
14. **Leighton Cheerleaders (Heather Fiorentino)** - September 25, 2021 - 12:00-6:00 PM & September 26, 2021 9:00 AM 4:00 PM - High School Gym - Middle School Cheer Camp.
15. **Class of 2022 All Night Party Committee (Dorothy Hartney)** - 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13/21 & 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9/22 - 6:30-7:30 PM - High School Classroom - Meetings.
16. **Strawbridge Studios (LAMS Tami Cunfer)** - November 9, 2021 - 6:00 AM-2:30 PM - Middle School Old Cafeteria - Picture Retakes.
17. **LAMS PTO (Lisa Fenoff)** - September 23, 2021 - 6:30-7:30 PM - Middle School Cafeteria - Monthly Meeting.
18. **CEF/Good News Club (Erica Pagotto)** - November 2, 2021 - April 26, 2022 (Every Tuesday) - Dismissal-5:00 PM - Elementary Center Classroom - Afternoon In-Person Good News Club

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

A Student in the audience asked about Homecoming and why it had been cancelled. S. Howland explained that the Student Council decided to cancel the Homecoming dance due to the difficulty of monitoring masks and students maintaining social distance. Members of the community were upset about the dance being cancelled while the football game would still be played. They asked if it could be held outside on the field. Administrators explained that it was difficult to monitor the dance from the outside and heels would not be able to be utilized on the turf.

5. Miscellaneous

A. Board Vacancy

Board discussed the following applicants for the Board Vacancy:

Barbara Bowes

David Krause

Jennifer Liable

Kerry Sittler

Board Members interviewed each of the applicants for the Board Vacancy. Each applicant gave detailed responses. R. Spinelli nominated D. Krause for the vacancy because of his prior experience since the vacancy is only for two months until the newly elected members would be seated. N. Foeller seconded the motion. D. Bradley did not agree with it. D. Bradley nominated B. Bowes for the Board Vacancy. He appreciated how she vetted everything. J. Beers seconded the motion. They discussed how to perform the votes. L. Stern asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. The Board opened the floor for public comment on D. Krause.

W. Zlomsowitch felt D. Krause should not be considered because he was not currently running in the election. J. Liable felt D. Krause should be nominated because he has the most years of experience. B. Shaner did not feel that experience was always a good thing.

Roll Call Vote for D. Krause:

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

VOTE: YES - 3 NO - 4 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 1

Motion Failed

The Board opened the floor for public comment on B. Bowes. A member of the public thanked B. Bowes for all of her research and appreciates how she vetts everything and no matter what side she is on, she always speaks her mind. She thought B. Bowes would be a great choice to represent the community. F. Kemmerer felt B. Bowes was very diligent. W. Zlomsowitch believed B. Bowes was an excellent choice. J. Collins felt B. Bowes always does her research. She said she has facts and admits if she is unsure of something. R. Bowman felt B. Bowes had integrity.

Roll Call Vote for B. Bowes:

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

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

B. Bowes thanked everyone for the opportunity. She said R. Spinelli stated she would be happy to work with her and thanked her for her vote of confidence. R. Bowman appreciated that everyone was willing to work together to unanimously vote B. Bowes into the vacancy. B. Bowes asked to move forward with the meeting. R. Spinelli reminded B. Bowes that she would need to be sworn in by a notary before she would be able to vote.

6. New Business for Discussion

A. Health and Safety Plan Update

J. Cleaver explained that positive COVID cases were 10 times greater now than they were last year. He explained the close contact quarantining process and how the mask mandate was keeping students in school. B. Bowes did not believe they should change the mandate right now as she believed the cases would continue to rise. J. Cleaver said he was more concerned with the exponential number of students that would have to quarantine based on unmasked students and positive cases. J. Cleaver said he understands that the parents want the choice for masking but he reminded the community that they would be taking the right of choice away from the students' in-person education if they remove the masks. They discussed the quarantining process and the public became upset. R. Bowman asked if the parents had a legal right. Atty. Filer said he could not answer that due to lack of case law. He said he hates the masks but there is a mandate right now that the District is supposed to abide by and it was his job to advise what is out there and what is best for the District legally. D. Bradley asked the public if they knew how to have the students exempt from the masks. R. Bowman said that was irrelevant and he was asking the Board to give the students and the parents the choice.

N. Foeller asked about students doing physical activities and wearing masks. He wanted the Health and Safety plan to mirror the masking order. B. Bowes asked about negative tests and how many days apart they would need to be. J. Cleaver said he would find out that information. He shared information that he received about the close contacts for Tamaqua Area School District. The public shared their opinions. R. Bowman asked how many students were quarantined in Lehigh. J. Cleaver said two students because of school close contacts from the bus because they are within three feet. L. Stern asked if anyone wished to vote on amending the Health and Safety Plan.

E. Rarick made a public comment as a parent of students in the school. He did not feel that his child should have to quarantine at home if someone decided not to wear a mask in the building. He said his child does not learn best virtually. He reminded everyone that the main goal was to keep all of the students in an in-person school setting. F. Kemmerer said his son was repeatedly sent to the nurse for a temperature check because he has allergies. J. Cleaver reviewed the information in the health and safety plan.

D. Bradley felt parents should have the choice to send their child to school with or without a mask on. R. Beltz questioned if there should be a permission slip for parents to complete so teachers know who should and should not have a mask on. J. Beers discussed the difficulty with permission slips and how enforceable and manageable it would be.

MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by R. Beltz to accept a physician exemption or parental exemption for students regarding masks.

Roll Call Vote:

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

VOTE: YES - 3 NO - 5 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion Failed

J. Beers asked if the administration could do a survey to poll parents and guardians on their feelings and ideas on this subject.

B Learning Loss

L. Stern discussed the approval of the learning loss candidates by separating them out from item 3B.

MOTION by L. Stern, SECONDED by J. Beers, to approve the following candidates for employment in accordance with the respective contracts:

JoLynn Gazo - High School Learning Loss - ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Louann Dietz - Middle School Learning Loss - 8th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Cody Schuler - Middle School Learning Loss - 8th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

Hallie Seiwel - Middle School Learning Loss - 7th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Sarah Dunchak - Middle School Learning Loss - 7th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

Sharon Focht - Middle School Learning Loss - 6th Grade ELA for the 2021-2022 School Year

Jennifer Kunkel - Middle School Learning Loss - 6th Grade Math for the 2021-2022 School Year

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

C Additional Employees

After discussion about the confidential secretary position and the burden the lack of assistance has been putting on the business office as well as J. Partenio and R. Karpowicz, R. Spinelli asked to bring forward the other two candidates for employment. B. Bowes felt A. Citro would be performing a lot of different functions based on the job description that was attached to the agenda. She agreed with the passing of the vote.

MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve the following candidates for employment in accordance with the respective contracts:

Amanda Citro - Confidential Secretary to the Assistant/Assistant to the Superintendent - Date effective October 15, 2021, at an annual salary of \$35,000 in the Act 93 Agreement, and prorated for the 2021-2022 school year.

Bryan Buffington - Music Department Head for the 2021-2022 School Year

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 2 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

D Homecoming Dance

D. Bradley made a motion to organize a committee to meet with the faculty and organize a Homecoming Dance. They discussed Act 65 and that no new motions should be added to the agenda. B. Bowes said a majority of the Board could vote to add the new items to the agenda. Members of the public mentioned that they had a private Homecoming Dance scheduled at Franklin Township.

7. Communications

A. Directors' Concerns

None at this time

B. Public Comment

A Member of the public mentioned a safety issue at the Elementary Center with the pick up and drop off of students.

W. Zlomsowitch thanked C. J Weiss for requesting the donation of chromebooks and thanked Mr. Holland for his service on the Board.

B. Shaner asked for an update on the curriculum on the website. J. Cleaver stated he would double check and email him. B. Shaner said he would like additional information on the SEL Curriculum.

B. Shaner asked what the goal and measurement for success would be for bullying at the District. L. Stern said he had not viewed the video on the situation with Ms. Rodrigues' student. He explained that any Board Member who has previous knowledge of the situation would be excluded from participating in any decision making on the case. He felt success with bullying would be no bullying. B. Shaner asked if that was officially written in a policy. L. Stern said no. J. Cleaver stated that the information on the school climate survey had the highest score in school safety. D. Bradley felt there should be a formal complaint form. B. Bowes said it was already discussed and was over a year ago. L. Stern said it should go through the chain of command from the student to the building and then from the building to the superintendent and then to the Board. B. Bowes felt if there was a form to complete, it may avoid litigation. J. Beers felt there was an issue with accurate documentation for past bullying instances. B. Bowes did not like the word "may" in the bullying policy. She would rather shall. B. Shaner felt they should be cautious with the word shall as it may lock you into a penalty from an HR perspective. R. Bowman felt some policies needed a grey area in order to make accurate decisions on situations.

B. Shaner asked about student representatives on the Board. J. Cleaver said the student representatives can give reports and have concern of putting students at risk with being asked questions. L. Stern said they have not had any student representatives with the Board ever since D. Bradley made a student cry.

B. Shaner asked how many students returned from cyber/charter schools. J. Cleaver said they just did the report at the Finance Committee Meeting and could be found online.

B. Shaner asked what liability the school board would have for having a school sponsored event with people not wearing masks. Atty. Filer said the Board has a policy in place so they are covered. B. Shaner said he wanted it to be enforced and have the members of the public not wearing masks be removed from the public meeting.

J. Bowman discussed some ongoing student issues in the Allentown School District and was concerned for the safety of the students at Lehigh.

C. Meeting Announcements

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

D. Adjournment

MOTION by N. Foeller, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to adjourn the Meeting.

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

The September 20, 2021 Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Rarick, Board Secretary
by Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary