

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Special Board Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

7:00 PM

Minutes

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order- A special meeting of the Lehigh Area School Board was held virtually on the above date and called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Stern- made an announcement that the board attempted to hold an Executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and contracts but they were unable to get that accomplished.

Mr. Bradley commented that the meeting did occur but that he felt there was dishonesty to the public.

Mr. Bradley asked Mrs. Karpowicz to try to contact Mrs. Gail Maholick with information to get into the meeting.

Mr. Bradley commented that he felt that he and Ms. Beers were blocked from the previous Executive session.

Mr. Foeller stated that he was allowed into the meeting at the same time as Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Stern looking for correspondence with Mrs. Maholick regarding details of getting into the prior meeting.

Ms. Beers commented that she activated the meeting was not allowed to enter until the host allowed her access.

Mr. Cleaver stated the reason for allowing access like this is to make sure that those attending the meeting were only those allowed to be part of the Executive session. Double checking participants to ensure that the information was not forwarded to someone outside of the group.

Mr. Bradley if you gave invitation to participants then you could just not let those in who were not allowed.

Mr. Bradley please at least give Gail the call in number for the board meeting.

Mr. Bradley commenting on being let into the meetings on time and proposed a motion for the host of virtual meetings to be run by Mr. Stern not Mr. Cleaver.

Motion to follow LASD policy that requires the President to host and run the board

Mr. Filer commented that this meeting is for personnel only. Mr. Stern does not have to recognize this motion.

Mr. Stern stating that this meeting is for Personnel only and the motion is not being recognized.

Mrs. Maholick has joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/> (7:10p.m.)
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Joseph Surridge, Interim Business Administrator		<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney Eric Filer, Solicitor	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rebecca Karpowicz, Recording Secretary	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV. Public Comment on Agenda- none submitted for the agenda

V. Personnel

MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Ms. Joy Beers to table the hiring of Janine Partenio until the board has seen all other candidates.

New motion was discussed by the board.

Audience members commented on the motion.

Table the Hiring of

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 4 NO - 5 Absent - _____ Abstentions - _____
 Motion denied

Mr. Bradley started to read the performance audit.

Mr. Foeller stated that there was no point in continuing to read the whole report.

A. MOTION by _____, SECONDED by _____ that Janine Partenio shall be hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at the pro-rated salary of \$47,000.00, all terms in alliance with the Act 93 agreement.

Hiring of Janine Partenio

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard Beltz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Mr. David F. Bradley Sr., Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 2 Absent - _____ Abstentions - 2_____
 Motion carried

- B. MOTION by _____, SECONDED by _____ to approve George’s Transportation Company, Inc. list of additional school bus drivers for the school year 2020–2021. (Enc. 1)

Mr. Bradley commented that we should have let the public have comment on the last item.

Mr. Bradley asked if the district reviewed all the driving credentials and met requirements.

Mr. Cleaver explained that the information presented has been looked over by Mr. George and himself.

Board members have further discussions.

George’s Transportation Bus Driver

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard Beltz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Mr. David F. Bradley Sr., Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 1 Absent - _____ Abstentions - 2
 Motion carried

- C. MOTION by _____, SECONDED by _____ to accept the resignation of the following employee:
 1. **Meghan Christman** – Confidential Secretary to the Business Administrator – effective October 9, 2020

Board members thank Meghan for her time while employed here.

Mr. Bradley asked how Meghan is related to Janine Partenio.

Mrs. Maholick asked if Meghan was leaving the district or just the position.

Mr. Cleaver thanked Meghan for her work here at the district.

Resignation

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - 0 Absent - ____ Abstentions - ____

Motion carried

Mr. Bradley asked how we were able to get a special board meeting together for personnel but not for transportation.

Mr. Bradley asked who made the recommendation on Motion D.

Ms. Beers asked how in the past this position was clearly thought to be important, how can this now be eliminated.

Mr. Stern answered that this was supposed to be discussed in the Executive session but could not at this time due to incidents that occurred in the Executive session earlier this evening.

Mr. Cleaver explained that there is going to be realignment of duties within the district.

D. MOTION by _____, SECONDED by _____ to eliminate the following Act 93 position for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

1. **Confidential Secretary to the Business Administrator** – effective immediately.

Elimination of Confidential Secretary to the Business Administrator

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley St., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - 0 Absent - _____ Abstentions - _____
 Motion carried

VI. Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment- one was submitted correctly but did not attend the meeting

Mr. Shainer - Mr Foeller said that he reviewed the resume of Janine Partenio, but did you review the other resumes? Mr. Foeller did not review the other resumes but agrees with the administration decisions. Would it be that hard to review other resumes -since the district is being watched right now.

Board members discuss the issue further.

Mr. Beltz thanked Brian for bring this issue up.

Ms. Bowes commented that this has been an issue of transparency not only to the board but the stakeholders. Contracts were signed without being read - this should have been a wakeup call for the district. It has been asked for information on bills be provided to the board, feel that this might be happening better now. The fact that the wire transfer was just stuck in with bills is ridiculous. Not sure how this could have been missed. Considering how this occurred and not bussing students. we need to come up with a way to give more information for informed decisions to be made. Five people agreeing without proper information.

Mr. Bradley replies to Ms. Bowes

Janine Partenio spoke to the board, introduced herself and provided her experience. She is not related to Meghan Christman and only related to Sue Salerno by marriage.

Mr. Bradley stated that Mr. Cleaver would be more trustworthy if he provided clear information.

Mrs. Maholick asked a question about bussing students.

Mr. Stern stated that this is a personnel meeting and bussing will be discussed at the October 26th meeting.

More discussion on the bussing issues and how we will address them at the regular board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A. MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Stern to adjourn the meeting.

TIME: _____ 8:15 p.m. _____

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca P. Karpowicz
Assistant/Recording Board Secretary

(Minutes of October, 14, 2020, includes Pages 1-7)

