

# Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting of School Board  
Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

**Executive Session @ 6:00 PM for Contract Negotiations and Personnel.**

## Minutes

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Call to Order** - A regular meeting of the Lehigh Area School Board was held in the Administration Building, Conference Room A, on the above date and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Joy Beers, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Ms. Patricia Denicola, Business Administrator	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor ( <b>Atty. Eric Filer</b> )	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Secretary	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

*\*\* Notice of Executive Session for personnel and negotiations.*

### Presentations/Recognition

**LASD Band Presentation** - Parent - Mrs. D'aché Zelrick

- Here tonight to highlight the triumphs of the Lehigh Area High School Band program.
- The band, led by Mr. Bryan Buffington, provides the musical counterpoint to the athletic program. The powerful performances raise the spirits and pulse of our fans and students alike. They regularly draw praise from the parents and students of other schools and community members. Mrs. Zelrick read the comments.
- The band goes above and beyond to represent the school, it's student body, staff, school board, and even the surrounding community across the country at every opportunity.
- Performed in parades and in Nashville. Recently played at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms game.

- The band has set its sights on performing at Walt Disney World.
- The band has a deep and long-lasting impact on each and every member.
- Three band members will be attending District band this year.
- Thank you to the band, Mr. B., the musical staff throughout the district and also to you, the school board, with your continued and full support.

## Public Comment on Agenda

### 1. Nathan Claypoole - Financial Expenditures

- Asked for financials of bullying at the schools. Three children attend our schools.
- Middle one was coming home from school with a student on the bus threatening to stab daughter in the eye with a sharp pencil. Talked with Mr. Sebelin and seemed to be taking care of the situation.
- Thought it was zero tolerance with bullying policy.
- Hearing things about bullying at the middle school. Heard that children got suspension. Should be expelled.

Mr. Bradley commented and said that there should be a formal written complaint.

Mr. Cleaver commented that the district investigates any information brought to us.

### 2. Gloria Bowman - Retirees

- Congratulated the people retiring. Had an opportunity to work with all of them over the many years. Dedicated to the district and have been gracious to colleagues and students. Wish all of them the very best. Will be hard to replace.

### 3. David Bradley - Financial & Committees

- Payment of Bills - 6.4 million dollars over the last two months. The lack of transparency and board oversight is destroying this district. Humble compliance to the Pennsylvania School Code and Lehigh school policy would resolve most of our issues. Asked to look at these bills and we were blocked. Not a single individual on this board signed into this office to look at these bills.
- Appointment of Committees - No conservative, rational, logical, reasonable, stakeholder, oath-holding people on this negotiations or personnel committee. These are meetings that you have without any minutes. Other people have asked to be on these committees, you blocked them.

### 4. Wilmer Everetts - Financial

- Appreciates the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- Address the board on financial issues and bills that may or may not have been paid.
- If someone would make a threat to the school and to the endangerment of our children, our students, and also the teachers. And the school would then need to be evacuated and police called. Would LASD be billed for the services rendered?

Mr. Cleaver said he is not aware that the borough would bill us. We've worked on many occasions with them. We have our own school police officers, as well.

- Not knowing who the perpetrator was, wouldn't the proper procedure be to evacuate the school for the safety?

Mr. Cleaver commented that there is an investigation that takes place and it depends on the investigation.

- Immediate action, in my opinion, would be to evacuate the school immediately. Are there any funds put aside in consideration made to any victims of alleged bullying or the alleged hazing and have any of those payments been made to date?

Mr. Cleaver commented there are no payments. We have services. We have social workers and we contract with psychologists. We have resources to offer.

### Communications

1. Superintendent's Report – *Mr. Cleaver*
  - January is school director recognition month. There are 4500 school directors that serve the commonwealth. They are unpaid, local volunteers that work many hours. Round of applause for former and current school directors.
  - Governor Tom Wolf will present his 2020-2021 state budget proposal on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Anxiously awaiting what he is recommending for the special education, cyber/charter school and mental health line items. This is his proposal, not the final budget.
2. Finance Report – *Ms. Denicola*
  - No report.

Mr. Bradley questioned why we aren't getting a financial report.

3. Board President's Report – *Mr. Stern*
  - No report
4. Leighton Memorial Library Report – *Mrs. Maholick*
  - Groundbreaking ceremony on February 19<sup>th</sup> to start the addition.
  - Will need to use back entrance to library during construction period.
  - The library will be open.
5. Legislative Policy Committee of PSBA Report – *Mrs. Spinelli*
  - Governor Wolf recently announced a new campaign aimed at expanding resources and the state's comprehensive support of mental health and related health care priorities. That include the need for more social workers in schools, something that we already have.
  - This week the House of Representatives considered legislation that would allow school districts to charge fees in responding to public record requests made for commercial purposes.
  - This week PSBA presented testimony to the house education committee regarding HB 1897 that requires school districts to offer full-time cyber education programs by the 2021-22 school year.
  - Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Governor Tom Wolf will present his 2020-21 state budget proposal. PSBA will provide complete coverage of the budget.

6. Title I Advisory Committee Report – *Mrs. Bowman*
  - Title staff met on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about the Teach Me to Read program for pre-school parents and the schedule for March 26<sup>th</sup>, a day in April, and two in May and possibly two in June. Will advertise with the Kindergarten registration.
  - Talked about a parent/faculty survey will be compiled and sent to parents of students being serviced through Title, week of March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parent Advisory Council will meet on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. before the PTO meeting.
  - Spring Title Night will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Mr. Sebelin reported that K-2 will have a program on dyslexia through PaTTAN.
  - Next meeting is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.
7. CCTI Report – *Mr. Foeller*
  - CCTI Joint Operating Committee has held two meetings since our last meeting, December 17<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - A number for CCTI students participated in the SKILS USA competitions. 57 students competed, 37 placed, 14 of those were gold medals and they'll proceed onto state competition.
  - 62 students attend the DECA competition, 31 qualified for the state conference.
  - CCTI has sent out there 20-21 budget proposal to member districts.
  - Currently in the middle of wave two of their Keystone Exams.
  - Hosted a FASFA day for parents preparing for student aid for college.
  - CCTI is developing a pool of potential instructors for their adult education program.
8. CLIU Report – *Mr. Wentz*
  - Meeting was cancelled in December and is rescheduled for Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.
9. Building/Grounds Report - *Mr. Holland*
  - No meeting.
10. Academic Affairs Committee Report – *Mr. Stern*
  - No meeting.
11. LCCC Report – *Mr. Krause*
  - LCCC recently entered into a partnership agreement with Amazon to provide a training center and apprenticeship program for 100 employees per year.
  - The winter semester saw a growth in credits, much higher than expected.
  - Lehighton is one of five school districts at LCCC with students enrolled in the early college program. Students can achieve a high school diploma and LCCC degree when they graduate from high school. Last year there were 17 students. 20 currently enrolled this year.
  - Lehighton's early college students that made the Dean's List: Bryanna Berger, Paige Gruber, Tatum Hartsell, Cornelia Perry, Rain Rims, Natasha Sitarchyk, Ryan Smith and Alyssa Williams.
  - Recommend that the board support the motion on the agenda this evening for the MOU with LCCC/Teacher in the Workplace.
12. Policy Committee Report – *Mr. Stern*
  - No meeting.
  - Policies on the agenda with the addendum noted by policy committee and Ms. Bowes.

- We will start the rotation of committees again in February.
13. Athletic Committee Report – *Mr. Wentz*
    - Both basketball teams are holding their own even though are made up of mostly underclassman. Girls’ recently had a big win over Blue Mountain.
    - The Coal Cracker Wrestling Tournament was held this past Friday and Saturday at our high school and elementary center with over 40 teams, 500 wrestlers plus another 200 JV wrestlers. Brought in approximately 3,000-4,000 fans. Congratulations to Rich Fronheiser, Alex Ziegenfuss, and Brett Gasker on their top 10 finishes.
    - As long as there is a moral majority of this board, you don’t have to worry about losing music or band in our school. Our Leighton Tribe Pride band remains undefeated.
  14. Wellness Committee Report – *Mrs. Maholick*
    - The Backpack Buddies program is continuing to provide food for the weekends for needy families.
    - Student numbers are increasing for breakfast and lunch.
    - Planning a health fair for May.

Mrs. Spinelli asked Mrs. Maholick to read, from her phone, what she was talking about because she is communicating with another board member during the meeting.

Mrs. Spinelli read the message.

Mr. Stern asked members to please refrain from texting members during the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Minutes of the November 25, 2019, regular meeting.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_ Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Foeller, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2019, reorganization meeting.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_ Motion carried.

**Financial Matter**

**Activities Funds** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the Lehigh Area High School and Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Fund for November and December 2019.

Mr. Bradley questioned the details behind the statements.

Mr. Cleaver commented the report being the same for years.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Payment of Bills** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the Payment of Bills for December 2019 and January 2020:

General Fund	\$ 3,627,685.87
--Benefits	\$ 44,604.47
--Payroll (November)	\$ 1,442,912.29
--Payroll (December)	\$ 1,311,988.35
--Debit Card	\$ 295.84
Food Service Fund	\$ <u>2,245.44</u>
	\$ <u>6,429,732.26</u>

Note: Members with questions or requesting a copy of any payment, please contact the Business Office prior to the scheduled meeting.

Mr. Bradley suggested tabling the payment of the bills until we have a financial report and meeting.

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 3 (J.B., D.B., G.M.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Reports** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the following reports:

- a. Expenditure Report
- b. Expenditure by Object Report
- c. Revenue Summary
- d. Treasurer's Reports
  - 1. General Fund
  - 2. Capital Reserve Fund
  - 3. Capital Projects Fund
  - 4. Food Service Fund

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Construction** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve payment on the following projects from the General Fund for a total of \$25,000.00:

1. Elementary Center

Lobar, Inc.- App. #28 and App. #29	\$ <u>25,000.00</u>
	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1(D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Per Capita/ Occ.** MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve exemptions from Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax per the attached lists.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Refunds** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to refund the following:

1. Occupational Tax for year 2019 in the amount of \$137.50 to Joseph Lutsko;
2. Occupational Tax for year 2018 in the amount of \$137.50 to Joseph Lutsko;
3. Occupational Tax for year 2018 in the amount of \$122.50 to Valerie Neal.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Pediatric Therapeutic Services** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller, to approve the agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services and Lehigh Area School District for school-based therapy services through June 30, 2020.

Board members discussed the motion regarding school psychologist services.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1(D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**CCTCC** MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to appoint the following delegates to the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee of Delegation  
Resolution:

1. **Tina Champ**, Delegate
2. **Melissa Wagner**, Alternate Delegate

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**School Physicians** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve a contract with Dr. Patrick Hanley, D.O., and Dr. Vanessa Rice, D.O., for the February 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020, paid as follows: \$6,000.00 stipend paid with signed contract and per exam fee of \$7.00 per physical exam and \$3.00 per Scoliosis examination, as recommended by the School Nurses.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Winter Credit Recovery** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve the Lehigh Area High School to offer a Winter Credit Recovery program for students at a cost not to exceed \$150 per class using the ELearn 21 system. There will be no cost to the district.

Board members discussed the motion.

Mrs. Howland explained the program.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Dyslexia Program** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve the agreement with Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and Lehigh Area School District for the Dyslexia Screening and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program Expansion.

Board members and Mr. Cleaver discussed the program.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

Audience member questioned the dyslexia program for the district.

Mr. Cleaver explained that it's a grant and what grades it pertains to.

**Donation Rod & Gun** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to accept the donation to the general fund of \$7,000.00 from the Bowmanstown Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Donation  
Griff's** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to accept the donation to the general fund of \$220.00 from Griff's Ale Haus & Grille to be used for Title I Reading Program at the Lehigh Area Elementary Center.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Donation  
Target** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to accept the donation to the general fund of a \$250.00 gift card from Target to be used at the Lehigh Area Elementary Center.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Donation  
Bo Tkach  
Foundation** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to accept the donation to the general fund of \$250.00 from the Bo Tkach's Under the Helmet Foundation to be used for the Lehigh Area High School Avidum Club Workshop.

Mrs. Howland explained the Avidum Club.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Donation  
United Way** MOTION by Mr. Foeller, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to accept the donation to the general fund of \$1,392.00 from United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley for Girls' Group (G2).

Mrs. Howland explained the G2 Club.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Termination  
of Lease** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to accept the notice of termination of lease between Bethany Wesleyan Church and Lehigh Area School District for use of the Lehigh Area Middle School as of March 31, 2020.

Mr. Bradley commented on the motion.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 1 (J.B.)  
Motion carried.

**MOU with Panther Valley** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Panther Valley School District and Lehigh Area School District for non-public student transportation.

Board members and Mr. Cleaver discussed the motion.

Audience members commented.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**MOU with LCCC** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lehigh Carbon Community College and the Lehigh Area School District for Teacher in the Workplace for the 2019-2020 school year.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**EC Remed. Program** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Elementary School After-School Remediation Support Program in ELA & Math. The program will be for students in Grades 2-5 and it will start on Monday, March 2, 2020, and finish on Thursday, April 2, 2020. It will be held Monday thru Thursday and run from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost will not exceed \$9,500.00. Funding is through Title I and no transportation is provided.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Tax Collector's Reports** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the annual Tax Collector's reports for East Penn Twp., Franklin Twp., Lehigh Borough, Parryville Borough, Mahoning Twp. and Weissport Borough. These reports are on file at the Administration office for your review.

Board members and Mr. Cleaver discussed the motion.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. Maholick that these reports are provided to the directors.

No action taken

**Personnel**

**Substitutes** MOTION by Mr. Foeller, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the attached list of candidates for the **2019-2020 Substitute List** pending clearances.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 (J.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Athletic/  
Ex. Curr.  
Hires** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the **Athletic** hires as recommended by the Athletic Committee and **Extra-Curricular** hires for the **2019-2020** school year.

Board members discussed the motion.

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 3 (J.B., D.B., G.M.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Courses** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the following requests for pre-approval of courses/Programs of Study for continuing education:

1. **Employee #1085** - January 6-March 21, 2020/Expressive Arts PK-4
2. **Employee #39** - March 18-May 6, 2020/Instructional Leadership
3. **Employee #39** - March 21-March 21, 2020/Technology for Administrators
4. **Employee #1439** - February 2-March 1, 2020/ An Introduction to Special Education and Exceptional Learners
5. **Employee #1439** - February 2-March 1, 2020/The History of Pennsylvania
6. **Employee #769** - April 1-June 12, 2020/Research Problems in Reading
7. **Employee #1393** - February 2-March 1, 2020/Classroom Instruction that Works

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**FMLA** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to acknowledge FMLA leaves for the following employees, not to exceed 12 weeks:

1. **Employee #1367** - effective November 20, 2019
2. **Employee #162** - effective December 18, 2019
3. **Employee #1102** - effective January 15, 2020

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Retirees Professional** MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. SPinellie to accept the intent to retire for the following professional employees, effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year (unless otherwise noted) under terms of their respective contract with eligibility of all retirement benefits:

1. **Lisa Barth** – Elementary Teacher – Hired July 22, 2002 – 18 Years of Service
2. **James Blakeslee** - Guidance Counselor – Hired August 20, 1984 – 36 Years of Service
3. **Martha Cox** – Elementary Teacher – Hired August 12, 1974– 46 Years of Service
4. **Beth Daubert** – Biology Teacher – Hired July 24, 2000 – 20 Years of Service
5. **Julie McHugh** – Family/Consumer Science Teacher – Hired August 8, 2008 – 12 Years of Service
6. **Jo Ann Schoenberger** – Elementary Teacher – Hired August 26, 2009 – 11 Years of Service
7. **Todd Serfass** – Elementary Teacher – Hired April 13, 1981 – 39.27 Years of Service
8. **Laura Welkey** – Music Teacher – Hired August 11, 2003 – 17 Years of Service

Mr. Cleaver thanked the retirees.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Retiree Support** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to accept the intent to retire for the following support employee under terms of their respective contract with eligibility of all retirement benefits:

1. **Patricia Lombardo** – Paraprofessional – Hired August 25, 2006 - 14 Years of Service – effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year

Mr. Cleaver thanked the retiree.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Resignations** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to accept the resignation of the following employees:

1. **Joseph Zarelli** – Head Tennis Coach – effective immediately.
2. **Richard Everett** – Part-Time Cleaner – effective January 9, 2020.
3. **Tina Blocker** – Part-Time Paraprofessional – effective January 17, 2020.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Sch. Journey Requests MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:

1. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** - March 17, 18, 19, 2020 (Snow Date: 3/20/20) - 7:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. - to travel to Jim Thorpe High School for Carbon County Band Festival (HS Budget)
2. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** - March 26, 27, 28, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. - to travel to Eastern York High School for Region V State Band (HS Budget)
3. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** - April 22, 23, 24, 25, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. - to travel to Kalahari Resort for PMEA All-State Band Festival (HS Budget)
4. **Aevidum HS (K. Miller)** - March 13, 2020 - 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Kutztown University for workshop (School Van)
5. **LAHS FBLA (K. Kotch)** - April 5-8, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Hershey for State Leadership (School Van)
6. **Grade 6-8 Envirothon (C. Knappenberger)** - May 6, 2020 (Rain Date: 5/9/20) - 8:10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Mauch Chunk Lake Park (MS Budget)
7. **LAMS Flute Ensemble (B. Hudlow)** - March 28, 2020 - 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. - to travel to Mason Lodge Lehigh to perform (School Van)
8. **LEAP (T. McCarroll)** - March 19, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - to travel to Lehigh Valley Auto Show (School Van)
9. **LAMS Jazz Ensemble (T. Weidner)** - March 20, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.-11:15 p.m. - to travel to Nitschmann Middle School (MS Budget)
10. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Maroon (J. Kunkel)** - May 21, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Scranton Railriders Games/Stadium (PTO Budget)
11. **5<sup>th</sup> Grade (J. Weiss/D. Schnell)** - May 20 & 21, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - to travel to East Stroudsburg University (PTO Budget)
12. **LAHS FCCLA (J. McHugh)** - February 9, 2020 - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. - to travel to the Summit Nursing Home (Student Transportation)
13. **LAMS 6<sup>th</sup> Sense Academic team (J. Kunkel)** - March 30 & 31, 2020 - 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - to travel to Panther Valley Middle School for competition (School Van)
14. **LAMS 7/8 Chorus (L. Welkey)** - May 26, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. - to travel to Knoebel's (Activities Account)
15. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** - March 6 & 7, 2020 - 7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m. - to travel to Moravian College for District 10 Jazz Festival (LAHS Budget)
16. **LAEC 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (M. Petit-Clair)** - May 19, 2020 - 8:40 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - to travel to Philadelphia Zoo (PTO Budget)
17. **LAHS FCCLA (J. McHugh/K. Bond)** - March 30, 31, & April 1, 2020 - 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Penn State for the FCCLA State Leadership Conference/Competition (HS Budget)
18. **Student Forum (K. Costenbader)** - February 7, 2020 - 7:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Parkland High School (School Van)

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_

Motion carried.

## Programs

### Use of Sch. Property

MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve Use of School Property for:

1. **LASD (Timothy Tkach)** - January 29, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - LAHS Auditorium - "Vaping" Community Program sponsored by St. Luke's
2. **PSP Photography** - March 26, 2020 - 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - LAEC Stage - Spring Pictures
3. **Boys' Basketball Parents Club (Vincent Mele)** - March 28, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - LAHS Gymnasium - Memorial Basketball Tournament
4. **Rhythm & Sole Dance Center (Patricia Breitfeller)** - June 13 & 14, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - LAMS Auditorium & Classrooms - Dress Rehearsal and Dance Recital
5. **LABC & 570 Sports (George Ebbert)** - March 22, 2020 - 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - LAHS Gymnasium - Wrestling Tournament
6. **FTAA (Michael Birnbaum)** - 1/28/20, 2/1/20, 2/18/20, and 2/22/20 - 5:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - LAMS Cafeteria - Baseball & Softball Signups
7. **Damian Mele Basketball Raffle (Patricia Ebbert)** - March 27, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - LAHS Lobby - Damian Mele Basketball Raffle
8. **Carbon County Leighton Chapter PIAA Softball Officials (Daniel Rossino)** - February 10, 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23, April 6, 20, May 4, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-9:00p.m. and 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - LAHS Classroom - Professional Development
9. **LAEC Book Fair/Art Show (Diane Brownmiller)** - April 2, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - LAEC Cafeterias, Hallways and Foyer - Book Fair/ Art Show
10. **EF Tours (Michael Feifel)** - February 20, March 19, April 23, May 18, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - LAHS Classroom - Group Meeting
11. **LAEC PTO (Nicole Collier Dick)** - February 3, 10, 24, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - LAEC Cafeteria - Daddy Dance Meetings
12. **LAEC PTO (Nicole Collier Dick)** - March 6, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. - LAEC Gymnasium & Cafeteria - Daddy Daughter Dance
13. **LAEC (Colleen Hoppes)** - March 3, 2020 (Snow Date: 3/4/20) - 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. - LAEC Gymnasium - Book Swap
14. **LAHS Drama Club (Jessica Schafer)** - January 27-April 5, 2020 - Various Times - LAHS Auditorium & Classroom - Musical Rehearsal/Drama Club
15. **LAHS Drama Club (Jessica Schafer)** - March 9-April 5, 2020 - Various Times - LAHS Auditorium & Stage - Musical Rehearsal and Show
16. **Leighton Athletic Booster Club (J.D. Light)** - March 13, 14, 15, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m., 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - LAHS & LAEC Gymnasiums - Basketball Tournament

Mr. Bradley questioned the Vaping program conflicting with the budget meeting.

Mr. Tkach responded to Mr. Bradley.

Audience members commented.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_

Motion carried.

**Policies Approved** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Approval of the following Lehigh Area School District Policies:

1. #201 – Admission of Students
2. #208 – Withdrawal from School
3. #906.1 – Title I Parent Complaints

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Student Teacher** MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to acknowledge the following student teacher for the spring semester 2019-2020:

1. **Carly Rinda** – Kutztown University – Art – LAHS

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 2 (J.B., D.B.) ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**President will conduct the appointment of the following positions\*:**

\*Committee members listed below are for 2019.

**A. Negotiations/Personnel Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**

**Appointees (4):** Mr. Stephen Holland  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli  
Mr. Larry Stern  
Mr. Wayne Wentz

**B. Budget/Finance Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**

**Appointees (3):** Mr. Richard Beltz  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli  
Ms. Joy Beers  
Mr. Nathan Foeller

**C. Building and Grounds Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**

**Appointees (3):** Ms. Joy Beers  
Mr. Stephen Holland  
Mr. Wayne Wentz

- D. Policy Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointees (3):** Mr. David Bradley, Sr.  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli  
Mr. Larry Stern
- E. Wellness Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointee (2):** Mr. Richard Beltz  
Mrs. Gail Maholick
- F. Leighton Memorial Library Board (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointees (2):** Mrs. Gail Maholick  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli
- G. Athletic Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointees (3):** Mr. Stephen Holland  
Mr. Larry Stern  
Mr. Wayne Wentz
- H. Legislative Policy Committee of PSBA (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointees (2):** Ms. Joy Beers  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli
- I. Advisory Committee of Title I (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointee (1):** Mrs. Gloria Bowman
- J. Academic Affairs Committee (December 2019 to December 2020)**
- Appointees (3):** Mr. David Bradley, Sr.  
Mrs. Rita Spinelli  
Mr. Larry Stern

Mr. Bradley volunteered for Personnel/Negotiations Committee.

Committees remain the same.

## Old Business for Discussion

Mr. Bradley stated we made an arrangement that when all four buildings were sold, that money was going to be set aside to pay off the debt. Where is it?

Ms. Denicola stated that on Enclosure 5 on the treasurer's report you will see the surplus proceeds account of \$816,250.14 is sitting in the bank. The funds from the sale of those buildings are in the general fund where school code requires them to be.

Audience members commented.

Ms. Denicola stated that the two buildings sold since she's been here have been put in that account. She cannot speak to where others were put before that.

Ms. Bowes asked about the motion to look into redaction software.

Mr. Cleaver commented that the information for redaction software was discussed in a meeting. He explained the three redaction software programs he's aware of.

Board members discussed redaction software.

## New Business for Discussion

Atty. Filer - Judge Serfass entered his decision on the Simon Campbell appeal. In the decision he ordered that 39 of the 53 emails were properly redacted. The remaining emails would need to be provided to Mr. Campbell in original form. Mr. Filer has all of the documents ready to go to Mr. Campbell. We have until the 29<sup>th</sup> should you want to appeal it. Needs direction from the board as how we would like him to handle this. We are complying with the court order to supply the information and all information regarding students has been completely redacted.

**Release Documents** MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli that we provide Mr. Campbell with the documents pursuant to Judge Serfass' Order.

Board member discussed the motion.

Audience members commented on the motion.

Mr. Cleaver and Atty. Filer both stated that we had asked the OOR to hold the hearing to avoid the appeals.

Further discussion of the motion took place.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

**Review** MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Ms. Beers to require a subordinate  
**Records** administration to provide an amicable access and ample time to review retained records as required by Pennsylvania School Code 518.

Board members discussed the motion.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion carried.

Ms. Beers – I would like to resign as treasurer. I will send out written documentation of this. I would like February 14<sup>th</sup> the last official day where my electronic signature is used. I’m hoping, Larry, that you’ll lead a nomination now. I think three weeks is enough time to do the proper paperwork, get all that put in order. Quite frankly, the sorts of things I’ve been hearing in the last month of students potentially getting harmed has upset me so very much and I’m not part of the board majority. So, I don’t feel that I’m making decisions here and yet my signature is being applied to documents. And, I’m really not comfortable with that anymore.

Mr. Bradley questioned the district using Joy’s signature.

Ms. Beers – They have an electronic signature of several individuals. I believe it’s myself, Larry, and Patty and those three signatures in unison are applied to financial documents including checks.

Further discussion took place regarding signatures.

**Resignation** MOTION by Mrs. Maholick, SECONDED Mr. Bradley by to accept the resignation  
**of Treasurer** of Joy Beers as Treasurer for the Lehigh School Board as of February 14, 2020.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 1 (J.B.)  
Motion carried.

Mr. Bradley nominates himself as treasurer, seconded by Ms. Beers.

Mr. Wentz nominates Nathan Foeller as treasurer, seconded by Mr. Stern.

Mr. Bradley commented on the nomination.

Mr. Foeller commented on the nomination.

Audience members commented.

Roll Call Vote:

	Mr. Bradley	Mr. Foeller	Absent	Abstention
Ms. Joy Beers, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	<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"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: D.B. - 3 N.F. - 5 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Foeller is elected as Treasurer.

Mr. Stern added Mr. Foeller to the Finance Committee and removed Ms. Beers.

**Directors' Concerns**

1. Discussion Requests by Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr.

Mr. Bradley declined so that the people could speak.

**Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment**

1. **Bernadette Rodrigues**

➤ There is an unchecked system in the Middle School. Son is a special needs student. He is receiving support with the I.U. Sites Program, student psychologist and he has recently escalated because of bullying. Asked son if he wanted to be homeschooled and his answer was yes. Easiest decision made for son knowing that he is facing being bullied without being supported in school. There was a Times News article that stated that Lehighton and zero cases of bulletin and Panther Valley also had zero and Tamaqua reported 12. I'm wondering how this is possible? Now knowing that unless I report to Safe2Say or report it in a form. When this child returned from his suspension, my son was being upset again by the same student. I can't continue to put him in an environment where the administration is letting the children govern themselves. Pays a tutor and a psychologist weekly. Can't see putting children like this back into our school system to make it an unsafe place. Try to take a look at what is going on at the schools and listen to what the children are saying.

## 2. Barbara Bowes

- We have some serious issues here. These children are our future. We have to do better by them.
- I read that the climate study was done and it should have been back the middle of November.

Mr. Cleaver – November was when it was made available. We will be doing that after PSSA's. It's already set up. Information will be out in May. They recommended fall and spring. It's on PDE's website.

- In regards to the Times News article, we had two incidents of bullying reported in 17-18. What I hear from parents is reporting to an administrator should be reporting but apparently it's not. The community is getting the fact that they need to do a formal, written complaint. It's just a shame it had to come to this. The child that got injured in the bathroom, you're not gonna stop all of that. Also my understanding that the child that caused this is still in school. Isn't that what BHA is for? There has been comments that this child has been hurting other students since Kindergarten.

Mr. Cleaver – Unfortunately we can't give information out when it involves the health and welfare of our students.

Audience member speaking about grandson being hurt by another student.

Audience members and board members commented.

Mr. Cleaver explained the Safe2Say process including the app. It's been out for a year and it will be sent out again.

## 3. Jessica Wagner

- My son was hurt on November 25<sup>th</sup>. I received a call from the nurse that he came to the nurse's office with a headache. My son could've lost his life. Taken to the hospital and he was Medivaced to Lehigh Valley. He could still have other issues later on down the road. They do show that people that have head injuries when they're younger can end up getting Alzheimer's a lot earlier. Other than going to the police, I feel he tried to talk me out of things. He said we can't put an 11 year old in jail. I heard all he got was a 3-day suspension and for a while he was in my son's class. They transferred him to another class but they still have lunch and recess together.

Audience members commented.

Board members commented.

Atty. Filer explained the expulsion process.

**Larry Wittig** - Tamaqua resident

- Here to support Bernadette Rodrigues and her son. I came here to support her and 90% of what I've heard over the past 3 hours is bashing back and forth. I have no reason to think that everybody up here is not honorable and is here for the right reason. There is a student who is a problem for some people and there are 3 or 4 students that have been the recipient of this student's wrath. School Districts have to educate students regardless of where they're going to be. Still obligated financially to educate them.

Mrs. Maholick asked Mr. Wittig what he would do in his school district with this situation with Bernadette?

Larry Wittig - We have our own crosses to bear. We take this very seriously. From a board perspective, our board does not get involved with the minutia. We hold our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent accountable for making decisions at the lower level. If we have parents coming to us, we look to the Superintendent in handling that. That's why we hire administrators.

**4. Ryan Bowman**

- I don't know where this school district is going. The tension in this room and at board meetings has taken away from the education. I'm a veteran and run a non-profit that was founded in 2015 called Pennsylvania Outdoor Veterans. Transparency is everything. If the taxpayers want to know the bills, show it to them. There's nothing to be hidden here. Patty has come in and you've taken on a complete mess. Fiscal transparency is an absolute must. As far as the hazing incident and the child with a head injury, I hope this board would certainly take into consideration that those behaviors are not tolerated in this school district. School districts should look at a confidentiality policy for board members.

**5. Tammy Cook - Declined (Spoke from audience earlier)**

**6. Wilmer Everetts**

- In the event of a lawsuit filed against the Lehigh Area School District, where are the funds appropriated to satisfy the judgement against the school should that be the case?

Mr. Cleaver commented that the school district has insurance.

- Are your employees all aware of the whistleblower's act? Are they all informed of that? You may need to educate your employees. If you hear something, say something. You shouldn't be afraid.

Mr. Cleaver commented that we do presentations in the beginning of the year with reporting.

- I'm hearing complaints that several staff members are complaining that they are afraid to come forward with information.

Mr. Cleaver commented that he has never turned anyone away when they have asked to see him.

- Discussed the alleged bomb threat at the middle school.

Board members and audience members discussed the alleged hazing incident.

7. Frank Tamburri

- Discussed the alleged bomb threat.

**Adjournment**

**Next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**

MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - \_\_\_\_\_

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia J. Denicola  
Board Secretary

(Minutes of January 27, 2020, includes Pages 1 through 22.)