

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Special Board Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - A special 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 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	☐	X
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	☐	X
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	☐	X
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member (via phone)	X	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Vice President	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	☐
Ms. Patricia Denicola, Business Administrator	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor (Atty. Eric Filer)	X	☐
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Secretary	X	☐

Mr. Cleaver stated that this is a special meeting that was advertised and also a notice was sent Thursday, June 13th at 12:00 p.m. notifying the school board that there was a Finance Meeting on Wednesday, June 19th and also a Special Board Meeting today, Thursday, June 27th at 6:30 p.m. to approve the budget and also other business that may come before the board.

Public Comment on Agenda

Financial Matter

2019-2020 Budget MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to approve the final General Fund budget (PDE-2028), **\$43,891,495**, for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (1.0 mill real estate tax increased proposed).

Ms. Denicola explained the budget. Budgeted revenues of \$41,361,426 and that indicates a budget shortfall of about 2.5 million dollars. The 2019-20 budget compared to the current year to date 2018-2019 actual expenditures is a 1.3% increase. From the 2019-20 to 2018-19 budget, it's a 7.86% increase.

Ms. Denicola also explained that a school board director has prepared their own version of a budget. The budgeted expenditures are just under 40.9 million dollars. Ms. Denicola does not believe that 40.9 million dollar budget is attainable due to contractual obligations and known and expected increase in health care, PSERS, special education, charter school and other costs.

The 2019-20 budget was built upon salaries and benefits, as per active collective bargaining agreements as well as an analysis of both prior year expenditures and current year to date expenditures on other costs.

Mr. Stern thanked everyone involved in the budget process.

Mrs. Maholick made a motion to adopt the balanced budget which includes a small tax reduction and avoid the use of the general budgeted expenditures.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Denicola explained that there is a 1 mill tax increase within the budget. Based upon the average assessment district wide of \$39,604, that equates, on average for the district wide, \$59.41 of an increase in the tax bill. Also, on the agenda is approval of the Homestead/Farmstead Resolution. This will give each approved Homestead/Farmstead a reduction of their tax bill of approximately \$266.

Board members discussed the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 1 ABSENT - 3 ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

**Homestead/
Farmstead** MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the 2019-2020 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion – Resolution #18/19 - #13.

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐	☐	☐
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Vice President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	☐	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - ABSENT - 3 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Personnel

Resignation MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to accept the resignation of the following employee:

1. **Jessica Bruch** – Elementary Teacher/Reading Specialist – Effective August 20, 2019

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - ABSENT - 3 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Retirements MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to accept the irrevocable letter of intent to retire as per the MOU agreed upon on June 24, 2019, from the following employees:

1. **Avril Guardiani** – School Nurse – Hired May 14, 1984 – 35 Years of Service
2. **Coleen Harleman** – School Nurse – Hired June 13, 1988 – 31 Years of Service

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - ABSENT - 3 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion

1. Sale of Franklin

Ms. Denicola stated that there is an RFP for real estate services that will be advertised and issued next week.

New Business for Discussion

Directors' Concerns

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

Mr. Holland thanked Ms. Denicola for a great job.

Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, July 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - ABSENT - 3 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, _____

Patricia J. Denicola

Patricia J. Denicola
Board Secretary

(Minutes of June 27, 2019, includes Pages 1 through 4.)