

Lehighton Area School District

Lehighton, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting of School Board
Monday, March 26, 2018, at 7:00 PM

**Executive Session Immediately
Following Meeting for Personnel**

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Lehighton Area School Board was held in the Administration Building, Conference Room A, on the above date and called to order at 7:00 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	X	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Vice President	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	☐
Mr. Brian Feick, Business Manager	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor	X	☐
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Secretary	X	☐

Presentations

Marine Corps Educators Workshop - Mrs. Jennifer Shober-Steigerwalt, Mr. Cody Schuler - LAHS Faculty Members

Mr. Cleaver introduced Mr. Cody Schuler.

- Mr. Schuler is a Mathematics teacher at the high school. Mrs. Shober-Steigerwalt and Mr. Schuler had an opportunity to travel to Parris Island, South Carolina for 2 and a half days to observe what the Marine Corps is about and what their recruits go through. Mr. Schuler showed a PowerPoint while describing his experience.
- Introduced to the infamous yellow footprints. Mr. Schuler showed a video clip of their introduction.

- The first day was a rough day, introduced to the drill instructor. Saw 13 weeks training in 2 and a half days.
- Started out with receiving – medical and one phone call, introduced to the housing and discipline they go through.
- Ate at the mess hall and was able to talk to recruits.
- Traveled on the bus -- was not allowed to talk or look around.
- Listened to the ceremonial band. They have a jazz band, a White House band, etc.
- Went through training—safety of the weapons.
- 35 teachers/guidance counselors from Harrisburg area and 35 teachers/guidance counselors from Albany area.
- Participated in the obstacle courses.
- Able to see the graduation ceremony
- It was a wonderful experience. Will be able to give the students a better idea as to what the armed forces are about. Currently working on getting a panel of Lehighton graduates who have enlisted or are in active duty to come and talk to current students.

Public Comment on Agenda

1. Gloria Bowman – XIV., Letter, Pg. 12

- I'm just wondering the rationale behind a robocall to parents for opting out of PSSA's. Information is already provided when letters go home to parents about opting out for religious reasons or even serious medical issues. Schools across the United States have had standards of measure in place for many, many years. I think I even took IOWA's back in the 50's. They've been in place by state departments of education and legislatures, not school boards. Prompting a greater emphasis on opt out options, I personally believe is counterproductive to a student's learning as well as students being about to see their own individual growth. The process for opting out is very clear when parents receive the information. They need to either write a letter or sign a form. They also must come in and review the test with the principal or designee which takes quite a bit of time. Sometimes when the parents have gone through the testing, they've changed their minds, most times they have not. So students need to be placed in an alternative setting when other students are taking PSSA's. In my own experience I've actually had students say to me why do I have to sit here and not participate in PSSA's. This year, as you know, Pennsylvania state altered the number of the tests taken and time so not as much time is taken out of classroom instruction. I do not think it would be helpful to place more of an emphasis on opting out rather than supporting the newly designed model, especially when a process is already in place for parents to have students opt out. So, I respectfully ask the board to consider these points and the type of message you wish to send to parents and students about measurements of standards before voting on this agenda item.

2. Barbara Bowes – Motion 10 F.

- It says the board of school directors of the Lehighton Area School District direct the school's administration and solicitor to refer board members to the proper channels for responding to any information requests. I find this kind of vague and I'd like to know what information requests would a board member not be able to get as a board member and what are the proper channels? That's my question to the board. What does this motion mean? Does anybody want to answer that? I don't know if you're allowed to.

Mr. Bradley – Larry, would you like to answer that?

Mr. Stern – It's usually not a question and answer session but if you want to answer you can feel free.

Mr. Bradley – We have every right to answer any public comment at any time. So, we appreciate you coming out. It's hard to speak up and thank you. So, what's happening is as board of directors are asking for information, they're being told that they have to file a right-to-know which means that in the process, in our school policy currently, and school policy does not supersede PDE law and that school policy says that a right-to-know needs to be required therefore it has to go through a certain procedure. It will go to the Right-to-Know officer, maybe an extension of 30 days, maybe the solicitor will need to redact things and charge the district for that service prior to a board of director getting it. Those restrictions are what they are trying to reinforce here with this motion and I think that will be discussed heavily, stay tuned.

➤ Because, it doesn't make any sense to me.

Mr. Bradley – You're right, it's an obstruction. It doesn't, but we'll get there. Thanks for stepping up though. Do you have anything else to say pertaining to that because you still have time?

➤ No, I'm good.

3. David Bradley - VIII-B, C, X-F, G, J, K, M.

➤ As a citizen and board member, I met with the business manager last week and today. He was very helpful and it was a very informational session, very informative. PDE code Section 6 is quite clear and documents the board responsibility and duty of the school board and all their members to be accountable to the district which is the people inside this room and out there, parents, students, taxpayers and they are supposed to be accountable for all district funds. I attempted to do my duty for the nearly 6 million dollars this district is slated to spend this month. I was with several other board members and we tested it on several levels and to the requirements under PA school code was not met. So, prior to authorizing a payment, we have to verify that payment is legal, that it meets the requirements and that documentation has been presented to us so that we can authorize it. It was not met. It lacked the same accountability that has been discussed in many audit reports that I have on my desk. And, it is not what most households would even use to verify whether or not you paid a bill. So, I recommend the board reduces the personal liability, and we are personally liable for this, and implement controls as recommended in all those audits to be better stewards of district funds. The next thing I just wanted to mention is the district is asking to hire police force without the time for us, as board members, to allow the people the opportunity to discuss it with other options that may be available. And, before we create a police force inside of our school, that should be reviewed at least by the people, the community, another opportunity for robocall. And, the board's motion to restrict individual board members from open access to information is counterproductive to an open board and open board meetings. It's also counterproductive to case law we presented that shows a judge allowed the district to provide un-redacted information in total to the school board members.

Communications

1. Superintendent's Report – *Mr. Cleaver*
Update on security throughout the district.

Mr. Cleaver – Just to give a little bit of background to the individuals who aren't on the board so you know some of the communication that has gone back and forth.

September (February) 14th

The district set up a meeting on the morning following the tragedy in Parkland, Florida. At this meeting we reviewed our Emergency Operation Procedures (EOP). In addition, we had discussions regarding the role of a school resource officer if approved. At that time, we were looking to propose it to the Borough of Lehigh. So, we had attendance here in the morning and I have to give kudos and thanks to the Lehigh borough especially Chief Biechy. He came out here and weekly conversations with the district regarding any safety concern or safety issues. I express our thanks and our gratitude to them for the amount of time they assisted with us over the last several months plus.

February 15th, I emailed out a response to the board and media in relation to our meeting that was held earlier in the morning. I mentioned that it was important for the students to know that they play an important role in keeping our students and school safe. We then were contacted by the state police from the Lehigh and Hazleton barracks that they will have increased patrols around the buildings. I encouraged them to take time and come in the buildings as part of this process. I do know that at East Penn Elementary school the state police did actually show up there and did a walk through and put a name to a face and introduced themselves to the office staff. So I thought that was great. Thank you for them for doing the extra effort and showing up and letting them know they do have the support there.

February 20th, we met with state, local and federal officials to discuss information that the district received. During this meeting, it was encouraging to hear the words from federal and state officials that they are fully confident on how our district is handling the issues and plans moving forward. I think that's one of the misconceptions with the FBI, you think Washington D.C., actually, there's a group in Allentown, a group in Wilkes-Barre, a group in Scranton, so there's a lot of local type FBI agents around here and we are fortunate enough to have a relationship now with them as well as they are encouraged by their groups to increase their patrols and involvement with school safety. And, even as recently as last week, we had conversations with them.

February 22nd, a document went out to parents regarding the measures we take to address emergency related issues. The three (3) areas we touched about were: 1) relationship with local and state emergency officials; 2) we talked about the district preparedness training. (Board) In your FYI packets you'll notice that there is a pamphlet that was sent out when we did our training here from the state police and that was handed out as a resource as well. 3) request for SRO to Borough.

February 28th, an email was sent out to the board referencing the option of the School Police Officer(s) that are on your agendas today. Another area listed in this email was the reunification process. Listed in your FYI packets is also a part of the reunification process that we talked about. When we met with the parents, that was one of the big things we found discussing this and from the information we had from the tragedy is that the reunification process really has to be looked at in many districts and that is one of the areas we talked about when we met with PTO's and

administration and parents as well and went over our reunification process. There is certain locations at each elementary school and also at the middle school and high school in the event there is an emergency or an evacuation and that plan moving forward. Also in this email we mentioned, even though some individuals want more information regarding certain situations, there was some information on social media and I will tell you that the FBI has had access to everything that was posted on social media and who is in charge of the pages. They are aware and we forward anything that comes across our desk that we feel is brought to our attention as being forwarded to the FBI for them to be made aware of. I know we've had several parent meetings within the district about some of the things that were being posted on social media and that's one of the biggest avenues we think we need to address is that giving information to us is different than putting information on Facebook® and we use it as a fish that was caught that was 6 inches, then it was 10 inches, then it was foot and so on. So, the rumors we really want to encourage for people not to post things on social media without knowing the facts because a lot of them are inaccurate and may not even be dealing with the local district. With that too, we talked about there is family educational rights and privacy acts. A lot of parents want to talk about individual students they feel are posting things and, unfortunately, as a district those students' rights are protected. We can't give information to parents even though they request it wanting to know what happened to so and so as a student. Even something simple as an altercation in school, when a parent asks what happened to the other student, what did you do to the other student for any type of punishment. Well, we can't tell you that, you don't have the right to know that. I know that's not what they want to hear but all that is protected in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

March 1st, an email was sent to the board updating them on safety. This included all levels and a brief description of what was taking place throughout the district in means of school safety. Also on this date, we registered for our administration team and school psychologist to take part in a webinar on best practices in school threat assessment on March 6th. So, that is another push by the state, to not so much emergency response plans, but school threat assessment. What do you do in the event you feel there was a threat by a someone whether it be a student, a parent or somebody else, how do you assess the situation. So, PSBA and PASA have come together and we are really looking at school threat assessments. It's more of a testing procedure for the students or individual who is making the threat to find out if it is a true threat, what were they thinking when they may have posted something or said something. That is part of the process moving forward.

March 12th, as part of our district in-service, we were fortunate enough to have the state police officer offer a program to our staff on Active Shooter Threats. I think we received lots of positive feedback from that presentation, not only from the school perspective, but when they are with their families out in restaurants and those types of things, movie theaters, to look at the situations around them. In your FYI packets you'll find that presentation from the state police. They gave us a double-sided flyer.

March 16th, administration had a follow-up with state and again federal officials and we have created an open dialogue and we continue notifying them.

March 20th, there was a brief message sent out to parents at the high school and middle school notifying them that the local police were in buildings to be visible and that this will be happening on a more regular basis. As part of this notice, we also mentioned about the importance of talking to their children and the importance of bringing concerns to the attention of an adult. So the students, of course, they would see the police walking through the buildings at the middle school and high school and they would start thinking something was going on and really what we were doing was just walking around, giving the students an opportunity to meet the officers that are

around here on a daily basis and it doesn't mean that just because there is a school police officer on-site that there's an issue. So, we sent a message out to high school and middle school parents.

March 22nd, we had eight (8) staff members planning to attend a program at the I.U. Preventing School Shootings (Training for Professionals). The presenter was Peter Langman. There is another packet of information regarding this individual in your FYI packets. Unfortunately, like all other times, the weather did not cooperate with us and we did reschedule. We are waiting for the I.U. to reschedule this. He is a very highly recommended individual to discuss with professionals about preventing school shootings. We were fortunate to get him the date we did but with the weather, we are trying to reschedule that with the I.U. I'm sure, Wayne, at your I.U. meetings they will bring that up.

So, just to continue, just to give an idea of some of the things that are being done at each individual level, I think it's important for the people that are here and also the board to know some of the things we are doing and some of the things we have done in regards to school safety. So, first we'll start with the elementary level. Of course, we have monthly fire drills which are required. We also have lockdown drills that have increased and awareness has increase over the last two (2) months. We have teachers practicing and talking to their students in regards to school safety. We talked to students about safety and the important role of reporting any type of information to an adult. We've had staff meetings talking about our School Safety Procedures and some adjustments had to be made and tweaked. We also met with PTO's and made them aware of the procedures and processes that take place. And one of the things we did for the elementary levels, because of their locations, is we reached out again to let people aware of the reunification sites to make sure they were still aware that they are a reunification site if we are ever evacuated.

At the middle school, the entire staff and student body was in the auditorium to discuss school safety. In this meeting with students and staff, talked about the lockdown procedure that was discussed and it was also stressed to them about not sharing procedures or certain processes online. That's one thing that people go back and forth with is how much of your emergency plan do you share with the public because you never know, that person sitting in the public may be sitting there studying your emergency plan. So that is a discussion that continues to go back and forth. I think by sharing it with the students, it's a good start to let them know what their responsibilities are and what we expect of them. And again, expressing that, you really shouldn't discuss things online about the emergency procedures. There has been lockdown drills conducted. The Lehighton police continues to do walkthroughs. We talked about the reunification process with the middle school PTO. There's a crisis team at the middle school. They talked about fire drill procedures. One of the things at the middle school they'll do when there are fire drills they'll actually block off a hallway so that the students are trained to go to that hallway, but what do they do if the fires in that hallway or what do they do if the fires in that stairwell. So, they do certain trainings and drills to help them realize that if that's the case, they have to make an alternate path. They talked about active shooter procedures; they talked about the reunification plans. We do have teachers and administrators that are NIMS certified which is a national emergency management system response. We also discussed options for additional safety in the event of a door not locking or a door lock is shot out. Fighting chance solutions.com, again in your FYI packets. We are getting samples of a product sent to us as part of a continued effort to increase safety. I did talk with Mrs. Evans. This came out of their meeting. There is a product called "The Sleeve" that is out. This product slides overtop of the door contraption on the top of your classroom door that swings out. The sleeve simply slides over that and what it does is an extra sense of security where if someone would pull on your door, even if the door wasn't locked, it is enough to keep that door pretty solid. It's something that's simple, it's something that's easily accessible, it's something that anyone could be taught how to do. Some of the districts that do

have them, they have them right next to the door or their wood shops have made a holder for them for next to their door. It will not even allow fingertips to get through the door. Samples will be presented to the building and grounds committee as a possibility for us. These work for doors that open out. They don't work for office doors that open in. There is another product for that. Thank you to the middle school crisis team for doing some research on that website.

At the high school level, several faculty meetings to discuss and evaluate the safety procedures. Staff has been speaking with their students about safety concerns and letting them know we depend on them for information to prevent tragic situations. Staff and students have gathered to be addressed by the administration to assure all rumors, threats, and speculations are turned over to local, state and federal officials for review. On Saturday, February 24th, I have to thank Mrs. Howland and Mr. Hauser for taking time on a Saturday to meet with a school resource officer out of the area and wanted to go through our process and do a walkthrough in the building about security and came up with some great ideas and great plans that we plan to address moving forward. They spent several hours with that individual and got some great information. School psychologist have also been part of our team meeting with students and parents/guardians if need be. Again, weekly correspondence is taking place with the emergency officials, not only with local level, but state and federal level as well.

Some additional information, I think it's important for individuals to know and the board as well, we have very in-depth camera system throughout the district. Our system is set up so that all cameras right now at the high school, middle school, soon-to-be elementary center, administration office and stadium can be viewed at any location. At any time, I can pull the cameras up whether I'm at my house at night, whether I'm in my office as well. The whole system of 124 cameras can be viewed at any location which is a great resource. We've been in contact with the local police, we are planning to get them access. They have laptops in their car, it's a big program, so we need to make sure their laptops can have the program loaded. The district has tu-way radios throughout the district. We have a total of 20 right now. We also have these means of communication throughout all the outlying school buildings. There is a repeater on the middle school that allows us to have our tu-way radio system sent out farther to where East Penn and Mahoning and Franklin are also able to communicate on the tu-way radio system. We use these at sporting events or large events that are outside. We have alternate means of communication, not just cell phones. Emergency phone – we have a wifi phone in the event that we have issues with Verizon or AT&T. Another program we are looking at is called "Stop the Bleed". This is also in your FYI packets. It's a program that talks about putting a tourniquet on a simple wound. This is something that districts are looking at. Geisinger offers this program for free to school districts. It talks about something simple as applying a tourniquet to save somebody's life. It doesn't have to be in school, it can be a group of kids out in the woods camping and a student gets cut or falls and has a major bleed. This is something that is a life-long process that would benefit them well beyond their days in school. We also do bus evacuation drills every year which is required.

That's a brief summary of some of the safety issues. I know it's a hot topic right now, rightfully so, for school districts. There is a motion on the agenda about school police force, SPO, School Police Officers that we are recommending to be able to move forward with. And, again, I hope the board understands that this is just an effort to increase the safety of our students, our staff, and everyone here and it's just another option for us to consider.

Mr. Stern – I don't think you touched upon the reaction from the borough with our proactive approach of going to the borough.

Mr. Cleaver – For the school resource officer?

Mr. Stern – Yes, sir.

Mr. Cleaver – No, I did not. When we first originally talked about a school resource officer, I was going to bring that up at the motion, but I'll discuss it now. When we talked about that, when we proposed to them us paying 80% of the full cost for the school resource officer and then wishing that the borough would pick up 20%. I did submit a letter. In the letter it talked about why we felt 20% for the borough. We did feel that having 77 days of an additional officer would be a benefit to them. I do understand that they have vacation days, so it may not have been the full 77 days but there was a benefit for them. At that time, the borough requested for the district to pay 100% of that position which would be over \$100,000 a year for that position because it was under the salary, the benefits and the other employment costs. That's why the email was sent with the district looking for other alternatives. There are districts locally that do have their own school police force. Pleasant Valley is one, Hazelton is another and there are some other smaller districts. So, we are looking at this as being an option for us. How that came about is because with the school resource officer not being an option, we wanted to look at something else as soon as we could.

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Cleaver, when the state police came out, they normally encourage the board to be included in that meeting and discussion. Why weren't they included?

Mr. Cleaver – At the time, it was my understanding it was for staff only. I do know you sent an email at 6:57/58 that morning I believe the presentation was going on at 9:00 a.m. requesting to monitor that presentation. At the time, I didn't have any access to the presenter and the presenter was only aware that there was going to be...

Mr. Bradley – The days before, the board asked to be included when they did come and because of the safety issues that we are seeing within the schools, not only to have this guy come in but at the same time to be included and they encourage it.

Mr. Cleaver – The only request I had from you was at 6:57 in the morning, that morning and I do know there was an email sent weeks prior to that so not having enough time to let the presenter know that maybe someone from the board or public was available. And, I also...

Mr. Bradley – I was told, I was told that we were not invited and we were told not to come and actually the secretary said that you specifically said you did not want them there and not be invited.

Mr. Cleaver – I did not want anyone from the public to be there. That is correct because the presenter was not aware of anyone from the public being there. In-service days are reserved for staff members and I don't think it's fair to a presenter not knowing that the public was coming. And, also...

Mr. Bradley – The presenter asked for the school board members to arrive.

Mr. Cleaver – I think when you also ask the school police officer to continue to give you a copy of the presentation and he kept telling you, from my understanding, almost 15 times in that conversation that it was not a document that they were able to release. That it was copyrighted.

Mr. Bradley – He sent it to me.

Mr. Cleaver – I think that is the important thing of knowing.

Mr. Bradley – What's the important thing to know?

Mr. Cleaver – That the state police officer told you that the presentation they did is copyrighted and was not going to share.

Mr. Bradley – Correct. But, he did get us the information and we appreciate it.

Mr. Cleaver – He gave you a copy of the presentation?

Mr. Bradley – He gave us the information and we were able to go to these meetings and we are able to go to any, citizens are encouraged to attend these state police presentations. They have a minimum requirement of a hundred people. They like as many people as possible to see this information so that the district can be informed because it is through that community that we are safer.

Mr. Cleaver – I don't think then—you must have talked to someone different than I did. Because when I talked to the presenter, he told me that it would be up to the district, because they do it for school districts, to give permission to people in the public.

Mr. Bradley – So, if it's up to you to give those people permission, why did you not include your board when it's recommended by the state police to do so.

Mr. Cleaver – Because no one requested to be part of it until 6:57 a.m. that morning and I didn't think it was fair to the presenter.

Mr. Bradley – We're the ones who told you to do this.

Mr. Cleaver – Told me to do what?

Mr. Bradley – To bring this guy in and hold it.

Mr. Cleaver – The board did?

Mr. Bradley – The board did.

Mr. Cleaver – No you did not.

Mr. Bradley – I wrote you a letter...

Mr. Cleaver – No you didn't.

Mr. Bradley – I wrote a letter...

Mr. Cleaver – The request for this presentation was done way before any letter, Mr. Bradley, that you wrote. You may not understand it, but actually Mrs. Howland was the one and Mrs. Ebbert are the ones that brought it to our attention and we were fortunate enough that on that date we had an in-service day. So there was nothing you did, Mr. Bradley, that brought that presenter to this district.

Mr. Bradley – Fantastic. So, when I met with the PTO, we asked them about their understanding of certain threats that occurred that were written about in the paper and whether or not or how they were informed and they were not very beneficially informed, in my opinion, including some of the staff at Franklin. So, what is the current information chain for active threats so that the individual parents can make an individual decision.

Mr. Cleaver – I think that what you're requesting is what type of information is shared with the parents and I think I had talked about that we have to be careful what we do share because there are laws that are involved in that too. And, at one time, you have to be careful, there is a time where the student and the parent is making a threat where because of the information you keep requesting and requesting, at one time that student may become of the victim which changes the whole part of the puzzle.

Mr. Bradley – Correct, but how do you currently notify the entire district?

Mr. Cleaver – We give information to the parents to the individuals that we can, that we feel is safe and make a good faith effort.

Mr. Bradley – But, how do you do it? Do you use robocall, do use a letter, do you make a phone call? What do you do?

Mr. Cleaver – We send out emails to the parents.

Mr. Bradley – So is there an email list that these parents need to get on to make sure they are getting...

Mr. Cleaver – Through PowerSchool they are all aware of it. We encourage it because more and more communication goes through that way because with all the school cancellations once parents start seeing the number from the school district it becomes...

Mr. Bradley – And, it becomes important. Direct access to information, direct from the district stops the whole rumor mill issue that you're concerned about. Correct?

Mr. Cleaver – I can't guarantee that it would stop it.

Mr. Bradley – It would definitely slow it down if someone had a resource that they could go to, to get the 6 inches to go to 12 to a yard to whatever by saying don't discuss it, let's go right to the source and ask them. Correct?

Mr. Cleaver – I don't think that will slow it down. I think the parents take their own incentive to whether they continue to discuss it or not. I don't think any information that I share is going to change that one way or another.

Mr. Bradley – Okay. You also mentioned that you have an evacuate fire drill once a month. How often did we have this lockdown drill?

Mr. Cleaver – How often do we have them? They weren't required at that point. The state just required a law that lockdown drills and safety evacuation drills are part of it. I can't give you an exact number for each building. I do know that we've done severe weather drills as well, which I did mention, with tornados and those types of things. But to give you an exact number would be unfair to you.

Mr. Bradley – And then you are also going to have this meeting with the IU. Is that right, Wayne? Are you invited to that meeting?

Mr. Wentz – Absolutely.

Mr. Bradley – Is other board members invited to that?

Mr. Wentz – If they are an I.U. rep.

Mr. Bradley – How about just other board member as general?

Mr. Wentz – They do their own program from what I understand.

Mr. Bradley – So, they're not invited?

Mr. Wentz – I didn't say that.

Mr. Bradley – Okay. Am I invited to go to this meeting? Larry, will I be invited to go to the I.U.'s meeting for this?

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, that would be up to the I.U. to decide, not for us.

Mr. Stern – It's not my decision.

Mr. Bradley – Who should I call and ask? Should I call our I.U. rep? Wayne, would you like to ask them for me?

Mr. Wentz – Don't call me.

Mr. Bradley – I appreciate that Wayne. Who is our I.U. rep besides Mr. Wayne Wentz that's boycotting the idea of being our representative.

Mr. Wentz – I didn't say that.

Mr. Bradley – You said you're not going to ask.

Mr. Wentz – You're twisting words like you do to everybody in this room.

Mr. Bradley – Would you like to ask them for me or can I call? Who would I talk to Mr. Stern?

Mr. Cleaver – I could reach out to the I.U.

Mr. Bradley – Just give me their name. I'll call them.

Mr. Cleaver – I'll call because apparently the two (2) people we talk to we get two (2) different information.

Mr. Bradley – Perfect, no problem. I'd like to hear back from you when you get that chance.

Mr. Beltz – Before you move on. The first aid situation, the first aid kits for the different schools and I'm wondering if any staff is trained in basic first aid or EMT.

Mr. Cleaver – We have first aid/CPR training and we do offer it to our staff, it's not mandatory. A lot of our coaches take part in that. We offer trainings throughout the year.

Mr. Beltz – I know a tourniquet is a good device to use but you can't use it unless you've been trained on how to use it. That's what this program is?

Mr. Cleaver – Yes, that's what this program is.

Mr. Beltz – And we'll be providing them to the schools then or is that...

Mr. Cleaver – The way the program works it almost like a way to make a homemade tourniquet for safety.

Mr. Beltz – I know I work in EMS and I know that I've asked people, I just work on the helicopters, but the nurses and the medics, I talk with them a lot about first aid. They said if you use a device, like an Epipen or something, without proper training you could be possibly liable and same with a tourniquet. So, we have to watch who...even a homemade tourniquet, right?

Mr. Cleaver – I can't answer that.

Mr. Beltz – Unless you've been properly trained you're not supposed to use them.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – It's basic first aid and CPR, it's not that hard.

Mr. Beltz – Well, using a tourniquet's not basic first aid.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – It is, because I teach it.

Mr. Beltz – Oh, okay. I haven't taken a basic first aid course.

Stacey Duerst (audience member) – If you seek permission from the person that's there, awake and alert and able to respond, you are covered by the Good Samaritan Law.

Mr. Beltz – Oh, okay. I just heard there was a liability issue for using that stuff.

Stacey Duerst (audience member) – Where there is a liability is medication, even over-the-counter medication.

Mr. Bradley – So we can get our teachers certified in this basic first aid?

Mr. Cleaver – We are looking at doing that, increasing that as well. Even simple, basic type of programs, not only first aid and CPR and other options like choking hazards and those. In know infants are different that adolescents and adults of course with different responsibilities but, yes, we are looking to increase that. We will have a training coming up in spring for staff. Again, it's not mandatory, it's just we offer it to them.

Mr. Bradley – And the state police mentioned in their program that one of the concerns for lockdown, if there's an event, is the fact that when they lockdown the school, until the state police

clears the rooms, or clears the building, that EMT's and emergency access to first aid is only available within the building and no one can enter until after that's all be cleared and locked down. So, one of the recommendations in addition to tourniquets was also compression packs and other bleeding and the training associated with that. Are we gonna look at getting our classrooms with that emergency kit?

Mr. Cleaver – We are going to look at that and also we talked about trainings for the AED's as well. I know people say it's self-explanatory when you open it, but I still think you need it. It's important to have training.

Mr. Bradley – I agree.

2. Board President's Report – Mr. Stern

- Great news from the Odyssey of the Mind teams at the high school. Both have qualified for the state competition. They'll be, fortunately for us a close trip up to Pocono East to enter the competition on April 7th.
- The Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team placed 6th at the regional completion out of 9 teams. That was a great experience and they hopefully can use the mentorship of the high school program to continue their excellence.
- The Middle School Jazz Ensemble participated in a festival at Bethlehem. Parkland, Easton, Saucon Valley and Bethlehem middle schools were also present. Lehighton was the only school from Carbon County to participate in the activity.
- The Officers of the United Veterans Organization of Lehighton which is Mr. Long, Mr. Troutman, and Mr. Bryfogle surprised the members of the Lehighton Area Middle School Operation Never Forget with an accommodation. The UVO cited the club for displaying their pride in community and nation by remembering those who served in our Armed Forces and being valuable parts of the Memorial Day service. For the past three (3) years, the club has raised hundreds of dollars to decorate graves of local serviceman both locally and afar. The club also donated over a thousand dollars to the construction of the Wargo Memorial on the Lehighton bypass.
- The Middle School held the 12th Annual Lehighton Community Book Swap. The new design of the Lehighton Area Middle School cafeteria was a great place to hold this event. The program outreach to many different folks in the community. There are many thousands of books with over many hundreds participating in the event. The event was made possible by Lehighton Middle School professionals and students.
- The Lehighton Elementary Center in preparation for the opening of the elementary center, the staff participated in a team building program that was brought in by Epiphany Experiential Learning development team and the program was very well received.
- The PALS, Partners in Academic and Leadership in Schools, in the elementary schools is starting a Block 2 rotation. The high school students are mentoring our younger students in all grade levels for academics and athletic opportunities. We are very fortunate to have some fantastic role models that are inspiring our younger students to reach for the stars. We are excited to be able to continue this program next year as we move to the elementary center and be able to provide the support to even our 5th grade students.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2018, resumption and regular meeting.

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 2 (J. B., D. B) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Financial Matter

Activities MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Lehighton
Funds Area High School and Lehighton Area Middle School Activities Fund for February 2018.

Mr. Bradley – Before you take a vote, we saw an audit report that says certain people have access to these funds and it was recommended that we gain some strength in the controls in those funds. What is the current method of controls for these activity funds?

Mr. Cleaver – What is the date of that audit report, Mr. Bradley?

Mr. Bradley – The same audit report mentioned strengthening funds for one...

Mr. Cleaver – Just the date.

Mr. Bradley – Well, one is the...the most recent...

Mr. Cleaver – No, the one you were referring to that the comment was made.

Mr. Bradley – Well, they all are. So the one that is the most recent Pennsylvania Department of Attorney General in 2015 which would be the most recent audit and it says, provide as much information as possible to taxpayers, implement procedures for reviewing, right, you've got to provide information on this report, did not maintain, school district is not in compliance with federal requirement for allowable costs, school district does not have the procedures in place insure completion, this is 2016, here's one that is 2011 that says the conditions are results of not having central oversight. Here's another one for 10, the grant coordinator failed to separately identify the source codes, business administration contact the solicitor to review non-district individuals having access to district accounts, that would have been 2009 and 10 still. And it goes on. The question is, what is the district's procedure for these funds?

Mr. Cleaver – Right. The audit reports that you are referring to, are those findings in those audits or are those things that were addressed like one year and then the following year they were addressed and moving forward? I guess I'm just looking for some clarification as to what you are referring to.

Mr. Bradley – Just what's the procedure. What do we currently have as a procedure?

Mr. Cleaver – Right, but I want to make sure I'm responding to the correct references that you have on there.

Mr. Bradley - There's a process for these funds, what is it?

Mr. Cleaver - For the activity account?

Mr. Bradley - The reason for my question is because I felt that when I see repeated information for year to year and it's the same information, I figured I'd ask, what's the process?

Mr. Cleaver - Brian, do you want to address the process?

Mr. Feick - Sure. First of all, those problems happened before I was here and they have been corrected. Procedure is first the advisor and the club have to approve the payment, then it comes to the business office, we verify that it is a legitimate payment and it's being used for activities only and it's within the scope of the law that their allowed to purchase things. We write the check, we send the check, we do not give them cash. If it's reimbursement, one of the problems I have is if they went and bought something we pay everything except tax because they didn't use our tax number. So, I do not reimburse on tax which I don't think is really fair, they're taking 36 cents out of their pocket but I don't pay tax.

Mr. Bradley - But the funds are coming from the district.

Mr. Feick - The district has a separate fund for every single activity, every single club, if it's Class of 2017, 2018, if it's the fly fishing club or whatever club, their own funds are separated in our bank account. We prorate the interest, we have it in a concentration account for hold but we separate it into the individual clubs and we prorate the interest. We take care of disbursements. If they deposit anything, we make sure we count the cash if it comes to us, checks, everything gets deposited through our office.

Mr. Bradley - So, on the incoming side it's controlled by the individuals handing the money over to the district to put in the fund.

Mr. Feick - Right. We do not collect if they have a choral event, they collect it, they're supposed to have an advisor who is responsible for counting...

Mr. Bradley - Yeah, sure.

Mr. Feick - ... and then bring it to us, if it's athletics and there is pre-numbered tickets, we do check the beginning number ticket, the ending number ticket, and we expect so many to be sold and we expect the receipts to be there.

Mr. Bradley - Same responsibilities for...

Mr. Feick - If a board member shows up and they have a pass to get in for free, that's counted and they tell us if they had so many people that came in for free, staff members or people who work for the play or something like that get in for free, but we do verify the numbers.

Mr. Bradley - Yeah, but small games of chance requires a certain amount of documentation to be done.

Mr. Feick – Small games of chance we also require that they go get their own chance license because we don't hold one as a district. Every club, and we've actually turned down some events because they didn't go get their chance license.

Mr. Bradley - Correct. And all that is done through your direction?

Mr. Feick – Through my office and I actually have one person who handles the activities fund, another person then handles their disbursements.

Mr. Bradley – Okay, thank you.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Payment of Bills MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the Payment of Bills:

General Fund	\$ 1,941,822.05
--Benefits	\$ 349,221.51
--Payroll (February)	\$ 1,351,097.31
--Debit Card	\$ 1,018.64
Food Service Fund	\$ 66,308.65
	<u>\$ 3,709,468.16</u>

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

Mr. Bradley – So I went to Brian, and he did a great job by the way, but these funds, 3.7 million dollars have not been provided to the school board for review prior to the school board's authorization to pay them. Why? And, how can we authorize bills we did not see when we hold a personal liability and responsibility to those people to provide that oversight within this district of these funds.

Mr. Stern – Mr. Feick, are not all these bills on our sheets on the website?

Mr. Feick – Yes, you have a list of bills and check numbers and the amounts. What Mr. Bradley's referring to is the actual invoices which right now you say, "Member with questions or requesting a copy of any payment, please contact the Business Office prior to the scheduled meeting". That's why Mr. Bradley and I met to look at the bills. Other times board members, like Mr. Yenser, will call me up and ask about a specific bill what was it for. What I think he's requesting is that we actually send copies of the bills. I think we had talked about that because the invoices or the P.O.'s or the packing slips can be done if the board wishes but it hasn't been past practice. It will add more time or we need to have a better document management system because I would have to scan or photocopy every single document and then place them on the server. Right now that's not being done.

Atty. Schwab – You would also need to redact certain information. There's something called Federal Pre-emption. This district pays for health insurance, pays for medical bills of certain students and HIPPA doesn't permit it to go to the board. The same thing under FERPA. There's

certain things, students' names, the board can find the vendor, they can find the amount, they can find out what was done, but certain information still has to be redacted under FERPA and HIPPA.

Mr. Bradley - Now there was a case that we gave you that required the district to provide, hold on, there's a case in Pennsylvania in reference to PA law that required the district to provide the information to the board members under Section 6 of Pennsylvania School Code so that they can make an informed decision as our auditor says, provide as much information as possible and if some needs redaction I understand to the taxpayer not less the board members.

Atty. Schwab - You misread the law again Mr. Bradley...

Mr. Bradley - Let me finish.

Atty. Schwab - No, you keep misrepresenting things. That particular case allowed the board member to have un-redacted copies of the solicitor's bills. You can have copies of my bills any time. I don't need them to be redacted or un-redacted. You can have them. That's the only thing the case said and the judge didn't even publish the case. The judge made the decision, it shouldn't be precedential, and it should be used for what you're doing right now and saying this is persuasive. He specifically said in Crawford County he didn't even publish it in the Crawford County Law Journal.

Mr. Bradley - So why didn't he publish it? How do I got it then?

Atty. Schwab - Well, maybe if you went to law school rather than assume things you might learn why people don't do things.

Mr. Bradley - Don't be condescending. *Crowd reacted*. The question is why do I have a copy of the law that says that un-redacted information can be provided to a board member for invoices. If they're responsible for paying, you're actually mentioning that you're not going to give the payer...

Atty. Schwab - But the lawsuit was only for the solicitor's bills that that particular school district...

Mr. Bradley - Specifically.

Atty. Schwab - ...did not allow the board members to see the solicitors bills only the Superintendent...

Mr. Bradley - Let's try this. Has anyone seen the solicitor's bill this month, anyone?

Atty. Schwab - Did you see it? Mr. Feick would have had it.

Mr. Bradley - Mr. Feick and I spent an hour, as you mentioned, a thousand bills to go through at which point we did a spot check and every spot check did not meet a standard review by a business and even Mr. Feick admitted that where it is lacking in the past it didn't matter so much. Correct Mr. Feick?

Mr. Feick - I would not say every spot check but on the construction accounts it did not...

Mr. Bradley - We kept a couple, right? We looked at a couple.

Mr. Feick – But the general fund we had everything you asked a backup for. The construction account I didn't and I agreed with you there.

Mr. Bradley – Correct.

Mr. Feick – Board has always had the chance to come in and look at it. What you're asking for is that we scan the documents and send them to you electronically.

Mr. Bradley – We're doing two (2) things. We're looking for access. No Mr. Schwab told me that the only way I could get access to these invoices originally was once I requested them was it went to the Right-to-Know Officer who then within 24 hours said you'll get them in 30 days after it's been redacted. At which point, another person in Schwab's office said sit with the business manager and you can review them. Now this came out on Thursday. I attempted to make an appointment with you (Mr. Feick) which we tried to do, your birthday, I respect that. So the next opportunity time we had was today before the meeting to review as Mr. Schwab defined one thousand (1,000) pages of documents. So to be fair.

Atty. Schwab – I never said one thousand (1,000) pages...

Mr. Bradley – Please let me finish...

Atty. Schwab – Well, then don't mischaracterize what I said...

Mr. Bradley – You told me it was a thousand (1,000) pages. You want me to read your email?

Atty. Schwab – It says one thousand (1,000) bills, it doesn't say one thousand (1,000) pages. Because one thousand (1,000) bills are going to be more than one thousand (1,000) pages.

Mr. Bradley – Like I said, to review the documentation is more than a thousand (1,000) pieces of paper. Any responsible individual prior to paying a bill that they are obligated to pay should review it and here in this district, this board is that payer. And to not give the information to the payer prior to making payment it's irresponsible on any level. I don't understand how, in the past, this board was able to authorize payments when they've never see the bills.

Mr. Cleaver – Atty. Schwab, just for me to understand...

Atty. Schwab – The request by Mr. Bradley was to get copies of all invoices.

Mr. Cleaver – Correct.

Atty. Schwab – The only procedure this district has to provide Mr. Bradley or any member of the public invoices at this time is to the Right-to-Know. That's the only procedure policy we have. We have to redact certain student names; we have to redact some health information from it. But, it is available. Now, prior to that, this note that we've had where people can come in and inspect has been on the agenda and has been the way this board has proceeded to allow the board to see whatever bill they want for the last 25 years. If the board wants to adopt a different policy, that's fine.

Mr. Bradley – I did want to use the process and I said I wanted to see all of them. What's the difference?

Mr. Cleaver – I guess my question is if we would go to this process and the district would inadvertently not redact some of this information and this information goes out and gets public, is it the district's responsibility for the error in redaction or is it mine and Mr. Feick's responsibility?

Atty. Schwab – Well, they're going to sue everybody for violating the privacy under FERPA and HIPPA. We only have a limited number of people that have been trained to handle HIPPA.

Mr. Bradley – And there's only, according to Mr. Feick, there's only a very small limited number of bills that may or may not include student identification or student information. Now, back to this court case. Are you telling me that the judge, making that decision, reviewing those laws, should not apply to us as a board looking as the payer of a bill to see the invoices prior to authorizing them?

Atty. Schwab – What I said is that you're entitled to look at the bills with Mr. Feick as the policy of this district has been. Once you go beyond that, that case doesn't mean anything even in Crawford County because the judge intentionally said it was the unique facts of that case I was applying it to and they were solicitor's bills. That was the only issue before the court and he said the board is entitled to see un-redacted solicitor's bills.

Mr. Bradley – Since you have an education in the law, can you please give me clarification to Section 601 that I'll read says all necessary information in such detailed statements that may be needed to provide it, it being the board, the annual tax levy and prepare the annual estimate of expenditures. So here you are doing your expenditures, we need this information prior to making those expenditures.

Atty. Schwab – Except we have a federal law that preempts the state law that guarantees privacy of students, we have HIPPA law that guarantees privacy, not only of students but faculty and other staff.

Mr. Bradley – I agree. So who's holding the privacy? The district?

Atty. Schwab – Actually, it's the person whose name we're paying.

Mr. Bradley – Correct but who also holds that responsibility? So Mr. Feick can't say anything, right?

Atty. Schwab – He can't say anything.

Mr. Bradley – So the lady that opens up or the person that opens up the mail if they open up the mail they can't say anything. Correct?

Atty. Schwab – They should not, right.

Mr. Bradley – Right. Do we have a confidentiality agreement with that person to reduce that risk of this district and that person?

Atty. Schwab – No, we have in job descriptions of your confidential secretaries.

Mr. Bradley – That's about it, right? But the person who opens the mail, see this and they have to be respectful of HIPPA law and the risk of that is a function of that person's character and ethics. Correct?

Atty. Schwab – You would have to ask Mr. Feick. I don't know the actual procedure of who opens the mail and when.

Mr. Bradley – He told us. We talked about this. So now the question becomes if that person can see it and Mr. Feick can see it and Mr. Cleaver can see it and so many other people, they are part of the government of district Leighton. So is Joy, Steve, Richard, Gail, Wayne, Rita, and Andrew and myself as part of the elected government duly sworn for the benefit of the district, so are we allowed to make sure that district funds are used properly and those funds would be a function of those documents and invoices, packing slips, make sure what was arrived, make sure that they're actually on-site. I mean these are all standard tests that a normal business manager inside of a corporation would do just to verify that that laptop probably has an asset number and somebody paid for it and it's probably the district's or maybe it's not. We can check right now and look on it. That cart probably has a district number as an asset, those speakers, and so for this \$120,000 there's 1.9 million dollars of things we bought. Spot check it. If you spot check one and you spot check one and there's nine (9) spot checks and they all come back clean, we're good, pay the bills. If the spot checks come back poor, you spot check a couple more until you get it clean and when you find the process that has caused the spot check not to pass the muster of these nine (9) individuals that are elected for those bosses. Because they're the ultimate boss, that's the process. To restrict that information from a board member, to create hurdles, when a judge after being asked showed that that school board member, responsible for paying the bills, has not only a right but a responsibility to look at those bills. So to not even look at them would be irresponsible.

Mr. Feick – Mr. Bradley, just to be on the same wavelength, everything you saw, I showed you on the general fund bills, not on the construction, you were able to find, right? We met today, you ask for these.

Mr. Bradley – On the bills that you showed me, right, you have great accountability. I love what you're doing. The only concern we have is that that information should be shared with your nine (9) board members who are responsible personally for the accountability of payment of those bills and to not see them would be a mistake.

Mr. Feick – Well, it's not saying they can't see them, they had to come in to see them.

Mr. Bradley – To make them available and easy for a volunteer board.

Mr. Feick – Can I finish?

Mr. Bradley – Sure, go ahead.

Mr. Feick – Everyone has availability to come in and see them. What you want to make available is that we post them on a secure web server that they can look at them there instead having the drag themselves into the office.

Mr. Bradley – To consume your nine (9) times that thousand pages, it makes sense that if you would publish them on your secure server as you published all of this secure confidential information to us, just give us access. We can spot check it, everybody can pick a couple, we can all feel comfortable that we are good stewards of the taxpayers' funds because so far from the couple that I checked, it wouldn't have passed the muster for almost any household in this community to say, I'm gonna write that check.

Mr. Yenser – In the past ten (10) years I've never been restricted of the information as I've asked for it.

Mrs. Spinelli – I'd like to just ask a question. Mr. Feick, all of the things listed here in the general fund obviously benefits payroll and food service. Have those services and goods been ordered properly? Accepted? And, we have to pay the bills.

Mr. Feick – Yes.

Mrs. Spinelli – I call that we pay the bills at this point. I mean we can discuss policy and how we go about that later but if we received these services, these vendors deserve to get paid. I move we pay the bills.

Mr. Feick – And, truthfully, I don't think Mr. Bradley questioning this one, it's more of the next one.

Mr. Bradley – You got it.

Mr. Feick – Because everything we looked at these and we pulled...

Mr. Bradley – I was comfortable with a lot of it. The thing that I'd like to suggest is that we modify this motion to pay the benefits, payroll, and food service. And then we postpone the general fund and the debit card until you have an opportunity to review those bills.

Mrs. Spinelli – But, if we received the services, if we have the things in the classrooms, if we've gotten the whatever, we have to pay the vendor. It's not their problem that we don't like our policies or our procedures.

Mr. Bradley – I agree.

Mrs. Spinelli – They deserve to be paid.

Mr. Bradley – Do you know that for a fact, personally liable, that those things were done?

Mrs. Spinelli – I'm asking did we receive the services. If you get an invoice, I'm going to guess that it's for something. I'm asking did we receive those services.

Mr. Feick – Yes. I would not have put them on if I didn't have an invoice.

Mrs. Spinelli – I didn't think so. Knowing the procedure, I didn't think so and that's all I'm asking is these have been received. If they haven't been received yet, then by all means we could question them but we if we have it, we got to pay it. I call the question to pay the bills.

Mr. Stern – We need a second on the question. We need a second on the call to question to vote.

Mr. Yenser – I'll second the motion.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 1(D.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - 2 (J.B., G.M.)

Motion carried

Mrs. Spinelli – May I ask why you are abstaining?

Mrs. Maholick – Because we did not see the invoices.

Atty. Schwab – You really can't question anyone. You can't really question another board member why they abstain. They have a right to do it. The only time they have to announce why they are abstaining is if it's under the ethics code.

Mrs. Spinelli – Okay. Sorry.

Construction Accounts MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland by to approve payment on the following projects from the corresponding construction accounts for a total of **\$2,391,681.24** pending documentation verification and solicitor review:

1. **Middle School**

Albarell Electric, Inc.- Apps. #9 & #10	\$	86,224.37
EI Associates- Inv. #13966	\$	4,363.17
Jay R. Reynolds- App. #18	\$	20,720.52
Lobar, Inc.- App. #23	\$	48,964.55
	\$	160,272.61

Mr. Bradley – You missed part of that. Can you read the next part after the dollar amount?
Pending?

Mr. Stern – Pending verification...

Mr. Bradley – Nope, pending documentation verification and solicitor review. Thank you, sorry.

2. **High School**

Albarell Electric, Inc.- Apps. #9 & #10	\$	20,894.77
Jay R. Reynolds- App. #15	\$	3,043.10
Lobar, Inc.- App. #22	\$	69,840.19
	\$	93,778.06

3. **Elementary Center**

CDW Government- Inv. LTP5097 & LWD9164	\$	120,272.00
CSI- Inv. #20181882P	\$	5,000.00
EI Associates - Inv. #13962, 13963, 13964, 13965, 13983, 13984, 13985, 13986 & 13987	\$	67,731.61
Jay R. Reynolds – App. #12	\$	154,977.68
JBM Mechanical- App. #10	\$	375,463.74
Lobar, Inc. – App. #16	\$	734,161.13
Macolino Risk Management- Inv. #20003035	\$	3,324.00
Phillips Brothers – App. #13	\$	652,462.70
Quandel- Inv. #37	\$	24,237.71
	\$	2,137,630.57

Mr. Bradley – Did anyone on this board review any of this 2.3 million dollars worth of payments prior to putting this on the agenda?

Mrs. Spinelli – Review for what?

Mr. Bradley – It says that it's pending documentation verification. That means this districts has not even received the backups for the invoices that they currently have in-house. So this a 2.3-million-dollar slush fund to be paid without any board review and pending documentation verification means they don't even have them yet and when I looked at one of them, that I got some backup from Mr. Feick, who is very helpful I do appreciate how helpful you were, when we looked at the CDW which is \$120,000 purchase, it wasn't even bid. That was part of just a purchase.

Mrs. Spinelli – In the construction...

Mr. Cleaver – In the CDW you're referring to is from the state bidding list. So there's, how many, probably thousands and thousands of items on that that gives us the authority to purchases things off the state bidding contract.

Mr. Bradley – Correct. Now on...

Mr. Cleaver – I think you forgot that part. You forgot that part when you said that amount.

Mr. Bradley – No, no, it wasn't bid. So, the question becomes when you decided what to purchase on that account you have an I.T. guy, and Mr. Feick and I discussed this, and there is a certain amount of professional respect you give to him to decide what he needs and what's going on. So, the question becomes did anyone on this board, or anyone on this administration, double-check the work so that we can verify what we're doing here prior to spending, I don't know, 2.3 million dollars of the taxpayers' money?

Mr. Cleaver – In relation to the review of the CDW, is what I believe you are referring to, purchasing...

Mr. Bradley – I'm talking about 2.3 million dollars, Mr. Cleaver.

Mr. Cleaver – No, but you brought up the CDW one, I believe that email was sent to you explaining to you the way that process took place. So, that was one of the questions you asked and was answered, I believe.

Mr. Bradley – Yes, but of the only one we were given, we found gaps in the responsibility of a board to authorize that payment and that gap to authorize the responsibility is a function of we should be looking at the process, we should be looking at what's going on here prior to spending the taxpayers' money without that process. The one that's described in all of these audits, the one that's described in this school code and in that law case. To ask someone to pay a bill that they didn't see is irresponsible. It's unfair to this board to hold them hostage, to not give them that information or to give it to them an hour before the meeting.

Ms. Beers – So, I was here earlier when Dave and Brian were chatting and one of the things that jumped out to me, and Brian you can correct me, is that we receive bills for a lot of these items here but we haven't actually received all the documentation from our vendors.

Mr. Feick – Yes, and I think that’s why the motion was made years ago by Mr. Hill. He did not want to stop payment to the contractors waiting for the verification back from Quandel and EI Associates. What happens is they submit a bill, then it goes through the process of Quandel, our construction manager, goes out and makes sure the work was done, they sign off it, then they send it to the architects who then verifies it was done to spec, they sign off of it. In the meantime, after Quandel signs off it, they send me the cover page, which is the pay app. So, I put it on the board agenda to make sure it’s on for this month so they get paid this month. Normally, I get the signed and the full packet, which is all fifty (50) pages of every single line that was done, percentage completed, by probably Friday of this week or Thursday of this week. But, the previous, two (2) boards ago was it? Whatever, made it this motion because they didn’t want to make the contractors wait sixty (60) days because they’re supposed to get paid, I think, within forty-five (45) days after they submitted a bill.

Mr. Bradley – But, the reality, they could give you that information up front because they are reviewing all and you don’t have it even. You don’t have this information.

Mr. Feick – Right, it’s still not verified. So that’s why document verification and solicitor review, the reason he threw solicitor review in there is because if they didn’t give me something I would have the solicitor send a letter that I’m not releasing the check until I receive that but I have yet to have to do that because I always get it the week after.

Mr. Bradley – But he doesn’t actually look at anything until you ask him to.

Mr. Feick – Right. I haven’t had to.

Mr. Bradley – And you don’t look at it at all (Atty. Schwab), correct?

Atty. Schwab – There have been, when there have been issues, yes. If you ask me did I review each of the bills, they haven’t been given to me.

Mr. Bradley – So, if you didn’t review, and he doesn’t even have them, and you didn’t review them.

Atty. Schwab – Well, that’s why it’s pending our review.

Mr. Bradley – Or...

Ms. Beers – I think the question is, is this current board okay with a process that was put in place sometime ago? And, I would say that I personally am not. I, as a board, would rather approve payment of bills when our institution has full information in our possession.

Mr. Stern – But, that’s what pending documentation verification does, Joy. The bill does not get paid until the information comes in to the business office and verifies that they, in fact, the work was done.

Mr. Bradley – So why put the cart before the horse?

Mr. Stern – Because...

Ms. Beers – Hold on...

Mr. Stern – ...we approve it in order to expedite payment to the contracting houses who are supporting our building projects.

Ms. Beers – So then will this information be shared with the board?

Mr. Stern – If you would ask for it, I'm sure. Post payment or post this meeting and post that it's reviewed, it would be shared with you whenever you'd like.

Ms. Beers – My concern is that the board wouldn't have a chance...

Mr. Feick – If you wish, I could hold on to the checks until I have it, email everything and wait for you know...right now it's up to me to do the documentation verification. I told you that.

Mr. Bradley – But in school code it says very specifically, all payments made by the board of school directors for any school district funds shall be made by proper school orders drawn on treasure. You don't have the authorization to draw these on these school funds without having that information. So all I'm suggesting is wait the nine (9) days, teach the contractors and people to provide the information when they provide the amount, they gave you an amount down to a penny, they have the backup. Make them give it to you at which point you can show up at a meeting, say here's the backup, here's the bills, we owe it because we got it, let's get it paid. Prior to that you're going to be chasing them for the money if in the fact you don't have and if you remember what happened with the school solicitor, excuse me, and this Memorandum of Understanding, is why the auditor said provide as much information as possible to the taxpayers and the district explaining these things, right. Implement procedures for reviewing...

Mr. Stern – What was the year on that Mr. Bradley?

Mr. Bradley – This is the one for 2015, a couple years ago. So we had 2015, 2016 that says the school district did not maintain semi-annual clarification for employees that worked solely for the IDEA program in support of salaried wages, district is not in compliance with federal requirements in allowable costs. This is the thing that we're responsible for see for those people, they're the boss, we have to answer to them and to authorize a payment for something you do not have the paperwork for just sounds so irresponsible to the payer. I don't understand how...

Mr. Stern – But again, the check is not cut and delivered to the provider until the documentation for the activity that they did is delivered.

Mr. Bradley – So your abdicating your responsibility as a board member to him (Mr. Feick).

Mr. Stern – I'm not abdicating my responsibility.

Mr. Bradley – This is your responsibility.

Mr. Stern – Absolutely because if I walk into the building I'm not going to know what Pipe X is versus Pipe Y. That's why we have the construction management company and that's why we have the qualified individuals in our business office to perform the functions that they are trained to do.

Mr. Cleaver – And, the construction management company certifies that the amount of work they are billing for has been completed.

Mr. Bradley – And who, so who checks them?

Mr. Cleaver – That's the construction management company. That's why we have them.

Mr. Bradley – Yeah, but who checks the construction management company?

Mr. Cleaver – Who's checking the..

Mr. Bradley – Yeah, who's checking the construction management company? How much are they getting paid?

Mr. Cleaver – How much is who getting paid?

Mr. Bradley – The construction management company.

Mr. Cleaver – I don't have that amount right now.

Mr. Bradley – It comes from district funds?

Mr. Cleaver – I don't have the amount right now.

Mr. Bradley – I know, but does it come from district funds?

Mr. Cleaver – The construction management...

Mr. Bradley – Is it on this list?

Mr. Stern – Yes.

Mr. Bradley – Where is it on this list?

Mr. Feick – Quandel.

Mr. Bradley – So you say you don't know how much they get paid. It looks like it's \$24,000.

Mr. Cleaver – That's just for this month.

Mr. Bradley – Right. So what did they do for this month. Did they give you the backup so that he can pay the bills?

Mr. Cleaver – That's part of the contract. This is part of the payment.

Mr. Bradley – Cleaver, did you see the bills?

Mr. Cleaver – Yes, I see the bills. They come to my office and then...

Mr. Bradley – So you have them but he (Mr. Feick) doesn't?

Mr. Cleaver – The contract for Quandel earmarks exactly how much they get paid every month, yes.

Mr. Bradley – This is a very simple concept. School code says you have to see the bills before you pay them and you can't abdicate that responsibility to someone else until they are physically in the house and if you have to have another meeting, have another meeting to get the bills paid.

Mr. Cleaver – And that's your opinion, yes.

Mr. Bradley – No, it's the opinion of a judge and Mr. Schwab, that judge was very specific to the needs of school code by a school director to see the bills prior to payment, correct? And the case...

Atty. Schwab – You're misunderstanding that decision again, Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley – Tell me how I'm misunderstanding that decision.

Atty. Schwab – That applied only to...

Mr. Bradley – Please turn on your microphone so I can hear.

Atty. Schwab – That only applied to a board that was being withheld the solicitor's bills. There is no excuse to the board not seeing what your solicitor does.

Mrs. Spinelli – I'd just like to say what I said before, we may need to change these procedures, we may not want to change these procedures, but right now they are ones we're working with. Again, if the checks aren't going to be cut until someone verifies it, there's a motion on the floor, I say we go with the motion. (*Audience applauded*)

Mr. Stern – All those in favor...

Mr. Bradley – And I warned you...can Mr. Schwab please give the board the benefit of understanding Section 608 where it says the board is individually liable to the district for the amount thereof.

Mr. Wentz – Larry, call to question. Call for a vote.

Mr. Bradley – I asked for the solicitor to verify for me what Section 608 means where we are individually liable to the district. Is that correct, Mr. Schwab?

Atty. Schwab – No.

Mr. Bradley – How are we not individually liable to the district, Mr. Schwab?

Atty. Schwab – The case law in that goes when the district authorizes non-educational related funds. If we were paying your home mortgage, that is not educationally related. You're only personally liable if it's for a non-educational expenditure according to case law.

Mr. Bradley – Okay. So what would be, these are all considered educational expenses?

Atty. Schwab – Yes.

Mr. Stern – We need a second...

Mr. Bradley - So therefore, we are not...so somebody can turn...let me get this straight. Your telling me that someone can turn in a bill, we can authorize to have it paid, and he doesn't even have to see it until after we get it. And who's going to be responsible? Is it the district manager?

Mr. Wentz - Second.

Mr. Stern - We have a second on the call to question.

Mr. Bradley - Is the district manager responsible at that point?

Mr. Stern - All those in favor.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 3 (J. B, D.B., G.M.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the following reports:

- a. Budget/Revenue Report
- b. Treasurer's Reports
 - 1. General Fund
 - 2. Capital Reserve Fund
 - 3. Capital Projects Fund
 - 4. Food Service Fund

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 2 (D.B., G.M.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Per Capita/ Occ. Tax MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve exemptions from Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax per the attached list.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Occ. Tax Assess. MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to ~~approve~~ accept Occupational Tax Assessment Changes as per the attached list.

Mr. Bradley - How does the, Mr. Schwab, this assessment change how does that, what's the process in getting an assessment change?

Atty. Schwab - You file for a change of assessment with the assessment office in the county and they have their own procedure up there.

Mr. Bradley - But the district's not really involved in that process?

Atty. Schwab – The only time the district is involved in that process, based on prior practice, is if we’ve had rather large taxpayers who sought reduction. Walmart, Lowe’s....

Mr. Stern – But this is occupational.

Atty. Schwab – But occupational we’re not involved in it at all.

Mr. Feick – The solicitor pointed out to me, that next motion should actually be accept because that’s... F. is supplied by the county, and G. is supplied by the tax collectors. So, it should not be approve, is should say accept.

Atty. Schwab – Yes, F. and G. We don’t approve them, we accept them.

Mr. Stern reread the motion with “accept”.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Tax Collector’s Reports MOTION by Mr. Holland , SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the annual Tax Collector’s reports for East Penn Twp., Franklin Twp., Lehighon Borough, Parryville Borough, Mahoning Twp., and Weissport Borough.

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Feick, can you please explain to the rest of the board what you explained to me on this very eclectic report of information that is just...

Mr. Feick – This is the report required by the state to give to us every year. We have to verify, we basically verify that they made the deposits and that was what was left at the end of the year.

Mr. Bradley – But that’s all that’s done?

Mr. Feick – We have no other control. Rusty’s been with us for a while and how many times have I been trying to get control of how they do things?

Mr. Beltz – For as long as I’ve been here.

Mr. Feick – And, it’s shot down because they have to agree to it. All they have to do is give us the state reports and we have to verify that they gave us some money and that’s what was left. That’s our elected tax collectors in Pennsylvania.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Title I Summer Programs MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve Title I Summer Reading and Math Programs to be held at Shull-David Elementary. Tentative dates are July 9-26, 2018 for the Math Program and July 30-August 16, 2018 for the Reading Program. Camps will be paid using 2017-2018 Title I Funds.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Football Clinic MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the following Football Coaches to attend Football Clinics at the University of Maryland on March 29, 2018, and Towson University on March 30 & 31, 2018, at a budgeted cost not to exceed \$500.00. Coaches attending are Employees #1332, #1555, Volunteer #1, #30, and #1331. Funding through the 2017-2018 Athletic Budget.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Petition for School Police Officers MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve Lehigh Area School District Administration with the assistance of the school district solicitor to petition the court for appointment of School Police Officers under the authority of the Public School Code of 1949.

Mr. Bradley - So why are we doing this without talking to our community and our people first?

Mr. Stern - We have talked to our community and the community has rejected our proposal.

Mr. Bradley - Rejected what proposal?

Mr. Stern - The borough has rejected our proposal for a school resource officer.

Mr. Bradley - Right. So you talked to the borough, I'm talking about the people that those children are going to be in this district and the parents are going to be in this district.

Mr. Stern - Why would we not provide a safer environment for them to go to school?

Mr. Bradley - The question becomes, what do they care, what do they want, what do they care about, what do they want. Did we ask them? We work for them, right?

Mr. Cleaver - Again, this is an effort for the district to start putting the petition together and myself and the administration team working with our solicitor to petition the court for additional security for our students. You asked the question what do they want. I think they want their children to be safe. That is every other individual too.

Mr. Bradley – Correct, and I agree. So the question becomes of those options which ones did the community bring to the table to decide. For instance, we have a lot of ex-military, we have a lot of ex-police officers, a lot of ex-state police officers within this community. Were they consulted? Is this the best interest to form a police force inside of the district?

Mr. Cleaver – This is one of the options we have and the positive part about putting one together and creating one, this board can decide at a later date not to have it anymore and can disband it as well. So right now, we are looking at options and this is just a step in the right direction, which I feel, is for the safety of our students. And this is another effort of a good faith push for our staff to make our students safe. If there is a concern for this process, I'm sure they will notify me. I do know that when I proposed the school resource officer, I got several, and I'll say emails, because that is what they were, that said that we'd love to see a school resource officer. A couple of them said make #3 happen and this is just an effort to do that. And, again by doing what you're requesting, is delaying yet another process of this district.

Mr. Bradley – Do we have volunteers that can do this until we can make a better decision through the community?

Mr. Cleaver – No.

Mr. Bradley – Because, right now, you're telling me that you're going to hold off on this until you decide, but the next motion says you want to get two (2).

Mr. Feick – I have a question. I thought this was all under grant.

Mr. Cleaver – Yes. The district did receive a grant originally, it was for a school resource officer for \$60,000 for this year and \$30,000 next year. Unfortunately, with the borough not approving the school resource officer we had to look at something else, Plan B. And, we received notification that an SPO, school police officer, would be approved for a reduced rate of \$40,000 first year and \$20,000 the following year.

Mr. Bradley – For the grant. And, we completely agree that having a resource officer... What's that, I'm sorry?

Michael Lusch (audience member) – We or you?

Mr. Bradley – To be honest with you, I don't think you were asked yet. Right?

Michael Lusch (audience member) – I'm just asking.

Mr. Bradley – I know. I'd love to and I want to ask everybody here and that's the whole point. That we should be asked. However, most people would agree that having individuals to support the safety of our community is beneficial. But I think, like Mr. Lusch, just brought up that he should be asked. He has a lot of experience in this, he has a lot of insight, this person should be asked, that person should be asked, everyone should have the opportunity to be asked prior to a police force being assigned to the district. Do they have the right to arrest? Do they have the right to...

Mr. Cleaver – Did you read...you talked about the documents that you received. The job description clearly states...

Mr. Bradley – Correct.

Mr. Cleaver – ...as did my email that was sent back with your question.

Mr. Bradley – Correct. Did those people (audience) get the privilege of seeing that?

Mr. Cleaver – No, they did not.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you and that's my point. Prior to this board making decisions, those people are supposed to see what they think so that they can tell us, we work for them, Mr. Cleaver. You work for them.

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, this is a recommendation that we are making to the board to begin this process. You have right the to vote no, you have every right to question it and again, I personally feel that this is the best interest of our district at this point for what we have. Absolutely I do.

Mr. Bradley – Did you put these motions on the agenda?

Mr. Cleaver – Absolutely.

Mr. Bradley – So then the next one says you want to create the positions of these people.

Mr. Cleaver – Yes.

Mr. Bradley – So you already have the plan to create the position? When would this start taking place?

Mr. Cleaver – Well, we'd have to have the approval from the court. That's why this is first because if we say no to this one the second one would be null and void.

Mr. Bradley – And, if it goes through Lehigh, currently Lehigh Police Department has the ability and access to here, they just don't have the resources to help us. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Cleaver – No, that's not what I'm saying.

Mr. Bradley – What are you saying that Lehigh told you?

Mr. Cleaver – What do you mean what did Lehigh tell me?

Mr. Bradley – You said you checked with the borough, what was the result of that meeting?

Mr. Cleaver – I talked with the borough about the process of how the other district's use their own police force but the OHI information, OHI numbers for putting in the felonies and creating arrest rights and those types of things. That's what I checked with them for.

Mr. Stern – No, I think what he's referencing is the lack of the support from the Borough of Lehigh to support a school resource officer in our schools. The borough turned us down with our original offer of an 80/20 split.

Mr. Bradley – 80/20 on which side, Mr. Stern?

Mr. Stern – 80 was ours, 20 was theirs.

Mr. Bradley – And they said no for what was their logic so we can understand and maybe negotiate a better deal.

Mr. Cleaver – They felt, no, they felt the district should be responsible for 100% of the costs.

Mr. Bradley – And what's the value to the community if we do we pick up 100% of the costs and it's a police officer not a school resource officer?

Mr. Cleaver – After doing the research, these individuals would have the same right as a school resource officer.

Mr. Bradley – So, if the Lehighton Borough, then all of our schools will be inside of the Lehighton Borough at some point in the future.

Mr. Cleaver – Correct.

Mr. Bradley – So, if the Lehighton Borough asked for 100% to add to the police force, why aren't we helping them?

Mr. Cleaver – Again, with the letter that was submitted to you with the explanation. So you are saying that the district, taxpayers, should be responsible for 100% of a cost of an individual that will be on-site for 180 days plus or minus? That's what you're saying?

Mr. Bradley – I'm saying that those people, in the community, that are spending those tax dollars should have a right to help make that decision and give the board information before the board decides.

Mr. Cleaver – And that's your opinion, yes.

Mrs. Spinelli – Mr. Cleaver, that police officer that the borough wanted paid 100%, is that one (1) or is that two (2)?

Mr. Cleaver – One (1).

Mrs. Spinelli – It's one (1). So, if we go through the other method we get two (2)?

Mr. Cleaver – Correct. We have two (2) and we have more flexibility because ultimately we are their supervisor. Where with the school resource officer they pick, the borough is still their supervisor. So, if they decide that there's an accident and they need to be present there, and other officers are on call, they could call our current school resource officer to go attend to that accident.

Mrs. Spinelli – So, it really is in our best interest to have our own.

Mr. Cleaver – With after researching and those types of things, I would have to say yes.

Mrs. Spinelli – Okay, thank you.

Mr. Bradley – But, the advantage to the community is that they are paying for it so the entire community, our kids are at risk whether they're getting on a bus, whether they're on school grounds, whether they're walking back and forth, whether in the park. So, supporting our local police department is the most value to the community and before we spend our money, their money, they should be asked is my opinion.

Mrs. Spinelli – Well, I'm going to say this one time. This is the Lehigh Area School District; it is not the Lehigh Borough. We do what's best for the district. It is not our job to do what is best for the borough. Second of all, I agree with some things that may or may not need to be changed and I'm more than happy to talk about that but right now, these people are in charge of this district, you are not Mr. Bradley, you are one (1) vote, one (1) seat, one (1) of nine (9) and I will trust that they do their due diligence and they give us their best advice as to what's going on. So, until something changes, what is best, that has been decided by the people who are paid to do that, I'm going with them.

Mr. Bradley – And, where as we have a responsibility to the district, ultimately, we have a responsibility to what is called our stakeholders, which is our children and that's what I care about, the safety of our children, thank you.

Mr. Yenser – So as I learned in my Civics lessons, back when I was in high school, our citizens elected us as officials to represent them on this board (*audience applauded*)...

Mr. Bradley – And, to not...

Mr. Yenser – As a representative to the people who elected me on to this board, I'm going to make a decision based upon what they've elected me to do for this board.

Mr. Bradley – And, I'm suggesting, in your Civics lessons, that when you were elected to represent them, you should probably talk to them prior to making decisions for them, on top of them, as a government.

Mr. Yenser – Absolutely. As I'm out in the community, at the grocery store, sporting events, concerts, I do talk to the stakeholders.

Mr. Bradley – So, how many stakeholders have you talked to of the say 15,000? Why don't we just ask them all.

Mr. Yenser – They elected us to represent them, not to take every vote back out to them.

Mr. Bradley – Not to take every vote back to them, but to collect data.

Mr. Yenser – Research ourselves, the homework ourselves to make the best decisions on their behalf, that's what a representative does in their community.

Mr. Bradley – Yet the school code talks specifically about using the stakeholders to collect information and therefore...

Mr. Wentz called to question and Mrs. Spinelli seconded.

Ms. Beers – May I ask a question? Bill, could you just explain the law that requires us to petition the court? Can you explain that to me?

Atty. Schwab – Sure.

Ms. Beers – And also tell me, like, is your fee for this going to be covered by the grants that people have been talking about?

Atty. Schwab – I don't know how my fee is going to be paid. I've never asked, I submit an hourly bill and that's, how he divides it up and what codes he puts on it, that's the business office.

Ms. Beers – Okay and do you have a guestimate on what your costs may be?

Atty. Schwab – No. I'll explain why. First of all, the reason we have to petition the court is we're going outside of borough limits. Okay, when we hire a police officer for the school, it's for the school district. Essentially any school function, a bus – there's an incident on a bus in East Penn or an incident on a bus in Mahoning, our police officers have a right to investigate that. So we are not limiting ourselves to just Lehighton Borough. A resource officer would do that, so that's the difference. And, as a result of that, we have to first petition the court, ask the court whether or not the court feels that there's substantial reasons for it, and after that the court has to review the names. We actually have to have names of people that you've agreed to hire for that for me to petition. I just can't say, court let us start a police force. I have to have names to give to the judge so the judge authorizes particular people and their names. The reason I can't give you an estimate is the petition probably, may be an hour, maybe another hour to get the exhibits, but no other district in this county has done it. So, I don't know if the judge is going to say I want a hearing on it and if we have a hearing, am I going to be the only thing scheduled that day or am I going to be the end of list. I can't tell you, that's why I have to fudge. I just don't know how much it's going to cost for attorney' fees because the court has not done it before so I can't, I don't have any experience, in this county.

Ms. Beers – Okay.

Mr. Feick – I can tell from where I was at before, we had an armed police service and we petitioned the court, they went to every municipality that had their own police service to see if there's any objection. That was the only thing that they did for the courts at that time. I don't know what Carbon will do.

Atty. Schwab – I have no idea what the judge will do.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Part-Time Police Officers	MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to create the positions of two (2) Part-Time School Police Officers for the Lehighton Area School District. The positions will be paid the rate of \$30 per hour for up to 120 hours per month for 10 months. The individuals will be required to have Act 120 or Act 235 certification or equivalent if outside of Pennsylvania (armed security guards).
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Mr. Bradley – Is there a method in which we can ask the community prior to adding these two (2) positions and secondly, what funds are these coming from?

Mr. Cleaver – Again, the method, I mean if the board wishes, as a majority, to create a method, we can certainly do that. And, again that would have to be the majority of the board. The funds, part of the funding would be the \$40,000 this year and the \$20,000 next year. However, with that there will also be funds because there are certain requirements they have to have. You know, certain uniforms as well, so that is part of the grant. There is a start-up cost for that. When you are looking at this, the 120 hours at \$30/hour will exceed that throughout the time and then the district, when we budget next year, will be responsible to include this in the budget which currently we do have money as we are moving forward, correct Mr. Feick, for the school resource officer we were planning on having and I believe there's even documents that were sent to the board with that information.

Mr. Feick – Yes and then actually with everything that's been going on, especially with Parkland, the state's talking about additional grants and security grants. So, hopefully if they do come out with that, we'll apply and hopefully get it covered 100%. Right now, you'll have to still approve the individual. This just creates the job description and advertisement.

Mr. Bradley – Correct. Well, as a parent, and I have several kids, and security is very important, member of the PTO. We weren't brought up at all during these conversations in reference to hiring police officers. Did you ask any of the PTO's during your travels whether this was a thoughtful idea? What response did you get from the PTO's?

Mr. Cleaver – Did I ask them, myself? No, I did not.

Mr. Bradley – Did anybody on this board go to any PTO meeting anywhere and discuss this so that those people can then discuss it amongst themselves and come to this board with some insight. Anybody?

Mrs. Spinelli – Would that make any difference? I mean would we say, no, we are not going to hire a police officer because a certain PTO says they didn't think it was a good idea. We have a responsibility to think of the whole district, not just what a few people at the PTO. And, hey, I'm a past PTO president. We have the responsibility to take the whole district and its safety in our hands. What if somebody says no?

Mr. Bradley – I'll actually one up you on that. What if somebody else has a great idea that we did not think of that we can then address as a board that we didn't have. Until you ask them, we don't know but that's the value of what John Kennedy said which is make a difference and everybody should try. Give them an opportunity to speak and we can learn. That's the board and that's the representation and that is what's in this, Pennsylvania School Code, our responsibility. I just say, talk to them, there are just our constituents, they're not going to bite.

Mrs. Spinelli – I do talk to them, Mr. Bradley and so do other people. For every one person that you can find that agrees with you, I can come up with at least two that don't.

Audience applauded.

Mr. Bradley – And, democracy let three wolves eat the sheep, correct? And a democracy will let three wolves eat a sheep. It's not about democracy, it's representative democracy and what you're doing by having the communications is getting an opportunity to find those good ideas not just live in an echo chamber.

Mrs. Spinelli called to question and Mr. Wentz seconded.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Ms. Beers – Can I ask a belated question? How was the number two (2) arrived at? How do we know that two (2) is the right number of officers?

Mr. Cleaver – Well that is just to start. If we realize that too, we need a third. I know that when you look at it, we have three (3) buildings and the hours...

Ms. Beers – That’s what I’m thinking.

Mr. Cleaver – But there is a part of it too that some districts –if we propose a school resource officer we only had one (1), so this is for two (2) for the opportunity to have two (2) and to get more coverage to our district as well.

Ms. Beers – So, it was a guess?

Mr. Cleaver – I wouldn’t say it was a guess. It was from recommendations of other districts that I talked to. Some of them have two (2) for the size of our district that have school police officers. I can tell you that Pleasant Valley, I believe has ten (10), five (5) full-time and five (5) part-time last time that I checked. I know Hazleton has a number of them, but those are much larger districts.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – CCTI has one. We have a resource officer.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you for sharing that information, that’s awesome.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – You’re so welcome, Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley – And I love it.

CLIU MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve the
Intergovern. Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services for the 2018-2019
Agreement school year with the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Lawn MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Lawn
Mowing Mowing Service Contract Extension with **All R Services, LLC**, for the 2018 season.
Contract

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Schwab did you review this document?

Atty. Schwab – I have not seen this document, no.

Mr. Bradley – Has any solicitor, any PSBA, anyone reviewed this document?

Atty. Schwab – This, I have not seen the contract extension. I haven't seen it.

Mr. Cleaver – This is the original...

Mr. Bradley – Has anyone reviewed this contract?

Mr. Cleaver – This is the original contract language.

Mr. Bradley – I understand, but did anyone from a legal standpoint review this contract?

Atty. Schwab – I have not seen it.

Mr. Bradley – Could you do me a favor and take a 30-second cursory review of this contract? This is missing most of the element of a contract.

Atty. Schwab – It's up to the board, majority of the board. If they want me to look at it, I'll look at it.

Mr. Bradley – Actually, an individual from the board can ask you look at it currently. Can you please look at this prior to my vote on this contract because it seems to be missing amounts, last time of the bids, bonds?

Atty. Schwab – Mr. Feick...do you have the entire contract?

Mr. Feick – I have what they gave me from Building and Grounds.

Mr. Stern – Okay, how about I amend the motion to include pending solicitor review?

Mr. Bradley – I think you're going to find that this contract is going to need to be re-written not just reviewed.

Mr. Stern – Well, we'll find out about that when it happens.

Mr. Stern reread the motion with the addition of pending solicitor review.

Mr. Bradley – Hold on one second Larry, wait one second. If you're going to change a motion on the floor, those people (audience) have a right to speak because now it's a new motion.

Mr. Stern – Okay. Anybody like to speak about the lawn mowing service?

Mr. Bradley – Did anyone see the contract? That can speak intelligently about it. There's no confidentiality information on it at all, correct Mr. Schwab? They should be allowed the right to review something prior to providing their opinion. Correct?

Gloria Bowman (audience member) – Mr. Feick, is this the third year of going with All R Services?

Mr. Feick – Actually, this would be the fourth.

Gloria Bowman (audience member) – So the original contract was down for “x” number of years and that was detailed and I remember the board receiving that contract for review and that is just an extension. So my assumption was the extension was provided to each of the board members and they do an excellent job cutting lawns.

Mr. Feick – Yes and actually, I don’t know why...

Mr. Bradley – We’re not challenging their ability; we’re just making sure the district is covered...

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley...

Mr. Bradley – ...under a contract, did you review this Gloria?

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, I think when you ask the public to comment, you should not interrupt them when you ask them to comment, when someone is commenting.

Mr. Bradley – I agree. I’m just asking her to clarify.

Mr. Cleaver – I think that would be the respectful thing to do.

Mr. Bradley – Completely agree. I’m just asking to clarify. Did you get a chance to review this contract, Gloria prior to your three (3) approvals? Most contracts have four (4) elements this seems to be missing some of them.

Mr. Stern – We have a motion and a second.

Mr. Bradley – The solicitor’s still looking at it. Give him a chance.

Mr. Stern – Well, pending solicitor review. No, pending solicitor review.

Mr. Bradley – Change the word to agreement instead of contract. Do something to recognize that this is not a contract guys. This is basic, basic common sense.

Tom Wertman (audience member) – May I speak?

Mr. Stern – Yes you may, Mr. Wertman.

Tom Wertman (audience member) – I want to know when it says extension of the contract. In other words, we have the original contract, this is just an extension to go forward with it. What is the problem that Mr. Bradley is having not understanding that it is an extension to the original contract? That’s what I want to know.

Mr. Bradley – Do you have a copy of it?

Tom Wertman (audience member) – No, Mr. Bradley. Mr. Bradley...

Mr. Bradley – Show me where it says that?

Mr. Stern – Order, order, order, order...

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Wertman...

Mr. Stern – Mr. Wertman...

Mr. Cleaver – We are going to ask you again to relax.

Mr. Bradley – Can we please share this with Mr. Wertman?

Mr. Stern – You (Mr. Bradley) smiled. Do you enjoy that?

Mr. Bradley – Can you please share this with Mr. Wertman? Can you please give him...he's arguing over something...

Mrs. Spinelli called to question, Mr. Wentz seconded.

Mr. Stern – Call to question...

Mr. Bradley – ...obviously available in fact instead of being emotionally vague.

Mr. Stern – We have a motion and a second.

Mrs. Spinelli – Please call the question.

Mr. Bradley – It's not a question of motion.

James Zelrick (audience member) – May I speak?

Mr. Bradley – Yes, sir.

James Zelrick (audience member) – So, several times in here I've heard you represent us as constituents. You are absolutely correct and we vote for you and give you the authority to make decision on our behalf. But, what I demand, as a voter, is that each and every one of you act with decorum. You are acting like a bunch of children fighting over the last piece of cake. You have very good ideas...(inaudible)...a lot went on as a new member board comes in and kids move to the area. I heard all this stuff. Hey, vote on this, motion approved, no idea about it. You bring up a good point. There's a very old saying, I'm sure you're aware, you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Man, you (Mr. Bradley) are spouting vinegar left and right and every one of you is going right back at him. Please,...(inaudible)...represent me like an adult.

Mr. Stern – Thank you, sir.

Mr. Bradley – I appreciate that and at the same time out of respect to a board member, if you read this, even as a layman, you're going to realize that it's missing elements of a contract and should not be approve by any board.

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – Can I ask a question? This is an extension of a pre-approved contract, correct?

Mr. Stern – Correct.

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – Alright.

Mr. Bradley – It's not written that way.

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – You're not going to have four (4) elementary schools anymore.

Mr. Stern – Right. You're exactly right.

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – So, are we paying them to still cut grass at four (4) elementary schools?

Mr. Cleaver – As part of this contract, or agreement, however you look at it, it is per cut that they're charged. So, once those buildings are done and we no longer of ownership of them or if we do, we are billed per cut per this contract. So, each field...

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – So, it's per property?

Mr. Cleaver – Right.

Mr. Feick – Actually, it's per mowing and we tell them when to mow.

Barbara Bowes (audience member) – Okay. I just wanted to make sure that we're not going to be...you know there's 12 acres at East Penn. I don't know how much is grass but...okay.

Mr. Stern – Thank you.

Mr. Bradley – And this really doesn't have to do with the grass cutting or needing, it has to do with basic respect to a board member that if you're going to get them to make a decision for your behalf, they should be getting information and to not have that information is bad.

James Zelrick (audience member) – Vote on the agenda, you are voting for an extension on the contract. On the top of this it is entitled Lehigh Area School District Lawn Mowing Service Contract. The word extension is not mentioned anywhere. Shouldn't the extension, all previous contracts things have been voted on and agreed upon are enforced. This is not the extension, this says contract.

Mr. Bradley – But also you need the amount of the contract and the changes of the values and then also to protect the district I think you should have to make sure the employees have workman's comp, that the employees have a surety bond, and to protect the district I'd also agree that some of these basic tenements of a contract should be reviewed by our solicitor prior to them even getting to the board and access to the solicitor to be able to do that would be a benefit to the board so that it doesn't play out in a pandemonium because of my ability to use vinegar.

Mr. Stern – Mr. Schwab, do you have any issues with this contract?

Atty. Schwab – Well, the workman's comp is in here, the performance bond is in there already as part of the contract. Maintain liability insurance is in there. Just those three (3) items that you mentioned Mr. Bradley are actually in the contract already.

Mr. Bradley – I asked for the surety bond. Where are you seeing it? Because that's what I asked for clarification.

Atty. Schwab - Page 4, Page 3.

Mr. Bradley - That's what I asked for originally and we were not responded to. Page 4, okay. So the one I was given only has pages...

Mrs. Maholick - Dave, it's on the green pages.

Mr. Bradley - I don't get the green ones. May I please see your copy (Atty. Schwab)?

Atty. Schwab - This is Mr. Feick's copy.

Mr. Bradley - Mr. Feick's copy, please. Mine doesn't even have page 4 on it. Here, you want to see mine.

Mr. Stern - No, why would I want to see yours?

Mr. Bradley - Look at it. That's why I mentioned that.

Mr. Stern - I have a call to question on the floor.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 1 (J.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Personnel

2017-2018 Substitutes MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to approve the attached list of candidates for the **2017-2018 Substitute List** pending clearances.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Ath./Ex. Curr. Hires MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to approve the **Athletic/Extra-Curricular** hires for the **2017-2018** and **2018-2019** school year.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

**Courses
Approved**

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

1. **Sydney Schafer** – June 4-August 5, 2018/Emergent Literacy
2. **Amber Williams** – April 2-June 16, 2018/Inclusionary Practices for Exceptional Students
3. **Amber Williams** – April 2-June 16, 2018/Early Literacy I

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

**Hires
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to approve the recommendation to hire the following employees in accordance with the respective contracts, pending clearances:

1. **Amielia Barhold** - Part-Time Paraprofessional - **\$11.00/hour** – effective date TBD
2. ~~**Denise DePasquale** – Lunch-Time Aide - **\$8.50/hour** – effective date TBD~~
Declined
3. **Beth Marsteller** – Lunch-Time Aide - **\$8.50/hour** – effective date TBD
4. **Justin Smith** – Utility Custodian – **Step 1 - \$28,300 (prorated)** – effective date TBD
5. **Stephanie Gustafson** – Long-Term Substitute for ELL – **Step 1 - \$43,000 (prorated)** – effective date December 5, 2017.

Mr. Bradley – Did you just say that number 5 has already been hired?

Mr. Cleaver – She’s being paid as a sub, this will go back to when she started as a long-term sub, retroactive.

Mr. Bradley – Retroactive, okay.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 1 (J.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Resignations MOTION by Ms. Beers, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to accept the resignation of the following employees:

1. **Marla Lawson** – Part-Time Cleaner – effective March 23, 2018

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Stern, these personnel related items, why were they not given an opportunity to be discussed at an executive session prior to the board coming to vote on a blind motion.

Mr. Stern – It’s not the board’s responsibility to do the interviewing or hiring. It’s just the authorization of the hiring.

Mr. Bradley – I agree, but they have some oversight. Why were they not provided that opportunity to have that oversight?

Mr. Stern – Are you talking about a resignation?

Mr. Bradley – Correct.

Mr. Stern – So we won't...I mean somebody resigned. What, are you going to stop it?

Mr. Bradley – Relax, Mr. Stern.

Mr. Stern – What do you want to happen in executive session about Ms. Lawson resigning?

Mr. Bradley – Thank you. Now, in exchange of the gentleman's application of vinegar, let me try some honey. If a person is leaving your employment, typically you have an exit interview during which the management of the corporation can use that exit interview for information to better the opportunity for the district and its employees. That's the information I would like to glean from this opportunity. It should be done in executive session and that's the opportunity I'm looking for.

Mr. Stern – Okay, thank you.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

FMLA MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to acknowledge FMLA leave for the following employees, not to exceed 12 weeks:

1. **Employee #1314** – effective March 29, 2018
2. **Employee #1368** – effective April 13, 2018
3. **Employee #1333** – effective April 23, 2018

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Retirements MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to accept the intent to retire for the following support employees, effective the end of the 2017-2018 school year under terms of their respective contract with eligibility of all retirement benefits:

1. **Ruthann Mriss** – Cafeteria – Hired September 12, 1994 – 21.84 years of service
2. **Donald Dorward** – Utility Custodian – Hired April 17, 2012 – effective date of April 2, 2018 – 5.97 years of service

Mr. Bradley – I'd like to commend Ruthann for 21 years of service, thank you.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Additional ESY Hire MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the hiring of the following 2018 Extended School Year (ESY) additional position, at the current contracted hourly rate of pay.

1. **Lucyna Godek** - Paraprofessional

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Summer Hires MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve the recommendation to hire the following summer positions, pending clearances:

1. **Jack Zimmerman** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
2. **Spencer Perkins** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
3. **Lucas Sanguiliano** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
4. **Brett Gasker** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
5. **Nate Petit-Clair** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
6. **Jake Petit-Clair** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
7. **Gregory Venuto** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
8. **Logan Lichtenwalner** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$ 7.25 per hour
9. **Tyler Steigerwalt** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$7.25 per hour
10. **Avery Deem** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$7.25 per hour
11. **Matt Petit-Clair** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$7.25 per hour
12. **TaQuan Bradley-Chambers** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$7.25 per hour
13. **Dylan Ahner** - Summer Utility Helper - at a rate of \$7.25 per hour

Mr. Bradley - So, some of these names I might recognize. Isn't number 12 one of our football players? Is he graduating this year?

Mr. Stern - He's not graduating, he's a junior.

Mr. Cleaver - Even students, we employee college students as well.

Mr. Bradley - Okay. So there's an age...I just recognized some of the names. So I wanted to make sure they're qualified.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

- School Journeys** MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:
1. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** – April 3, 2018, - 7:45 a.m.-8:00 p.m.- to travel Pleasant Valley High School (HS Budget)
 2. **East Penn Kindergarten & 1st Grade (K. Betz, R. Zerbe, N. Zehner)** – April 6, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.-10:40 p.m. - to travel to Lehigh Rec. Center for Children’s Health Fair (PTO Sponsored)
 3. **11th & 12th Environmental Science Classes (B. Daubert, F. Brown)** – April 18, 2018 (Rain Date 4/25/18) – 8:45 a.m. -1:15 p.m. – to travel to Carbon County Environmental Center for Earth Day (School Van)
 4. **Accounting II & III Students (K. Mychalyszyn-Simko)** – April 19, 2018 – 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. – to travel to Bloomsburg University for Accounting Career Days (School Van)
 5. **Pre-K Counts (S. Maloney)** – April 25, 2018 – to travel to Lehigh Memorial Library (Parents bring children)
 6. **LAHS Business Law (K. Kotch)** – April 30, 2018 – 7:50 a.m.-2:20 p.m. – to travel to Carbon County Courthouse for Law Day (HS Budget)
 7. **3rd Grade Envirothon Team (J. Boyle, C. Kresge)** – May 7, 2018 – 8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. – to travel to Carbon County Environmental Center for Envirothon (MA/SD Budget)
 8. **3rd Grade Envirothon Team (T. Strausberger)** – May 7, 2018 – 8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. – to travel to Carbon County Environmental Center for Envirothon (FR Budget)
 9. **Tech Wizards Jr. (D. Brownmiller)** – May 18 or June 4, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – to travel to the Apple Store in Allentown (School Van)
 10. **Shull-David 4th Grade – (M. Dillman, B. Cressley)** – May 22, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – to travel to Zion U.C.C. Church in Lehigh for PA Dutch Days (SD Budget for Bus only if it rains)

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

- Homebound** MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Ms. Beers to approve homebound instruction for the following student:
1. **Student #54477**

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Graduation 6/15/18 MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to approve graduation to be held on Friday, June 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the LASD Multi-Purpose Stadium. If inclement weather, the LAHS Auditorium.

Mr. Bradley – Can Mr. Cleaver please explain why we moved it up to June 15th and the cost to the district for doing so?

Mr. Cleaver – Yes. I believe, I’m hoping all the board members got the response to that question through the email. We moved the graduation, we always want to have it on a Friday for multiple reasons; the 50th Class reunion always comes back and they try to tie their class reunion to that following Saturday, if they can. We allow Fridays, we’ve always done it on a Friday to allow family to come here. It’s been on a Friday as long as I’ve been here. It’s a convenience for the parents/guardians that wish to be in attendance. You questioned the cost for this. Once you have graduation, you are not able to account for those seniors as your state subsidy. So by moving the last day to that Monday following graduation there is \$3,616.49 give or take a couple of cents depending on what number is when they take the snapshot that the district will not be able to incur. With that being said, once the board approves the date, I will be able to petition the state to see, because of all the emergency days, if they will give us that one day of leeway, which they have in the past.

Mr. Bradley – And this is in effort to help the senior class trip? Is that correct? Or, the ability for them to attend.

Mr. Cleaver – The senior class trip?

Mr. Bradley – Or the European trip I believe a group is taking.

Mr. Cleaver – No idea.

Mr. Bradley – Nothing to do with any of that?

Mr. Cleaver – No, I have no idea.

Mr. Bradley – That’s the benefit of having information rather than a rumor mill.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Reconfig. Meetings MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve and advertise the listed dates for the School Reconfiguration Public Hearings and Transition Meetings to be held on the following dates as required from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE):

Franklin Elementary – April 17, 2018, 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. – FR Multi-Purpose Room
Shull-David Elementary – April 17, 2018, 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. – SD Multi-Purpose Room

Mahoning Elementary – April 18, 2018, 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. – MA Multi-Purpose Room

East Penn Elementary – April 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.- EP Multi-Purpose Room

Leighton Area Middle School – April 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m. – Auditorium

Note: The above meetings are for information sharing only. No other board business will be conducted on the above listed dates and times.

Mr. Bradley – Can you please explain how this hearing works because this is the first I'm seeing it since this agenda was published on Thursday night.

Mr. Cleaver – School reconfiguration hearing is required by the state. There's a certain timeframe involved in this as well. This hearing is when you are closing a school or school building you have to have a hearing. I don't want to say it's similar to the Act 34, but it is in the way that there is no other board business, that there's no motions. It gives the public an opportunity to hear it. Part of this meeting will be part of the transition from the elementary schools currently to the elementary center next year so there will be a lot of public information that will be displayed at this meeting and it gives individuals a right to comment or talk about the school regarding the process. But, this is required by PDE. We have to advertise this. It has to be fifteen (15) days advertised prior to the hearing. What I tried to do was tie it to the PTO meetings because I figured that would encourage people to attend. I was unable to do that with the requirement for the fifteen (15) days. Once the hearings are complete, then there is a three (3) month window before the board has the decision to permanently close the school. So after three (3) months, at the July board meeting, we can put a motion on to permanently close the four (4) schools. The middle school is not required, but I think it's important to discuss it. We're not closing the school but there still is a grade change with that. Also part of this is the requirement which we agreed to in July of 2014, I believe, of moving 5th grade down to the elementary so that already had to be submitted as well as part of this.

Mr. Bradley – So how does the public get an opportunity to speak at this hearing?

Mr. Cleaver – They can be at the meeting and have an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Bradley – And, who's the moderator?

Mr. Cleaver – I will be and there is a time there as well and that is part of the requirement. Some districts will just do it in the administration building or wherever their board meeting is held, for example we have four (4) buildings, technically we could have done all four (4) in one night an hour. Say if we did 6-7 for one building, 7-8, 8-9, we could have done it this way. But, by going out and taking this information to the school's, I thought it would be an opportunity for more people to have a chance to attend.

Mr. Bradley – I'd agree. Did anybody review the cost to the district stakeholders for their home values assessments for the closing of these debt-free, local, safe elementary schools? Did the previous board review the asset or the assessment value changes when you close a school?

Mr. Cleaver – I can't answer your question to be fair to you.

Mr. Bradley – Larry, you were on the previous board, did you guys ever review any of it?

Mr. Stern – No.

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Schwab, is the district at risk of any litigation or liability for closing a school by the class action associated by the reduced value of those assessed properties?

Atty. Schwab – Not to my knowledge. Nothing has ever been successful, in fact, if we look at East Penn alone, we'll probably have a \$40,000 gain in revenue to the district by making it a for-profit purchase.

Mr. Bradley – I'm talking about the individual homeowner's property by not having a local elementary in the community.

Atty. Schwab – No. There's something called sovereign immunity that a government is exempt. Goes back to the King and the King could do no wrong, the Commonwealth, we can't do any wrong.

Mr. Bradley – I recognize the idea that this board has acted like a King. My question is has anybody reviewed the value assessment of the entire district when you close these schools?

Atty. Schwab – I am not aware that happened here and I know of no cause of action that anybody could bring against the district.

Mr. Bradley – But the value changes have occurred in the past, they just don't have the right to make that cause of action. Is that correct?

Atty. Schwab – They, everyone has a right to go to the county and ask for a change of assessment. They can do that every year. We, as a taxing entity, could go and say the neighborhood is improved because it no longer has a school, instead has a personal senior living center in East Penn. May actually increase the values. We just don't know that and it's not our responsibility. Assessment is all the County; we have no function in that.

Mr. Bradley – But, as a board, did we review that information prior to making this decision?

Atty. Schwab – As I said, no. It's never been done, it's not required.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

SPO Job Description MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to approve the Lehighon Area School District School Police Officer job description as attached.

Ms. Beers – How is the job description created?

Mr. Cleaver – Talking to districts that have these type of positions. Putting all that information together and trying to make it work it more feasible. One of the areas we had to make sure was looking at the 235 Acts that are there and the qualifications is something we wanted to make sure

that it allowed us to do that. In addition, and I apologize, for not bringing this up early, we did check with our insurance company, as well, because of having armed individuals, it will be \$2,500 a year for the coverage and liability for these positions as well. So that was already checked in to.

Mr. Bradley – Did I misunderstand earlier you mentioned that this resource officer reports to the Lehighton Borough still or now, here, it's reporting to the district, which is the Superintendent.

Mr. Cleaver – Reports to the Superintendent is correct.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - 1 (D.B.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Bd. Members MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland that the Board of School
To Proper Directors of the Lehighton Area School District direct the school's administration
Channels and solicitor to refer board members to the proper channels for responding to any information requests.

Mr. Bradley – Did you define what the proper channels are in this motion? Because as a school director, the proper channel according to school code, is to talk to either the Superintendent or the solicitor.

Mrs. Spinelli – I think maybe would it be whoever needs to give the request such as the business manager, maybe the solicitor would, maybe the Superintendent would. Maybe someone else would so I take it to mean the proper channel would be, I can't answer your question, you need to talk to Mr. Feick.

Mr. Bradley – I'm looking at it as limiting a board member's ability to ask for information.

Ms. Beers – Isn't this motion kind of reactionary to some kind of behavior that's been occurring? And, what is the behavior that whoever put this motion on the agenda, what kind of behavior do they want to curtail? I mean, let's be specific and not vague so people can know what's not okay.

Mr. Stern – Mr. Schwab, would you like to comment?

Atty. Schwab – We've had certain requests, from certain board members for information. The information that we have has gone, for example, information requests have come to me. I'm not the one that should be giving any information, it should frequently be Mr. Feick, might be the Right-to-Know officer, could be the Superintendent. If we were talking about something at the high school, it may be Ms. Howland.

Ms. Beers – Okay, so it's primarily information request from you because you...

Atty. Schwab – Not from me. It's the people are making to the wrong person.

Ms. Beers – Yes, but, you're the wrong person?

Atty. Schwab – I'm the wrong person, right. And, we got to get it to the right person so they can get answer as quickly as possible.

Ms. Beers – Perfect and maybe this motion should say that board members should not be asking the solicitor for district information.

Atty. Schwab – That may be the case, but by the same token, it's important for board members to get the information as soon as possible. Not for me to hold it up and say, no I'm not the one you go to. It's just as easy for me to forward it to the right person. That's all this motion does. Expedites document requests.

Mr. Bradley – But, Mr. Schwab, when I ask for documents of yourself and you're the only holder of that document, are you going to pass it back to a Right-to-Know Officer, that doesn't have that information?

Atty. Schwab – I'm not subject to the Right-to-Know Act, sir.

Mr. Bradley – I agree. But, as a board solicitor, you are subject to our questions as individual board members. For instance, I'll name four (4). Name the company that did the appraisals for East Penn and Mahoning?

Atty. Schwab – We'll talk about that in the next one. When you've given twenty-three (23) requests that would have cost this district \$3,000 of estimate on Thursday, when I was on vacation, I thought that was excessive. That's why you are having your motion come in H. When you send an email requesting information on a Saturday night right before 11 o'clock at night, I believe that's excessive. I don't believe I don't have the duty or the responsibility to respond to individual board members. The majority of the board, yes. And, if the majority of the board wants me to do something, I'll be more than happy to. Individual board members that every day send out five (5) or six (6) emails a day that this board is getting billed for is excessive. That's not this motion.

Mr. Bradley – But to get zero (0) answers for name the company that did the appraisal for East Penn and Mahoning.

Atty. Schwab – And, I've said many times I'll never say that Mr. Bradley. So long as you are on the board and you'd crucify that person that made a mistake, you've been told what happened...

Mr. Bradley – I did not been told. Last meeting, we don't know what happened. Can anyone in this room decide what happened?

Mrs. Maholick – I'd like to know what happened?

Mr. Bradley – We all would. The next one was, can we get a copy of them? Do we have an invoice, payment?

Atty. Schwab – There is not appraisal. You've been told that last time.

Ms. Beers – Hold on, you said a mistake was made.

Atty. Schwab – The mistake is the appraiser did an appraisal, he gave us a number and he never billed or sent the appraisal to Mr. Feick.

Ms. Beers – Okay, so that's the mistake, not following through.

Atty. Schwab – Yes.

Mr. Bradley - We did not know that. Now, the question is who authorized the appraisal and what company did not meet their requirements?

Atty. Schwab - And, I will never tell you Mr. Bradley, period. I'm not going to do it, I'm not going to expose someone else to your ridicule and your harassment.

Mr. Bradley - I just want to know who did the appraisal.

Atty. Schwab - Well, I'm sorry, I'm not going to give out the name.

Mr. Bradley - The board was a responsible motion to make that happen and we're telling me we didn't have it.

Atty. Schwab - Well, majority of the board can have my resignation if they want it, but I'm not going to give up someone to be harassed by you.

Mr. Bradley - It's not harassment to ask a question, Mr. Schwab.

Atty. Schwab - Do you believe eight (8) emails a day is a reasonable amount? Day in and day out from your office? Do you believe asking for twenty-three (23) different matters including what does kidnapping mean, is a reasonable request for this board when nothing is here for the board. Do you believe that sending an email at 11 o'clock at night is a reasonable request on a Saturday night? Do believe it's a reasonable request to have another email at 10 o'clock in the morning asking for documents? Some of which you'd gotten around January 3rd, when you talked about Franklin and Shull-David. It's enough.

Mr. Wentz called to question.

Mr. Bradley - Mr. Schwab, regardless of when you put the mail in the mailbox...

Mr. Stern - We have a call to question.

Mr. Bradley - Excuse me, I was talking.

Mr. Stern - You're talking about an off topic issue.

Mr. Bradley - No, I'm not. I'm talking about the solicitor being limited from answering and individual school board member and that fact that I use individual emails for each subject makes it easier to respond to.

Mrs. Spinelli seconded the call to question.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 3 (J.B., D. B., G.M.) ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Documents or Directors' Concerns to Committees MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by ~~Mr. Bradley~~ Mr. Stern that all document or Directors' Concern requests or questions by individual directors shall be referred to the appropriate board committee for response, review, and/or questions.

Mr. Bradley had a question before a second was made. Mr. Bradley made the second.

Mr. Bradley – Are you changing school policy?

Mr. Stern – No.

Mr. Bradley – What makes you think you're not changing school policy?

Mr. Stern – We're setting rules of conduct.

Mr. Bradley – Part of school policy, right here, documents of Directors' Concerns, that's currently addressed in our school policy. Are you changing that school policy?

Mr. Cleaver – No, I think this request is for Directors' Concerns being submitted, but then they can be discussed in committee as well before showing up on a board agenda.

Mr. Bradley – Very specifically, right in our school policy, if you want to put something on the agenda, the only access, hold on, the only access a board member has to add something to the agenda is under this Directors' Concern, and in the event that you pass this motion, which I seconded for the benefit of discussion, is you're going to limit board members from adding things on to the agenda of a meeting.

Mr. Stern – With inappropriate documentation. If it's an appropriate...

Mr. Bradley – Where are you seeing that?

Mr. Stern – If it's an appropriate activity with documented concerns, not just hearsay or rumor,...

Mr. Stern – Where do you see that?

Mr. Stern – ...then it will go through committee, the committee will determine whether it comes to the board for approval.

Mr. Bradley – That's not what's written here. Would you like to please reread this motion?

Mr. Stern – No.

Mr. Bradley – You can't limit a board member for putting something on the agenda in a meeting to which they are a board member. You're censoring a board member.

Mr. Cleaver – I don't think the intent is for that Mr. Bradley. The intent is for information to go up through committee prior to getting it on the agenda.

Mr. Bradley – We have not had committee meetings in four (4) months.

Mr. Stern – We will. It is now in your packet. Your schedule is there and the committees you have been assigned to are there as well.

Mr. Bradley – And, we’ve also noticed that there’s non-board members assigned to these committees.

Mr. Stern – There’s allowed to be non-board members assigned.

Mr. Bradley – So, those non-board members can restrict information to be able to be put on the board minutes or on the board agenda by their own design.

Mr. Stern – Non-board members are Mr. Eidem for CCTI, Mr. Krause, which is an appointment to LCCC, and Mrs. Bowman for Title I.

Mr. Bradley – So, any board member that wants to go through...

Mr. Stern – They are not committees; they are representatives at those functions. There are no LCCC committee, no Title I committee, that’s Mrs. Bowman by herself and there’s no CCTI committee that would, that Mr. Eidem would be on by himself either.

Mr. Bradley – But, it still says that you’re going to limit a board member for adding something on to an agenda, without it going through a committee first. Death by committee, very common. I withdraw my second now that you explained that motion.

Mr. Stern – Okay, I’ll second it, which I’m allowed to do.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 3 (J.B., D. B., G.M.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Solicitor MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli that the Board of School
Refrain from Directors of the Lehigh Area School District direct its solicitor to refrain from
Resp. to Ind. responding to individual board member’s requests for legal services which would
Bd. Members incur a fee absent a board majority vote.

Mr. Bradley – Again, you’re restricting a board member from counsel...

Mr. Stern – Restricting a board member from spending money unapproved.

Mr. Bradley – ...your opinion.

Mr. Stern – My opinion, just like you have one as well.

Mr. Bradley – You’re restricting a board member from access to counsel. Is that correct?

Mr. Stern – I’m restricting an individual board member without, with the absence of a majority vote, where as Mr. Schwab so eloquently put, when we get 7 or 8 emails a day which incurs 2-3 hour’s worth of work which is \$450/day every day of the week. Why should we be incurring questions or having you and Mr. Schwab argue about case law like you do here, and the district be paying for that?

Mr. Bradley – Because, those taxpayers, elected me...

Mr. Stern – We're not arguing...

Mr. Bradley – Those people elected me to use my...

Mr. Stern – You're not arguing the point; you're arguing the case.

Mr. Bradley – I am. Listen, I was elected to use my experiences for the benefit of the board and those experiences require the interpretation of law by either the PSBA and/or Mr. Schwab and to have access to our solicitor, that we hired is common sense. The fact that we argue with Mr. Schwab for the restriction of information, like invoices and information is pitiful at best. However, we do agree that that information should be allowed to the board members, individual board members.

Atty. Schwab – That's not part of the school code. School code doesn't say that, Mr. Bradley.

Ms. Beers – May I ask a question...

Atty. Schwab – It represents the district, not individual board members or the majority of the board. I know you feel that every board member can ask for nine (9) different opinions, that you have a right to ask your twenty-three (23) questions, you have a right for your six (6) emails a day, you have a right to ask a question to produce a document at Saturday night at 11 o'clock, you have a right to ask at 10 o'clock in the morning, but as a taxpayer, I have a right to be upset that you're incurring \$3,000 worth of legal fees when the rest of the board hasn't authorized it. (*Audience applauded*)

Mr. Bradley – But, Mr. Schwab, I was in a meeting where you said it was going to cost this district \$100,000 to get information and we found out that it was only a couple thousand dollars and even then the information was not even available to us.

Atty. Schwab – You didn't go through and pay the money, Mr. Bradley, if you'd paid the money we would have had to redact and review 40,000 copies. I had to try to figure out how I was going to get other attorneys to meet your 30-day deadline because my office wasn't big enough to handle redaction.

Mr. Bradley – Or, you could go to Crawford County and just give it to us.

Atty. Schwab – Or, misread another case.

Mr. Stern – Call to question on the floor by Mr. Wentz and Mrs. Spinelli.

Ms. Beers – So, on the day we were sworn in, after that board meeting, Bill, you chatted with me and you said I could ask you any type of question anytime. Will this motion change that?

Atty. Schwab – Yes, it will.

Ms. Beers – Okay.

Atty. Schwab – Because, you know, in the past when individual board members have asked questions, I would get maybe one (1) a month, okay, it wasn't excessive, I didn't mind writing it off.

Ms. Beers – You don't have to justify, I just wanted to know if this will trump what you told me on December 4th.

Atty. Schwab – Yes, it will because the overwhelming numbers at this point.

Mr. Bradley – Did you (Mr. Schwab) put this motion on the agenda?

Atty. Schwab – Yes, I asked for it.

Mr. Bradley – And who did you ask for it of?

Atty. Schwab – I asked the Superintendent and Mr. Stern if they would consider putting it on.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 3 (J.B., D. B., G.M.) ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Programs

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

1. **Leighton Area Soccer Club (Angela Peterman)** – March 27-June 15, 2018 – Monday-Friday and Saturdays – 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Soccer – Franklin Outside Fields
2. **Mahoning & Shull-David PTO (Mary Lichtenwalner)** – April 3, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Color Run Race Preparations – Shull-David Multi-Purpose
3. **Mahoning PTO (Karen Shaffer)** – May 11, 2018 – 6:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. – Muffins with Mom – Mahoning Multi-Purpose
4. **East Penn Elementary (Rhonda Zerbe)** – May 5, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Closing Ceremony – East Penn
5. **Mahoning 4th Grade Parents (Karen Shaffer)** – June 8, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – 4th Grade Moving Up/On Ceremony – Mahoning Multi-Purpose
6. **Shull-David Faculty & Staff (Beth Cressley, Melanie Dillman)** – May 11, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. – Farewell Picnic – Shull-David Multi-Purpose and Outside
7. **Mahoning PTO (Karen Shaffer)** – June 1, 2018 – 6:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m. – Donuts for Dad – Mahoning Multi-Purpose
8. **Scholarship Committee (Melissa Wagner)** – April 11, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. – Scholarship Selection – Administration Building
9. **LASD Kindergarten Testing (Karen Shaffer)** – May 4-9, 2018 (May 10th if needed) – 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – Kindergarten Testing – Administration Building
10. **Leighton Athletic Booster Club (Cale Kresge)** – April 18, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. – LABC Track and Field Physicals – Middle School Classrooms
11. **LAMS PTO (D'Ache Zelrick)** – March 29-April 6, 2018 – 7:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m. – Scholastic Book Fair – Middle School Lobby
12. **LAMS Music (Laura Welkey)** – April 30-May 17, 2018 – 1:36-2:20 p.m. – Spring Concert Rehearsals – Middle School Auditorium & Music Classrooms

13. **Pocono Whitewater (CareerLink)** – April 17, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. – Season Summer Job Opportunities – High School Foyer
14. **Lehighton Touchdown Club (Thomas McCarroll)** – June 25-27, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Annual Youth Football Camp – Multi-Purpose Stadium
15. **Lehighton Booster Club (Cory Sherer)** – March 27-April 26, 2018 – Tuesdays and Thursdays – 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. – Arena Football Practice – MS or HS Gym based upon availability
16. **LAHS National Honor Society (Melissa Clark)** – April 22, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Grandparents Prom – High School Cafeteria
17. **Lehighton Boys' Basketball Parents Club (Kelli Carpenter)** – April 10, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Parents Meeting – High School Classroom
18. **Lehighton Athletic Booster Club (Cale Kresge)** – April 24-June 1, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m. – Track and Field Practices – Multi-Purpose Stadium
19. **Top 10% Banquet (Suzanne Howland)** – May 14, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. – Top 10% Banquet – High School Cafeteria
20. **Lehighton Touchdown Club (Tanya Haydt)** – April 19, May 17, & June 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting – High School Classroom
21. **LEAF Lehighton Alumni Committee (Michael Everett)** – March 27, April 24, May 29, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. – Committee Meetings – High School Cafeteria
22. **Elementary PTO (Mary Lichtenwalner)** – March 27, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. – All Four (4) Elementary PTO Basketball Game – High School Gym, Concession Stand and Lobby
23. **LAHS Show Choir (Jessica Schafer)** – April 30-May 24, 2018 – 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. – Show Choir Rehearsals – High School Choral Room & Auditorium
24. **Franklin Township Athletic (Keith Brinker)** – April 2-June 30, 2018 – Mondays through Friday – 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – JV Softball Field
25. **Red Cross Club (Lisa Failla)** – March 28 & May 25, 2018 – 7:00 a.m.-2:20 p.m. – Blood Drive – High School Gym
26. **LAHS Student Council (Laura Schiffer)** – April 20, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Trivia Night – High School Auditorium
27. **Honors English 10 (Cristi Marchetti)** – May 23, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. – To Kill A Mockingbird Dinner & Discussion – High School Cafeteria
28. **Carbon Monarchs (Donald Rehrig)** – May 28-July 15, 2018 – Various Times – Legion Baseball Games – Varsity Baseball Field
29. **Mahoning PTO (Chrissha Litts)** – May 11, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. – Double Dare – Mahoning Multi-Purpose, Field and Playground
30. **Penn State STEAM Camps (Timothy Tkach)** – June 25-29, July 16-20, and August 6-10, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Middle School Classrooms

Ms. Beers – Can Superintendent Cleaver tell us some things about the Kindergarten testing? I'd like to know what's involved in that?

Mr. Cleaver – Which one?

Ms. Beers – Under Programs, number 9.

Mr. Cleaver – That is the Kindergarten testing that we do. We have Kindergarten registration where they come in and register their student and then there is also testing that takes place as well.

Ms. Beers – At the beginning, not at the end?

Mr. Cleaver – At the beginning, yes, for Kindergarten testing.

Mr. Feick – This is actually for the students that are coming in next year.

Mr. Cleaver – Yes, it's not the current Kindergarten, it's for the students that are enrolled and plan to come here for Kindergarten next year.

Mr. Feick – From everything to eyes, to...

Ms. Beers – So what happens with these tests results.

Mr. Cleaver – They are reviewed and shared with the teachers and administrators to give us a general idea of some of the abilities that students have when they come in. It's very basic testing. We are looking to change and revise some of the information, but at this point, it's very basic test just to give the teachers and understanding of some of the abilities the students have.

Ms. Beers – Yes, when they're coming in. Okay.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

2018-2019 Calendar MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to approve the **2018-2019 School Calendar** for the Lehigh Area School District.

Mr. Cleaver – There is a revision on the calendar with using Spring Break, the Thursday, as a third make-up day that was missed when we printed that so I apologize for that.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

I.T. Intern MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to acknowledge the following intern for the spring semester 2017-2018:

1. **William Taylor** – McCann School of Business and Technology – IT – District

Ms. Beers – Why is the word acknowledge used instead of hired?

Mr. Cleaver – Because we are not hiring, he's a volunteer.

Ms. Beers – He's not going to be paid?

Mr. Stern – No.

Mr. Cleaver – Student teachers, too, you’ll see where there’s acknowledgement for student teachers. That means that we acknowledge that they are here. They have follow all of our requirements for internet access and those type of things.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion

Mr. Bradley – Have we had any progress on the sale of Franklin or Shull-David?

Mr. Cleaver – At this point, I’m not aware of any progress.

Atty. Schwab – The board hasn’t authorized anything yet. We’ve had people that have been interested but the board hasn’t authorized anything but the appraisals that the board got in the beginning of January.

Mr. Bradley – Are the schools for sale? How are we getting interests? Are they advertising it? Are we advertising it privately or what are we doing here?

Atty. Schwab – The board hasn’t authorized that the property be sold and what procedure. There has been prior motions to have two (2) appraisals done which would indicate we should go to a private sale under the school code. The last two (2) were auctions where we don’t need appraisals. So, it’s ultimately the board has to make that decision. It hasn’t and it probably, it’s up to the board to decide at a future meeting.

Mr. Bradley – If it’s going to even advertise it.

Atty. Schwab – Well, it has to...you’re jumping to conclusions, Mr. Bradley. The issue is the board has to decide what procedure it wishes to follow and then the board can follow that procedure. If it decides for example it wants a private sale, this board could hire a realtor. It did it for the Junior High 25 years ago and you pay the realtor their 10% and they do all the marketing and everything else and that’s perfectly okay as a private sale. We’ll still need two (2) appraisals. It’s up to the board to decide what procedure, they haven’t done it. Has there been interest in it? Sure. I believe Superintendent Cleaver has indicated that Franklin Township has indicated they may have an interest at least, if nothing more than Christman Field in the back.

Mr. Cleaver – And Behavior Health.

Atty. Schwab – Behavior Health and there is an individual that has also expressed interest.

Mr. Bradley – So if Franklin school is receiving interests from different parties and one of those parties is Franklin Township, you’re the solicitor for both the school and the township. Which one will you abdicate? Or, are you going to be for both?

Atty. Schwab – I can’t be for both and a lot of it’s going to depend on what this board does. The prior board authorized a survey to be done and the subdivision so Christman Field that they rent

from the district would be transferred under Municipal Agreement at no cost back to Franklin Township.

Mr. Bradley – So, the district asset will be donated to an individual corporation? Another municipality separate from the taxpayers within the entire school district?

Atty. Schwab – That's up for the board to decide that. I can't make that decision for the board. The only thing the board previously authorized is the subdivision. Now, how that will affect the value of Franklin Elementary, I don't know. In the past, this district, and I'm going back to Franklin Heights Elementary, that was donated to Franklin Township, the softball field there. Subject that if it ever left the municipality, municipal use, it would revert to the school district. That's a decision you as a board member ultimately have to make. That's not for me.

Mr. Bradley – Have those options been reviewed, discussed, or entertained at all, Mr. Stern, in the past years or during future...

Mr. Stern – We originally had some discussions that were around Franklin and the use by the I.U. but those seemed to have diminished. That was the only firmed up discussion that the board was aware of at that point in time.

Mr. Bradley – And, how about with these Franklin fields. That's the Franklin Township Athletic Association. Do they lease them from us?

Atty. Schwab – No. The township leases that property from the school district for a dollar a year.

Mr. Bradley – Okay, we'll he was just shaking his head the other way.

Atty. Schwab – They rent it from the township.

Mr. Bradley – Which one? Which one is it?

Atty. Schwab – We only have a dollar a year rental.

Mr. Bradley – From the township. And then the township then re-rents it to the athletic association?

Atty. Schwab – I have no idea what the township does. I have never asked or looked into it.

Mr. Bradley – You're the solicitor of that township.

Atty. Schwab – I don't even go to the meetings in that township, Mr. Bradley, unless invited. I don't know, that occurred maybe 35 years ago before I was solicitor here.

Mr. Bradley – So, has this board at all reviewed the value change of Franklin Elementary School with all that acreage or separating that value of all that acreage?

Atty. Schwab – To the best of my knowledge, it hasn't.

Mr. Bradley – And, the appraisal that was shared with the board includes that acreage or does not include that acreage?

Atty. Schwab – It includes the acreage.

Mr. Stern – Any other old business?

Mr. Bradley – I suggest that if we have any interest in selling these two (2) schools that we start advertising them as soon as possible and to the largest area possible to get the largest opportunity, rather than go to a private sale. Can I get a second for that motion?

Mr. Beltz – I second that. We should get the most money we can out of it.

Mr. Stern – So the motion you're proposing would be to destroy the relationship we've had with Franklin Township and sell that property, Christman Field and its baseball fields, and its softball fields and all that that we've been leasing to them for a dollar and leave them high and dry without a place to go? Which is heavily used by our students and our community to keep the kids off the street, playing baseball.

Mr. Bradley – No, sir, that's not what I said.

Mr. Stern – Okay.

Mr. Bradley – And, your view of that is unique. Much like..

Mr. Stern – I'm unique, you know that.

Mr. Bradley – And, I like it. And, that's why the board of nine, and I love it and that's why you have different people.

Mr. Stern – Let's go, let's go, it's getting late.

Mr. Bradley – Relax, Mr. Stern. Pool Pals, also used by our community, also used by our students, is a private entity that went to the public, did not burden the people that could not be burdened, but burdened those that were willing to be burdened and provide that. Much like Franklin Township Athletic Association has the opportunity to do as well and through that they could also benefit the elderly and our stakeholders by the same process. Especially, giving opportunity that they can control that field forever, in comparison to being dangled in front of them by a lease.

Mr. Stern – I'm not sure what you are even recommending. Maybe that should be held, the real estate discussion, in exec. session.

Mr. Bradley – Are we having a real estate discussion in executive session.? I was told it was only for personnel.

Atty. Schwab – That type of thing wouldn't be proper. That would be better to be sent to Buildings and Grounds to come up with a procedure, whatever.

Mr. Bradley – This board should have the opportunity to deliberate on things of public interest in the public. That's the reason for having a public meeting.

Mr. Stern – I believe, that's why there are committees...

Atty. Schwab – Committee meetings are advertised. They have to be.

Mr. Stern - ...you bringing this up at this point in time, have not given us any opportunity to prepare, especially Mr. Wentz, would have had more.

Mr. Bradley - We already have a school being built here. You're telling me that they didn't, none of the board, in past did anything about foresight on what to do with this school.

Mr. Stern - Absolutely, we did. That's why we talked about the subdivision to supply the land to Franklin Township.

Mr. Bradley - So, what was your plan? And, did you review that with this board?

Mr. Stern - We reviewed prior to you coming on the board to survey of the property to split it into two (2) different parcels to allow Franklin Township to still exist with Christman Field and sell the other property.

Mr. Bradley - Or, just to sell that other property to the highest bidder that then can use the Franklin Township Athletic Association the opportunity to control their own destiny and not be nested underneath another government agency and controlled by another government agency. The people should have a right and opportunity to buy that property outright and have control of that property and the public domain for our children forever.

Mr. Cleaver - I don't want to speak for the prior board, but I think that was part of the process by subdividing to give them an opportunity to see what they would like to with that.

Mr. Bradley - He mentioned zero (0) dollars gift.

Atty. Schwab - That was not negotiated. I said that's what we did with Franklin Heights building with the softball field that they just gave it as an inter-municipal transfer with a reverter in the deed.

Mr. Bradley - Is that your plan, Mr. Stern?

Mr. Stern - I don't have a plan for it.

Mr. Bradley - When will this enter the agenda, Mr. Stern? After it gets out of a committee?

Mr. Cleaver - You just had a recommendation for a motion, I'm trying to refer back to that to make sure we're fair.

Mr. Bradley - Yes. My recommendation is that we, as a school board, motion the sale of the two (2) schools, that you plan on having a hearing to close, as soon as possible so that as many people as possible can have an opportunity to bid on the property for the benefit of our district, as Rita mentioned and at the same time our children that use those assets.

Mr. Cleaver - But, just to be clear. To be sold, we would need another appraisal, correct, Mr. Schwab?

Atty. Schwab - If we do a private sale, we need another appraisal. We also, if we subdivide, we need an updated appraisal.

Mr. Bradley – But, why would we...

Mr. Cleaver – You'd be putting the cart before the horse.

Mr. Bradley – Not at all. If you're going to sell an asset, you want as much time as possible, and as much opportunity as possible for the benefit of the stakeholders within our Lehigh School District. So, either you're selling it or you're going to try to do this private thing. I suggest, and I made a motion, that we advertise it for sale.

Mr. Feick – And accept bids?

Atty. Schwab – We have to have a procedure.

Mr. Bradley – Advertise it, I just want to advertise it. Obviously we're collecting, I use the term, personal bids and ideas and thoughts of what to do with this thing separate from a board, separate from a community, separate from the people and...

Mr. Stern – This wasn't discussed as you came on the board that all, prior discussions were about the things we talked about the subdivision of the property.

Mr. Bradley – But, no one on this board at all, or the previous board ever thought that maybe they should sell that property for the best dollar value to gain an asset to the district so the kids can have a playground forever.

Mr. Stern – Go back to Franklin Township and tell them you're going to sell their baseball fields.

Mr. Bradley – I'm not saying that Mr. Stern. I'm saying that they should have a right to own them. No sir, No sir.

(Audience reacted)

Mr. Bradley – Absolutely not.

Mr. Stern called for order.

Mr. Bradley – Absolutely not. They should have the first rights to purchase it. They should buy it. They should have the right to buy it. Just like Pool Pals. Kids should have a right to own that field.

Mr. Feick – Can I make a suggestion? Can we have two (2) separate motions? One for Shull-David and one for Franklin because it sounds like Franklin's going to be the issue.

Mr. Bradley – I thought Shull-David was already decided on.

Mr. Feick – No, nothing's been decided on.

Mr. Bradley – Nothing was decided on that one either?

Mr. Feick – No.

Mr. Bradley – Definitely, you need two (2) motions. I fully accept that recommendation, thank you.

Mr. Cleaver – Who's drawing up this advertisement?

Atty. Schwab – Well, I would suggest that we defer taking any action tonight until we get a motion that incorporates all your ideas so we have an actual procedure this board approves. Where are we advertising, how much are we spending as a budget to advertise, what's a minimum bid this board wants to set. There are many things. What are we including in the sale? For example, Mahoning Township didn't include the pavilion in the sale to BHA because the township is getting the pavilion according to BHA. I mean, it sounds strange but...

Mr. Bradley – It sounds like there's a lot of things to discuss in selling a building. The other one was sold in less than 30 days to an individual bidder.

Atty. Schwab – Actually, Mr. Bradley, that was discussed for about ten (10) months. First motion was discussed in February.

Mr. Bradley – And, we're in March of 2018 and this has never been discussed? It's time to have the discussion or put it on the next agenda.

Atty. Schwab – I'm saying, I agree with you. We can have a motion, but we should at least have the committee come up with some structure so we have some guidance on what you want us to do.

Mr. Bradley – Yeah, I think we want to stop that non-transparent conversations between a township, a school district, an athletic association, and the fear of not helping these children be able to own their own destiny would be a sin. That's why the benefit of Pool Pals was so great within this community because it did not burden the seniors.

Mr. Stern – But, Pool Pals doesn't own the property that the pool is on.

Mr. Bradley – That's up to them and that's a decision they get to make.

Mr. Stern – No, they do not own the property that the pool is on.

Mr. Bradley – And that's a decision...

Mr. Stern – The pool is a borough asset. The Pool Pals supports the pool; they do not own the pool.

Mr. Bradley – Correct. And, currently, the district owns that property. Why doesn't the district keep it and give it to those kids rather than going through Franklin Township to give it to those kids?

Mr. Stern – No. Okay, we'll move on to new business.

Mr. Feick – No, we've got a motion.

Mr. Bradley – We've got a motion on the floor and a second.

Mr. Stern – What’s the motion?

Mr. Bradley – To advertise the sale of Franklin Elementary School. And, the second motion...

Mr. Stern – I think it should be tabled until you have what you really think is the proper thing to do.

Mr. Bradley – Ask the board.

Mr. Stern – Okay. Vote to table the motion. Raise hands.

Mr. Bradley – Larry, come on, you got to say I have a motion to table it and then you got to say second, and then you have to have a discussion. It’s a new motion, they get to discuss it and then you go forward with your motion.

Atty. Schwab – Tabling doesn’t have a discussion. For tabling or calling a vote, neither one are a discussion item.

Mr. Stern – I propose a motion to table the discussion on selling of Franklin and Shull-David at this point in time until we come up with firm plan.

Seconded by Mrs. Spinelli.

Mr. Stern – New business...

Mr. Feick – You have to vote.

Mr. Stern – Vote. All those in favor.

Sale of FR & SD Tabled	MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mrs. Spinelli to table the discussion on selling Franklin and Shull-David at this point in time until we come up with a firm plan.
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VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Atty. Schwab – Ms. Wagner, this has to show under Old Business in future agendas so that it comes off the table eventually.

New Business for Discussion

Mr. Stern – I have an item under new business. I need a motion and a second needed for the formal reprimand of Board Member David Bradley, Sr. for his abuse of the District's email account.

Mr. Bradley has continually abused the use of his District's email account by continually using abrasive and vulgar language, abbreviations which infer profanity, showing a general lack of respect while addressing Board Members, Superintendent, Legal Counsel, and PSBA's General Counsel.

Uses email to debate legal issues which incurs cost to the district. Bullying tactics such as the use of nicknames for our Superintendent, Michael Levin, PSBA, Legal Counsel, and others and for non-fact-based accusations and innuendos that are contained in those emails that are circulated amongst the board of directors.

Mr. Bradley has gone so far as to abuse his privilege by contacting PSBA to the point the organization has blocked his Lehigh.org email address. The address is tied to the district and the abuse has shown a negative light on our community and District.

His correspondence now is only accepted via U.S. mail.

Formal MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz for the formal reprimand of
Reprimand Board Member David Bradley, Sr. for his abuse of the District's email account.
D. Bradley

Mr. Bradley – Is that going to be placed in writing, that reprimand, please?

Mr. Stern – It will be in the document.

Mr. Bradley – But the entire reprimand that you just stated...

Mr. Stern – Yes.

Mr. Bradley – ...is going to be written down and presented?

Mr. Stern – It's in the minutes.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you.

(Audience applauded)

Mr. Stern – Anybody have any comments?

Mr. Wentz – We had more than thirty-three (33) emails in four (4) days.

Mr. Stern – If you want to really see, submit a Right-to-Know that's from everything sent from Mr. Bradley's .org address.

Mr. Bradley – He can have it.

Mr. Wentz – Please do Right-to-Knows to see what he is sending us.

Atty. Schwab – There's a hand in the back, I think she wishes to speak.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – I have an email right here that was sent from Mr. Bradley to my Uncle Wayne on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015, at 12:21:28 a.m. By the way, when are you going to start making decisions on the best interest of the people of Lehighton. Your actions show otherwise and your threats of business members. We know the truth, you are a shill and should be embarrassed by your actions. We know your true character or lack thereof. As a veteran you should be a man of character, yet your actions show otherwise. Your actions show you are a wimpy person, a pathetic person, the world would be better without you (*audience reacted*). And, this is the kind of person we have on our school board.

Mr. Bradley – Now ask if I wrote it.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – It says right here, from David Bradley, david@tubeandpipetools.com.

Mr. Bradley – And, again, ask if I wrote it.

Autumn Frey (audience member) – Your actions, pathetic are your actions, pathetic are your decisions. Facts show you need to act different, facts show that you are a loser negotiator, facts show that you were as a mindless t. I don't know what the "t" means. Your legacy of putting the district children in debt for decades and uncaring b.r.d., whatever that means. We all know the truth, you know the truth, the world knows the truth, ha ha ha, we laugh at you when we pass you. Scary is your legacy. Hide, scour, pathetic. You are that, ignore the facts, ignore the rational thought, pathetic are you. Now that's what I call bullying, Gail Maholick.

Mr. Tkach – I'd like to read this now too, instead of Courtesy to the Floor. And, you can sit and laugh all you want, Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley – Just ask if she would ask the question of whether or not I wrote that.

Audience reacted.

Mr. Cleaver – Listen, listen, listen, we please need to keep order when we are at these meeting because I think everyone has to have a fair opportunity to be heard whether it's someone from the audience or whether it's a school board, whether it's the solicitor, no matter who it is, let's at least give them the right and the respect that they can speak without being interrupted, please. Again, thank you.

Mr. Tkach – Good evening, thank you. I'd like to address this email that was presented to me from a community member. It was written by current board member, Mr. David Bradley, Sr. Career choices, with your help and the help of Lehighton staff we can possibly infuse some new ideas and attitudes in Lehighton. I'd like to discuss and propose a change in the attitude of Lehighton, sparking success, fueling opportunity with a passion. Career minded still with the philosophical discussion on the differences between a work creator and a worker. Hoping that with this discussion the board can pool examples of notable citizens from Lehighton that founded the companies that hire the hundreds whereas, that one famous painter or a football star is commonly noted. It is these everyday business heroes that feed and clothe the multitude. We need to

embrace Franz Kline but exemplify the individual gentleman that invested in Franz Kline when he was young and needed to work. It's those movements, those investments, the ones that fuels the spark of innovation that I'm looking to share as openly and as transparent as possible. This in sharp contrast to what I've heard of our assemblies. I was told that we've had more drug awareness assemblies than such community interaction. My children have attended assemblies where ex-drug dealers and old addicts share their stories. The old glory to the rehab story. I find this offensive and ridiculous to give these such misfits money for access to our children. The overall message can easily be misinterpreted by young minds. It idolizes their lifestyle before their inevitable fall and shows our children a myopic shortcut in an effort to educate them on what not to do. Life choice examples that start and end with positive results are more obtainable. We have so many good, successful people and successful job creators in our region. These role models we need to be tapped. The average income in America is \$59,000, a far cry from our school superintendent's salary but a nice living. At \$59,000, we need to focus on our children's attention on the longer term benefits to planning. These average earners will have \$1,000,000 in the next 25 years and young adults know in this number tend to plan and move forward. Balancing time between family earning and consumption are lessons that local heroes learn, making them good teachers.

As I forwarded this email, Mr. Bradley, and the message to my fellow Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol board members, I would like to ask you where you get your misinformation? Why do you attack and not ask for information before you speak? We have held annual Career Days. The last couple of years we've had career/job fairs run by Mr. Steve Ohl, sponsored by L.E.A.F. Each grade level rotated through the events, all students could attend. We've had the Women's Symposium the last two (2) years which was all volunteer. CCTI has had their annual technical career fair and our students are always invited. They have a separate open house and we send our freshman up there every year to tour the building and review programs. Every September, the Carbon County Counselors' run the college fair at Jim Thorpe High School, military branches, trade schools, technical schools, colleges are present. Our middle school had a career fair last year and they're running another one this year, grades 6, 7 and 8. When I was at the high school, Mr. Bill Hill, a former board member, had a Career & Technical Trade Fair for our high school and we ran an OSHA certification course for the students and we and 10-12 students complete the program. My last point in regards to this whole comment, referring to our drug and alcohol assemblies where ex-drug dealers and old addicts share their stories the old glory to rehab story. To imply that we give such misfits. I have two (2) people sitting right here. Perfect examples and you call them a misfit. I think I know someone else who is a misfit. And, not knowing all your facts, once again, misinformed. Oh, and by the way, it wasn't Mr. Cleaver who gave this to me because it just so happened you forgot to omit him from this email. Evidently, you forgot he was our Superintendent or you completely are not transparent as you claim to be. Maybe you would like to hear from some of our misfits that come and talk to these kids in reality. What it's really about. Not your grandiose grandeur where you spew and make no sense.

Mr. Bradley - Adding, I just want to make a statement. That email that you read of mine was actually written by me and I appreciate that you exemplified it as to what we, or at least I, and other business members in the community and part of L.E.A.F. are aiming for, thank you. As far as the connotation that we have people that have made mistakes and then give them access to our children, many times we have watched these children learn the beginning stories of drug dealers, in our community, that have lived the life prior to their problem. Those are the ones we're concerned about. I have a very significant amount of experience in this drug and alcohol related world and we would like to help as many people in this community deal with it. It's huge. One of the best ways to do it is with the Pool Pals, Franklin Township and other programs that allow children the opportunity to get away from those experiences, thank you.

Mr. Stern -Anybody...

Tom Wertman (audience member) - I have a grandson that is now in prison, in jail. I only wish he heard some of this before the problems we had. This is a tremendous program that is given to our kids. Who better can reach out to these kids then those that went through it. My grandson is sitting in prison for another year. I only wish he had the opportunity that Mr. Tkach's program has and shame on you, Mr. Bradley.

Patricia Ebbert (audience member) - I've been sitting here for approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes and I just have to say something. Mr. Bradley, you might not know this, but I'm a retired police communications officer from the Pennsylvania State Police where I retired with 20 years. I attended that program at the high school because I was actually on a personal day and I wanted to make sure I saw it. If you even could fathom how many times I had to sit in that barracks and watch parents walk in crying hysterically because we had to tell them that their child overdosed and is not here anymore. You couldn't even imagine the pain those parents have gone through. You couldn't imagine the pain in the troopers faces having to explain that to the parents saying they did everything they could to try to resuscitate their child. To have that type of program given to our kids from the get-go, to have them make a better choice in their life and not ever have another parent having to go through what those parents have seen, you have no idea. And, for 20 years I had to live that day in and day out every time I walked in that barracks knowing full well somebody was going to be in pain. That was an awesome program and kudos to the people that put it in the high school for our kids.

Mr. Bradley - And, where is that the program is beneficial I also would like to say that there's other programs that we can provide for our children that will help them and end this mess that the state is in and we should all, as a board, recognize our opportunity to resolve that by having mentors in to our schools that have been successful in their lives that are within our community that invest in these children and it is through those investments that those risks are lowered.

Rachel Quinn (audience member) - I'd just like to ask how many adults in this room have every made a mistake in their entire life? Raise your hand. How many of you would like your children to learn from your very mistakes you have made in the past? Please raise your hand. You can't assume that our children in these schools come from a background where they have a mother and father or two (2) parents or grandparents who care and love and support them and are there for them 24/7. There are kids in our schools placed in foster care that they don't know right from wrong, but sitting through those assemblies and learning from anyone's mistakes firsthand is the best education they can received. They will not be able to use their math skills, they will not learn how to read, write, or apply any of those skills if they don't have their health and they can't make judgements for themselves learning from other's mistakes.

Mr. Bradley - Thank you.

Thomas Cunningham (audience member) - I am not a resident of Lehigh, but I am a 1973 graduate of this school district and I bleed maroon and white. Come to my house, I have more maroon and white in my house and my friends can prove it. But, I want to tell you something, training, I worked for Lehigh County my entire life. Part of my life work was I had to go in to the prison to do programming and whatever. To go in there, I had to be virtually stripped of everything I had other than a shirt and a pair of pants and shoes. I couldn't even take a pencil with me. And to hear that noise of the yelling and the screaming. There is, I'm sorry, there is no, you can watch every movie that has ever been made, until you have felt that and another thing, heard

that door slam behind you. I wish every student at Lehighton and every damn school district in this state could go through what I did. Yeah, I got paid for it, but I'll tell you I was scared to death and I had prison representatives next to me. But to hear that noise, to feel completely stripped of everything that you have nothing of your own, other than a shirt and a pair of pants, and shoes, believe me, there are no words to describe it. You may think you know what it's like, believe me, until you go through it, no. So, any training you can give to the students of this district, please do it.

Rhonda Rupell (audience member) – I would first of all like to apologize to these individuals for the comments made by someone who is representing me, someone who has been appointed to this board and I truly apologize and I want to commend you (two people in the front of the audience) for your sobriety and keep it up. Also, I'd like to say that I don't need to hear the emails that were sent out by Mr. Bradley. I have sat through many board meetings and I have witnessed the disrespect, and the bullying-tactics against Mr. Wentz, against JJ, against Mr. Stern and also against Attorney Schwab, myself over and over and we teach our students respect and once again, someone representing me and showing the disrespect that they do to these people that I respect very much, really harms me and I can get really emotional sitting here through this meeting. That's all I have to say. I don't need your emails, I've witnessed it, thank you.

Ronald Rabenold (audience member) – Just to follow what Rachel said. We get so much more when we work together, we can expect so much more and there's so many people in this district that care so much about these kids. All these motions that we hear tonight about protecting kids and doing what's right, that's what this board has appointed our administration to do to line up a group of people that can take care of these children that you have no idea what battles they go through and educate them alone is one thing, but to bring a community together to try and heal the wounds of; I've never had so many students whose parents are in jail or who are dead from drug overdoses. In the last five (5) years, it's appalling. I've had more in the last three (3) years than my twenty-six (26) years put together. It's critical that we work together to help the wounds that are in our community and I don't think obstructive nonsense that Mr. Bradley pulls is going to help any of these kids to do that and that's what we're all here to do together is to make our community better and I don't see where the obstruction is helping anyone.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you and, in response, I'm in complete agreement with the idea that we have to make changes. This is an epidemic and that's what that letter I wrote was about. (*Audience reacted*) Most people do not have...as far as respect, this is a government, the people demand, I demand, transparency and it's because of that obstruction of transparency that most of the consternation has taken place.

Jack Finnegan (audience member) – Six (6) or seven (7) years ago, I had the opportunity to fill in a couple of terms on our school board for people that for one reason or another had a need to leave and I had the privilege of getting to know Gloria and Wayne and Larry and Andy and many others and the rest of you. I also serve on the Carbon Monroe Drug and Alcohol board for the past twelve (12) years with Tim. Tim is a relatively new board member actually. But, my specific point is this, I had an opportunity to leave Lehighton, my wife and I looked at various places in Florida, and I don't want to miss what I found in our community. The first time I walked in to that multi-purpose stadium, the tears just rolled down my face. I couldn't believe that we went from that other 75-year old facility to something we could be very proud of. I witnessed two (2) District XI playoff games, when in God's creation would Lehighton have ever had that experience where a reigning state championship team actually played on the other side of the parking lot. So, the amount of progress that this board, be at imperfection in many, many cases. I do have several more thoughts. I've become totally convinced that it's very, very difficult to administer to a school

district by popular vote. We don't have a whole lot of individual advocacies for kids, we're more inclined about keeping taxes down and keeping people in their homes and so on. But, my experience on this board had excited me to study public education literally around the world, particularly Scandinavia. And, I've talked with Swedish teachers where in their community, and I'm speaking directly to each of the teachers that are here, they are held in very high esteem. They're paid commensurate with a doctor who fixes us individually when we're sick or an attorney that gets us out of a legal mess when we happen to make a mistake. But, each and every day, you represent role models to the most precious of us. And, I'm going to speak directly to the elementary teachers, we may graduate from high school, but we formulate in the lower grades and I'm asking Ron and all the other teachers that I could name by name, come to these meetings and bring two (2) friends and populate this room with elementary teachers and I'm going to directly challenge each of you. You're our best advocate. Your responsibility doesn't end at 2:20, you need to begin educating this community on the things that are important to us. We've got the best of the best facility, we've got a brand new elementary center coming, high school that was saved and a middle school that is a credit to our community, with no known increase in property taxes. No known increase in property taxes. These people shouldn't be ridiculed for lack of transparency. They should be canonized for the miraculous work that they have done the last four (4) or five (5) years. So, teachers, I'm asking you, as a concerned citizen that's involved, is interested in many facets of this very complicated issue, get behind that Superintendent and this board and push in the right direction.

Tom Gable (audience member) - I live her in Lehighton, I think it's been like eight (8) years now. I've been coaching up here for roughly ten (10) years and I can't believe what's going on here. I grew up in Easton, this wouldn't go far. My kids grew up in East Stroudsburg South, this wouldn't have gone far. If they didn't get rid of one, they would have got rid of all of you. I knew nothing about the texts, I coached with Brandon when I first came here. The way I judge a lot of people, like adults especially, would I leave my kids with you? I would have no problem leaving my kids with Brandon. I coached a lot of your kids. In the 80's, you wouldn't let me around your kids and that's a fact. And, there's just, it's ugly, and the whole country's become ugly. You know we got Twitter, this, that, I don't do Facebook so that's why I never know about none of this stuff. They made fun of me because of an emoji the one time, they didn't think I knew how to do that. But, it's got to stop. When I run in to old friends and stuff from Easton and East Stroudsburg, you know, especially Easton, they say, what's it like up there in Lehighton. I say like Easton was 40 years ago. You could leave your doors open, I leave my doors open. I walk my dog at night anywhere from 10 to 1. I always see police officers patrolling. We have the best of everything here. My kids who went to East Stroudsburg South, they were woken up by gunfire. We had a Marine shot, half a block up the street in the middle of the night, right in the middle of the street. Woke all my kids up. We don't have this but it starts young. When these guys come in and tell these kids what it's like, they remember. You know, it's not going to take a businessman to come in and say hey I made it big. So, a kid grows up doesn't make it big, gone. These guys tell them you don't need the drugs, you just need to be a good person and I really would like to see all this nonsense stop. It's really...I never expected it up here. Never in a hundred years, but thank you.

David Hauser (HS Asst. Principal) – I know it's getting late, so I'll try to keep this brief. Last couple of months being an administrator in the district, I just try to hang back, keep my mouth shut, listen, learn and go do my job every day. That being said, I'm the one along with Mrs. Howland who planned the drug and alcohol symposium that we had at the high school. Since that seems the topic of interest at this point, I just want to talk to the board, to the public, teachers and staff and anyone else that's here just kind of what went on at that event and to talk about the value of that specific event. One thing I've learned as a teacher over the last decade plus doing this, one of the best things you can do for the kids is to get them to reflect upon themselves. And, no matter what your subject is, I taught English and Literature, it was very easy for me, because I had texts that could help me with that. No matter what you're doing, what you know, what you should know, who you are, what your values are question that, that's one of the most valuable educational experiences a child can have. So, when I interviewed for the position over the last summer to be an assistant principal one of the questions that came was what my approach would be to drug and alcohol education. And, I speak my mind, I called to task some things that did not work when I was in school. I called to task some things that I thought we should change and one thing I wanted was very real talk approach to drugs and alcohol, specifically the opioid epidemic. If you want kids to learn, they can't think that somethings coming scripted from a curriculum about life and death situations. It has to be real, it has to be legit. They have to control the conversation. So, I had kind of this murky vision in my head of the symposium event with a multitude of speakers. First thing I did was talk to kids because, I'm in my mid-thirties, I'm not cool anymore, I haven't been cool in a long time, I'm out of touch, my 7-year-old already knows that about. So, I've got to get in to the trenches and I assembled the kids and said, here's my vision. Is this dumb, is this going to work, are kids going to laugh at it, is this going to be like every other drug event that you've gone to and you sit there and you roll your eyes because you've heard the same speech now for eight years in a row and man, were they honest. I got some really, really good ideas and feedback from them and I just want everyone to know how that day went and what our kids got out of it. Our keynote speaker for that event was the Pennsylvania Attorney General. So, this is someone who is in a very, very high office coming to little Lehighton to talk to our students and he spoke and his speech was 50/50 received, initially. He talked about choices, he talked about social media, he talked about the opioid epidemic and he engaged with Lehighton students. Question and answer, sometimes a little heated. I had a kid actually write a note during the thing and hand it to me, I don't like this guy. I met with those kids later. Why didn't you like this guy? Well, he said this about my phones and I'm tired of it. He said this about vaping and this about that. I said okay, great, give me your note, I'm going to talk to you next week. I talked to him next week. Why don't you like this guy? Well, sometimes I do those things and I felt like he was calling me out. Okay, maybe we got some thinking to do there. We had a panel discussion, Judge Matika from here in the area, Carbon Monroe Pike counselors, and also Mr. Brandon Williams shared his story. So we had our big grand speaker, we had someone with personal experience, we had a panel with questions taken from the student body back and forth. And, after that event was over I wanted to make sure that this wasn't a once and done event. It wasn't some big assembly and now let's wait till next year and jump through that hoop again. Let's keep some dialog going and so I went in to classrooms, I emailed teachers, can I come in to your classrooms this week, give me 15, 20 minutes, a half an hour, let me get input on the event. And, what would you like in the future, what types of speakers should I get next, what should we do in April and May and June. What should we do next year? Every kid, everyone, we want Brandon Williams back, every one, I want to hear him speak again. I want you to give him more time. I want to meet with him one-on-one. I want him to meet with small groups. The Attorney General wasn't there, no one on the panel was there, it was Mr. Williams, a Lehighton graduate, and I'm hoping the word misfit was not applied there because Mr. Williams has the courage and character to tell a very real story that made an impact, it was not run-of-the-mill and he has the character that I personally aspire to someday have. So, thank you, sir, and I appreciate you.

Mr. Bradley – I still believe you’re misclarifying my concerns about people that have recovered are awesome, but the reality is, it was the other choices by these other assemblies that we are talking about this one that you must have recently had that I was not privy to.

Mr. Stern – I have a motion and a second on the floor. I’d like to take a vote.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Directors’ Concerns

Robocall for MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Ms. Beers to use the robocall system to
Opting Out inform parents, prior to the standardized tests, the option and benefits of opting of
Denied out, point parents to website.

Ms. Beers – I would like to voice my reason why I seconded this. I had parents talk to me that for various reasons they do not want their children to participate in the testing and they don’t really know that it’s a choice and I think that as a responsible school, we just let people know that they do have that choice so that they can choose for their children. You know whatever their belief system is, they’ve had different reasons for why they didn’t want their children to participate in testing. And, I think it’s good to share information so parents can make the choices for their kids that is an available choice.

Mr. Cleaver – Regarding this motion too, the option and benefits of opting out. So with the word benefits in there, I guess we would need to have a better understanding of what, what are the benefits of opting out?

Mr. Bradley – Are you saying you don’t know any or you don’t have any?

Mr. Cleaver – I don’t know of any, you’re listing the option, they do have an option and that’s correct. But, you’re saying benefits. Who’s creating these benefits to share with the parents?

Mr. Bradley – From the information provided with this District Concern, and the documentation thereof, was a teachers’ association that voiced the extensive benefits of opting out.

Mr. Tkach – Why would we do that when an opt out goes to non-proficient and goes on our school performance profile which then goes against the teachers. Which then has you blasting Facebook and everywhere else that our test scores are dropping. How’s that a benefit?

Mr. Bradley – Actually, I asked PDE that question as well, and that was not the response they provided to me. But, that misunderstanding is important to review which is why we have a board and you’re input is so valuable to make sure that we get information and that’s what this process is supposed to take place. And, I think the best thing to do with all of these new items that are shown up on a Thursday for a Monday, which extends these meetings forever, should be provided to the district earlier throughout the month so that they can collect the data and decide whether they want to attend and how they want to attend and participate and interaction with the community and the government that decides these things for people.

Mr. Stern – Any further comment.

Michael Lusch (audience member) – The Association members, the comments that you made are out-of-line not speaking to our local association, you can cite PDE all you want but you never asked our particular association or our leadership. So, that's a comment you made kind of unilaterally which we're getting used to. Ms. Beers, do you have children in the district.

Ms. Beers – No, but I have...

Michael Lusch (audience member) – So, you don't know what correspondence goes home with children or what you receive. As a parent of children within the district, I know that it's an option for my kid to opt out of the text. So, you're making assumptions based on a position you're not in to make assumptions.

Ms. Beers – So, my sister has children in this district.

Michael Lusch (audience member) – I asked you.

Ms. Beers – She does. Of course, I know people who have children in this district...

Michael Lusch (audience member) – And I'm one of them.

Ms. Beers – ...and, I have conversations with them.

Michael Lusch (audience member) – And, I'm one of them and I know my kids can opt out.

Ms. Beers – Some parents don't know.

Michael Lusch (audience member) – You can educate your sister because you know, right? That there is an option. And as far as getting these reports on a Thursday, I believe that Thursday to Monday is pretty reasonable way to be able to read documents. There are lots of documents and yes, you signed up to read lots of documents and you want even more documents and requests. Documents after documents and want paper copies of those documents. It's your responsibility to read those documents and then you can form decisions, not just delay meetings because you're asking for more documents.

Mr. Bradley – I presented them. I presented them and I agree that documents are important, reading them is valuable. I spent countless hours reading them, I'm one of the few that reads almost everything that comes across my desk unlike the feasibility studies and other things that we have witnessed. Now, for the benefit of government, your knowledge that you can opt out and your decision to not or do that is yours. You are within the district. There's a whole host of other people that may or may not know that. All we're trying to do is share information. Sharing information will never harm anyone.

Mr. Stern – We have a motion and a second, let's call the vote.

Mrs. Spinelli – My understanding is we already notify parents.

Mr. Bradley – How are they notified?

Gloria Bowman (audience member) – By the information that is sent out with the PSSA packets.

Audience talked amongst themselves when papers went home and when or if they received them. Some said they received them, others said they did not.

James Zelrick (audience member) – I didn't get that paper. So, an extra call wouldn't hurt. We're talking about communication. I'm a PTO board member. Communication is key. As teachers, that's what you do. So, by saying why should we do this extra, it's not a great argument for a teacher to give. We give people all information in as many ways as possible to make their own choice.

Audience continued to talk amongst themselves.

Mr. Bradley – We provided it (benefits of opting out), it was about 90 pages associated with the board's packet. We'd like to give it to the rest of the community. There's a value to reading, there's a value to knowledge and there's a value to difference of opinions and therefore that's my only concern.

James Zelrick (audience member) – I'm going to tell you, I've got a very smart, young man at taking tests. He does well. But I don't get everything home. It doesn't always make and hear that over and over again from parents. So, one more shot, a robocall, throwing it out there as one (inaudible) for parents to get to their phone, I think it's beneficial.

Mr. Bradley – And, I found out that there was no detriment to the district for a child that opts out. None. It's not my opinion, it's the opinion of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Stern – And when were you at PDE? And who were you representing?

Mr. Bradley – If you'd like me to look it up and share it...

Mr. Stern – When were you at PDE and who were you representing?

Mr. Bradley – ...would you like me to share it?

Mr. Stern – When were you at PDE and who were you representing? Was that the day you were supposed to meet with Mr. Feick and you couldn't make it to the meeting that he held for?

Mr. Bradley – What day are you talking about?

Mr. Stern – Friday.

Mr. Bradley – So, which question would you like me to answer first? I'm more than transparent, Mr. Stern.

Mr. Stern – How about we just make a motion...

Mr. Bradley – So would you like to know who at PDE wrote the email? Or would you like to know whether or not I went as a parent to talk to PDE about how this works?

Mr. Stern – If you went as a parent, that's fine.

Mr. Bradley – Correct.

Mr. Stern - Thank you.

Mr. Bradley - Now would you like to get the reference so that we can educate our teachers as well. Because apparently, they're missing information.

Mr. Stern - Let's get to the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
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. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	☐	X	☐	☐
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	☐	X	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 4 NO - 5 ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion denied.

Opting Out on Website Forms & Benefits Denied MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. Maholick to publish the forms and benefits from opting out on the district website.

Mr. Bradley - Are they currently not published?

Mr. Cleaver - There is nothing listed with benefits.

Mr. Bradley - But the forms are on the website currently, you're saying? Is that correct? You're saying that they are on the website? Mr. Cleaver, are the forms on the website or not?

Mr. Cleaver - I'd have to double-check.

Mr. Bradley - Okay. We couldn't find them.

Mrs. Maholick - Could we change that to say the pros and cons of it?

Mr. Bradley - I would accept that adjustment for the pros and cons of the privilege of opting out.

Mr. Cleaver - Who's creating the list for pros and cons? Because my pros and your cons, I'm guessing, are two (2) different ones.

Mr. Bradley – I would hopefully assume, that two (2) individuals would have different views of pros and cons. However, it is very commonly documented by many teachers' associations, including the Pennsylvania State Teachers' Association, that list those benefits to students for opting out. I think we could use theirs, as presented with the District Concerns, as part of the information packet.

Mr. Cleaver – So, you're saying that PSEA has a list?

Mr. Bradley – I'm saying the teachers' association that lists the concerns and the benefits was presented to the board and it can be, I will accept it's use, as the list of the pros of opting out, but the cons of taking the test.

Mr. Cleaver – I think it's important to understand that different states have different requirements for these tests.

Mr. Bradley – This is Pennsylvania, sir, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Cleaver – You're saying Pennsylvania has a list?

Mr. Bradley – One more time...

Mr. Cleaver – Does PSEA have a list, yes or no?

Mr. Bradley – One more time...

Audience reacted.

Audience member – It's going on 11 o'clock.

Mr. Bradley – One more time...

Mrs. Maholick – Go home, who's saying you have to stay.

Mr. Bradley – The information...

Audience member – (*Inaudible*)

Mr. Bradley – Sir, I appreciate that, be patient, honey. There is documentation on this agenda item that was presented to the board. That teachers' association listed the pros and the cons of opting out. There's a value to our community learning those details, thank you. I don't understand why you are restricting it.

Mr. Stern – There's a motion on the floor, I don't have a second.

Mrs. Maholick – I'll second it.

Mrs. Wagner – Change it (motion) to pros and cons or as it stands?

Mr. Stern – As it stands.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
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. Larry Stern, President	☐	X	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 3 NO - 6 ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion Denied.

Mr. Bradley - Gail, would you like to make a motion that fits more to your liking?

Mr. Stern - Let's move...

Mr. Wentz - Keep it moving, Larry.

Mr. Stern - What's the discussion of items submitted...

Mr. Bradley - Hold on, I ask a question of a board member. Would you like to...

Mrs. Maholick - I would like to change that motion.

Mr. Wentz - Too late.

Mr. Bradley - It is not too late Mr. Wayne Wentz.

Mrs. Maholick - It's too late because its 7 minute to 11 and your past your bedtime?

Mr. Bradley - Make another motion. Make another motion. We still have to deal with safety, Mr. Wentz, please be patient.

Mr. Wentz - Safety? You're the last guy that should talk about safety.

Mrs. Maholick - Calm down. I'm making a motion that we should publish the forms on the website, district website, relating to the PSAA tests, PS, I'm all mix-up here, but whatever the tests that we've been talking about that we will publish them with a list of the benefits and how to opt out.

Mr. Stern - That's what we just did.

Mrs. Maholick - Oh, and, the pros and cons of...

Mr. Bradley – I will second the pros and cons.

Mrs. Maholick – The pros and cons of it instead.

Mr. Stern – Might as well do a roll call.

Mrs. Maholick – I'm a little nervous people.

Mrs. Wagner read the motion.

Pros and	MOTION by Mrs. Maholick, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to publish the public
Cons	forms on the website relating to PSSA testing benefits and how to opt out pros and
Denied	cons.

Mr. Bradley – Can we have a discussion? The person that I spoke to or that wrote me was Rae Young Chee, Division of Instructional Quality and part of the email that I can share says that PDE sends a letter to Superintendent annually to remind them of the importance of honoring the right to opt out.

Mr. Tkach – I can read you an email here too, from Charlotte Golden, Dr. Golden. Tim, your opt outs will be counted as non-proficient towards overall achievement. If your participation rates less than 95, your opt outs cause as less than 95% participation rate, attached is a PDE PowerPoint that was presented to explain this, slide 8 and 12, thank you.

Gloria Bowman (audience member) – And I think it needs to be noted that that is part of the teacher evaluation system under Act 82.

Mr. Bradley – But, it is not held against them in anyway. Correct, it is not held against them in anyway.

Mr. Stern – Okay, the motion was re-written, there's a first and second...

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Cleaver, would you like to clarify that, on the record, sir, please for these taxpayers that have questions and interest.

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, I'm having a hard enough time trying to keep what is on and off the record with your discussion here. So, at this point, I will not put my name to anything that your recommending.

Mr. Bradley – So now the question is, will you make a statement as to that a teacher's evaluation is based on the opt out or damaged by people opting out?

Mr. Stern – That's not the motion.

Mr. Bradley – Mr. Cleaver, do they get penalized for opt outs?

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, there's a motion, the board can decide.

Mr. Bradley – I'm asking you a question. Will you not share that information?

Mr. Cleaver – Mr. Bradley, again, we’ve had enough information shared that I feel this board can make an educated decision on whether or not to agree to this motion.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
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	☐	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	☐	X	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 4 NO - 5 ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion denied.

Mr. Bradley – I’m sorry, I couldn’t hear what you we’re trying to tell the board, Mr. Schwab. What were you saying?

Atty. Schwab – What I said is that for discussion items, Mr., the President can recognize you for your discussion items or because it’s 11 o’clock can adjourn the meeting because of the lateness of the hour and pick it up at the next meeting. They have, the chair has that choice. We have traditionally, in Lehighton, not gone past 11 o’clock but again, it’s the boards’ decision.

Mr. Bradley – So, safety, the petition and reviewing invoice...

Mr. Stern – Why don’t you just talk about it instead of talking about it.

Mr. Bradley – I’m asking the question.

Mr. Stern – You can go. Go ahead, sir.

Discussion Items Submitted by Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr.

1. Safety (Enc. 16 – White)
2. Petition (Enc. 17 – White)
3. Reviewing Invoices, Paying Bills (Enc. 18 – White)

Mr. Bradley – Thank you. The Lehighton school board received a letter from an individual student. The letter says, I am concerned attending, I’m sorry, I am a concerned student attending Lehighton Area School District. Throughout our nation, our community has had, I’m sorry, I’m having trouble reading. I am a concerned student attending Lehighton Area High School. Throughout our nation, our community, there has been threats against the safety of children in a place that is supposed to keep us safe. This year, we have not had an active lockdown drill. In my first block class, I am in the chorus room, one of the largest classrooms in the school. The chorus room does not have and has not had a functioning lock this entire year. When the administration

was requested to fix the lock they took measurements and never finished the job and the lock remains broken. The administration was requested again to fix the door a month later. The administration told the chorus teacher, Mrs. Shafer, who relied to us that the repairs to the door cost too much money. In case of an active threat in the school, Mrs. Shafer was told to tie a rope to the door handle in hopes to keep the door shut and her students, our tribe, safe. This is unacceptable that the safety of our children in the district is out of your budget, taking a second seat to a tennis court. As a new member of the Lehighton tennis team, I would enjoy and appreciate a new tennis court, but the safety of my fellow student classmates is way more important to me. Sincerely, Sarah Bradley, Class of 2018.

Now, my concern is the door was not repaired. So I checked in to the feasibility study and found lots of door hardware that are missing from our classroom and I want to make sure that the safety concerns, as were reviewed by the state police, has locking doors and locking mechanisms within our schools. I also would like to make sure that nobody gives a teacher a rope and says please hold the door shut. I also would like to make sure that the concerns of teachers, that request multiple times, to have these safety issues addressed for our children are heard without the need of a young, under 18 years old, student asking for it. For her, for my daughter, to act as an advocate for her teacher tells me that there's things that we should probably reviewing within our district, thank you.

Mr. Stern – Petition?

Mr. Bradley – Would anyone like to add to that conversation. Or anyone in the public like to add to that conversation.

Mr. Stern – Let's move on to number two (2), your petition. The alleged suit against myself I guess that's about, right?

Mr. Bradley – Robert Kistler, a local advocate for people's rights...

Mr. Stern – From Palmerton.

Mr. Bradley – We talked about interrupting, do you want to talk or should I?

Mr. Stern – Give you a little taste of your medicine, how's that?

Mr. Bradley – No problem, I appreciate it, I can take it. I got thick skin. Okay, update, complaint #172788 has been filed in the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania, this provides the specific details and he listed the complaint. A citizen of Pennsylvania, we have a vested interest in the proper execution of lawful school board meetings in accordance with Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. There is questionable activity occurring at the Lehighton School District. Legal council is involved and the State Attorney General's Office and the State Auditor General's Office have been notified as well as the Carbon County District Attorney. We petition the school board and any other organizations or legal entities that are involved or become involved in the investigations of reported violations of the Sunshine Act to take action required to remove these perpetrators from the school board. The accusations claims violation of the Sunshine Law of Pennsylvania, abuse of power, and ignoring ethical responsibilities by obstructing citizens in the exercise of their lawful rights. The facts and truth whatever is concluded, must be known in order to heal the extraordinarily divided community, promote positive growth for the student, and have a functioning school board. The petition was distributed and signed by, I got...

Mr. Stern – About 150 people and none of them were in this building when you are accusing me of violating the Sunshine Act, Mr. Bradley. When in fact, petition signers are Ms. Maholick, Ms. Beers, maybe even yourself. Myself, I unknowingly, did not violate the Sunshine Act, because I did not see that individual raise their hands. You have signed the note that you actually saw them raise their hands, which means, in turn, you violated the Sunshine Act by not notifying me when that incident occurred.

Audience applauded.

Mr. Stern – I have spoken with the Attorney General's investigator and all that and the ruling is forthcoming, so I welcome it.

Mr. Bradley – I look forward to them reviewing the video, thank you.

Mr. Stern – They can review the video all they want, Mr. Bradley, you did not inform me...

Mr. Bradley – This is the not the place to try this, Mr. Stern. This is just a petition by people saying this is important.

Mr. Stern – Thank you very much sir. Okay, move on to number three (3).

Mr. Bradley – Anyone want to discuss the benefit of having Sunshine violations not occur within our school board?

Mr. Stern – Maybe who signed the petition should because you actually saw me do it and didn't tell me I was doing it, so you are at fault.

Mrs. Spinelli – I would like to mention to the public that most of the signatures on that, not most, but a good deal, of the signatures on that petition said a name, USA. I'm sorry, that doesn't fly with me.

Mr. Stern – Number three (3), please.

Mr. Bradley – I was told. I would like to state that even if one (1) person signs a petition that asks for lawful meetings to be held within a community, that that voice be heard.

Mr. Stern – Okay, number three (3), please.

Mr. Bradley – We have been requesting, with multiple emails, for information to be given to the board for their review to do their lawful duty. We have not been receiving that information and I believe that I cannot find a single board member that has received this information. So, my question was, in reviewing the invoices and paying the bills, has anyone on this board received all of this information or is it just being prevented by someone like myself with the view of how to use it? Has anyone on this board been receiving those invoices or have been asking for them to be received and then has actually received them?

Mrs. Spinelli – I have not been asking for them to be received because I know if I need to see them I come in and I look at them.

Mr. Bradley – Fair enough and that's good and you have that right under your duty. As far as the financial responsibility of the district, I'd like all of this board to review some, a couple, many,

most or all of the expenditures and a board's duty and responsibility to the constituents. That is my plea.

Mr. Stern – Thank you.

Mr. Yenser – And, I'll take some offense to that as I do review those bills every month and as I have questions, they raised to Mr. Feick. I won't speak for the other board members, but I can tell you that I do.

Mr. Bradley – Thank you. I'm glad you're participating.

Mr. Yenser – Thank you.

Mr. Bradley – When I ask if you're participating, in your silence I assumed, like Mr. Schwab has said in the past, that your silence was a vote.

Mr. Yenser – That's what happens when you assume.

Mr. Stern – Onto Courtesy of the Floor. Mr. Tkach, has your, you're satisfied?

Mr. Tkach – Yes.

Mr. Stern – Autumn, you're satisfied?

Autumn Frey (audience member) – Yes.

Mr. Stern – Last Courtesy to the Floor would be Mr. Dave Krause.

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. David Krause – Opt Out Testing, Board Policies

A couple of items, the standardized tests provide information used in determining federal accountability status for Title I Schools, I believe as Mr. Tkach mentioned, by the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, so how does the change in numbers affect our state funding? How will this affect other aspects of ESSA and the PSSA's? For example, will it affect our School Performance Profile? I believe somebody mentioned that. How does our staff collect valuable information, need to measure student achievement, and year to year growth for individual students and their cohorts where enhancements can be integrated into our curriculum and instruction? We need to consider the impact on all students. How will you track the opting out to know when we exceed the PSSA threshold and what is the cost of that? What alternative education will be used to get this data? Standardized tests have been in place for years. Who will develop the alternative instruction? The state has the guidelines but they don't give the instruction. What is the cost of that for the taxpayers? Will we have to solicit the use of the I.U.? How would this affect transcripts for those students that opt out and apply for college later? This is a highly confidential matter in some cases as well. So, this is a good example of why you need committees and thorough vetting before you put motions on the agenda. A couple things as far as the board function. It's been four (4) months, there's no committees formed. So, this is why these meetings last so long. There's not opportunity to vet the information. The abstentions are another example of that. Aside from abstaining due to conflict of interest, the community has a right to expect their elected officials to be full participants in all decisions and that means voting. Being

unprepared or politically afraid to vote are not legitimate reasons to abstain. You've had four (4) months. You've had years prior to that to attend meetings to get yourself up to speed. There's PSBA development courses as well. As far as the public participation, we have a policy, 903 Public Participation at board meetings. Has that been revised? Let's first follow the district policy, otherwise, send the policy to committee for review rather than making up the rules as we go along. I would suggest establishing an ad hoc or advisory community committee rather than turning our board meetings into town hall meetings, maybe you'd like to chair that. As far as the audits, the most current audits are the only ones that count. All the things that are addressed, prior to that, have been addressed. I just say one final thought, it is a board of ten (10), not nine (9). The Superintendent is a part of this board and he is a critical cog in this whole education system. So, I think it really is a disservice to continually throw this out board of nine (9). The Superintendent has been, and always will be, a part of this board.

Mr. Bradley – And, Mr. Krause, we appreciate Mr. Cleaver's participation, that's why we ask for it. And, secondly, there is no penalty that can be provided for someone opting out of this test especially for religious reasons. It would be considered illegal.

Dave Krause (audience member) – I didn't say anything about penalties. It's additional costs and it can impact a lot of other things.

Mr. Bradley – Once again, you got to get the facts. Obviously, they're in discussion, they can be reviewed, we should find them out, share them with the community. That's the goal. That is my morality as a board member.

Mr. Stern called for a motion and a second to adjourn.

Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, April 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Bradley to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Mr. Stern – Exec. session is cancelled.

*** Notice of Executive Session immediately following the meeting for personnel.*

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of March 26, 2018, include Pages 1 through 84.)