

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Building Committee Workshop Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2016

7:00 PM

Administration Board Room

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

*** Moment of silence at the passing of William Hill, Board Member.*

Call to Order - A workshop meeting of the Lehigh Area School Board was held in the Administration Building, Conference Room A, on the above date and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members, Mr. Resh and Mrs. Bowman, and Mr. Cleaver spoke about Mr. Hill personally and as a board member.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Mr. Byron Arner, Member	X	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Vice-President	X	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, Member	X	☐
Mrs. Marianne Dwyer, Member	X	☐
Vacant		
Mr. Stephen L. Holland, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, President	X	☐
Mr. Brian Feick, Business Manager	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor	X	☐
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Secretary	X	☐

Public Comment on Agenda

1. David Bradley – Item IX – Personnel
 - *Hiring of a cafeteria worker – appalled at the hourly rate.*
 - *Is this part of elementary attrition savings?*

Presentations

1. Construction Project Updates - Quandel & Mr. Cleaver

Karl Kauffman, Quandel

- *Update on MS and HS projects.*
 - *Waiting for permits*
 - *Demolition of ceilings over break*
 - *Installing temporary classrooms in auditorium (6)*
 - *First phase to start in a few weeks*

Mr. Cleaver

- *PowerPoint presentation*
 - *Finance will be meeting with PFM tomorrow*
 - *Three (3) current projects submitted to the state with PlanCon D & E approvals.*
 - *Approvals are 9-12 for HS, 6-8 for MS, and K-2/3-5 for primary/elementary.*
 - *ACE grants*
 - *District gets back 10% of complete construction costs.*
 - *Handouts from PFM*
 - *1st sheet is -.10 millage impact to debt service*
 - *2nd sheet is +3.23 millage impact to debt service*
 - *3rd sheet is +4.49 millage impact to debt service*
 - *If we move ahead with what we currently have, we are looking at a -.10% millage impact on the debt service.*

Richard Beltz – *Do all estimates include the 32 and half million bond? If we don't build the elementary center, where does this money go? Are we still paying interest on it?*

Atty. Schwab – *The district has borrowed the money, we cannot prepay for 10 years. The district is responsible to make the payments. If directed to another project, it may not be subject to reimbursement.*

Richard Beltz – *Can we use bonds to pay off MS & HS projects?*

Atty. Schwab – *Would need to talk with PFM. We may be locked in to building project.*

Byron Arner – *Money can be used for any elementary refurbishment work, not just elementary building.*

Atty. Schwab – *Amendments would need to be made.*

Gloria Bowman – *If we go in different direction, we are increasing taxes to the debt service.*

Communications - None

Approval of Minutes - None

Financial Matter - None

Personnel

L. Rehrig MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the
L-T Aide recommendation to hire the following employee in accordance with the respective
Approved contracts, pending clearances:

1. **Lynn Rehrig - Lunch-Time Aide (\$7.25/hour)**

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

Motion carried.

Jonathan Cleaver – This is not an employee for food service. It is for supervision of students.

Hal Resh – How many hours?

Suzanne Howland – 1½ hours

Miscellaneous - None

Programs

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

1. **Franklin Township Athletic Association - January 23, 2016, and February 6, 2016 - 8:00 a.m.-12:00 (noon) - Sign-Ups - Middle School**

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

Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion

Gloria Bowman - The Annual Board Report is posted on the website under "Files and Documents".

New Business for Discussion

Jonathan Cleaver – The district is looking to create a page on the website for building projects. Pictures and updates will be added throughout the projects.

Hal Resh – We have a board vacancy to fill and would like discussion from the board members.

Atty. Schwab – The board has 30 days to fill the vacancy which is January 31, 2016. If it doesn't get filled by this date, it will be up to the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas. After the 31st, the board has no input. In the past we have filled vacancy different ways. We've appointed without advertising. How we fill the position is up to the board. We've advertised, requested resumes, interviewed at public meetings. Must be a 5-3 vote, cannot be a 4-3 vote. Must be 5 affirmative votes.

Gloria Bowman – Good idea to advertise and conduct interviews of all interested parties.

Atty. Schwab – Suggested to set a special meeting for the interview process, especially if we have a lot of applicants.

Hal Resh – Do we want a letter of interest/resume?

Gloria Bowman – Letter of interest, background, and why they want to serve. Each board member could come up with questions.

Hal Resh – Questions would be the same for all. What date for the special meeting?

All agreed to set a special meeting for Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Atty. Schwab – The board can come up with questions. It's strictly up to the board. The personnel committee can come up with the questions. PSBA can be contacted.

Mr. Cleaver will contact PSBA to see if they have questions to use.

Hal Resh – The foyer/vestibule is not soundproof. Candidates should be taken back to small conference room.

Atty. Schwab – You can only request that they go back, it is not mandated. It is a public meeting and they have the right to be here.

**Spec. Mtg.
Vacancy
On Board** MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to advertise the vacant board position to interested residents eighteen years or older in the Lehigh Area School District and to conduct interviews of interested parties via in person or phone at the special meeting on January 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. Letters of interest with his/her brief background and why he/she would like to serve on the board should be submitted to Mrs. Wagner no later than Tuesday, January 19, 2016, by 12:00 noon.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. Gary Eckley

- *Have previous boards explained what is wrong with current buildings? Should improvements been made? Monies not used for maintenance.*
- *Savings might have occurred if buildings were maintained.*

2. Wayne Wentz

- *Those in favor of elementary center have shown numbers. Where are numbers for renovations?*
- *What do you do with students during renovations?*
- *Will never vote to increase taxes to renovate four, sixty-five year old buildings.*

3. Michael Lusch

- *Who will answer the questions about the renovations costs? When will the Ad Hoc Committee be ready with answers?*
- *New board members – what education have you attained in the last 20 days?*

Byron Almer – Building & Grounds is looking in to what renovations would cost and what needs to be done. We've been looking at inflated figures. May be a lot cheaper for taxpayers to have renovations. This is what taxpayers wanted when they voted us in.

Richard Beltz – Feasibility from 2014 has ranked renovations #1 at \$12 million. We will do what we can afford. The Ad Hoc Committee is in the process of reviewing all buildings. No buildings, so far, have structural defects. Renovate with the money we have and give the bond back or pay off other loans with bond.

- *Do renovations include 5th grade?*

Richard Beltz – We have \$32 million to spend to put 5th grade where we want to. More time is needed to figure it out. Elementary center may be the best option but we need to look at other possibilities.

4. David Bradley

- *Voters purged members of the board and chose new board members.*
- *Should pick the next person with the most votes – Frank Tamburri.*

Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting is the special meeting for January 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. and the next regular meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of January 11, 2016 include Pages 1 through 6.)