

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting of School Board
Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00PM
Executive Session @ 6:00 PM

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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 (via telephone)	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	☐

****Notice of Executive Session for personnel and litigation.**

Public Comment on Agenda - None

Presentations

SuccessMaker Update – Mr. Bachert

- Mr. Bachert, MS assistant principal & director of the STEM Academy, gave an update on Successmaker and STEM+ Academy which is an online program used by the district for practice in Math & Reading skills grades K-6. These practices meet the CORE standards and PSSA testing.
- Average growth in reading and math is almost a month ahead of where it was expected to be. Dr. Katan and Dr. Batros, National Education Foundation (NEF), were very impressed with the weekly gains.
- NEF presents Scholar of the Week and Scholar of the Month to the district. Our district had 14 Scholars of the Week in Math, 7 Scholars of the Week in reading and 4 Scholars of the Month in Math.
- This has been a good opportunity for the students and staff.
- NEF provides \$25,000 for incentives and classroom grants. The money provides pizza parties, iPads (21), field trip to Franklin Institute, and classroom grants.

Mrs. Bowman - Has staff seen a retention rate of improvement after the program has been used?

- The students were at least where they ended last year or a little higher. Students did well in STAR benchmark testing this year.

LCCC Commercials – Mr. Cleaver

- Mr. Cleaver showed the three (3) 30-second commercials from LCCC encouraging students and the community to enroll. The commercials will also be put on the Lehighton website for viewing.

Mr. Krause – LCCC is celebrating their 50th Anniversary. This was a way to show the community what is available.

Mr. Resh – I personally think this is the way to go. These courses are as intense as a 4-year college. It is a great path for students to take.

Mr. Beltz – I've spent a lot of time there. I got my engineering degree from Temple through LCCC. My wife is taking her Calc II test tonight. It's a great way for students to test the waters if they don't know what they want. There are very good programs at LCCC.

Communications

1. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Cleaver

- Adding snow day at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Last student day is Thursday, May 26, 2016.
- Read copies of thank you letters from East Penn & Franklin to Lehigh Fire Company #1 Social Quarters for \$2,000 donation. Shull David and Mahoning also received the donation.
- Wrapping up the stadium project. When asphalt companies open for spring the final paving will be completed. Field house and bleachers need final approval for occupancy.
- Continuing demolition process at middle school and high school. Some unforeseen issues at both buildings.

- *High School – water has penetrated behind the façade*
 - *Middle School – removal of old light ballasts from previous renovation to pass inspection, removal of façade due to material inside the panels – JMSI needs to be involved*
 - 1. *Jeff Miller, JMSI – The curtain wall has panels that involve asbestos. They were original to the building in 1956-59. The asbestos is sandwiched between metal frames, 3/16" thick. Removing, intact, without disturbing the asbestos.*
2. **Finance Report - Mr. Feick**
- *Monday, March 7, LCCC is presenting their budget to the board and audit report will also be presented.*
 - *Mr. Feick introduced Bill Budd, Regional Manager from Nutrition Group to give a brief update of the food service*
 - *Bill Budd – through end of January 6200 breakfasts ahead of budget, about 2300 lunches ahead. No findings in audit in January. Having a very good year.*
 - *CAFRA program is able to feed the students after-school who are participating in programs. This program is free to the students and 100% reimbursed from the state due to the free/reduced lunch in the district.*
3. **Board President's Report – Mr. Resh**
- *Mr. Resh turned it over to Atty. Schwab regarding the board vacancy.*
 - *There have been 6 petitions filed.*
 - *The President Judge will hear all 6 on March 4th.*
 - *Nothing had been filed listing our vacancy because the letter was sent to the elections bureau, not the court.*
 - *School Code of 1946 says that judge shall appoint but does not give any criteria.*
- Mr. Resh – *No members have requested to be on the Library or Legislative Policy Committee. We will yield to the next meeting especially with the vacancy.*
4. **Lehigh Memorial Library Report – Open**
5. **Legislative Policy Committee of PSBA Report – Open**
6. **Title I Advisory Committee Report – Mrs. Bowman**
- *Next meeting March 18th at 7:45 a.m.*
 - *Next parent meeting will be held in April.*
7. **CCTI Report - Mr. Yenser**
- *404 total students*
 - *February celebrates Career & Technical Education Month. Students from Lehigh will be honored this Friday with ice cream served by our administration.*
 - *9th Grade tours took place. Thank you to Mr. Reichl.*
 - *Spring brings SKILS USA competition.*
 - *On agenda are 2 motions to refinance a bond from 2008 to take advantage of low interest rates. Similar to what we've done in Lehigh.*
8. **CLIU Report – Mr. Wentz**
- *Met on January 28th at IU headquarters.*
 - *Presentation by students thanking all 14 school districts for their support.*
 - *Lehigh students count is 70. Shout out to Ms. LeDonne and Mr. Brown with these students.*

9. Solicitor's Report – Attorney William Schwab
 - *Written report.*
 - *Personnel discussed in executive session.*
10. Building/Grounds Report - Mr. Arner
 - *Due to weather we did not meet. No report.*
11. LCCC – Mr. Krause
 - *50th Anniversary – commercials, insert in The Morning Call*
 - *Will report on student survey next month*
 - *Federal, State, and Local representatives attended meeting to dedicate proclamations for the 50th Anniversary*
 - *Designated as a Flight 141 school with aviation program – students can get pilot's license through LCCC*
 - *Finance committee will receive a budget presentation on March 7th*
 - *Commencement will be held on May 18th at the PPL Center*
12. Academic Affairs Committee Report – Mrs. Bowman
 - *Met on February 3rd at 5:15 p.m.*
 - *Congratulations to Ms. Grasso, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Barilla, and Mrs. Boyer for outstanding job on Math presentation*
 - *Mr. Tkach gave information on new Every Student Succeeds Act*
 - *Discussed common grade scale*
 - *Teachers will begin new evaluations with new contract*
 - *Middle school will have training with new reading series*
 - *Next meeting is April 6th at 5:15 p.m.*
13. Policy Committee Report – Mrs. Bowman
 - *Policy will meet March 2nd at 5:15 p.m.*
14. Athletic Committee Report – Mr. Wentz
 - *Met on February 9th at 7:30 a.m.*
 - *Soon as weather breaks Motola Paving will blacktop the parking area at new stadium.*
 - *Congratulations to Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams and Wrestling for qualifying for districts.*
 - *Meet the Tribe Night will be held August 23rd at 6:00 p.m.*
 - *Football schedule has been announced – Fleetwood season opener on August 26th*
 - *Looking forward to our spring season and wish our student-athletes the very best in the upcoming year*
15. Wellness Committee Report – Mr. Beltz
 - *Met on February 18th*
 - *Menu review*
 - *Looked at the Youth Advisory meeting minutes from middle school. Not too many complaints from students.*
 - *There is a text-alerting service for parents regarding the benefits of free/reduced lunches*
 - *Next meeting is March 1st at 2:45 p.m.*

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2016, special meeting.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2016, regular meeting.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2016, workshop meeting.

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

Financial Matter

Activities Funds Approved MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to approve the Lehigh Area High School and Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Fund for January 2016.

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

Payment of Bills MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the Payment of Bills:

General Fund	\$ 1,709,436.52
--Benefits	\$ 533,262.07
--Payroll (January)	\$ 1,247,572.49
--Debit Card	\$ 5,708.75
Food Service Fund	\$ 65,929.07
Capital Reserve	\$ _____
Athletic Fund	\$ 17,453.74
Athletic Proj. Fund	\$ _____
Total	\$ 3,579,362.64

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

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

Un-Restrict. Fund Payments MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to approve payment of the following projects from the Un-Restricted Fund Balance:

1. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #7 to Pagoda Electric, Inc. pending verified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (January 1-31, 2016) \$ 114,995.60

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

Motion carried.

2. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #6 Master Mechanical Corp. pending verification of certified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (January 1-31, 2016) \$ 69,493.31

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

Motion carried.

3. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #8 CMG of Easton, Inc. pending verification of certified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (January 1-31, 2016) \$ 187,062.60

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

Motion carried.

Construct Accts. App. MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve payment on the following projects from the corresponding construction accounts:

1. Quandel:

MS & HS Additions & Renovations
(December 1, 2015-January 31, 2016) \$ 33,091.00

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

Motion carried.

2. Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.

Stadium Design (December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 15,042.82

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

Motion carried.

3. EI Associates

Design and Construction of the Middle School
(December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 10,195.57

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

Motion carried.

4. EI Associates

LEED Services-Middle School
(December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 4,537.69

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

Motion carried.

5. EI Associates

Alterations and Additions for High School
(December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 7,716.73

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

Motion carried.

6. EI Associates

LEED Services-High School
(December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 5,705.81

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

Motion carried.

7. EI Associates

New Elementary School Design
(December 1-31, 2015)

\$ 110,718.17

Mr. Beltz – The new elementary school design has been a reoccurring payment. Do we have the plans in hand or are we waiting?

Mr. Cleaver - We are submitting the plans through the Planning Commission. Until finalized, we do not have final plans.

Mrs. Dwyer – Didn't the planning commission reject the plans?

Mr. Cleaver – They did not reject, they give us areas needed to be addressed. We went in front of planning for the stadium at least 2-3 times before approval.

Atty. Schwab - The county and borough planning commission only make recommendations. Only borough council can approve. The plans have not been before borough council for approval or rejection. Borough council does not have to follow the recommendations. There has been no rejection of anything, only a recommendation by the county to reject the plans. There will be another meeting next month to review the plans.

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

Motion carried.

**Treasurer's
Reports**

MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the following reports:

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

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

Motion carried.

**Real Estate
Refund-Diaz**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to refund Real Estate Tax for year 2015 in the amount of \$2,514.14 to Floriel & Ellen Diaz, Irrevocable Trust.

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

Motion carried.

Annual Tax Collector's Reports App. MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the annual tax collector's reports. NOTE: These reports are on file at the Administration office for your review.

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

Motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution #15-16-#05 MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to adopt Resolution #15-16 - #05 approving a Third Supplemental Agreement of Lease to reduce Lehigh Area School District's rental payments on the 2016 Bonds benefiting the Carbon Career & Technical Institute (CCTI) following the successful refinancing of CCTI's 2008 Bonds.

Mr. Feick – The bond payments parameters are to save at least \$1,000,000 of interest over the life and the length cannot be longer than the existing bond. This authorizes them to go out for the sale but must meet these conditions.

Atty. Schwab – This does not include Weatherly School District. They decided to finance their portion through a bank loan.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Byron J. Arner, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Marianne Dwyer, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Vacant	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, President	X	☐	☐	☐

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

Motion carried.

Adoption of Resolution #15-16-#06 MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Arner to adopt Resolution #15-16-#06 by nine of the 45 members Joint Board of the Carbon Career & Technical Institute (CCTI) to reduce the rental payments on the 2016 Bonds following the successful refinancing of CCTI's 2008 Bonds.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Byron J. Arner, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Marianne Dwyer, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Vacant	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, President	X	☐	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

Purchase of Desks & Chairs App. MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz upon recommendation by the Building & Grounds Committee, to approve the purchase of 720 desks at \$78.99 and 720 chairs with book racks at \$57.15 for a total of \$98,020.80 for the Middle School classrooms from WB Mason Co-Stars Contract.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

Football Clinics App. MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Football Coaching Staff to attend Football Clinics at the University of Connecticut and Sacred Heart University from April 8-10, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Funding provided through the Athletic Budget.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

PSUG Conf. L. Frey App. MOTION by Mrs. Dwyer, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve Lory Frey to attend the PSUG NJ Conference 2016, Atlantic City, NJ, Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Hotel on March 14-16, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$825.00. Funding provided through the Curriculum Budget.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

SAP Training App. MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve Michele Lobien and Wanda Rousenberger to attend K-12 Student Assistance Program (SAP) Training in Allentown at the Center for Humanistic Change on March 23, 29, and 31, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$950.00. Funding provided through the Curriculum Budget.

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

Fire Alarm Replacement App. MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to approve the purchase of the Fire Alarm Control Panel Replacement/Upgrade for the high school from CSI Integrated Security & Communications in the amount of \$29,160.00 (Co-Stars/PEPPM State Contract).

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

Personnel

2015-2016 Substitutes MOTION by Mrs. Dwyer, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to approve the attached list of candidates for the 2015-2016 Substitute list pending clearances.

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

Athletic/Ext.-Curr. Hires MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Athletic & Extra-Curricular hires for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year (per attachment).

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

Course Approvals MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Arner to approve the following requests for pre-approval of courses/Programs of Study for continuing education:

1. Lauren Cortright - May 16-June 10, 2016/Reading Clinic Practicum
2. Michael Feifel - July 3-8, 2016/American Foreign Policy Services 1898
3. Michael Feifel - July 10-15, 2016/American Statesmen: Abraham Lincoln/Theodore Roosevelt
4. Michael Feifel - July 25-August 4, 2016/The U.S. Since the 1960's
5. Allison Rheinhardt - March - April 2016/Styles of Teaching: Personality Type in the Classroom

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

**FMLA
Leaves**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to acknowledge FMLA leaves for the following employees, not to exceed 12 weeks:

1. **Employee #480** – effective January 25, 2016
2. **Employee #418** – effective March 9, 2016
3. **Employee #1368** – effective April 8, 2016
4. **Employee #574** – effective February 10, 2016

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

Motion carried.

**Hires
Approved**

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

1. **Kristina Kemmerer** - Lunch-Time Aide (\$7.25/hour)
2. **David Henry** - Part-Time Cleaner (\$7.47/hour)
3. **Ryan Wentz** - Long-Term Substitute - Secondary Math - Middle School - Bachelor's Step 1 - Prorated - (\$38,740)

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

Motion carried.

**Resignations
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Holland, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to accept the resignation of the following employee:

1. **Kyle Hunter**, Asst. Baseball Coach – effective immediately

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

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

**School
Journeys**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:

1. **LAMS Odyssey of the Mind (B. Hudlow)** – March 12, 2016 – 6:45 a.m.-9:00 p.m. – to travel to Pocono Mtn. West High School
2. **7th & 8th Grade Band (B. Hudlow)** – March 21, 2016 – 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. – to travel to all elementary buildings and Pizza Hut
3. **LAMS Odyssey of the Mind (B. Hudlow)** – April 2, 2016 – 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. to travel to Moon Area High School
4. **Shull-David Kindergarten (C. Gandy, D. Rakos, M. Kirsch, J. Smith)** – April 8, 2016 – 8:40 a.m.-11:00 a.m. – to travel to Blue Mtn. Health Fair/Rec. Center
5. **Shull-David 1st Grade (M. Petit-Clair, M. Schaeffer, J. Matika)** – April 8, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. – to travel to Blue Mtn. Health Fair/Rec. Center
6. **Shull-David 2nd Grade (L. Barth, K. Decker, D. Herman)** – April 8, 2016 – 12:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. – to travel to Blue Mtn. Health Fair/Rec. Center

7. **Shull-David 2nd Grade (L. Barth, D. Herman, K. Decker)** – April 22, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-2:45 a.m. – to travel to Crystal Cave
8. **Shull-David 3rd Grade (J. Wentz)** – April 26, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m. – to travel Easton Canal Museum
9. **Mahoning Students and Staff** – April 29, 2016 (Rain date: May 2, 2016) – 8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – to travel to Race for Brilliance (MS Field)
10. **7th Grade White Team (J. Yescavage)** – April 29, 2016 (Rain date: May 2, 2016) – 7:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – to travel to Leighton Grove
11. **4th Grade Chime Ensemble (S. Stufflet)** – May 3, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m. – to travel to Mahoning Valley Nursing & Rehabilitation
12. **Shull-David 4th Grade (M. Dillman)** – May 5, 2016 – 9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – to travel to Zion UCC Church
13. **EP & FR 3rd Grade Envirothon Teams (T. Strausberger, M. Barilla)** – May 9, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – to travel to Mauch Chunk Lake Park
14. **4th Grade Chime Ensemble (S. Stufflet)** – May 9, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. – to travel to Pleasant Trees
15. **Franklin 3rd Grade (A. Rheinhardt, T. Strausberger, L. Zimmerman)** – May 12, 2016 – 11:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – to travel to Cedar Crest College
16. **East Penn 3rd Grade (M. Barilla, B. Breiner)** – May 12, 2016 – 8:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – to travel to Cedar Crest College
17. **Shull-David & Mahoning 4th Grade (A. Sebelin)** – May 12, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m. – to travel to the High School and Middle School
18. **Franklin 4th Grade (D. Gerber, J. Fritz)** – May 12, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – to travel to the High School and Middle School
19. **East Penn 4th Grade (C. Haupt)** – May 12, 2016 – 8:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – to travel to the High School and Middle School
20. **Mahoning 4th Grade (A. Swanson, R. Rupell)** – May 16, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – to travel to the State Museum of Pennsylvania
21. **Shull-David 4th Grade (M. Dillman)** – May 19, 2016 – 7:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m. – to travel to Lancaster County
22. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** – April 3, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – to travel to Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre
23. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** – May 31, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. – to travel to Knobels Amusement Park
24. **5th Grade Envirothon (C. Knappenberger, J. Solt)** – May 10, 2016 (Rain date: May 13, 2016) – 8:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
25. **6th – 8th Grade Envirothon (T. Serfass, Y. Sharrow)** – May 11, 2016 (Rain date: May 13, 2016) – 8:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

**Student
Teacher**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to acknowledge the following student teacher for the spring semester 2015-2016:

1. **Erin Raymond** – Marywood University

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

Motion carried.

**2016-2017
Calendar
App.**

MOTION by Mr. Holland , SECONDED by Mr. Arner to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar for the Lehigh Area School District.

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

Motion carried.

Programs

**Use of Sch.
Property**

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

1. Lehigh Soccer (Crystal Stein) - March 1-June 1, 2016 - Weekdays (5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.) & Saturdays (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) - Soccer Fields at Franklin Elementary
2. Shull-David Art Show & Book Fair (Adrienne Fedor) - March 9, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - Shull-David Gym, Multi-Purpose Room & Classrooms
3. Mahoning Art Show & Book Fair (Adrienne Fedor) - March 16, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. - Mahoning Gym, Multi-Purpose Room & Classrooms
4. Mahoning PTO (Karen Shaffer) - April 1, 2016 - 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. - Mahoning Cafeteria - Donuts for Dad
5. Mahoning PTO (Karen Shaffer) - May 10, 2016 - 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. - Mahoning Cafeteria - Muffins for Mom

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

Motion carried.

**Adoption of
Policies**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the 2nd Reading and adoption of the following Lehigh Area School District Policies:

1. #815 - Acceptable Use of Communications and Information Systems
2. #823 - Administering Naloxone
3. #916 - School Volunteers

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

Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion - None

New Business for Discussion - None

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. Larry Stern – General Observations

- *Need a little more enthusiasm at these meetings. We are all here for a purpose and the purpose is education.*
- *Observations in the last 2 ½ months regarding what has not been done:*
 - *Mr. Resh is responsible for meeting with Mr. Cleaver on a regular basis, this has not been done.*
 - *You haven't had a mid-year review with Mr. Cleaver.*
 - *Lack of attendance by board members at curriculum and policy meetings. Need to get involved with the curriculum.*
- *Would be beneficial for Mr. Resh to meet with union leadership.*
- *I don't feel that it is appropriate for the leader of a taxing authority to be negligent on their taxes.*

2. Michael Lusch – Educational Process

- *Would like to ask the new board members what their outlook is on public education? What does public education mean to you? Please state this. Is there a purpose and reason to have public education?*

Mrs. Dwyer – *Obviously there is, that's common sense. It's what is best for students.*

Mr. Beltz – *Not only what is best for the students, but what is best for the district and taxpayers as well. Respect for the taxpayers has been neglected by the previous board. That's why we are here. This is your time to talk, not ask questions.*

- *Are we afraid to ask questions? Are you here to keep opinions to yourself? You're here to serve the community. Last thing I was told was that everyone should homeschool their children. That doesn't sound like a pro public education statement.*

3. David Hauser – Elementary Center and Role of Public Education

- *I'm concerned about the anti-public education rhetoric at the last couple of meetings. Not only in the reference to homeschooling but also the elementary center discussions.*
- *According to feasibility report there are damaged walls, ventilation issues, buildings are beyond life expectancy, exhaust systems substandard, yet up-to-code. We have an A+ faculty, families and kids, yet we give them a D- facility. We don't have basic HVAC needs met in our facilities.*

4. Daniel Williams – Advocating for Public Education and Our Students

- *I'm here to advocate for our students and public education. It's unfortunately necessary because normally importance of these is understood especially by those who sit on the school board.*
- *Continuing words and actions show that some of the members of the board do not respect the principals for governance and leadership from the PSBA association.*
- *Mr. Beltz, I respect your right and decision to educate your children the best way you see fit. How is your statement about homeschooling following the guidelines as you sit on the board? Mr. Resh, as an educator yourself and board president, how can you allow this message to come from the board?*

Mr. Resh – *We've had past board members who have homeschooled their children. I believe in public education. I don't think that when I was a union president I would have allowed some of*

things that occur at these meetings. The people on this board and the community are the employers of this school district.

- We believe that public education is the most important experience of any child.

Mr. Resh – I do too. We should have started with projects at the elementary level first. We, as a board, chose to move on with the high school and middle school renovations first. We put the elementary on the back burner.

- We all have to work together. We have to keep in mind that we are here for education and for students.

Mr. Resh – I agree. Ever since I walked on this board over six years ago it's all about the buildings. There are a lot of other things we should be discussing about education.

- Mr. Beltz's plans to patch things up did not address the student concerns.

Mrs. Bowman – In the last reports of academics we have done so much in this district K-12 for the last several years. The reports and minutes are put out. We have continuously put things on cycle, done necessary repairs. We have tremendous athletes, scholarship monies. We are building Lehigh Area School District for the betterment of the students and the community. I respectfully disagree with that statement (Mr. Resh).

5. James Cunfer – Building Project

- Thanked all the board members for their time and dedication.
- Homeschooling is not an option for all students. Parents are looking for a safe environment for their children.
- Your plan to plant trees, open windows, run fans, and give bottled water to the students is ridiculous. Opening windows would lead to a big safety problem. Screens will not stop anyone from getting in.

Mr. Beltz – Why don't we put bars on the windows and make these into the prisons they really are?

- Your plan to repair and renovate as we have money is not going to work. Maintenance staff has been repairing for years and has done a great job. Our schools are worn out.
- Please build a new elementary or do a full renovation of these building. Don't short-come our kids.
- CCTI did a great job of renovations and expansion. How can you (Mr. Resh) vote against an elementary center or renovations after you've seen the vast benefits you and your students have received?
- Mr. Cleaver, thank you for trying to move us into the future. Please continue to give the true facts and fight the evil that is trying to stop our positive efforts.

6. Laurel Zimmerman – Elementary Center

- Advocate for the elementary center project and for the current and future students.
- Would like to see board members attending functions in the district.
- Trees are not a solution to alleviate the problem of no air conditioning. The elementary buildings hold on to the heat. The heat makes it difficult to teach and the students are lethargic. If you are not in support of the elementary center, then the buildings need to be equipped for an air conditioning system.
- We have 4 outdated buildings. I'd like to see a better future for our school district.

7. Christina Haupt – A.C. in Buildings/Comments Made at Last Board Meeting

- *Appreciate the opportunity to address the entire board, but is directly addressing Mr. Beltz's comments at the previous meeting.*
- *Very disappointed in the comment regarding homeschooling. This was disrespectful to the teaching profession and made it transparent that you have very little desire to support public school or public educators.*
- *In respect to the elementary project, the staff at my school already utilizes the ceiling fans, we open windows, keep the lights off, encourage children to dress cool. But, on days when it's 90 degrees the open windows are just letting in the humid air. Hot, sweaty kids have a difficult time concentrating on academic material.*
- *Board member Mrs. Bowman said it best on the school district website, "Our students are our greatest assets for tomorrow". It is your responsibility and privilege to provide the students with the best possible resources to support their successful futures.*

8. Cory Hartsell – Building Project and Duties of the Board

- *Appalled to hear my children called inmates in a prison. This is another thing to tell me how you feel about public education.*
- *Mr. Beltz & Mr. Arner proposed the repair project. You will come across things that can't be repaired and you will need to bring things up to ADA standards. Planting trees is a "band-aid" to the solution.*
- *You need to talk with the educators. There are plenty of us here tonight to ask questions. Contact us about what we need. Your faces are not evident in our buildings. Currently this board is in disarray.*
- *We had a life-long goal for this district and we were moving forward. Part of the PSBA goals is to have a life-long plan for the district. Now we are going nowhere. We had positive direction.*

9. Ron Rabenold – The Future of Our Community

- *I'm very vested in this community.*
- *I believe board is doing their civic duty. Education is a cornerstone of our democracy. The board controls the destiny of our most precious asset. The board should be advocates for our students. I don't think all members share this vision to do what's right and needed and to put up obstacles for the sake of saying "no".*
- *We are a good public school, I think the best. Please come to the board with an open-mind for what is best for the future and best for everyone.*

10. David Solt – Cost of Loans with Interest

- *Last month there was a gentleman here about loans and the interest rates. Mrs. Bowman stated that other school districts were struggling with the same thing. When will these loans come due for all the projects and how are we paying for them?*

Mrs. Bowman – *This statement was in regards to the PSERS pension unfunded liability. The unfunded liability is 53 billion. Because the state has only released 45% of the state funds, some of the districts are experiencing problems in their own budget. Mr. Feick can clarify that we are still doing well and in positive shape.*

Mr. Feick – *We are in positive shape. When the governor put out his budget last year, I did not put in the increase. I kept the funding flat. When the governor released his final budget, the increase was not included. We are in a lot better shape than some districts that included the increase to balance their budget. Some districts have had to borrow, we have not.*

11. Richard Beltz – Letter to Board from a Taxpayer

- *Letter from Douglas W. Sellix, property owner and children went through the district.*
- *The last election for the LASD school board revolved around one issue – the borrow and build agenda pursued by the majority of the former board. The voting public rejected that agenda. The new majority of the board wishes to explore other avenues. The former board chose to thwart the expressed will of the public majority and used the remaining weeks in office to borrow as much money as possible. This shameless act will be the legacy of the former board. Pre-payment clause is absurd. There is no way our current tax base can support this without an increase in taxes or taxpayers.*
- *The court will now decide the future of the school district. The people in this district voted in November for a change in direction. With the death of a board member that direction stands in jeopardy. The court should uphold the clearly expressed will of the voters and appoint Frank Tamburri.*

12. Wayne Wentz – Elementary Center vs. Renovations

- *Thanked the audience for supporting the members who support public education. Four of us on this board do support public education. We'll do everything possible to get his elementary center through.*
- *I have two grandchildren with asthma. Opening windows and putting on fans will bring pollen into the classrooms. I've seen kids in the classroom with water running down their necks in the summer and coats on in the winter. What are we doing? It's a no-brainer. Let's build this elementary center and sell or lease these other 4 buildings to bring in more income. The IU is willing to give us almost \$100,000 a year for Franklin.*

13. Tom Wertman – Comment to School Board

- *Do you remember Citizens for Affordable School? If you can recall, we had a high school and stadium proposed and when they came in, we the taxpayers and children lost out with 9½ million dollars. We paid a lot more and got a lot less.*
- *You're saying the taxpayers brought you in. I get around quite a bit. There was lying, deceitfulness, half-truths, scaring the seniors with higher taxes and losing their homes. You got in by deception.*
- *Mr. Beltz's comment about not needing the stadium. Were you up at the old stadium and actually examined it? It was over 40 some years old. What is over here now is something we can be proud of not just our schools but the citizens of Lehighton.*

14. Stephen Holland – Comments About New Stadium

- *I am pro for the building. I do want an elementary center. Shame on all of us that are thinking back in the 1950's yet. We need to start moving forward.*
- *Anyone in this community should be insulted by the statements a board member made at the last meeting. He hasn't been around. I've worked on that grounds committee for 20+ years. Shame on any of you who don't know what it looks like. It was a disappointment to not only our community, but the people and teams that come in to it. Now we have an A1, super, fabulous facility over there and that's what I want for the elementary center. Lastly, again, one board member made a comment tonight that we should think about barring windows. I'm very, very disappointed that someone would say that.*

15. Autumn Abelovsky – XII. Old Business

- *Two children in Shull David Elementary. Attended the board meeting in January with the new board members, I had high hopes but they slowly diminished. Mr. Beltz was the only person who responded to me that night when you told us that you wanted to go into each of the elementary buildings to see them for yourself.*
- *I wasn't here last month. I've read a lot of things on the internet and in the paper. I'd like to clarify it and hear it for myself. I would hope that The Times News reported it accurately. I know some other publications in this community did not report things accurately. Did you in fact say that planting trees and opening windows was appropriate?*

Mr. Beltz – *Part of my presentation I did some research on the internet and it was a sustainability site that suggested those as examples of things that could possibly do to mediate heat and on hot days and that's why I included them in the presentation. I do have a copy if you'd like it.*

- *So you based this on something that you read but you didn't base them on the actual buildings you toured?*

Mr. Beltz – *I think all the buildings have south facing windows which would benefit greatly from shade in the summer time. I don't see why this is such a ridiculous idea.*

- *My son is in Mr. Herman's class. It's a hot room. It was 98 degrees when I went for my parent/teacher meeting. Six parents had to leave within 4 minutes because they thought they would pass out. Pretty good height distance outside classroom. How do you propose to plant a tree there?*

Mr. Beltz – *Shull David is the exception for that.*

- *Shull David is always the exception.*

Mr. Beltz – *There are ways to mitigate solar radiation infiltration. By saying we want to repair, I'm not saying we'll repair the bare minimum. My presentation was to repair and upgrade the buildings. I'm sorry if this was taken the wrong way. I'm not good at public speaking. I did this because I thought I could make a difference and help better this district. Mr. Arner and I did go to the schools. We spent time with the principals. We did not see anything majorly wrong with any of the buildings that can't be fixed in a staged basis. With our financial situation, the best bet right now is to forego the elementary center, upgrade and repair the elementary schools.*

- *What about expansion for the 5th grade in the elementary buildings?*

Mr. Beltz – *It's not in my plan.*

Mrs. Bowman – *The board did vote to put 5th grade back in the elementary. That is where it stands right now.*

Mr. Resh – *It still stands at this point.*

Mr. Beltz – *As far as I know, expanding Shull David is not an option.*

16. Frank Tamburri – New Business – Times New Article 2-17-16

- *We only started the timer when Mr. Schwab pointed to you when Mr. Beltz was reading the letter, not prior to that.*

Mrs. Wagner – Yes, it was. I just didn't use it for a board member.

Atty. Schwab – Yes, it was. A board member has to be treated the same.

- *Mr. Schwab you're not a board member to do that. It should be a board member saying to use the timer, not the solicitor.*

Atty. Schwab – If we have a policy, it's my job to make sure it is enforced if I see there is some discrepancy.

- *Want to mention about the Mahoning septic that was talked about last year. That was not done, Mrs. Bowman, as you recall which was around the beginning of December. The septic wasn't broken but they were going to try to upgrade. Mr. Hill brought up the subject what if you open it up in the middle of winter and you disturb something. Don't do it in the winter, do it in the summer. So, it was stopped for the winter.*

Mr. Wentz – No, it wasn't. It was October 2013. We had Jerome Dotter lined up in October 2013, look on the minutes. Don't hand me winter time, it's another one of your phony excuses.

Mrs. Bowman – I will quote the minutes from October 28, 2013. "Mr. Ahner -Regarding the proposed perk testing to begin Wednesday (10/30) I would like to have us hold off to see if we are going in that direction. We only need to do the perk testing if we add on to Mahoning and close Shull-David." That is on the website.

- *I was talking about the PSERS, but I was also talking about the cost of the elementary center. The architect had a full size gymnasium for all schools. That brought the price up to 30 million. Tie all of the buildings together and that's where the higher number comes from. I never get a direct answer for how much it will really cost the taxpayers.*

Mrs. Bowman – The letter addressed through Mr. Sellix, the bond is not 5% for the 32.5 million, I think it is .03-2.5%.

Mr. Feick – Yes, I think Zach Willard said at the finance committee that it is an average of 1.5%. It was roughly \$350,000/year in interest to put in an escrow account to pay off in 10 years. That was the difference between the .25% we can earn on it and the 1.5% interest we pay on it. 1.5% on the bond for 27 years.

Mrs. Bowman – The other issue is that we have gone over this and with consolidation we will have over 1.2 million in savings per year that will offset the debt for that loan. We have said this for a year and a half.

Mr. Feick – I promised Mr. Tamburri I would let him know the PSERS rate from 2011 to present. In 2011 the school district was paying 5.64% of wages, this year we are paying 25.84% of wages. Budget increases were due to PSERS increases.

Mr. Cleaver – I appreciate your commitment to the district. We have great kids, great staff and I know the topic was brought up about moral. As Superintendent, I'll do my best to continue to work with every individual for the betterment of the district, students, especially the staff and the entire Lehighton educational community. As your Superintendent, I do not think we need bars on the windows. I think we have one of the best educationally facilities in the county, the best staff, and the best kids.

Adjournment

Next workshop meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 14, 2016, and the next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday, March 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of February 22, 2016, include Pages 1 through 21.)

