

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Building Committee Workshop Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2015

7:00 PM

Administration Board Room

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

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 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	X	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	X	☐
Mr. Stephen L. Holland, Member	X	☐
Mrs. Lori Nothstein, Member	X	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Member	☐	X
Mr. Larry Stern, Vice-President	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, 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 - VIII. Item A

- Read a statement to the board
- Keep elementary buildings open
- Elementary roof needed repair and a note was sent home about "raining in the classroom"
- Raised taxes and now a surplus, reimburse from these funds.

2. Matt Schutter - VIII. Item A

- Chairman of Lehigh Valley Libertarian Group
- Stop paying taxes if you disagree.
- What are the numbers to be paid back?
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - Looking to pay \$703,325 from bond back to general fund.

Presentations - None

Communications - None

Approval of Minutes - None

Financial Matter

- Reimburse Gen. Fund from Gen. Ob. Bonds Approved**
- MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to reimburse the General Fund for all cost incurred for the new Elementary Center from the General Obligations Bonds of 2015 Series A.
- Mr. William Hill – What are the interest rates on the bonds?
 - Mr. Brian Feick – 2016 are .5%, 2040 are 3.58%, 2042 are 3.63% and 2026 2.7%. Net is less than 3%
 - Mr. William Hill – We are borrowing \$32 million but getting \$35 million? What is the total we pay back?
 - Mr. Brian Feick – A premium is being paid for the tax exempt bonds. More than 100% on the dollar. 27 years at 3%--\$63 million total.
 - Mr. William Hill – Pay the \$703,000 out of the unrestricted fund balance.
 - Mr. Rocky Ahner- Use the building fund balance to pay to fix buildings.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Lori Nothstein, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐	☐	☐

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

Motion carried.

**Resolution
#15/16-01
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the resolution of the Lehigh Area School District regarding planning of all district-wide capital projects and future district budgets (Resolution #15/16-01).

- Mr. William Hill -What does this propose?
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - Any savings from the consolidation will be obligated to offset the debt service.
- Mr. Rocky Ahner - Is this binding?
- Atty. William Schwab - This resolution is non-binding and can be changed by the board.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Lori Nothstein, Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐	☐	☐

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

Motion carried.

Personnel

**LAEA
CBA
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Lehigh Area School District and the Lehigh Area Education Association.

- Mr. William Hill - I thought we were out of the "perk" business? What is the cost over the 4 years?
- Mr. Brian Feick - 9.8% over 4 years. Approximately \$200,000 for the first 2 years and \$120,000 for the next 2 years.
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - This is not a retirement incentive. This is if they choose a different insurance, not district. Similar to support staff contract. We are obligated to cover 18 months.
- Atty. William Schwab - They can stay on the plan until 65.
- Mr. William Hill - How many retirees?
- Mrs. Gloria Bowman - Potential of 10.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Lori Nothstein, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Member	☐	☐	X	☐

Mr. Larry Stern, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

**Retirement
Prog. for
2015-16
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to approve that all professional employees retiring at the end of the 2015-2016 school term will receive the said retirement program benefit as listed and approved in the LAEA contract dated September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2020. An irrevocable notice of retirement must be received before December 31, 2015, and specify a date of retirement on or after June 30, 2016.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Lori Nothstein, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Member	☐	☐	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Vice-President	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	☐	X	☐	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐	☐	☐

VOTE: YES - 7 NO - 1 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

**LCCC 50th
Ann. Resol.
#15-16-02**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to recognize Lehigh Carbon Community College's 50th Anniversary (Resolution #15/16-02).

Approved

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

Motion carried.

Programs

Sch. Enrich. MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Stern to approve the following School
Jny. Apprvd. Enrichment Journey requests:

1. Lehigh Area High School Band (B. Buffington) – November 19, 2015 (7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Moravian College for Trombone Clinic

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

Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion

Permit Fee Discussion per requested board information.

- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Sent an email to board regarding the permit fees from the borough. Explained the 30% with line items. Would like to ask the borough for some relief on the fees.

General consensus of the board is to have Mr. Cleaver contact the borough regarding relief on the fees.

New Business for Discussion

Building Projects Update

Karl Kauffman – Quandel

Presented paperwork to the board regarding the phases of renovations at the middle school. This is all pending on permit approval.

First phase would begin over the Christmas Break with six (6) temporary classrooms in the auditorium and then continue until 2017.

Public Comment (limited to three (3) minutes as per board policy).

Mrs. Gloria Bowman congratulated and welcomed the new board members, Byron Arner, Marianne Dwyer, and Richard Beltz. Advised them that there will be a New Board Member Workshop at the Lehigh Carbon Technical Institute on Saturday, January 16, 2015, from 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

- 1) Mr. Thomas Merkel – Debt Service

What is debt service? It is the working middle class paying the debt. No longer a democracy.

What is the savings? 63 million dollar is not a savings.

Taxpayers are poorly informed.

Where's the referendum?

2) Mr. Wallace Putkowski – New Sports Complex

Have we run into any overruns?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – No, some deducts.

What percentage of stadium is finished?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – About 75%.

Borrowing \$32 million but getting \$35 million? Paying back \$63 million? What about PlanCon?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Yes, some of the bonds are bought at more than 100%.

Mrs. Gloria Bowman – We also have ACE grants and \$1.2 million in savings for consolidation.

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Debt service will not increase taxes.

3) Mr. David Bradley – Lack of Information

At Act 34 hearing heard an expected savings due to attrition of 1.2 million. With \$60 million spent, 1.2 million saved, would be 50 years until savings.

Feasibility study incorrect?

How many teachers retiring?

Didn't the board think about negotiating the permit fees with the fact that the borough will be getting money from building?

PSERS will have a heyday – how does board plan on paying PSERS bills?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – We factored in \$75,000 increase for electric and two additional bus runs with savings. 5 year projection of PSERS is included in the factors. Feasibility study was for 6 classrooms, not one at \$20,000. The study was not too far off, only \$5,652 difference for middle school renovations.

Mrs. Gloria Bowman – Roofs are taken care of and leaks are taken care of.

4) Mr. Bob Dages – New School

Opposed to school being built

Breaking of middle class – some will be leaving Carbon County

Do better with peoples' money

Not necessarily better education

Mrs. Gloria Bowman – Enrollment has increased by 80 students. That's 4 classrooms.

Mr. Larry Stern – Educational Benefit

New elementary center would be able to serve all students better. No one takes into consideration the challenged students who lose time commuting to other buildings. We have an obligation to all students. Centralized location would balance it out.

Crowd was disorderly and Mr. Bradley & Mr. Wertman began to shout at each other. Mrs. Bowman asked for order. Mr. Bradley was escorted out of the board room at 8:09 p.m. and Mr. Wertman asked to calm down by Officer Neal Ebbert.

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Thanked the people at the design committee meetings for their time and consideration in the process. It speaks volumes and endless list of benefits.

Mr. Bradley returned to the board room at 8:12 p.m.

Mrs. Gloria Bowman – The collaboration of the teachers will benefit the students.

Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, November 23, 2015, at the Administration Building at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of November 9, 2015 include Pages 1 through 7)