

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting of School Board
Monday, November 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.
Executive Session @ 5:45 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. 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	☐

** Notice of Executive Session regarding personnel and negotiation issues.

Public Comment on Agenda

1) David Bradley - Financial Matter - Item B & C

- *You are moving \$3,955,511.82 to general fund?*
- *Brian Feick - No, this is to pay the bills for the month.*
- *Does the board get this list?*
- *Brian Feick - Yes. They received the bills last Wednesday.*
- *You are paying Barry Isett \$931,291.65.*
- *Brian Feick - It's not Barry Isett, it is CMG.*
- *When is the payment due?*
- *Brian Feick - After the board meeting. We have maximum of 45 days to pay.*
- *How much are you costing taxpayers by paying the bill early? What interest is the district wasting?*

Presentations

FCCLA – Mrs. Jennifer Evans

- Mrs. Julie McHugh, Advisor for FCCLA
 - Read the FCCLA Oath and what it means to our students.
 - Canned food collection for Zion U.C.C. food pantry and collected a total of 1145 items.
 - Nola Barilla, FCCLA member, presented what FCCLA has done to date.
 - Mrs. Evans presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. McHugh and her FCCLA students for their success with the food drive.

Student Assistance Program (SAP) – Mrs. Avril Guardiani

- Mrs. Guardiani, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Marchetti, and Ms. Schiffer presented a PowerPoint for the SAP program.
- If a student is under the influence, depressed, etc., they cannot learn. If a student is disruptive, others cannot learn.
- Began in the 1980's to help students' deal with drug & alcohol issues and mental health issues.
- Lehighton trained first SAP team in 1987. The first in Carbon County. Every school district is required to have a SAP team.
- It is a helping and intervention program, not a treatment program. Identify students at high risk and get them help.
- Accept referrals on observable behavior. Once a referral is given, the team meets and gives sheets out to all involved to gather information.
- SAP is state-mandated for K-12.
- LAHS was asked to present to all Carbon County Schools. LAHS has a high success rate for having parents cooperate.
- Ms. Schiffer
 - Very passionate about our SAP program.
 - We were asked to present due to our successes.
 - We build rapport with our parents and community members.
 - This is not discipline, this is help for students.
 - Bridge gap between home-life and school-life
 - Many success stories.
- We are not a district that sticks our head in the sand. Our numbers are high because we look at the big picture. We identify our kids.
- LAHS has worked with 33 students to date.
- Thank you to the administration for giving us time to do our job.

PSBA Honor Roll of School Board Service – Mr. Jonathan Cleaver

- Every year in November PSBA recognizes school board members when they reach 8, 12, 16, etc. years of service.
- This year we have 3 members of our board, Mr. Larry Stern, Mr. Wayne Wentz, and Mr. Andrew Yenser.
- Recognize the amount of hours that our members put in for our students and community. It's more than just the 2 hours at the meetings every two weeks.

Communications

1. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Cleaver
 - We are entering in to the Fall Holiday Break.
 - Completed 1st Marking Period.
 - Wednesday is a half-day for students. AlertNow went out this evening.
 - Take time and visit individual building websites for Holiday performances.
 - District received approval for two variances presented to the borough.
 - District has received approval letters for PlanCon D&E for elementary center.
 - Letter has been submitted to borough and BIA to review permit fees.
 - L.E.A.F. will be kicking-off fundraising campaign to purchase pavers and/or bricks for the stadium.
2. Finance Report – Mr. Feick
 - We do not have a state budget.
 - Started to meet with department heads for 16/17 budget.
 - Went to LCCC budget briefing, no increase.
3. Student Representative Report – Taya Wentz
 - Our staff in the HS does an amazing job with getting us the help we need. We are a person to them, not a number.
 - Interesting clubs, i.e. Interact Club run by Mrs. Marchetti, had a craft show and will have a spring carnival.
 - Positive Behavior Team had fall ball and pep rallies.
 - Pride Days – wear t-shirts and had 95% wearing on first day.
 - Homecoming – great turnout
 - Red Cross – blood drive
 - NHS - Toys for Tots
4. Board President's Report – Mrs. Bowman
 - PTO's at FR & EP are sending students to movie.
 - SD & MA – students going to Trees for Troops
 - SD was recognized with gift cards from Walmart.
 - SD was recognized as a Title I Distinguished school.
 - MS – Student Advisory raised \$168 for Dream Come True
 - MS - physical education classes raised \$1200 for Hoops for Heart
 - MS – Mr. Maholick & Mrs. Yescavage did an interactive project – read to students at SD
 - HS – Shane Haydt, Penn State Engineering ambassador – various stations with robotics
 - HS – Statistics classes are doing unique research
 - Mr. Cleaver's goals for 15/16 are listed on the website
 - Thank you to outgoing board members
 - Rocky Almer – continued due diligence with wellness
 - Lori Nothstein – wonderful library rep
 - Larry Stern – vice-president this year, head of the personnel committee and LCCC representative
5. Leighton Memorial Library Report – Mrs. Nothstein
 - No report.
 - Next meeting is Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.
6. Legislative Policy Committee of PSBA Report – Mr. Almer
 - Turmoil in Harrisburg.
 - Working on tax relief.

7. Title I Advisory Committee Report – Mrs. Bowman
 - Met on 11/13/15 with staff.
 - Reviewed Fall Parent Night.
 - SuccessMaker discussed.
 - Next Parent meeting is scheduled for January.
8. CCTI Report - Mr. Yenser
 - School still remains at 410 students.
 - SPP was top in the state for tech schools.
 - CCTI yearbook won the “Yearbook of the Year” out of 1,000 schools that entered.
9. CLIU Report – Mr. Wentz
 - Met on 11/16/15 at the IU
 - Student presentation – Talking through Laptops
 - Presented with a keychain made by the students
 - Passage of support contract
 - Next meeting is 12/21/15 at 6:45 p.m.
10. Solicitor’s Report – Attorney William Schwab
 - Written report
 - Several items discussed in executive session
11. Building/Grounds Report - Mr. Wentz
 - Met on 11/10/15 at 7:30 a.m.
 - Waiting on delivery date for new van
 - Leak in boiler at MS has been repaired
 - Dishwasher at HS has been repaired
 - New slide has arrived for FR
12. LCCC – Mr. Krause
 - Motion on agenda to renew the resolution to approve real estate purchases for LCCC. It is a one year extension. Would not have financial impact to the district.
 - Budget workshop this afternoon – no increase.
 - LCCC excellent value - \$103/credit hour. State average is \$131.
 - Lehighton students are 4% of total enrollment. 5th out of 13 schools.
 - Regional meeting – PATH – Pennsylvania Advanced Training & Hiring – grant-funded program – involves local businesses.
 - Hal Resli – This resolution is the one from last year?
 - It gives them authority to purchase.
 - Larry Stern – Agreement is not site-specific. The timing for real estate approval doesn’t always match up with a board meeting.
 - Jonathan Cleaver – An issue that happened is that LCCC lost out on a purchase in Allentown due to timing.
13. Academic Affairs Committee Report – Mrs. Bowman
 - Next meeting is 12/2/15 at 4:15 p.m.
 - Discussing – universal grading & HS program of studies.
14. Policy Committee Report - Mrs. Bowman
 - Met in November
 - First readings tonight – Suicide policy and Distribution of Materials policy
15. Athletic Committee Report - Mr. Wentz
 - Football team has a successful season – Schuylkill League Champions
 - Preparing for upcoming winter season.
16. Wellness Committee Report – Mr. Almer
 - I enjoyed wellness. The staff and students did a wonderful job. I will gladly help with wellness.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2015, regular meeting.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2015, workshop meeting.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Financial Matter

Activities Report MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Fund and Lehigh Area High School Activities Fund for October 2015.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Payment of Bills MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Payment of Bills:

General Fund	\$ 3,955,511.82
--Benefits	\$ 499,437.26
--Payroll (October)	\$ 1,276,427.19
--Debit Card	\$ 1,971.72
Food Service Fund	\$ 81,345.92
Capital Reserve	\$ _____
Athletic Fund	\$ 31,011.96
Capital Proj. Funds	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 5,848,705.87

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

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Un-restricted Fund Bal. Payments MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Stern upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, to approve payment of the following projects from the Un-Restricted Fund Balance:

1. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #3 to Pagoda Electric, Inc. pending verified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (October 12-31, 2015) \$ 117,900.00

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

2. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #5 CMG of Easton, Inc. pending verification of certified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (October 1-31, 2015) \$ 931,291.65

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

3. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #3 Master Mechanical Corp. pending verification of certified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (October 1-31, 2015) \$ 92,324.16

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Construction Account Payments MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, to approve payment on the following projects from the corresponding construction accounts:

1. Quandel:

Middle School (October 1-31, 2015) \$ 33,091.00
Design and Construction of the High School,
Middle School and Elementary School

Mr. William Hill – Addressed to Mr. Feick -- Read through PlanCon D&E protocol-- maximum building construction cost is \$29,466,000, Act 34 maximum is \$31,824,000. The aggregated building expenditure is \$39,000,000. Is this a 10 million dollar cushion? We borrowed 32 million. How would district make up 7 million shortage?

Mr. Brian Feick – 32 million is the number if we go over it, we would need another Act 34 meeting. 39 million is the number the state allows for the maximum enrollment of students with this project.

Mr. William Hill – Addressed to Mr. Cleaver – Did you meet with Quandel about the ESCO?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – We did meet with all regarding the ESCO design. The design will need to go to BIA for review.

Mr. William Hill – PlanCon is not a guaranteed reimbursement.

Mr. Brian Feick – No guarantees until reached to PlanCon H. They are still taking applications. State needs final accounting before approving. Project is still the same.
Mr. Hal Resli – What is the average they have been giving out?
Mr. Brian Feick – Anywhere from 15%-35%.
Mr. Rocky Ahner – Money is not guaranteed. Could lose reimbursement every year.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ____ ABSENT - ____ ABSTENTIONS - ____

Treasurer's Report MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Ahner to approve the following reports:

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

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ____ ABSENT - ____ ABSTENTIONS - ____

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

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ____ ABSENT - ____ ABSTENTIONS - ____

Occ. Tax Assessment Changes MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mrs. Nothstein to approve Occupational Tax Assessment Changes as per the attached list.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ____ ABSENT - ____ ABSTENTIONS - ____

Real Estate Tax Refund Muscarella MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to refund Real Estate Tax for year 2015 in the amount of \$4,414.74 to Donald James Muscarella.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ____ ABSENT - ____ ABSTENTIONS - ____

**Occ. Tax
Refund
Breidegam**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to refund Occupational Tax for year 2015 in the amount of **\$122.50** to Richard C. Breidegam.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**Occ. Tax
Refund
Taschler**

MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to refund Occupational Tax for year 2015 in the amount of **\$122.50** to Bernard L. Taschler.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**Assessment
Appeal
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz that the board agrees to accept the recommendation of its Special Counsel Gregory Mousseau to settle the assessment appeal under the terms set forth in his e-mail sent to the LASD solicitor on October 28, 2015.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**Conf. App.
L. Welkey**

MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mrs. Nothstein, to approve **Laura Welkey** to attend the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference in Hamburg, PA, March 31-April 2, 2016, at a cost not to exceed **\$660.00**. Funds through the 2015-16 Middle School Budget.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**Conf. App.
L. Frey**

MOTION by Mr. Ahner, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz, to approve **Lory Frey** to attend the Data Quality Summit Conference in Hershey, PA, from May 22-25, 2016, at a cost not to exceed **\$750.00**. Funds through the 2015-16 Curriculum Department Budget.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**Conf. App.
J. Evans &
S. Howland**

MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland, to approve **Jennifer Evans** and **Suzanne Howland** to attend the Aspiring to Leadership Workshop in Harrisburg, PA, from January 20-21, 2016, at a cost not to exceed **\$900.00**. Funds through the 2015-16 Superintendent Budget.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Personnel

2015-16 Substitutes MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mr. Stern to approve the attached list of candidates for the 2015-2016 Substitute list pending clearances.

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Rivera, Secretary of Education at Hershey with the topic of substitutes. 40% decrease of students graduating with a teaching degree. Even district's paying more for substitutes are having difficulty filling position. Discussed retired teachers substituting, but it is a tax issue, not a PDE issues.

Mr. Hal Resh – What's going on in Harrisburg is scaring people from getting in to the teaching profession. I knew this day was coming. Can go in to the private sector to earn a better living.

Mrs. Gloria Bowman – This is a national issue.

Mr. Hal Resh – It's unfortunate that the elected officials don't understand what happens in schools.

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

1. Jessica Bruch - January 19-May 7, 2016/REED 580: Research Problems in Reading
2. Jessica Bruch - January 19-May 7, 2016/REED 522: Theoretic Models in Reading and Literature
3. Sarah Dunchack - January 18-April 24, 2016/ED 526: Internet Literacy for Educators
4. Sarah Dunchack - January 18-April 24, 2016/ED 522: Curriculum and Instruction
5. Erica Pagotto - January 20-April 20, 2016/ED 522: Curriculum and Instruction
6. Diane Schnell - January 19-May, 2016/REED 521: Reading & Language Development for Diverse Learners
7. Angela Tobash - January 18-March 6, 2016/Utilizing Emerging Technology to Improve Learning
8. Angela Tobash - January 18-April 24, 2016/Technology to Support Curriculum & Instruction
9. Drewann Troutman - January 18-April 24, 2016/Internet Literacy for Educators
10. Drewann Troutman - January 18-April 18, 2016/Print Media/Digital Classroom
11. Benjamin Tkach - Program of Studies – M.S. Online Teaching Graduate Program Plan – Wilkes University
12. Benjamin Tkach - January 18-March 6, 2016/ED530: Utilizing Emerging Technologies to Support Education
13. Benjamin Tkach - March 7-April 24, 2016/ED521: Using Technology for Assessment
14. Jessica Gasper - January 19-April 19, 2016/Print Media in the Digital Classroom

VOTE: YES - 2 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

**FMLA
Approvals**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to acknowledge FMLA leaves for the following employees, not to exceed 12 weeks:

1. **Employee #856**- effective December 22, 2015
2. **Employee #208** - effective November 24, 2015

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Miscellaneous

**School
Journey
Approvals**

MOTION by Mr. Stern , SECONDED by Mr. Ahner to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:

1. **Kindergarten - Mahoning (V. Kocher, M. Geiser, T. Cardell)** - April 26, 2016 - 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - to travel to Crayola Factory
2. **Selected Middle School Students (J. Habas)** - December 4, 2015 - 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - to travel to Yenser's Tree Farm
3. **3rd Grade - Franklin (L. Zimmerman)** - April 26, 2016 - 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m. - to travel to Quiet Valley Farm
4. **LAHS Chorus (J. Schafer)** - December 4-5, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. - to travel to Laserdome (Manheim, PA)
5. **Grades K-4 - Mahoning (L. Porambo)** - December 16, 2015 (Snow date: 12/17/15) - 8:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - to travel to Mahoning Valley Cinema
6. **LAHS FBLA (K. Mychalyszyn-Simko, T. Miller)** - December 15, 2015 (Snow date: 12/17/15) - 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - to travel to Split Rock Lodge
7. **LAHS Show Choir (J. Schafer)** - December 15, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m. - to travel to Hershey Park
8. **LAHS Class of 2016 (D. Hartney)** - May 20, 2016 - 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. - to travel to Baltimore
9. **Selected MA/SD Students (A. Sebelin)** - December 4, 2015 - 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - to travel to Yenser's Tree Farm
10. **Grades K-4 - East Penn (J. Bruch)** - December 18, 2015 - 8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. - to travel to Mahoning Valley Cinema
11. **Grades 3 & 4 - East Penn (B. Breiner, M. Barilla, C. Haupt)** - May 11, 2016 - 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - to travel to Quiet Valley Farm
12. **LAMS FBLA (A. Tobash)** - December 15, 2015 (Snow date: 12/17/15) - 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - to travel to Split Rock Lodge
13. **Selected 7th & 8th Grade Band Students (B. Hudlow)** - December 5, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - to travel to Parkland High School
14. **Selected LAHS Students (C. Reichl)** - December 3, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Penn's Peak
15. **Grades K-4 - Franklin (D. Gerber)** - December 4, 2015 - 8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. - to travel to Mahoning Valley Cinema
16. **7/8 Grade Band (B. Hudlow)** - December 2, 2015 - 6:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m. - to travel to Trinity Lutheran Church (Lehighon Women's Club)
17. **4th Grade - Mahoning (R. Rupell, A. Swanson)** - May 13, 2016 - 8:40 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - to travel to Quiet Valley Farm

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

LCCC Real Estate Acq. Approved. MOTION by Mr. Stern , SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the resolution of Lehigh Carbon Community College to preapprove real estate acquisitions.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Programs

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

1. **Franklin PTO (Stacey Duerst)** – December 11, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. – PTO Family Night-Winter Wonderland – Gym, Cafeteria, & Multi-Purpose Room
2. **Mahoning PTO (Karen Shaffer)** – December 7, 2015 (Snow Date: 12/8/15) – 3:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m. – Winter Wonderland, Book Fair, Holiday Shoppe & Vendor Fair – Multi-Purpose Room, Stage & Classrooms
3. **Shull David PTO (Mary Lichtenwalner)** – December 6-9, 2015 – Various Times – Little Shoppes – Multi-Purpose Room & Classrooms
4. **LABC Boys' Basketball (Tracy Smith)** – January 7, 24, February 24, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – LABC Boys' Basketball – Middle School Gym
5. **Senior All Night Party (Linda Hydro)** – April 3, 2016 – 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. – Basket Social – High School Gym
6. **LABC Wrestling (Mike Gornick)** – December 6, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – LABC Wrestling – High School Gym & Locker Room
7. **LAHS Volleyball (Timothy O'Connor)** – Sundays, 1/10/16-5/1/16 – 5:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. – High School/Middle School Gyms
8. **LAHS Volleyball (Timothy O'Connor)** – March 13, 2016 – 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. – High School Gym

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

1st Rdgs. of #819 & #913 Approved MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the 1st Reading of the following Lehigh Area School District Policies:

1. **#819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response**
2. **#913 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals**

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Old Business for Discussion

PlanCon Part D & E Approval Documents enclosed for Primary/Elementary Center.

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – These were included so board members have a hard copy.

New Business for Discussion

AIA Amend. For HS & MS Approved MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz to approve the change to the AIA Agreement (AIA B101-2007), dated October 12, 2011, for the Lehigh Area High School (Amendment #8) and Lehigh Area Middle School (Amendment #9) ESCO Review and Coordination at a cost not to exceed \$9,500 per amendment, pending solicitor review.

Mr. William Hill - \$9,500 per amendment. How many amendments?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - \$9,500 per building--based upon the hours of review.

Mr. Rocky Ahner - This should be in their 6% in the original contract. Why does this change with ESCO project?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - There are changes to electrical and structural engineer portion. These need to be reviewed.

Mr. William Hill - I've never seen so many billables.

Mr. Rocky Ahner - We are paying the 6% why are we adding more on to this?

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - This is the MS & HS project, not elementary center.

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - We changed the system. The scope has changed.

Mrs. Gloria Bowman - Even if we went with Trane this would have changed with any ESCO group.

Mr. Jonathan Cleaver - The only way this would not have changed is if we went with the original system.

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 - 4 ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

XIV. Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. Mr. David Hauser – Support of Building Project

- Teacher at the high school, resident of Lehighton, children in the district
- Comes to the meetings to be informed and was embarrassed at the meeting on November 9th.
- Bought a home specifically for Mahoning Elementary and was initially perturbed about the elementary center.
- Over the last year, I've come to change my mind. As a parent, I support the building project.
- \$60 million for total debt service – heard in the crowd “Finally the truth comes out”. I've heard this figure at least 4 times over the last year.
- There was a resolution to pay off debt service early at the November 9th meeting. Heard from the audience “Now he wants to get more of our money”. The fact they want to pay off this quicker means they have financial interest in mind.

2. Mr. David Krause – Support of Building Project

- Estimates are frameworks to work with and any information the board wants they can go to the business office any time. Estimates can be high or low.
- This has been going on for 9 years – not pushed through quickly. This process is not a knee-jerk reaction.
- A lot of misinformation.

3. Mr. Michael Lusch – Tax Increase & Elementary Center

- Can the most recent feasibility study projections be used to give an inaccurate cost of the renovations of the four elementary schools?
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – The most recent study includes the renovations of the elementary schools. Since then the board has decided to move 5th grade back to the elementary level. The numbers were based on basic renovations.
- What is the expected tax increase due to construction of the elementary center?
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – For all the borrowing, including HS, MS & elementary center, the impact is negative .10.

4. Mr. David Bradley – Lack of Oversight for the Children

- We are paying an interest rate of nearly 2500 times greater than our savings. We should pay off debt immediately. Because it is not paid off, you are allowed to add on to it without a referendum.
- Mr. Bradley invited Mr. Venuto up to speak.
- Questions on the new stadium...not enough lanes to have district meets?
- Mrs. Gloria Bowman - Asked Mr. Bradley to finish his 3 minutes and then the stadium question will be addressed.
- Mr. Krause mentioned that this has been going on for 9 years. When on the board, they wanted to build a new high school.
- The task force for the feasibility study was strong on keeping the elementary schools.
- You should listen to the people.
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – The track is being resurfaced but is staying the same (6 lanes). It could not be expanded. There is nothing in District Track rules that they can't use a 6 lane, but they do prefer an 8 lane. We can still hold invitationals.
- Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – I've not seen a plan to build a new high school. There was a proposed plan that included bringing the middle school and high school together. We try to do all renovations to not disrupt students.

5. Mrs. Bonnie Cortese – REACH Committee – Concern for future

- *Raised in Lehighton, raised daughters in Lehighton and currently has grandchildren in the district and is a retired employee of 24 years and officer of REACH (Responsible Education, Accountability to Community, Hope for the future.*
- *I've chosen to remain involved because I believe in the vision of growth and opportunities for all students, staff and community.*
- *Do what is right for the future generations.*
- *Need a board that works together. Majority of the board was not afraid to make difficult decisions.*
- *Tides are about to change. I challenge the board to keep the wheels of progress turning. If you stop the progress now, it will cost taxpayers more money.*
- *Saddened that the community has listened to an insane person and allowed it to skew opinion instead of listening to what has been presented.*
- *Mr. Cleaver & Mr. Feick are two of the best administrators this district has been fortunate to have.*
- *I ask the new board to work together as a team.*

6. Mr. Stephen Holland – Thank You

- *Thank you to all for a fabulous fall season.*
- *Congratulations to the 13 students who made NHS.*
- *Thank the school board and teachers union for working together on the contract.*
- *Thanked Mr. Stern for working on the contract.*
- *Thanked Mr. Ahner for his years of service to the board.*
- *Thanked Mrs. Nothstein for sticking with the board.*
- *Thanks to Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Feick. They are the best people working for this community.*
- *Take a look at these buildings (pictures on wall), most were one-room buildings and those people stepped ahead. We need to go forward, not backwards.*

Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is the re-organization meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of November 23, 2015 include Pages 1 through 14.)