

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting of School Board
Monday, December 21, 2015 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	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	X	☐
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	☐

** Notice of Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. for personnel.

Public Comment on Agenda

1. Larry Stern - Finance - Item I

- *Hal Resh should abstain from the motion with Portnoff.*

2. Larry Stern - Miscellaneous - Item C

- *Which committee brought this motion forward? What planning is there to do and with whom?*
- *Has new team been briefed? Years of material to review.*
- *Bonds are in place, dates have been set.*
- *Enjoy the savings of consolidation.*
- *This is slowing things down. Interest rates are on the rise, bids may not remain competitive. More cost to the taxpayers.*

3. Laurel Zimmerman – Miscellaneous – Item C

- *Sent a letter to all board members.*
- *Children deserve a better future. Is it feasible to keep old buildings? Can't put a bandage over the many problems.*
- *Need to do what is best for children and the community.*
- *There are leaks, heat issues, no air conditioning, not safe and comfortable for children.*

4. Michael Lusch – Miscellaneous – Item C

- *Are there plans to present the renovation details? Part of their platform (new members).*
- *Why is the moratorium 90 days? Weren't new members at Act 34 hearing and other meetings?*
- *Maybe they are misinformed/mislead and have seen the light.*
- *I went to Third Ward, should we go back to those old schools?*

5. Autumn Abelovsky – Miscellaneous – Item C

- *A parent and part of the Elementary Design Committee.*
- *Two ways to look at taxes: 1) benefit the students of today; 2) pay for the education already received.*
- *College isn't free and neither is primary/secondary. We pay for them.*
- *We have jobs, responsibilities and pay taxes.*
- *Three key factors to education: 1) people; 2) programs; 3) buildings. The buildings are an obstruction.*
- *New state standards, yet still in old buildings.*
- *How do we add 5th grade to old buildings? Added a 4th Kindergarten at Shull David and moved a classroom to a portable building. Shull David has no room to expand.*
- *Think about the children, not just the taxpayers. Look at your mission statement.*
- *We need growth...the future community will thank you.*

6. Bonnie Cortese- Miscellaneous – Item C

- *Speaking on behalf of REACH.*
- *Why is the moratorium necessary? There have been many presentations.*
- *If the new members had a platform to oppose, they should have been attending meetings.*
- *New members should meet with superintendent and business manager.*
- *Should be doing homework all along. This will only cost taxpayers more money and cost of supplies will increase.*

7. Stacey Duerst – Miscellaneous – Item C

- *Don't delay the elementary center.*
- *Old buildings need roof repairs, bigger libraries, gym is held on stage so students can eat in cafeteria.*
- *Environment should be consistent for all students. Students needs get lost.*
- *All students should have an equal opportunity – positive experiences.*
- *Renovation vs. new – will all flaws be fixed? Added space?*
- *There are fears...taxes, violence, traffic – must go beyond these fears.*
- *Continue on the path of the previous board.*
- *Stimulating environment for all students.*
- *Excellence is not easy or cheap.*

Presentations

Building Project Updates – Jonathan Cleaver

Mr. Cleaver presented a PowerPoint regarding the building project updates.

- Stadium is 80% completed.
- The PowerPoint will be emailed to all board members.
- MS/HS – storage trailers are on site, temporary permits have been issued, demo work has begun.
- The traffic study for the elementary center has been sent to board members. A revision was submitted with the study hours extended from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Gloria Bowman – *Is there a date for completion of the stadium?*

- Temporary surface is on the track.
- Paving – recommended by Quandt to put stone in for the freeze/thaw and pave in March. Motola's Paving will come back in March to finish.
- Field house is at 80% complete with final inspection on Friday.

Communications

1. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Cleaver
 - *Situations at the Middle School and High School with threats.*
 - *Received positive comments from parents on handling of situation.*
 - *On-going investigation with administration team and police*
2. Finance Report - Mr. Feick
 - *No state budget*
 - *Feds have extended "Cadillac" tax to 2020 on insurance*
3. Board President's Report – Mr. Resh
 - *Water main break at Middle School – thank you to water authority and fire company*
 - *Thank you to employees involved who were still on-site at 8:00 p.m.*
4. Leighton Memorial Library Report – None
5. Legislative Policy Committee of PSBA Report
 - *Community should email senators and representatives. Still talking – no budget.*
6. Title I Advisory Committee Report – None
7. CCTI Report - Mr. Yenser
 - *Met on December 17, 2015*
 - *404 students (106 from Leighton)*
 - *January 28, 2016 – freshman tours*
 - *Audit – 0 findings*
 - *Students are very active with Skills USA and DEKA*
8. CLIU Report – Mr. Wentz - None
9. Solicitor's Report – Attorney William Schwab
 - *Written report*
 - *Discussion in executive session*
10. Building/Grounds Report - Mr. Beltz
 - *New committee toured Mahoning, East Penn & Franklin*
 - *Collecting information on needed repairs*
11. LCCC – Mr. Krause
 - *4% of total students at LCCC are Leighton*

- *Settled contract with professional staff – no impact to schools*
- *21 active communities on campus*
- 12. Academic Affairs Committee Report – None
- 13. Policy Committee Report
 - *Policy committee will meet on 1/6/16 at 5:15 p.m.*
- 14. Athletic Committee Report - None
- 15. Wellness Committee Report
 - *Mr. Beltz will discuss with Rocky to keep this committee moving forward.*

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Hill, SECONDED by Mr. Yenser to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2015, re-organization meeting.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Financial Matter

Activities Funds Approved MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mrs. Dwyer to approve the Lehigh Area High School and Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Fund for November 2015.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

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

General Fund	\$ 2,671,888.89
--Benefits	\$ 531,933.58
--Payroll (November)	\$ 1,380,136.36
--Debit Card	\$ 2,503.14
Food Service Fund	\$ 65,920.31
Capital Reserve	\$ -----
Athletic Fund	\$ 21,067.45
Athletic Proj. Fund	\$ <u>31,581.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,705,030.73

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 - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Un-Restrict. Fund Payments MOTION by Mr. Yenser, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman 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 #4 to Pagoda Electric, Inc. pending verified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (November 23-30, 2015) \$ 47,700.00

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

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

Stadium (November 1-30, 2015) \$592,190.10

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

3. Recommended by Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for payment of Application #4 Master Mechanical Corp. pending verification of certified payroll and solicitor review

Stadium (November 1-30, 2015) \$157,973.58

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Constr. Accts. App. MOTION by Mrs. Dwyer, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, to approve payment on the following projects from the corresponding construction accounts:

1. JMSI:

JMSI Environmental Middle School Asbestos Abatement project design. Billing for asbestos abatement project management and associated air monitoring as outlined on the invoice attached.

Invoice #1215-02

Total \$950.00 less the 3%

Amount to pay \$921.50

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Arner to approve the following reports:

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

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

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

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Act 1 Resolution 15/16-#03 MOTION by Mr. Beltz, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman upon recommendation by the finance committee to approve the Act 1 resolution (15/16 - #03) to stay under the index as well as recommending no tax increase for the 2016-17 school fiscal budget year.

William Hill - What's the millage?
Brian Feick - 3.3% with index - 1.4 mill is maximum

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

PETE & C Conf. App. MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Hill to approve **Melissa Volcskai** and **Stephen Kalbach** to attend the Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE & C) at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, February 21-24, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$1,759.00. Funding provided through the Curriculum and Technology Department.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

LVHN Ath. Contract until 2021 App. MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Hill to approve the extension of the current Athletic Trainer Service Agreement with Lehigh Valley Health Network through the 2020-21 school year with a 0% increase in the cost per year subject to solicitor's review and approval.

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

Motion carried.

Jonathan Cleaver – Thank you to Kyle Spotts, Craig Reichl and the athletic trainers. We are very happy with the great service.

Delinquent Taxes Portnoff MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Arner upon recommendation of the Finance Committee to continue to retain Portnoff Law Associates Ltd. to collect the District's delinquent taxes.

Stephen Holland – (directed to Mr. Resh) – Is there a reason for you to abstain?

Hal Resh – Not that I'm aware of

Atty. Schwab

- Tax claim bureau should collect – this is delays of 2 or more years.
- This increased our collection in the first year.
- This doesn't cost the district.

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

Motion carried.

Personnel

2015-2-016 Substitutes MOTION by Mrs. Dwyer, SECONDED by Mr. Beltz to approve the attached list of candidates for the 2015-2016 Substitute list pending clearances.

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

Motion carried.

Athletic Hires MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Arner to approve the Athletic hires for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year (per attachment).

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

Motion carried.

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

1. **Lauren Cortright** - January 19-May 7, 2016/Theoretical Models of Reading and Literacy
2. **Michael Feifel** - January 11 -March 5, 2016 /The Early Republic
3. **Michael Feifel** - March 12-May 7, 2016/Sectionalism and Civil War
4. **Trevor Miller** - January 19-April 19, 2016/Using Print Media to Support Education

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

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

1. **Employee #848** - effective December 16, 2015
2. **Employee #330** - effective January 4, 2016
3. **Employee #623** - effective January 28, 2016

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

School Journeys MOTION by Mr. Hill, SECONDED by Mr. Arner to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:

1. **Special Education Community-Based Instructional Trips** - related to students' individualized education plans for the 2015-2016 school year.
2. **LAHS Band (B. Buffington)** - January 28-30, 2016 - 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. - to travel to North Schuylkill High School
3. **7W & 7M Teams (J. Yescavage, Y. Sharrow)** - February 24, 2016 (rain date may be needed) - 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - to travel to Blue Mountain Ski Area
4. **Odyssey of the Mind (B. Hudlow)** - March 12, 2016 - 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. - to travel to Pocono Mtn. West High School
5. **Odyssey of the Mind (B. Hudlow)** - April 2, 2016 - 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. - to travel to Moon Area High School
6. **East Penn - Grades K & 1 (R. Zerbe, N. Zehner, K. Betz)** - April 20, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - to travel to Philadelphia Zoo

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Top 10% Banquet MOTION by Mrs. Dwyer, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to approve the Top 10% Banquet on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the Franklin Township Fire Company.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

**90 Day
Moratorium
Approved**

MOTION by Mr. Beltz, SECONDED by Mr. Arner that moratorium of any new PlanCon filings or approvals shall be established for 90 days to allow the board to reevaluate an Elementary Center project and to allow the board to consult and retain such professionals as may be necessary to educate new board members on the project and alternatives. Already contracted bills and meetings (such as conservation district and planning commission) will not be affected by this motion.

Gloria Bowman - Where did this motion originate?

Hal Resh - We want to get new members up to speed. Proposed costs vs. other costs.

Andrew Yenser - How was this discussed?

Gloria Bowman - Did you consult with the superintendent?

Atty. Schwab - Any board member can put a motion on the agenda. It is up to the board to vote for or against it.

Gloria Bowman - New members have had time to talk to staff, listen to parents, review past history. To go backwards would cost taxpayers a lot of money.

William Hill - Justify to me the \$66 million and 26 years of borrowing. This doesn't include the day-to-day operations and the generous contract for teachers.

Jonathan Cleaver - Original discussion was a 7-12 Jr./Sr. High concept. Hal Resh, Joe Hauser, Rocky Almer, and Bill Hill all met with Mr. Vogel at PDE. Scenario is now a K-5, 6-8, 9-12. We've discussed this for a long time. We need to know what direction the board is going.

Andrew Yenser - I've spent the last 8 years on finance. We had a 5-year plan 6 years ago. Motion should be pulled. The longer we wait, the more money needed. Should be a presentation at the next meeting as to where we are headed, additional costs, more answers.

Hal Resh - An Ad Hoc committee will be established with Brian Feick, Jonathan Cleaver and the Finance Committee. The committee will be in contact with PDE for a phone call or visit to go over the PlanCon process and the information regarding the building projects.

Jonathan Cleaver - We have building plans in place.

Richard Beltz - What has been explored before?

Jonathan Cleaver - Everything has been presented.

Richard Beltz - Need to explore other options before voting for elementary center. I will proceed with the best option.

Jonathan Cleaver - I will forward notes from Mr. Vogel to the Ad Hoc committee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion carried.

**CLIU
Outpatient
Clinic
Approved**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the establishment of an Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic in the Lehigh Area School District. The CLIU #21 oversees and provides the service paid through the insurance of the clients. The district will provide a room on campus.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

**PSBA
Standards**

MOTION by Mrs. Bowman, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the recommendation of the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) of adopting the PSBA's Standards for Effective Governance and Code of Conduct.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Programs

**Use of Sch.
Property**

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

1. Franklin PTO (Stacey Duerst) - Tuesdays & Thursday, January 19-April 15, 2016 (3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.) - FR Upper Field
2. Boys' Soccer Indoor (Dave Yob) - Sundays, January 3-March 13, 2016 (3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.) - HS or MS Gym
3. East Penn PTO (Tammy Steele) - January 4, 2016 (6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) - EP Library
4. Yoga (Maya Kowalczyk) - January 11, 25, February 1, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016 (3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) - HS Library

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

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

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - _____ ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion

Gloria Bowman - The 5 of you will incur cost to our community. Facts have been presented for years.

New Business for Discussion

Jonathan Cleaver - I need clarity from the board as to where we are going. I'm getting no input. Community needs to be given answers.

Stephen Holland addressed William Hill regarding the "wow" statement about the teacher contract. William Hill stated that Stephen Holland must direct questions to the board president, not directly to a board member.

Gloria Bowman asked Hal Resh about appointment of committees.

Hal Resh - Most committees will remain as is. Library will change.

Jonathan Cleaver - Library member does not need to be a board member.

Hal Resh - We need to consider if we need a report every month or bi-monthly.

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. Frank Chickilly - Elementary Center vs. Renovations

- Do what is in the interests of the students.
- Are the condition of the 4 school that bad? Education system is excellent and the staff is wonderful.
- Passionate - are our students getting the best education? Is student achievement better in large elementary center?
- If we don't do it now, will we lose money or cost more?

2. Autumn Abelovsky - School Board Meeting and Borough Council Meetings - Same Night

- Elementary building, MS & HS in borough of Lehighton.
- Borough meetings and school board meetings are the same night.
- Detriment to community members who would like to attend both meetings.

Atty. Schwab - School District has always met on the 2nd and 4th Monday. In the 90's, borough council changed from 1st and 3rd Monday to 4th Monday. If you look at the history, we did not create the conflict.

3. Michael Lusch - Questions

Denied because it was not handed to President before the meeting.

Adjournment

Next workshop meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 11, 2016, and the next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Hill, SECONDED by Mrs. Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 8 NO - ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Brian Feick
Board Secretary

(Minutes of December 21, 2015 include Pages 1 through 12.)