

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Building Committee Workshop Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2014

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 p.m.

Roll Call -

	Present	Absent
Mr. Rocky Ahner, Member	X	☐
Mr. William J. Hill, Jr., Member	X	☐
Mr. Stephen L. Holland, Member	X	☐
Mr. Hal Resh, Vice-President	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Treasurer	X	☐
_____, Member	☐	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐
Ms. Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Manager	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor	X	☐
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Bd. Secretary	X	☐

Public Comment on Agenda - (limited to three (3) minutes as per board policy) - None

Appointment to Empty Board Chair:

MOTION by Mr. Ahner, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz that the Lehigh Area School District appoints Lori Nothstein as Board Member until filled at the next municipal election for the vacancy as a result of the resignation of Thomas Zimmerman IV.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Bowman called a recess for Mrs. Nothstein to be sworn in as a board member.

Roll Call:

	Present	Absent
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, Vice-President	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, Member	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Andrew Yenser, Member	X	☐
Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President	X	☐
Ms. Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Manager	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor	X	☐
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Bd. Secretary	X	☐

Presentations -

1. Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Fact-Finding in reference to Plan Con submission

- *PowerPoint Presentation*
- *Conference call with Mr. Vogel (PDE) / Mrs. Bowman / Mr. Cleaver / Mr. Ahner to discuss seeking the waiver*
- *Current submissions will stay as they are.*
- *No guarantee – Government needs to do something about the moratorium.*
- *Need to decide what to do with Grade 5.*
- *Need resolution by board.*

Mr. Ahner –

- *Been in contact with Mr. Vogel (PDE)*
- *Moratorium – is it legal to get a variance?*
- *Variance – is this what the community wants?*
- *Worried about traffic patterns.*

Mr. Resh –

- *Regarding Grade 5 back to elementary – have we devised a plan?*
- *What about academic alignment?*
- *Simple Audit Report – our county is not up to a sustainable wage for teachers / staff.*
- *Not saying moving grade 5 back is a bad thing. Bring it up in two weeks at the regular board meeting.*

Mrs. Bowman –

- *Grade re-alignment would be done with our staff. Sue and Aaron presented this in January.*

Mr. Hill –

- *Does \$32M include all costs?*
- *Out-of-pocket for the stadium?*
- *Don't hang your hat on PlanCon reimbursements.*

Mrs. Bowman –

- *Our phone conference with Mr. Vogel was very positive with knowledge of what the board needs to do.*

Mr. Alner –

- *Show me the cost of the Elementary Center and then go to Harrisburg for a variance.*
- *What can we afford in this town? Stadium is an unfunded project.*
- *Need numbers.*

Mr. Stern –

- *We need to make a decision and move forward.*

Mr. Alner –

- *We had phases for renovations and then we stopped. We were ready to go out on bid for EP/FR.*

2. Mr. Jonathan Cleaver – Survey Results

- *Handout*
- *Total responses – 718*
- *Straw poll by PTO's in favor of moving Gr. 5 back to elementary*
- *Flexibility for elementary parents*

Communications - None

Approval of Minutes - None

Financial Matter -

- A. MOTION made by Mr. Yenser, and SECONDED by Mr. Resh that the solicitor is authorized to take such actions as he believes necessary to obtain funds in bank account with former Mahoning Township Tax Collector that has the district's tax ID number associated with it at PNC Bank, including litigation if necessary.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____
Motion carried.

Discussion regarding motion:

Atty. Schwab -

- No response from Mahoning Tax Collector until today
- It is our money, but he is an elected official. His signature is on the account.
- Hope we do not need litigation.
- Meeting is tentatively set-up.

Personnel - None

Miscellaneous - None

Programs -

- A. MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Wentz that the district will include the fifth grade as part of the elementary concept with relation to the district-wide building program. The grade re-alignment for building facilities will be a K-5 (elementary), 6-8 (middle school), and 9-12 (high school).

Discussion regarding motion:

Mr. Hill -

- If we vote on this motion K-5 will be an elementary concept.

Mr. Ahner -

- Table this until we have numbers.

Mr. Stern -

- We need to move forward.

Mrs. Bowman -

- We have had four trailers at the MS for 20 years.
- We didn't renovate like we should have.
- Gr. 5 needs more nurturing.
- No matter which grade (5, 6, or 7) that enters MS, there is an academic drop due to transition.

Mr. Hill -

- Administration can put together whatever but what does the board want?
- We are responsible to 12,000 taxpayers.
- You have 1500 student in buildings to worry about.

Mr. Cleaver -

- *We have spent many hours on this.*
- *Administration is recommending moving forward.*

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

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 4 ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Old Business for Discussion -

1. **TRANE - Come back to us with minutes**

New Business for Discussion -

1. Mr. Cleaver - PFM Update

- *Bonds*
- *Bank Qualified Loans*
- *Whatever makes the best sense financially.*
- *Because of credit rating, no bond insurance needed.*
- *Current bond - 2.19 millage impact.*
- *1.4 M debt service - decrease without reimbursement - .77 millage impact.*
- *If PlanCon comes through, - 1.88 millage impact*

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment -

1. Betty Wolfe -

- *Atty Schwab, what is the proper procedure to let voters have a referendum?*
 - *Atty Schwab responds: Once a project is approved and it gets to a certain financial basis, then it may go to a referendum. County has never approved a referendum. Until the board decides, we cannot do a referendum.*
- *When is the loan paid off? 2015*
- *What do we owe on the bond? 1.5M*
- *Regarding the building plan: Listen to public*

- *Safety issues: Mr. Venuto is a FR Twp. Resident, NY city policeman, witnessed 9/11, very serious about safety. Learn from the past.*
- *Elementary Center was just dialog and now seems to be going towards a project.*
- *Cannot afford a tax increase.*
- *Safety is #1 – Children in a small radius*
- *Insulted that my reputation; is being attacked. Not trying to distort anything.*

2. Wilmer Everetts -

- *Grew up in this town. Parents gave us what we needed, not what we wanted.*
- *Tough times. How can we afford these taxes?*
- *Numbers to renovate could be escalated.*
- *856 taxpayers polled. 738 are against and oppose a new center. Want renovations.*

3. Frank Tamburri -

- *This community can't afford these taxes.*
- *People will be upset.*
- *You will need to wear flak jackets.*
 - *Mrs. Bowman stopped Mr. Tamburri noting that this statement would be considered a threat.*

Adjournment

**Next regular scheduled meeting is the regular meeting on Monday,
April 28, 2014.**

MOTION by Mr. Stern, SECONDED by Mr. Ahner to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - ABSENT - ABSTENTIONS -
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Bonnie M. Cortese

Bonnie M. Cortese
Assistant Board Secretary

(Minutes of April 14, 2014 include Pages 1 through 6)