

**Annual report of the Lehigh Area School Board of Directors
December 2014- December 11, 2015**

The Lehigh Area School Board of Directors would like to present their annual report from December 2014 through December, 2015.

1. A new reading series was approved and purchased for grades K-4 with fifth grade being added in 2016: cost \$155, 172.28. A new digital music series was approved for K-8 at \$29,500.46.
2. On recommendation of the building and grounds committee, a new sound system from CSI Integrated Security and Communication was approved through COSTARS at \$11, 387.00 for the Board room as well as a new secure access control to the administration building at a total cost of \$49,313.05 to be paid out of technology and capital projects.
3. The board approved a motion (seven to one) to extend Mr. Cleaver's contract through 2018 at a 2.27% (\$132,000) and 2.2% increase in salary (\$135,000).
4. The board approved the Board president to sign a deed to consolidate property parcels (three) into one.
5. The board unanimously approved the CCTI, LCCC and CLIU budgets with no increase for 2015.
6. The finance committee and the business department worked diligently not to increase taxes for 2015. There was no increase for 2015.
7. The board unanimously approved the authorization for administration and EI architects to prepare and submit Plan Con Part D and E for MS and HS to PDE as well as proceed with Plancon F for alterations and additions to the 6-8 LAMS and LAHS. On a 5-4 vote, the board authorized the superintendent and/or business manager with the authority to approve change orders in building projects not to exceed \$10,000.
8. The board approved Trane to complete an ESCO evaluation for the HS (\$47,330). ESCO projects will be used for the MS and HS through McClure Company which underbid TRANE by 3 million dollars. The board, on a five to four vote, also went to bid for general HVAC contractors with McClure still being lowest bidder as an ESCO project.
9. The Act 34 booklet for the projects known as "New Primary/Elementary Center" was approved by the board (eight present) in February, 2015.
10. The board on a 9-0 vote approved Lobar GC for MS (\$13,110,000-MS and HS) renovate HS adm area (\$283,000 vote 8-1), new fitness center at HS (\$516,000), replace science casework at MS (\$88,000); replace auditorium seating at MS (\$144,000); JR Reynolds plumbing contractor: for MS and HS (\$1,052,100); plumbing for HS adm (\$50); new fitness center plumbing at HS (\$12,000), MS plumbing science casework (\$25,000); Electrical: Albarell for MS and HS (\$2,265,256) electric for HS adm area (vote 8-1) (\$78,066); new fitness center (\$49,985), HS new paging clock system (vote 8 to 1) (\$69,274); MS science

casework electrical (\$19,520); MS auditorium lighting and sound: (vote 7 to 2) (\$175,326), MS new paging system (vote 8 to 1) (\$100,872) and unanimous vote for McClure for a 4 pipe central heat pump system as an ESCO project for MS and HS (\$7,727,075).

11. On a five to four vote, the board voted to submit Plancon D and E to the PA Dept. of Education to proceed with the project known as the Primary/Elementary Center.
12. On a 5 to 4 vote the board approved the borrowing of \$32,500,000 dollars for the elementary center with money procured at 35,000,000 which will be used towards the ms/hs overflow projects.
13. A motion was made by Mr. Hill and approved by the board to have all soft costs for the stadium and elementary center project taken from the unrestricted fund balance.
14. Our building and grounds committee worked diligently to move forward on several purchases including, one student van at a cost of \$28,000 , replace the pump at the HS (Bellview Pump awarded contract at \$56,800) , Toro professional zero turn mower ((8,598.96).; Motorola two way communication systems (\$3,628.02 supplemental funds to offset grant for major purchase).The vans and district car have been placed on a cycle for replacement
15. Bids were procured for the new all -purpose stadium (5-4) with CMG out of Easton as the general contractor (\$5,229,000), electrical from Pagoda (\$582,748.00) and mechanical /plumbing from Master Mechanical (\$452,548.00) and turf field track resurfacing, lettering and south west stairs (Total cost: 6.3 million)
16. The insurance package was unanimously approved for property , liability, etc. at a cost of \$214,524. Other services approved include Mr. Schwab , Clinical psychologist at \$38,880 and Mr. William Schwab at a cost of \$155 per hour as solicitor, Wyoming Valley Drug and Alcohol (\$40,000). See board minutes on district website for more services that were approved throughout the year.
17. Personnel were hired with a pre-termination notice to one professional employee who resigned through an MOU with the Lehigh Education Association. A ten month secretary for the HS was hired (\$17,276) as well as a new psychologist in September (\$45,039).
18. The roof warranty with Tremco was extended for three years at a cost of \$71,080 for the elementary schools.
19. The board unanimously approved the proposal for the restoration of the existing metal roof at the HS for the amount not to exceed \$435,440.70.
20. The TRANE bill for MS and HS energy audits (MS:\$36,000 and HS:\$47,330) is still on hold due to time frame of information presented to district
21. Under the leadership of chair for personnel, Larry Stern, the board approved the act 93 agreement effective to August of 2017 as well as a negotiated teacher contract to 2020 (vote 7 to 1 with Mr. Resh absent) with raises between :2.5 to 3.5 over length of contract and a retirement program benefit of \$7500 for three years providing retiree purchase insurance on his/her own. Health benefit

contributions for professionals increased and college credit reimbursement towards permanent certification decreased.

22. The board approved all architect submittals (EI) needing borough approval be reviewed by the solicitor. The superintendent requested from the board to collaborate with the borough regarding permit fees.
23. The board approved on a five to four vote to pass a resolution that if the elementary center would incur more cost savings that the additional cost savings would be put towards the debt service.
24. On a five to four vote, the board approved paying EI architects \$9500 per amendment for the review of the HVAC ESCO changes in design for the renovations to the MS and HS.
25. The Leighton Borough Planning Commission granted a special use request to build an elementary center on the HS campus provided the district submit a complete Lan Use Plan and Comprehensive Storm Water study.
26. Two new scholarships were approved for the HS: Matthew D. DePue Indian Pride and Butch Rodgers softball
27. Several policies have been updated including: student wellness, home school education , recording of minutes, all business functions (policies #600's), school volunteers, tobacco, conduct an disciplinary processes, surplus items, flyer handouts policy and suicide awareness, and use of facilities are still on- going discussions.
28. With Rocky Ahner leading the wellness committee, a spring health fair initiative was held at the HS in April.
29. The board approved many technology upgrades and purchases including : apple laptops for HS, laptops and upgrades for elementary, new access points and power PDE devices, ipads for elementary and MS, upgrades to existing laptops at MS and HS, new telephone servers, library system upgrades. In all 2,136 tickets were completed. Purchases and improvements (\$335,821.73). Technology upgrades support new programs such as SUCCESSMAKER at the MS and elementary
30. PROJECT BILLS PAID DURING 2015:
MS: ASBESTOS REMOVAL: Sargent: \$(369,388) JMSI: (\$87,252)
MS: Design/Plans/construction docs and bids: \$(642,321.09)
HS: Design/Plans/construction docs and bids: \$(486,153.61)
Elementary Project for schematic design, design development and construction docs: \$1,189,300
Quandel Construction Management : (\$74,000)
BARRY ISSETT (stadium): (\$388,569)
Stadium project: including GC, electrical and plumbing: (\$4,602,804.19)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Congratulations to all students and staff for a great year. The football team won the Anthracite League, Boys Soccer won the Schuylkill League ; records were also set in these sports: soccer: Joe Marks career goals set record of 19; Tyler Cann: Career holder in passing yards (3,993) completions (281) and Attempts (462) and Wyatt Clements career holder in rushing touchdowns (64) and career points (392).

Ellen Perkins qualified for district band and regional band /district and regional chorus, Noah Williams : District 10 Chorus and Grant Wetzel district 10 band. The HS band traveled to Nashville and performed at the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry as well as the Jazz band recording a cd at RCA studio B. LAHS hosted the Carbon County Band Festival with 32 students participating from Lehigh.

HS students taking the Keystone exams placed as follows for ten schools:
Algebra I : fourth ELA: second Biology: First

Shull David recognized as a nationally distinguished Title school.

A total of \$161,000 dollars was awarded to 71 students for the graduating class of 2015.

Graduation rate was 94.7%. Overall enrollment from December of 2014 to December 2015:
Total K-12: **(2319)** versus K-12: **(2411)**

Thank you to all board members who work diligently for our students, the school district at large and the community. The School Board of Directors will continue to focus on supporting programs and resources that will increase student achievement and promote the safety and well-being of each child. The Board will also continue its focus on improving district facilities, promoting professional development for all staff, offer strong extracurricular activities, maintain open communication with the community and promote the use of district facilities for our stakeholders. The School Board of Directors wishes to thank all staff for their hard work over this past year as well as all the parents who support district programs.

Gloria J. Bowman
Lehigh School Board of Directors
December 22, 2015