

Annual report of the Lehigh Area School Board of Directors
December 11, 2015- December 5, 2016

The Lehigh Area School Board of Directors would like to present their annual report from **December 2015 through December 2016.**

1. During the reorganization meeting December 2015 Hal Resh was appointed President and Richard Beltz Vice President. New board members included: Richard Beltz, Byron Arner, Marianne Dwyer. Unfortunately, with the unlikely timing of board member Bill Hill's passing, the board could not agree upon his replacement. (January 2016). Ten community members were interviewed with no consensus for appointment. The replacement had to be appointed by the courts; whereas, Mr. David Krause was appointed to this position. There had been five other candidates vying for the appointment. On recommendation of the finance committee, approval was given to stay under the Act 1 index as well as no tax increase for the 2016-17 school fiscal year. On a five to four vote, the board approved a 90 day moratorium on any new PlanCon filings or approvals for the center in order to have new board members to proceed with further research regarding the project. (Dec 21, 2015)
2. The board unanimously approved both the CCTI, LCCC and CLIU budgets with little to no increases for 2016.
3. The building and grounds committee recommended the purchase of new desks and chairs for the Middle School Classrooms with a cost of \$98,020.80 from the WB Mason Co-Stars Contract.
4. The board approved the purchase of a new Fire Alarm Control Panel upgrade for the High School from CSI Integrated Security and Communications in the amount to \$29,160 (co-stars/PEPPM State). On the recommendation of the building and grounds committee, the board approved the purchase of a Ford Escape through the Co-Star purchase program not to exceed \$23,000. Old Ford car approved for surplus and bid at \$1,655.
5. The board approved administration to pay \$75,000 to TRANE for their services although TRANE was not approved for contracting the HVAC systems as part of the middle and high school renovation projects within the district.
6. Success Maker incentive class winners attended the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia (K-6). This project was funded by the STEM initiative in the district through Dr. Kuttan (Sunny-Potsdam and NEF).
7. The board accepted with regret Mr. Resh's resignation. Within a month of acceptance (May) both Mrs. Dwyer and Mr. Arner resigned. (June). Three members who had previously interviewed in the beginning of the year were appointed to the board: Mr. Larry Stern, Mr. Duane Eidem and Mrs. Stacey Duerst and Mrs. Bowman was re-appointed as president.
8. The board at the May 9, 2016, workshop meeting approved the preparing and submitting of PlanCon F for the elementary center to PDE for approval.
9. Ms. Cristi Marchetti presented her opportunity to study in Northern Ireland as a Fulbright Scholar. Unanimous approval by the board for a professional leave second semester.
10. Lunch prices increased by \$.05 for students and adults with board approval. Elementary student lunch for 2016 - \$2.25 MS and HS - \$2.55 and adult \$3.55

11. The insurance package was unanimously approved for property, liability, etc. at a cost of \$228,139. Other services approved included Mr. Schwab, Clinical Psychologist at \$38,880 and Atty. William Schwab at a cost of \$155 per hour as solicitor, athletic trainer agreement with Lehigh Valley through 2021 with no increase in costs. See board minutes on district website for more services that were approved throughout the year.
12. Personnel hired included MS math, long-term social studies at HS, art teacher MS/HS, Spanish MS/HS, long-term LA MS, Special education/elementary, long-term HS music, emotional support interventionist, cleaners, lunch time aides, athletics and extra-curricular (refer to board minutes for specifics).
13. Summer programs including Wellness and Title programs as well as remedial programs were offered throughout the year for Keystone remediation and PSSA's, winter credit recovery (Apex learning), alternative education (PATH), SAT prep classes.
14. Several Title parents attended the SPAC conference in Seven Springs with board approval. Active parent engagement in the elementary schools is on-going.
15. The board approved the removal and remediation of the lead base paint bleachers at the former stadium at a cost of \$39,875.
16. The board approved an agreement between the district and Lehigh Law Enforcement Officers Inc. for security services at athletic events, dance, homecoming at \$18.00 per hour.
17. All permits and land developers' agreements were approved between the district and borough for the construction of the center.
18. New elementary center bids were approved: Lobar (GC) \$23,448,900; JBM Mechanical (HVAC): \$3,897,000; Jay R. Reynolds (Plumbing); \$1,692,700; Phillips Brothers (Electrical): \$4,009,200. (Vote was 8-1)
19. With the assistance of business manager, Brian Feick, the board approved the administration to accept the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) of \$6,800,000 to be used for qualified work at the LAHS (\$3,889,000-2015 and \$2,911,000-2016)
20. The board approved use of Commerce Advantage AP card for payment of bills in order to retrieve dollars back to district.
21. Substitute pay for paraprofessionals, secretary, custodian and lunch time aide was raised to \$8.50 (effective Oct 31, 2017) and retired teachers pay to \$120 per day (effective January 1, 2017)
22. Advantage Engineers was approved to provide construction observation and materials testing for the new center not to exceed \$144,037 (unanimous vote).
23. The board unanimously approved the continuing services of Quandel (construction management group) at a cost not to exceed \$169,664 for the center until the end of May 2018. Any further costs for overseeing the project would fall on contractors.
24. Affiliation agreements were approved with Marywood, Gwynedd Mercy, Eastern, Kutztown and Cedar Crest for experiential learning opportunities.
25. The board approved the purchase of 500 web-based site licenses for Read Naturally for the elementary schools (\$5,766.34 from technology)
26. The board approved several change orders MS (22) , HS (12) and asbestos including old stadium (MS/stadium 2) but with many deductions returned to the district on a positive side, the district paid to date \$38,688.50.

27. Several policies have been updated including: weapons (pupils and employees) , sick leave bank, public participation in board meetings, interscholastic sports, alternative education, food services, and conflict of interest (federal programs), graduation requirements, contests/academic competitions, personal necessity leave, use of school facilities, and #600's on fiscal items all business functions (policies #600's), acceptable use of communications, administering naloxone, school volunteers, suicide awareness, and non school organizational/groups/individuals.
28. The board approved the establishment of an Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic using a room at the HS with the CLIU#21 overseeing services and services paid through the insurance of the client.
29. FACILITIES PROJECT BILLS PAID DURING 2016 with unanimous approval :
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|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Elementary: | 2016 paid \$1,993,184.24 | Total to date: \$3,204,419.78 |
| MS: | 2016 paid: \$11,403,545.90 | Total to date: \$12, 184, 073.48) |
| HS: | 2016 paid: \$9,707,905.36 | Total to date: \$10.325,604.93 |
| Stadium project: | 2016 paid: \$866,083.37 | Total to date: \$6,242,776.51 |

HIGHLIGHTS:

Congratulations to all students and staff for a great year. Football, which had the largest turnout in numbers for many years, soccer and volleyball qualified for district playoffs but did not advance further. The field hockey qualified to play in States but did not advance beyond quarterfinals. Tyler Dietz, Frank Bokan, and Patrick Lawler were all named to the All Star Boys soccer team. Mike Mayernik, Dakota Heister, and Gavin Zehner were named to the Division 1 All League Team for football. Michael Blacketter and Cera Gaston were named to All Star Track. The wrestling team had the most wins in the history of the school (19) and Connor Frey took third place at the wrestling state competition. Both Zachary Kemmerer and Tegan Durishin joined the 110 Career Club of wins. Katie Higgins, senior, was selected to the PA AAA volleyball team. Abigail Hoppes qualified for district band this fall and Grant Wetzel spring of 2016. Fifteen students participated in county chorus and thirty one students participated in county band.

Mylee Hauser, fourth grade student has been singing the National Anthem at many events throughout the year including the Iron Pigs.

Grade 3 at Franklin took second place in the Environthon and EP took 3rd place out of 43 teams May 2016 the National Education Foundation and STEM Academy named us STEM Academy of the Year with a huge ceremony in the new Multi-Purpose stadium with plaque and monetary awards.

Several staff members from East Penn and Franklin participated in a PaTTAN writing cohort. Excellent presentation to the board was done in May 2016. Our e-learning academy module was also presented where 37 students returned from other charter schools and 17 students walked across the stage with graduates. (This program reduces costs for the district).

Graduation was held May 27, 2016 in the new Multi-Purpose stadium. This is the first time graduation has been held outside since the early 1990's.

The official dedication ceremony for the new athletic stadium was held on August 23, 2016, with students, staff, community, board members, and press in attendance. (Tribe Night)

The district wide-community Holiday Educare program saw its 27th year, December 2015, serving 43 families and 117 students with each gift valuing \$75 per student. Gifts are delivered Christmas Eve by Santa and his elves.

The district Title staff and community pool event (June, 2016) was once again a huge success. This was the seventh year of the district and community working together on such an event to provide social networking and information on various programs and agencies within the community.

Initiatives K-6 are in full swing with use of Successmaker, Makerspace, and SciTT kits- Students are loving the activities.

LEAF (Lehigh Education and Athletic Foundation) awarded several grants to teachers this year; Staff used grants for ESL activities, Makerspace kits, etc.

The district was proud to announce that Crist Marchetti, Language arts teacher at HS, is a Fulbright scholar and will be studying February of 2017 through May 2017 in Northern Ireland.

Several veteran diplomas were acknowledged throughout the year: Mr. Herbert Zimmerman, Mr. David Bryfogle, Mr. Carl Haydt, Mr. Glenn Warner

The ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the new Primary/Elementary Center was held on October 31, 2016, followed by immediate work on the center.

HS students taking the Keystone exams in Algebra 1, Literature and Biology scored around the same as the year before with a small drop in Algebra 1. Staff reviewed how questions are asked on the tests and are making accommodations with questioning techniques within the curriculum. The SPP (School Performance Profile) score from 2015 to 2016 dropped slightly (72.4 to 71.3)

Several new courses were offered during the year at the HS: computer programming, academic environmental science, personal finance and visual communication, early riser fitness (waiting list).

Two out of the four elementary schools SPP (School Performance Profile) were above the state requirement of 70 – EP (76.2) and SD (75.8) as well as MS (75.7) and one of the few MS in the state which maintained this type of score. Franklin and Mahoning dropped below the target of 70 (FR: 68.5) and Mahoning (65.9). State scores were not calculated in 2015 and the new scores reflect the PA Core Standards so scores were not compared to 2015.

Shull-David was recognized as a nationally distinguished Title school (third year consecutively).

A total of \$163,750 dollars in scholarships was awarded to 59 students with 75 sponsors for the graduating class of 2016. Graduation rate was 94.3 % for the graduating class of 2016. 100 students took dual enrollment classes over the year. (56 in spring of 2016 and 44 fall of 2016). AP courses (offered in spring semester 2016) had 43 students enrolled.

2016 class: 47% enrolled in four year college
27% two year college
4.5% trade school
1.5% military
19% work force

Overall enrollment from December of 2015 to December 2016: Total K-12: **(2405)** Enrollment changes daily but the last two years at this time of the year, the district had slightly over 2400 students.

A special thank you to all board members who work diligently for our students, the school district 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 wishes to thank all staff for their hard work over this past year as well as all the parents who support district programs. Please visit the district website under the **home page, files and documents then district** for more detailed board minutes.

Gloria J. Bowman
Leighton School Board of Directors
December 21, 2016