

**Annual report of the Lehigh Area School Board of Directors  
December 2013- December, 2014**

The Lehigh Area School Board of Directors would like to present their annual report from December 2013 through December, 2014

1. With several retirees and resignations, the board approved elementary teachers, middle school teachers: social studies, technology, and a new assistant HS principal who is the first female at LAHS, various support staff positions and Mr. Brian Feick as the district's new business manager
2. The superintendent's year extension contract for 2015-16 (approved by board in summer of 2013) approved the salary of 129,000. The superintendent's evaluation was posted on line at the end June , 2014
3. Our building and grounds committee worked diligently to move forward on several purchases including, two student vans, a kubota, sprinkler system, new scoreboard and lighting in HS gym etc. as well as complete the asbestos abatement at the EP and MAH buildings. Chairperson Wayne Wentz, wants the b and g committee to continue placing needed items on a cycle. Over \$200,000 was spent on these purchases and the asbestos projects (EP and Mahoning- over a two year period and including cafeterias and kitchen) costing about \$162,000 .
4. Under the leadership of chair for personnel, Larry Stern, the board approved the act 93 agreement effective to August of 2017
5. The finance committee , Hal Resh as chair, and the business department worked to keep tax increases to a minimum in order to maintain department budgets as well as maintaining our district programs, resources and staffing. There had been no increase in school taxes over the past three years. This year, the tax increase was .56 mil or 1.18%
6. The board approved to move fifth grade back to the elementary level and discussions are under way for a potential elementary center with a two school concept under one umbrella: K-2 and 3-5. Academic standards in Pa support this grade configuration.
7. The MS renovations and potential movement of cafeteria and media are underway with the asbestos removal for this project to be completed by June 2015
8. PDE had approved the district's new PlanCon a and b submissions in September in order to move forward on district building projects.
9. Several policies have been updated including, gifted, admission to K, re-imbusement consistency, sick bank policy. Volunteer clearances, flyer handouts policy, home schooling policy and use of facilities are still on- going discussions.
10. With Rocky Ahner leading the wellness committee, many changes have occurred over the year including participation in the annual June community/ district night, changes to the cafeteria with a new food service by the name of Nutrition Group, Q and A with health images on Channel 13 and a spring health fair initiative.
11. The district also hosted the Fall legislative meeting in September, hosted and coordinated by Rocky Ahner, to review pension reform and property taxes with local politicians.

12. The board approved many technology upgrades and purchases including new mac laptops, updating HS business classrooms, mobile carts, iPads, etc. totaling around \$343,275
13. The board approved the ACE grant for the elementary center project as well as a bank approved loan and bonds including a QZAB bond (8.4 million) that is locked in at 1.5% interest rate for twenty years. Loans and bonds total \$23,000,000 that will be used for renovations/construction at the MS and HS beginning Fall of 2014.
14. The board approved new math texts for MS and HS at a cost of \$129, 145.
15. By a unanimous vote, the board voted to make the MS an asbestos free building at a cost of \$344,900. Work will begin November, 2014.
16. The board approved ACE grants for the MS and HS renovation projects in the amount of 2.5 million dollars.
17. The board approved the hiring of a construction management group, Quandel, to oversee the district facilities projects, in the amount not to exceed \$802,000

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.

Gloria J. Bowman  
Leighton School Board of Directors President  
December 8, 2014