

Lehigh Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehigh, PA 18235
Monday, July 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES



1. Opening Exercises

A. Opening Exercises

Opening Exercises included the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

B. Call to Order

Board President, J. Beers called the Board Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

C. Roll Call

PR/AB

PR	Ms. Joy Beers	PR**	Mr. Nathan Foeller	PR	Mrs. Kerry Sittler
PR	Mr. Richard R. Beltz	PR	Mr. Jeremy Glaush	PR	Ms. April Walker
PR	Ms. Barbara Bowes	PR	Mr. Brian Shaner		Board Vacancy

**** N. Foeller present via Zoom**

Also Present:

Mr. John W. Corby, Acting Superintendent
Mr. Edward Rarick, Business Administrator
Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Christina Fish, David Bradley, D'Ache Zelrick, Heather Neff, Fred Kemmerer, Timothy Ream, Janice Bowman, Janice Collins, Jarrad Hedes, Pam Searfoss, Christina Haupt, Steve Ebbert,

D. Purpose of Special Meeting

As per advertisement in the Times News on Friday, July 15, 2022 - The Board of School Directors of the Lehigh Area School District will be conducting a Special Meeting of the Board that will take place on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Area School District Administration Office - Board Room, 1000 Union Street, Lehigh, PA 18235 for the purpose of conducting a public discussion and reviewing Board Member positions regarding the candidate applications to fill the Board vacancy created as the result of Board Member Walter Zlomsowitch's resignation. This discussion is in anticipation of what will be addressed at the July 25, 2022, Board Meeting when the Board plans to officially vote on the vacancy. In addition to the foregoing, the Board can address any other action or information that properly comes before the Board.

E. Public Comment

D. Bradley stated he believed in term limits and that a Board Member should only serve one term; however, he felt they needed a cleaner to fix the District from the inside. He felt he could help with the next steps.

J. Bowman gave her full support to D. Bradley for the Board Vacancy. She hopes the Board will work on the food grants that are tied to funding for transgender bathrooms, since she did not want that coming to Lehigh. She said she was concerned about the mask mandates coming to the school re-opening.

J. Collins extended her support for D. Bradley. She felt he put the children first and appreciated that he does a lot of research. She hopes the Board will help with curriculum since they are not teaching the basics and she was concerned with CDC issues.

D. Zelrick explained that she has put her name in several times for interest on the Board. She stated that she is always in attendance, she was there for the students, an active participant in the community and invested with the District.

H. Neff explained that she came as a parent, taxpayer and former student. She felt she could relate to each category especially after sending three step-children through the school system. She gave additional information to introduce herself to the Board.

There were technical difficulties between 7:10-7:24 PM.

J. Beers read the following statements to the Board:

"Please consider this email my letter of interest in the current open school board seat serving until December 2023.

I have been a district resident since late 2002 and raised both of my children in the Lehigh area.

My children attended Catholic school for kindergarten through 8th grade. My oldest attended a charter school while my youngest attended Lehigh for high school, graduating from LAHS in 2021.

My interest in the board seat is as a parent, community member and tax payer in the district. Perhaps I may have a unique perspective to offer having had my children go through Catholic, Charter and Public school. I am interested in helping the students in our district realize their potential, ensuring our district offers various opportunities and exposes our students to all avenues that are open to them. I am concerned by unfunded mandates handed down from the federal level and the almost singular vision of college for all students. I am very much of the mindset that parental (or whomever the trusted adult is in a student's life) involvement is a key factor in a successful student and a respectful partnership between parents and teachers is also a key component along with open communication.

While I would need to learn specific policies and rules governing the meetings, I think I am capable of doing so and am willing to do so.

If anything further is needed, please let me know.

*Thank you,
Michele Baader"*

"Good evening Superintendent Fish, Mr. Corby, Administrators, School Board Members, and the Lehigh Community,

My name is Jennifer Laible, and unfortunately I can not be with you tonight as my son's Franklin Township Little League team is playing in sectionals. They won districts, and are now representing the Lehigh Community at the next tournament in Jamison (nearly 90 minutes away).

Here is the brief background that I submitted with my resume. I have worked in the educational space since starting my own educational consulting business in 1991. I have taught in the corporate world and in public and private schools. I have helped students with learning differences and ones that are gifted. I have led teams of students for decades, and volunteered in parents clubs and for the teams (some more than others) for every sport my kids have participated in - Cross Country, Track, Softball, Baseball, Basketball, and Soccer. I am a Congressional Award advisor, encouraging students to work towards goals in Voluntary Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration under their 3 pillars of Initiate, Service, and Achievement. I have certified for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. I have enjoyed leading students and families towards academic excellence for decades as they develop character and life skills through extracurriculars and athletics.

I ran for the School Board last year, winning the Democratic Primary, then losing in the election. I'd like to be a voice for the community and teachers on how to continue to move this district forward by:

- 1. Making teachers' pay consistent with local districts (that may include shifting money from Lehigh's excellent medical benefits to actual pay without raising taxes) to retain Lehigh's long-time teachers.*
- 2. Restarting a curriculum cycle that used to look at each department (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Technology) every 5 years to evaluate our educational standards and continue to enhance our students' academic opportunities.*
- 3. Putting money back in the departments' budgets to allow for current and updated programming since clubs and extracurricular activities were cut.*
- 4. Encouraging school board members to submit their clearances like every other volunteer in the district.*

Thank you for the opportunity to apply. When you don't see me at board meetings, I'm actually out with the students and parents investing in our community. I promise that if I am selected to fill the vacant seat, I will make myself available to invest in the district by serving on the board as I have invested in the students, sports, clubs, and community. I hope that I can use my past experiences in the educational space to serve the district as a Lehigh School Board Member. Thank you for your time to listen to me as I cheer on these FT boys!

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Laible"*

2. Board Vacancy

A. Board Vacancy Candidate Consideration

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by B. Bowes, to consider candidate applications to fill the Board vacancy created as the result of Board Member Walter Zlomsowitch's resignation and possible motion to narrow the list of candidates or motion to recommend a singular candidate to fill the vacancy at the July 25, 2022 Board Meeting.

Candidates are as follows:

- **D'Ache Zelrick**
- **David Bradley**
- **Heather Neff**
- **Henry Glanz IV**
- **Jennifer Laible**
- **Michele Bauder**
- **Timothy Ream**

J. Beers explained how the Board would vote for their top candidate by circling a name on the paper and submitting it to her for a tally. N. Foeller sent a message for his top candidate to be submitted since he was in attendance via electronic communication.

The final tally was:

Heather Neff - 3
D'Ache Zelrick - 2
Michele Bauder - 2
Timothy Ream - 1

J. Beers asked if the Board had any concerns with H. Neff or would like to ask any questions. B. Bowes advocated for H. Neff because she was an independent thinker. B. Shaner asked how many Board Meetings she had attended. H. Neff said up to the pandemic, she had attended about a dozen and then was not able to attend recently due to her work schedule, which could change. J. Glaush asked how often she would follow information on the School District and national and state information. He asked if she read news articles. H. Neff said yes, she stayed up to date with information. K. Sittler asked H. Neff if she was in disagreement with a decision if she would leave or stay on the Board. H. Neff said stay, of course. B. Bowes stated since she stayed with Giant Direct all this time, she would stay here as well. K. Sittler reminded H. Neff that there may be up to 40, 50, or 60 hours per week doing school business. H. Neff said she would be able to adjust her schedule to accommodate. J. Beers just wanted to let her know about the requirements that come along outside of just the Board Meetings. H. Neff mentioned how she was involved with many activities outside of work.

3. Communications

A. Public Comment

D. Bradley felt H. Neff was a great pick and believed she would do a great job.

B. Adjournment

MOTION by K. Sittler, SECONDED by J. Glaush, to adjourn the Meeting.

The July 18, 2022 Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Rarick, Board Secretary
By Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary