Lehighton Area School District

Lehighton, Pennsylvania

Special Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order

The March 24, 2021 Special Virtual Board Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Board President Larry Stern.

III. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	☐
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	☐	X
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	☐
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	X	☐
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	☐
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	☐	X
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Treasurer	X	☐
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	☐
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	☐
Mr. Edward Rarick, Business Administrator	X	☐
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	☐
Attorney Eric Filer, Solicitor	X	☐
Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary	X	☐

Also Present:
Barb Bowes

IV. Public Comment on Agenda

None at the time.

V. Financial Matter

A. MOTION by D. Bradley, SECONDED by R. Spinelli, to approve the Payment of Bills for February 2021:

General Fund:	
--Manual Checks	$ 14,439.79
--Regular Checks	$1,509,172.72
--Credit Card	$ 1,254.50
Debit Card:	$ 71.90
Payroll (February):	$1,112,866.63
Food Service Fund:	$ 84,016.67
Total	**$2,721,822.21**

(Enc. 3)

Note: Members with questions or requesting a copy of any payment, please contact the Business Office prior to the scheduled meeting.

R. Spinelli read a statement about how she went to the Administration office that afternoon to review the bills along with D. Bradley and R. Beltz. She stated that she had received dismissive misogynistic behavior from D. Bradley that afternoon. She said she was cut-off, ignored, spoken over and criticized in return. She said he even pulled items from her hand that she was reviewing. She said she is also a Board Member, with the same duties, and resented the treatment that she received. She mentioned that she did not expect to have that done again to her or any other woman in this District. She explained that he made it very clear that afternoon that he does not read his information packets for Board Meetings. She said he was back-peddling on it, but she now knows why no female employees would meet with D. Bradley and why complaints were made about the mistreatment of them, resulting in his sanctions by this Board. She stated that his attitude has no place in running a school board in 2021.

D. Bradley said he appreciated, from the administration, the ability to review the documentation prior to authorizing the payments. He said part of the review process is not only to ensure that the bills are proper, but also that the school orders are proper. He said he understands that the District was moving forward and it was fantastic.

D. Bradley said R. Spinelli was there to oversee the review. He said his lack of attention to her rhetoric was hurting her feelings and that was not within his control. He thanked everyone and said they learned a lot and received a lot of information. He mentioned that he would like additional documentation to review in the future. He said the bills were reviewed and believed to have found many things that were requiring Board oversight. He stated he looked forward to doing this again next month.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	0	0	0
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	0	0	X	0
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	0	0	X	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	0	0	0

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 1 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion Passed.

B. MOTION by W. Wentz, SECONDED by N. Foeller, to approve Conrad Siegel for the Lehighton Area School District GASB75 Valuation Services in the amount of $7,225.00, performed annually, as per the enclosure. (Enc. 9)

L. Stern thanked E. Rarick for the clarification of the effective date on the contract. He said it was effective for the beginning of the 2020 school year.

D. Bradley believed it needed to be bid out and have a special hearing, because it was an expenditure of up to $7,000.00 to an outside party. He asked for the solicitor's opinion. L. Stern said they could get the clarification for him later but he believed that anything under $10,000 does not need to be bid out, especially if it is a service.

D. Bradley stated that one of the bills reviewed that day was for the Nutrition Group which was a contract for over $80,000. He did not believe that the price of the GASB contract would remain under the $10,000 limit, with any additional fees incurred. He questioned how the Nutrition Group bill was released if it was $80,000. J. Cleaver explained that the Nutrition Group is a Food Service Contract which is a Federal Program, and was required to be bid out. He stated that several years ago there was a bid for the contracted service. D. Bradley asked if a special meeting is required as part of that bid process to allow the public to comment on the bids. He said he believed that process was done in 2019. He mentioned that he was on the Board and did not recall that special meeting taking place. J. Cleaver said they are public bid meetings where bids are opened and processed in public and anyone could attend. D. Bradley asked if it was a special Board meeting. J. Cleaver said no, it was a public bid meeting, and when the bids are out and posted, there is a time set for the public bid meeting. He said it is a public meeting but it is not considered a Board Meeting. D. Bradley asked if it required a quorum of the Board. J. Cleaver said no, it does not. D. Bradley asked for the solicitor's opinion on that. L. Stern said they could get clarification on that at a later date. He felt D. Bradley was inappropriately birdwalking from the GASB Contract to Food Service. He asked D. Bradley to stay on topic. L. Stern said there is nothing being done incorrectly and D. Bradley continues to believe the District is being run in an improper fashion, even though there is nothing found to show that. L. Stern asked that D. Bradley keep his discussion according to the motion on the floor. D. Bradley felt that it was pertaining to the accuracy of the cost of the GASB contract and thought the Nutrition Group may have started with a lesser cost that increased, as well. He asked E. Rarick what the cost was for this GASB Service last year. E. Rarick stated the cost of the Service was exactly as what was posted on the Board Agenda, $7,225.00, which is what is in the contract. D. Bradley thanked E. Rarick for that information. Atty. Filer had a poor connection but said that if the amount is under a certain threshold, it did not have to be bid out. He said he did not know the amount off the top of his head. He reminded D. Bradley that he has asked him many times to please submit any questions beforehand, in order to get the answers that he is looking for. J. Cleaver said he believed the threshold for quotes and bids are two different numbers. He asked E. Rarick if he had the value in front of him for bids and values for quotes. E. Rarick said he believed that bids were $10,900.

D. Bradley asked if GASB was quoted to any other parties or if there was an RFQ for this expenditure. J. Cleaver said the District did not. D. Bradley asked why. J. Cleaver said this company has been working for the District for several years and is part of the auditing process. D. Bradley said he would like to refine those practices. J. Cleaver clarified that the current process was effective January 1, 2017, and states that purchases under $10,700 but less than $19,700, require three quotes and purchases over $19,700 require a bid; however, selective or professional services do not fall under those guidelines. L. Stern thanked J. Cleaver for that information.

R. Beltz arrived at 7:17 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	0	0	0
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	0	0	X	0
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	0	0	0

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 2 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion Passed.

VI. Courtesy of the Floor / Public Comment

B. Bowes stated she believed that the Food Service/Nutrition Group was put out as an RFP. J. Cleaver said yes, there were proposals that were put out, due to different bidding processes and guidelines. He said she was correct. She said she remembered the RFP but did not recall if anyone else responded. J. Cleaver said they did not.

D. Bradley wanted to come to an agreement. He said this process was beneficial for the Board to review the bills prior to approval at the Board Meeting. He wanted to make a motion to allow that to happen again for the 10th and the 20th of each month for Board Meetings. J. Cleaver reminded D. Bradley that the only business to be discussed is what was placed on the Agenda this evening and no other business was to be conducted since it was advertised in this manner.

VII. Adjournment

A. MOTION by R. Spinelli, SECONDED by W. Wentz, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Vice President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	0	0	0
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	0	0	X	0
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	0	0	0

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 3 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion Passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.