

Lehigh Area School District

Lehigh, Pennsylvania

Special Board Meeting
 Wednesday, January 29, 2020
 7:00 PM
 Administration Board Room

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - A special meeting of the Lehigh Area School Board was held in the Administration Building, Conference Room A, on the above date and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Joy Beers, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Patricia Denicola, Business Administrator	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney William Schwab, Solicitor (Atty. Eric Filer)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Recording Secretary	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public Comment on Agenda - None

Financial Matter

2020-2021 Preliminary Budget MOTION by Mr. Wentz, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to approve the Lehigh Area School District 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget in accordance with Act 1 requirements.

Mr. Bradley commented that the budget was not provided to the board until 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

Postpone Meeting Denied MOTION by Mr. Bradley, SECONDED by Mrs. Maholick, that we postpone this meeting until such time that the district board, that was responsible for constructing this budget, has time to construct one, not the administration. Postponed until reasonable time for the board to review it with fidelity.

New motion was discussed by the board.

Mr. Cleaver and Ms. Denicola discussed the preliminary budget.

Mr. Bradley did a presentation regarding Lehigh Area School District's expenditures, student data, and other related information to the budget.

Mrs. Maholick asked what is the repercussions if this is not done today?

Board members discussed the motion.

Audience members commented on the motion.

Postpone the Meeting

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joy Beers, Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 4 NO - 5 ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion denied.

Mr. Foeller asked that the rest of the board, besides Mr. Bradley, gets the opportunity to ask Ms. Denicola her explanation for what we are hearing here regarding the preliminary budget.

Mr. Bradley commented on the preliminary budget.

Board members discussed the preliminary budget numbers compared to other years which included overruns.

2020-2021 Preliminary Budget

Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Ms. Joy Beers, Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richard R. Beltz, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. David F. Bradley, Sr., Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Stephen Holland, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Gail Maholick, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Rita Spinelli, Vice President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Wayne Wentz, Member	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Larry Stern, President	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 4 ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion carried.

Courtesy of the floor / Public Comment

1. Ryan Bowman

- Asked what could have been done better? Mentioned the previous business manager.
- At the end of the day, you need to come up with a resolution. How do we move forward?
- Hope that students continue to get the education they need.
- Needs to be transparency that reassures the board that they won't be put in that same situation again.
- Print the check registry for members to see the bills.

Mr. Bradley explained the difference between the check register and understanding where the check goes. Why the check was written?

Mr. Bradley questioned the number of teachers and students in the district.

Board members and audience had further discussion.

Atty. Filer made a statement. He received a phone call from District Attorney Michael Greek. He wanted to make the public aware that he is aware of the hazing incident.

Mr. Bradley interrupted.

Atty. Filer stated that it was public comment.

Mr. Bradley commented that at the meeting it was stated that we were only allowed to have this conversation (preliminary budget).

Atty. Filer continued. District Attorney Michael Greek contacted me today and he would like me to make the general public aware that he is aware of the incident at the middle school. He is also

aware that there was a petition to have him perform an investigation. He would like me to convey to you that one, the District Attorney itself office does not perform investigations. They take information provided from the police. The Lehighton Borough Police is aware of the situation and they are, in fact, in constant contact with the District Attorney's office. When the investigation is closed, if charges need to be brought, the appropriate charges will be brought. But, since the incident occurred at the middle school, it obviously involves minors, so all of that will end up being sealed and never actually publically available.

Adjournment

Next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Spinelli, SECONDED by Mr. Holland to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

VOTE: YES - 9 NO - _____ ABSENT - _____ ABSTENTIONS - _____

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia J. Denicola
Board Secretary

(Minutes of January 29, 2020, includes Pages 1 through 4.)