

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm, public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law.

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting from 7:00 pm to 7:13 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel and legal. All board members were present for the executive session.

President Joe Ross called the meeting to order and directed the secretary to call the roll. Board Members present: Adrian Bianchi, Heather Clark, Brendan Dwyer, Eric Johnson, Jaclyn Litwin, Dr. Michael Mould, Joseph Ross, Tony Vanko and Tracy Wescott.

Administrators present: Mr. Glynn, Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Opalka, Mr. Schofield and Ms. Talarico. Mr. Kearney and Mr. Rakauskas were absent.

Public Presentations: Nutrition Group - Erin Kiryluk and Melissa Hatala and Lackawanna Trail Trauma Plan Presentation - Ashlinn Simpson.

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment: Joseph Strauch commented on Policy 320.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the minutes from the September 9, 2024 School Board Meeting and October 7, 2024 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Bill Listing

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Dump Truck

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve the purchase of a dump truck from Clinton Township at a cost of \$40,000. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

E.LocalLink Video Contract

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve the contract with E.LocalLink for video production at a cost of \$6000.00 from unassigned fund balance. The motion failed by a vote of 2 yes and 7 no, Mr. Bianchi, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Litwin, Dr. Mould, Mr. Ross, Mr. Vanko and Mrs. Wescott voting no.

Policies for First Reading

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve the first reading of the following policies. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

- 103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
- 103.1 Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities
- 104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff

Policies for Second Reading

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve the second reading of the following policies. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

- 301 Creating a Position
- 302 Employment of Superintendent
- 304 Employment of District Staff
- 307 Student Teachers/Interns
- 308 Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- 309 Assignment and Transfer
- 311 Reduction of Staff
- 312 Performance Assessment of Superintendent
- 313 Evaluation of Employees
- 314.1 HIV Infection
- 317 Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 317.1 Educator Misconduct
- 319 Outside Activities
- 320 Freedom of Speech in Nonschool Settings
- 321 Political Activities
- 322 Gifts
- 324 Personnel Files
- 325 Dress and Grooming
- 326 Complaint Process
- 328 Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules
- 330 Overtime
- 333 Professional Development
- 336 Personal Necessity Leave
- 337 Vacation
- 338 Sabbatical Leave
- 338.1 Compensated Professional Leaves
- 339 Uncompensated Leave
- 341 Benefits for Part-time Employees
- 342 Jury Duty
- 343 Paid Holidays
- 347 Workers' Compensation Traditional Return-To-Work Program

Policies for Adoption

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the third reading and adoption of the following policies. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

- 222 Tobacco and Vaping Products
- 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 323 Tobacco and Vaping Products
- 351 Controlled Substance Abuse
- 904 Public Attendance at School Events

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott that motions 7-26 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

7. Paraprofessional

Move that the board approve Ralph Bono as a part-time paraprofessional, 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$14.00 per hour per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective October 21, 2024. All clearances are on file.

8. Mentor

Move that the board approve the appointment of Joya Mase as a mentor to the Business teacher, Kelsey Borys, at a stipend of \$450 for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the LTEA agreement.

9. Substitute Nurses

Move that the board approve the following School Nurse Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

- Maureen Mahoney, RN
- Brenda Grunza, BSN, RN
- Heidi Davis, RN
- Mary Brink, RN
- Jennifer Wert, RN

10. Bus Driver

Move that the board retroactively approve Brian Welch as a bus driver with Smarkusky Bus Company for the 2024-2025 school year as of September 26, 2024. All clearances are on file.

11. Contracted Driver

Move that the board retroactively approve William Miller as a contracted driver with Burns Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year as of September 11, 2024. All clearances are on file.

12. Contracted Driver

Move that the board retroactively approve Tara Basile as a contracted driver with Burns Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year as of September 25, 2024. All clearances are on file.

13. Extracurricular Wrestling Volunteer

Move that the board approve Ryan Tierney as a returning volunteer with wrestling for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

14. Extracurricular Wrestling Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jeff Marx as a returning volunteer with wrestling for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

15. Extracurricular Wrestling Volunteer

Move that the board approve Joe Thomas as a returning volunteer with wrestling for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

16. Extracurricular Basketball Cheerleading Volunteer

Move that the board approve Camber Castellano as a returning volunteer with basketball cheerleading for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

17. Extracurricular Boys' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Dimitri Gnall as a returning volunteer with boys' basketball for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

18. Extracurricular Boys' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Keith Glynn as a returning volunteer with boys' basketball for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

19. Extracurricular Boys' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Tim McNamara as a returning volunteer with boys' basketball for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

20. Extracurricular Boys' Basketball Volunteer

Move that the board approve John Yanniello as a returning volunteer with boys' basketball for the 2024-2025 season. All clearances are on file.

21. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Emily Baileys as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

22. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jessica Bentley as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

23. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Dan Demora as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

24. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Kelly Carey as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

25. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Melissa Flynn as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

26. Extracurricular Unified Sports Volunteer

Move that the board approve Debra Joyce as a returning volunteer with Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

Reports of New Business were provided by the Superintendent, Elementary and Secondary Principals, Secondary Assistant Principal, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, Director of Special Education, Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor and Business Manager.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

Superintendent Report, Read by Keith Glynn

- In a few weeks from now, on November 7th, the first marking period will conclude. All students are encouraged to put forth their best academic effort as we approach this important milestone.
- On Friday prior to the extended Columbus Day weekend, the administration conducted a rigorous Act 80 Day which consisted of professional development targeted at Mandated Reporting as per Act 126, Title IX compliance, special education training, department chair and grade level team meetings, curriculum and standardized test data analysis, plus various training sessions. Thank you to the administration and presenters for an informative day of professional development.
- The policies adopted tonight will be shared with all employees tomorrow, and become part of our digital school board policy manual within a few days.
- During the November 4th public portion of our Work Session, the administration will present our Junior Varsity Softball and Baseball Feasibility Report.
- Minutes from our September Wellness, Curriculum/Comprehensive Planning, Buildings & Grounds, and Budget & Finance Committee meetings are published on our committees webpage. The Safe Schools Committee Meeting, which is an executive session, is scheduled for Thursday October 31st. All committee meeting minutes can be accessed by clicking on Board of Education, then the drop down menu - Committees.

**Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School Board Report
Cody Opalka, Assistant Principal****Club Webpage**

- I am pleased to announce that the Lackawanna Trail Jr./Sr. High School's club webpage has been updated and will continue to receive enhancements in the upcoming months.

We are excited to share that several new clubs have been introduced, including:

- Book Club: This club will offer a virtual option for those who prefer to participate from home.

- Geeks Guild: We are thrilled to have this club re-established, providing a space for students to explore their interests in gaming.

- Art Club: The Art Club is set to re-launch with renewed energy and vibrant activities.

- In addition to these clubs, we are working on introducing more opportunities for our students to engage and connect.

- Please keep an eye on the club webpage for further updates and details on how to get involved.

Cell Phones

- As a reminder, Lackawanna Trail High School's cell phone policy remains in effect. Students are permitted to use their cell phones only during lunch periods.
 - We have seen significant success in maximizing instructional time in the classroom; however, we are encountering some challenges in the hallways. To ensure a focused learning environment, we have been consistent in enforcing our policy.
 - Here are the key points regarding the policy: First Offense: If a student is found using their phone inappropriately, the device has been confiscated and held in the main office until the end of the day. Second Offense: A second violation will result in a detention for the student.
 - We appreciate your cooperation and support in reinforcing this policy. Together, we can create a more conducive learning environment for all students.
- ### Homecoming/ Spirit Week Thank You + End of Marking Period/ Teacher Conferences
- I would like to extend my gratitude to students, families, faculty, and staff for making our recent Homecoming and Spirit Week a resounding success. The enthusiasm and participation truly brought our school community together, creating lasting memories for everyone involved.
 - As we move forward, please note that the end of the marking period is approaching on November 7. This is a great time for students to reflect on their progress and set goals for the upcoming weeks.
 - Additionally, I would like to remind everyone that Teacher Conferences will be held on November 14 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and guardians to connect with teachers and discuss student progress.

Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs Board Report -Shannon Kuchak

1. Title I Plan has been approved by PDE and is posted on the Title I page of the district website.
2. ELD Handbook has been updated and is available on the ELD page of the district website.
3. Mrs. McDonnell has created a comprehensive Family Consumer Science brochure highlighting the courses offered at the Jr/Sr High School and the skills students can gain from these courses. This resource is now available on the Curriculum page of the district website.
4. A representative from our Kindergarten and First Grade teams will be attending the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) training at NEIU #19. UFLI is an evidence-based literacy program, designed to effectively teach foundational reading skills. Once trained, these teachers will train the rest of their teams to ensure consistent implementation. The district is also providing both teams with the necessary materials to deliver this intervention to specific Pride Time groups to address students' specific literacy needs.

Special Education Director's Report - Amie Talarico

- New teachers at the high school level have met to work on their induction packets with the director of special education and school psychologist. We have set up a few other meetings so they can meet key people from the district.
- The low incidence teachers have a training on the Dynamic Learning Maps set up virtually and in person. They are taking the place of the old alternate content for students in autistic support, life skills, and other low incidence classrooms. That is being provided by the NEIU 19.
- Mr. Opalka and I met with the new truancy liaison this afternoon for Lackawanna County. They are contracting with Catholic Social Services to provide a truancy program that includes home visiting and case management.

Maintenance and Transportation Director's Report - Tom Schofield

- Thank you for approving the purchase of the dump truck.
- Gym floor
- Repair football bleachers.
- Inside concession stand.

Business Manager's Report - Keith Glynn

- Thank you to David Conn for running a very informative presentation on Title IX and Mandated reporting.
- ARPA grants are in final closeout