

Lackawanna Trail School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2025

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025 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 6:29 pm to 7:23 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel, grievances. 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, Mr. Kearney, Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Opalka, Mr. Rakauskas and Ms. Talarico. Mr. Schofield was absent.

Public Presentation: Standardized Test Scores Presentation - Shannon Kuchak  
School Board Recognition

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment: James Cilento requesting additional personnel be hired.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the minutes from the December 2, 2024 Reorganization School Board Meeting and January 6, 2025 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Bill Listing

Mrs. Wescott 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.

#### Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, that the board approve the November and December Treasurer's Reports as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### Consent Agenda

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that motions 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 17 through 24 be combined in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

#### 3. Tax Stipulation

Move that the board approve the tax stipulation for PIN# 0670402000100 in West Abington Township for an assessed value of \$52,000.

7. LTESPA Grievance 24-25-01  
 Move that the board deny LTESPA Grievance 24-25-01.

8. LTESPA Grievance 24-25-02  
 Move that the board deny LTESPA Grievance 24-25-02.

12. Committee Meetings  
 Move that the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education will conduct the committee meetings as listed: Virtual attendance options will be provided.

Curriculum

Monday, February 24, 2025, 4 pm  
 Monday, April 28, 2025, 4 pm  
 Monday, May 19, 2025, 4 pm  
 Monday, December 8, 2025, 4 pm

Buildings & Grounds

Monday, February 24, 2025, 6 pm  
 Monday, April 28, 2025, 6 pm  
 Monday, May 19, 2025, 6 pm  
 Monday, December 8, 2025, 6 pm

Wellness

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 4 pm  
 Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 4 pm  
 Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 4 pm  
 Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 4 pm

Budget & Finance

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6 pm  
 Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 6 pm  
 Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 6 pm  
 Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 6 pm

13. Field Trip  
 Move that the board approve the sixth grade field trip to Radio City Music Hall and the Empire State Building in New York, NY on a date TBD in November 2025, at a cost to the district of substitutes.

14. Field Trip  
 Move that the board approve the Music Department field trip to Messiah University on May 16, 2025 at a cost to the district of substitutes.

17. Retirement  
 Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Leslie Grega from her high school office secretarial position effective March 7, 2025.

18. Resignation  
 Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Ralph Bono as a full-time level I personal care assistant effective January 10, 2025.

19. Extracurricular Resignation  
 Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Megyn Stevens as Unified Track & Field and Bocce coach effective immediately.

20. Extracurricular Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Lauren Keyes as football and basketball cheerleading coach effective at the end of the 2024-2025 basketball season.

21. Extracurricular Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Gary Wilmet as junior high assistant softball coach effective immediately.

22. Unified Track & Field Coach

Move that the board approve Kelley Buck as Unified Track & Field coach for a stipend of \$750 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

23. Unified Bocce Coach

Move that the board approve Kelley Buck as Unified Bocce coach for a stipend of \$500 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

24. Head Softball Coach

Move that the board approve Ken Spangenberg as the head softball coach beginning the 2024-2025 season at a rate of \$5,100, according to the to LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

Supplemental Janitorial Service

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the proposal by CC Cleaning and Maintenance for supplemental janitorial services beginning February 1, 2025 at a cost of \$8,600.00 monthly through June 30, 2025. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the Wyoming County Tax Collection Committee Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Act I Resolution

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve a resolution pursuant to Act I of 2011 indicating that the Lackawanna Trail School District will not raise the rate of tax support of its public schools for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the district of 5.2%. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Retirement of Policy Sections

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board retire the board policy sections 400 Professional Employees and 500 Classified Employees. Policy section 300 Employees covers all employee classifications. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for Revision

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the revision of board policies 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, 611 Purchases Budgeted and 626 (Procurement Attachment) to reflect annual updates to pricing thresholds for purchases subject to bid/quotation by the PA Department of Labor. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for Adoption

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve the adoption of the following policies. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

805 Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

805.2 School Security Personnel

824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

909 Municipal Government Relations

Stipend for Extra Administrative Duties

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve a stipend of \$4,000 for extra administrative duties performed by Cody Opalka for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Stipend for Extra Administrative Duties

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vanko, that the board approve a stipend of \$2,000 for extra administrative duties performed by Shannon Kuchak for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to table motion stating: Move that the board approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a full-time level I personal care assistant, 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective January 20, 2025. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

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

Mr. Ross announced that there would be a second executive session after the meeting, as well as an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

An Executive Session was held immediately following the meeting from 8:50 pm to 9:12 pm. The following items were discussed: Personnel. All board members were present for the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

## **REPORTS ADDENDUM:**

### **Superintendent Board Report 1/13/25 - Matthew Rakauskas**

Happy New Year! Thank you to our Board of Directors for all you do for the Lackawanna Trail School District. As we celebrate School Board Recognition Month, recognized by PSBA, a heartfelt thank you for your leadership and governance.

- Thank you to Mrs. Kuchak and the administrative team for presenting the Five Year Academic Overview tonight. We have a clear understanding of where we are and where we need to go.
- Over the next few days the policies adopted tonight will be digitally transferred to the online policy manual located on our website. In particular, I want to emphasize the relevance of policy 824- Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries. This will be reinforced and will be a focus for our employees moving forward.
- A few significant dates to draw your attention to in January; on the 20th we now have a full day of school due to the use of a traditional snow day in December, on January 24th there are no classes for students due to a an Act 80 Staff Development Day which among other topics will feature a three hour diversity and inclusion training presented by an expert team from Marywood University, and January 27th is the last day of the second quarter, marking the halfway point of a very successful academic year.

### **Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School**

#### **Board Report - January 13, 2025**

**Cody Opalka, Assistant Principal**

#### **Course Selections**

- In the coming weeks, we will finalize updates to the course description guides. Starting in February, our school counselors will be visiting classrooms and meeting with students individually to complete their course selections for the upcoming school year.

#### **Blood Drive**

- The Inclusion Club is coordinating a Blood Drive scheduled for January 22, from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Students must pre-register in order to donate. Those interested in participating should sign up during lunch periods this week.

### **Winter Semi-Formal**

- The Winter Semi-Formal Dance will be held on February 14 at the Montdale Country Club from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM. Students in grades 9-12 wishing to attend may purchase tickets during their lunch periods, starting on February 7.

### **Shout Outs:**

- A few shout outs to a few students who accomplished incredible accomplishments recently. Ayla Seigle and Jake Antolck were both selected for the All-Tournament team during the Taylor Lions Tournament over the holiday break.
- At the PMEA District Orchestra Concert at Lackawanna Trail on Friday, January 10th, Madison Palmer received the PMEA District 9 William Gasbarro scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a senior who plans on majoring in music post high school.

### **Board Appreciation**

- I would like to thank the board sincerely for all the time and effort that you put in to ensure that our schools run efficiently. Your hard work and dedication is truly commendable. A sincere thank you to each one of you.

### **Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center - Brian Kearney Board Report for January 13, 2025**

- Letter regarding Veteran's Day program
- January 23rd will be Family Trivia Night at LTEC
- January 24th will be a district wide In-Service
- The second quarter will end on January 27th. Report cards will go on on January 31st.
- On January 30th and 31st we will hold a Relay Race as part of our ROAR 2nd quarter blow-out.

### **Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs Board Report- Shannon Kuchak Monday, 1.13.2025**

1. I'd like to take a moment to thank the school board for everything you do. Your countless hours of leadership, guidance, and collaboration play a vital role in making it possible for us to provide the best experience for our students here at Trail.
2. I'd like to congratulate Mrs. Leslie Grega on her retirement. Having worked together for years, I've come to deeply value not only her incredible professionalism and dedication but also her friendship and unwavering support. She's been a confidant and a cornerstone of our team, and her impact will be felt long after she leaves.

**Director of Special Education Report - January 13, 2025 - Amie Talarico**

- The NEIU 19 and LTSD just held the transition meetings for Early Intervention on January 2. Thank you to the team- Speech, school psych, learning support teachers for greeting families and preparing our students to enter KG with an updated IEP.
- The special education department is preparing for Spring Testing by getting all of our accommodations set up. We also have a small number of students who take the alternate assessment, and those rosters are set up.
- Mr. Carey and I recertified some of our crisis teams for TACT-2- Therapeutic Aggression Control Techniques on December 16. Unfortunately, Mr. Opalka's training of trainers session was postponed until the summer, but he is also going to join us as a trainer.
- New programming for truancy through Lackawanna County- through Catholic Social Services. They have been responsive when we have referred a few students.
- We are working on filling the two permanent positions for PCAs/paras that are vacant and a potential temporary position that was just vacated as well.

**Maintenance Report** - Shared by Keith Glynn for Tom Schofield

Elementary floor cleaner being applied this evening.

DEP water on-site monitoring yielded a few changes to the well and storage tanks related to code changes with no grandfathering allowed. Working with engineer and consultant to evaluate best path forward to comply with the updated codes.