

Lackawanna Trail School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:32 pm, public notice thereof having been given in accordance with applicable law.

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting from 6:34 pm to 7:29 pm. The following items were discussed: Superintendent evaluation and personnel. All board members were present for the executive session.

President Joseph 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. Rakauskas, Mr. Schofield and Ms. Talarico. Mr. Kearney was absent.

Public Presentation: Faculty Handbooks and Coaching Handbook by Mr. Rakauskas and Mr. Opalka.

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment: James Cilento spoke about his son.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the minutes from the January 13, 2025 School Board Meeting and February 3, 2025 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Bill Listing

Mrs. Litwin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, 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 January Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to combine motions 3, 4, 7-17 and 23-35 in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

3. 2023-24 Audit

Move that the board approve the 2023-24 audit and single audit report as performed and issued by Murphy Dougherty and Co.

4. Band Uniforms
Move that the board approve the solicitation of bids for band uniforms.
7. NEIU #19 2025-2026 Budget
Move that the board approve the budget for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Lackawanna Trail's estimated contribution is \$14,905.88.
8. Field Trip
Move that the board approve the Honors Art field trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia, PA on April 3, 2025 at the cost to the district of substitutes.
9. Field Trip
Move that the board approve the senior class trip to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA on June 2, 2025 at the cost to the district of substitutes.
10. Field Trip
Move that the board approve the fifth grade trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on May 12, 2025 at the cost to the district of one substitute.
11. Retirement
Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Tom Schofield from his position as Supervisor of Maintenance and Transportation effective June 30, 2025.
12. Retirement
Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Steve Clancey from his Maintenance I position effective June 6, 2025.
13. Retirement
Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Charles Cobb from his Maintenance II position effective June 6, 2025.
14. Retirement
Move that the board acknowledge the retirement of Wayne Mitchell from his Maintenance II position effective June 27, 2025.
15. Resignation
Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Samantha McDonnell as Family & Consumer Science teacher effective March 21, 2025.
16. Extracurricular Resignation
Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Laura Evans from her varsity field hockey coaching position.

17. Extracurricular Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Kelly Hopkins from her position as color guard instructor.

23. Unified Track & Field Coach

Move that the board approve the correction of the motion from January to appoint Sarah Kinback as Unified Track & Field coach for a stipend of \$750 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

24. Extracurricular Junior High Softball Assistant Coach

Move that the board approve Joel Nietz as junior high softball assistant coach beginning the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$3100 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

25. Varsity Football Cheer Advisor

Move that the board approve Kayleigh Beichler as varsity football cheer advisor beginning the 2025-2026 school year for a stipend of \$2400 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

26. Varsity Basketball Cheer Advisor

Move that the board approve Kayleigh Beichler as varsity basketball cheer advisor beginning the 2025-2026 school year for a stipend of \$2550 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

27. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve John Yanniello as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

28. Extracurricular Baseball Volunteer

Move that the board approve Kyle Coslett as a volunteer with the baseball team for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

29. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Mark Lloyd as a volunteer with track and field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

30. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Melissa Flynn as a volunteer with track and field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

31. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jennifer Perry as a volunteer with track and field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

32. Extracurricular Track & Field Volunteer

Move that the board approve Jeff Stage as a volunteer with track and field for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

33. Extracurricular Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Janine Fortney as a volunteer with the spring musical for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

34. Extracurricular Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Becky Burdett as a volunteer with the spring musical for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

35. Bus Driver

Move that the board approve Colton Lenz as a bus driver with Smarkusky Bus Company for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year effective February 7, 2025. All clearances are on file.

Design and Engineering Services

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vanko, that the board approve the contract with HC Architects for design and engineering of Jr-Sr high school vestibule project. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1-1 with Mr. Ross voting no, Mrs. Wescott abstaining.

Solicitation of Bids

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the board approve the solicitation of bids for the safe schools grant for the high school vestibule project. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1, Mrs. Wescott voting no.

High School Principal Secretary

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve Renee Moran as a full-time Secretary at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective February 18, 2025. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Personal Care Assistant

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Becca Joseph as a full-time level I personal care assistant, 6½ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$21.65 per hour plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective February 11, 2025. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Paraprofessional

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Clark, that the board approve Sadie Stevens 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 February 13, 2025. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Paraprofessional

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve Kimberly Toye 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 February 13, 2025. All clearances are on file. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Paraprofessional

Mr. Vanko made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve Jessica Reed 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 February 13, 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, who also shared the Elementary Principal report, Secondary Assistant Principal, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, Director of Special Education and Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor. Reports are included as an addendum.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting and an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

An Executive Session was held immediately following the meeting beginning at 8:38 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:**Combined Superintendent and Elementary Principal Report - Matthew Rakauskas**

- In March I will overview my 2025-2026 Academic Calendar proposal at the Work Session. We will get back to a traditional schedule which will begin in late August and end in the first week of June.
- February is Love The Bus Month. In recognition of all that our bus contractors and private drivers do for our students, a celebration will be held on February 28th in the elementary multipurpose room. There are so many wonderful things that our students take part in at Trail, but none of that happens unless they get to and from school and to and from sports and activities safely. Mr. Kearny is organizing that celebration.
- Several Committee meetings are around the corner. On February 24th our first Buildings & Grounds Meeting of the new year will be held at the Tri-County Insurance Library at Lackawanna Trail Junior - Senior High School. Although this will be a public meeting with opportunity for public comment there will not be a virtual option due to the logistics. Also on February 24th, the Curriculum Committee will meet at 4:00 in the BoardRoom. On February 25th The Wellness Committee will meet in the boardroom at 4:00, and the Budget & Finance Committee at 6:00. Both are public meetings with virtual options. The School Safety Committee will tentatively meet during the first week of March at 4:00 in the boardroom, it is an executive session only. Aside from the School Safety Committee, each meeting's agenda will be published beforehand and minutes posted a few days afterward. These dates are currently listed on our Board of Education Web Page under the drop down menu "committees".
- The elementary center held our quarterly blow out on January 30th. These events are part of our ROAR Program!
- On Friday, January 31st we held our K'Nex competition for 6th grade students. The top teams qualified for the regional competition held at Johnson College. LTEC placed First and Second! The team of Henry Perucki, Preston Carpenter, Easton McGregor and Tony Vanko will compete at the state championships to be held in Harrisburg in May.
- On Thursday, February 13th we will host Family Bingo Night from 5:00-7:00 pm!

Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School Board Report - Cody Opalka, Assistant Principal**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

- Thank you to all families for your understanding regarding the postponement of our Parent-Teacher Conferences. The new date is February 20, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Families can sign up by visiting the high school website to meet with teachers virtually. If you prefer an in-person meeting, our doors will be open.

Blood Drive

- The Inclusion Club is coordinating a Blood Drive which was rescheduled from January 22 to March 14, from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Students must pre-register in order to donate. If students are interested, they should see Mrs. Simpson.

Winter Semi-Formal

- The Winter Semi-Formal Dance will be held this Friday, 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. Tickets are \$35.

Shout Outs:

- Congratulations Bianca Guzzon who received the Conductor's Award at the Marywood University Senior Wind Band Festival on February 1.
- Shout out to the following students who have been nominated and selected as SCCTC students of the month for January: Izabella Davis, Ryan Rozelle, and Tia Stroble.

Dodgeball

- Remember to join us for the School Board Appreciation Dodgeball Tournament at 2:45 pm in the High School Gymnasium! Student sign-ups started today and will be open throughout the week. We look forward to seeing you there!

Director of Curriculum & Federal Programs Board Report - Shannon Kuchak

1. Winter benchmark assessments are now complete across all grade levels. Students in K-3 took Aimsweb Plus, while those in grades 4-12 completed CDT assessments. This cycle, Jr./Sr. High ELA classes piloted PDE's Firefly benchmark instead of the CDT. Teachers use this data to identify student needs, adjust instruction, and implement targeted interventions to support learning.
2. As part of the district's 2025-2028 Comprehensive Plan cycle, the draft plan and five updated reports are now available for public review on the district website. Visit the Comprehensive Plan Information section at the bottom of the homepage to view them.
3. The district has been awarded \$118,721 in PCCD School Safety and Mental Health grant funding. This will support the LTHS Safe School Access Project, enhancing security at the Jr./Sr. High School by renovating the main entrance vestibule and office area to create a more controlled access point. These improvements will help ensure a safer environment for students, faculty, and staff. With this grant, the district has received a total of almost \$500,000 in PCCD funding for school safety and mental health initiatives.
4. Congratulations to our students for their outstanding performance at the **SkillsUSA Competition**, one of the world's largest hands-on workforce development events.
Special recognition to:
 - **Ashley Mindas**: 12th Grade: Healthcare Technology Program
Competition: Health Knowledge Bowl- 1st Place Gold Medal Winner

- **Mike O'Neil:** 12th Grade-Vehicle Property Maintenance Program
Competition: Power Equipment Technology-1st Place Gold Medal Winner
- **Carson Ware:** 12th Grade: Carpentry/Cabinet Making Program
Competition: Teamworks-3rd Place Bronze Medal
- **Chris Kohinsky:** 12th Grade: Carpentry/Cabinet Making Program
Competition: Teamworks-3rd Place Bronze Medal

1st place medalists will compete at the state level in Hershey in April.

5. Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees—Tom Schofield, Charlie Cobb, Steve Clancey, and Wayne Mitchell—on this well-earned milestone! We appreciate your dedication and service. A warm welcome to Ms. Moran—we're excited to have you on board and look forward to working with you!

Director of Special Education Report - Amie Talarico

- After tonight we have all vacant para positions filled. We had a temporary position that we were sending to an out of district placement, but we did not need to refill that position at that placement. We will discuss further staffing needs after the new people start. We have 2 starting Thursday and one next week.
- We currently have 5 para-educators that will be training as Registered Behavior Techs. They will be completing the required 40 hours of training through the University of Kansas and then they can test. I met with 8 people last week that were interested but we are starting with a core group. We also have two people who have already completed the 40 hours through other agencies, one at the HS and one that we are hiring tonight.
- Systemic Customized Support- their team will work with our pre-referral teams. Similar to the Autism Grant, we will have support from PA Training and Technical Assistance Network to help us with our data meetings and interventions.
- I attended the PDE conference virtually at the end of last week. Unfortunately, with weather and items that came up in our classrooms I did choose the virtual option rather than attending in person.

Maintenance and Transportation Report - Tom Schofield

- Lighting upgrade is done in the auditorium.
- Two of the three baskets have been repaired at the elementary center.
- Well updates are coming. We will discuss this in more detail at the February 24 Buildings & Grounds meeting.

Lackawanna Trail School District

P.O. Box 85 • Factoryville, Pennsylvania 18419

Phone (570) 945-5184 • FAX (570) 945-3154

Matthew Rakauskas
Superintendent

Keith J. Glynn
Business Manager

8-13-13

ABSTENTION: 2/10/25

BOARD MEMBER: Tracy Nelson Wescott

MOTION: #5 Design and Engineering Services

REASON: contract did not have information that
was considered and assumed to be part of the
Contract

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KJG', written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE