

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

The Lackawanna Trail School District met in person and via Zoom for a scheduled meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:43 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 7:35 pm. The following items were discussed: Administrative vacancy, preliminary staffing report and bus contractors. 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, Mr. Kearney, Mrs. Kuchak, Mr. Opalka, Mr. Rakauskas, Mr. Schofield and Ms. Talarico.

Correspondence of a Thank You note from the drivers at Nichols Bus was read by Mr. Bianchi.

Public Presentation was provided on the Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Curriculum Guides.

There was an opportunity for public participation provided. The following persons shared public comment:

Joseph Strauch: Requested that prior bills lists and treasurers reports be posted, questioned what NAFME stands for and stated that he believes policy 218.1 contains an unconstitutional statement.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the minutes from the February 10, 2025 School Board Meeting and March 3, 2025 Work Session be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Bill Listing

Dr. Mould made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, 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 February Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

LTESPA Contract

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the contract proposal between the Lackawanna Trail School District and the Lackawanna Trail Education Support Professionals Association be approved, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Early Retirement Incentive MOU

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the Early Retirement Incentive Memorandum of Understanding for Jan Engle. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

LTESPA Vacation Pay MOU

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wescott, that the board approve the Vacation Pay Memorandum of Understanding for Steven Clancey and Wayne Mitchell. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Resolution 2025-01

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board approve resolution 2025-01 for the matching funds related to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wescott made a motion that the board combine agenda items 7, 10, 14, 17-23 in a consent agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

7. GASB 75 Valuation Services

Move that the board approve the contract with Conrad Segal for GASB 75 valuation services.

10. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Move that the board approve the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

14. Bus Driver

Move that the board retroactively approve Adrean Fish as a bus driver with Smarkusky Bus Company for the 2024-2025 school year as of February 28, 2025. All clearances are on file

17. Personal Care Assistant

Move that the board approve Sadie Stevens as a part-time level I personal care assistant, 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled, at the rate of \$14.00 per hour plus \$2.50 per hour whenever supporting a level I student or classroom, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, effective March 17, 2025. All clearances are on file.

18. Paraprofessional

Move that the board approve Zoey Wright 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 March 14, 2025. All clearances are on file.

19. Extracurricular Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of Kelley Buck from her assistant field hockey coaching position effective immediately.

20. Extracurricular Resignation

Move that the board acknowledge the resignation of George Bragan from his assistant basketball coaching position effective immediately.

21. Extracurricular Varsity Field Hockey Coach

Move that the board approve Holly Colvin as varsity field hockey coach beginning the 2025-2026 school year for a stipend of \$5,100 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

22. Extracurricular Color Guard Advisor

Move that the board approve Samantha Stawinsky as color guard advisor beginning the 2025-2026 school year for a stipend of \$2,175 as per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement. All clearances are on file.

23. Extracurricular Spring Musical Volunteer

Move that the board approve Tara Kasperowski as a volunteer pit musician for the spring musical for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances are on file.

Solicitor Fee Agreement

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vanko, that the board approve the appointment of Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams as solicitor for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in accordance with their fee agreement for such legal services as may be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Comprehensive Plan

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board approve the 2025-2028 Lackawanna Trail School District Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Elementary Curriculum/Course Description Guide

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the 2025-2026 Elementary Curriculum/Course Description Guide. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Junior and Senior High School Curriculum/Course Description Guides

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bianchi, that the board approve the 2025-2026 Junior High and Senior High Curriculum/Course Description Guides. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Policies for First Reading

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

- 218 Student Discipline
- 218.1 Weapons
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats
- 236.1 Threat Assessment
- 247 Hazing

Acting Jr-Sr High School Principal

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Litwin, that the board appoint Cody Opalka to Acting Junior-Senior High School Principal effective March 11, 2025 at a prorated salary of \$85,000. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor

Mrs. Wescott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mould, that the board appoint Robert Buck as Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor to begin on May 5, 2025 at a salary of \$67,500, prorated from start date, as per the Act 93 contract. 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, Acting Secondary Principal, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, Director of Special Education, Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor and Business Manager. Reports are included in attached addendum.

Mr. Ross announced that there would be an executive session prior to the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Bianchi, Secretary Board of Education

Board Reports Addendum

Superintendent Report - Matthew Rakauskas

- Thank you to the Board of Directors for your approval of the 2025-26 Academic Calendar. Tomorrow it will be posted on our FaceBook Page and Webpage, and shared with our employees. I'm looking forward to getting back to a traditional start of the school year in late August, and excited about Mr. Opalka's Welcome Back Meet the Teachers night planned for early September.
- There are various employment opportunities at Trail listed on our website. Please click on the drop down menu "Employment and Clearances" on the district main page for a list of all available.

Elementary March 10, 2025 Board Report - Brian Kearney

On February 28th we celebrated our school bus drivers and private transportation drivers with a breakfast at the elementary center. We were joined by the high school jazz band, as well as students from the high school Life Skills class.

The Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center celebrated Read Across America Week from March 3rd through March 7th. I want to thank all of our readers who joined us including high school students, members of the community, faculty, staff, as well as members of the Pennsylvania State Police. Stacy Lange, from WNEP, also read to Mrs. Merkel's class and we have posted that story to Facebook.

Today, Dr. Yerodin Lucas, Dr. Leon John and Dr. Leah Richards-Palmiter spoke to our 5th and 6th grade students as part of our continued DEI initiative

On Thursday, March 13th we are hosting our Special Someone Dance. The dance will be from 5:30-7:00 pm and will include a pasta dinner. We have over 300 people scheduled to attend.

There will be no school at the elementary center on Friday, March 14th due to an in-service.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 20th from 4:00-6:30 and on Friday, March 21st from 8:00-2:00 pm. A reminder that conferences are virtual unless an in-person conference is requested.

Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School Board Report - March 10, 2025

Cody Opalka, AP

DEI

We had an incredible DEI Student Session this morning with Dr. Lucas and Dr. Palmiter from Marywood! Their insights were engaging and thought-provoking, sparking meaningful conversations among our students. It was an exciting opportunity to learn, grow, and deepen our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion!

Winter Sports

Congratulations to Lackawanna Trail High School's winter sports teams for their outstanding achievements this season! A special shout-out to the Boys Basketball team for their incredible hard work and dedication as they advanced to state playoffs this season. Congratulations to Demetrius Douglas as he advanced to state competition in Hershey this past weekend— an amazing accomplishment! Additionally, huge congratulations to Jake Antolick for scoring 1,000 points in his final game for Lackawanna Trail, a milestone that will be remembered for years to come. Onward to Spring Sports!

PBIS Blowout

On March 28, 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in their third-quarter PBIS Blowout. The 7th and 8th grade teams have organized a ROAR Games celebration, where students will once again engage in a variety of activities and games at the end of the school day.

Spring Musical

Mark your calendars for the Lackawanna Trail Spring Musical. Lackawanna Trail is doing The Little Mermaid this year. The dates are Friday, March 28, Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30.

Director of Special Education Report March 10, 2025 - Amie Talarico

- Congratulations to the new hires tonight and to people moving around into new positions.
- Systemic Customized Support: March 13 we will have a data overview with the PaTTAN consultant and NEIU representative.
- The PA Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) window opened today. Students in low incidence classrooms can begin taking their alternate assessments this week.
- I would like to thank Breanna Wood for subbing for Mrs. Gratz during her leave. She is done after this week and she did a great job in emotional support.
- Some of our paras that are training as Registered Behavior Techs have started the 40 hours, and they will get about 12 hours completed over the next two Act 80 days.

Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor Report - Tom Schofield

- Bus Appreciation. Drivers appreciated being acknowledged.
- Congratulations to Cody Opalka.
- Welcome to Bob Buck.
- At full staff with the hiring of Bernie O'Malley.
- Comminutor.
- Stage storage area
- Fields are getting ready for spring sports.
- Tank submittal will be submitted to DEP within the next couple of days.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - KEITH GLYNN

- New band trailer.
- PASBO Conference for Classroom Furniture and Procurement Cards.