Unapproved, unofficial Minutes of the December 4, 2019 Lackawanna Trail School Board Meeting

The LTSD Board of Education had a meeting on December 4, 2019 @ 7:37pm in the Board room, public notice having been given in accordance with Pa.C.S.A. § 709 (Sunshine Act) & LTSD Procedure #006. The President called the meeting to order. Present: Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Minick, Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern, Ms. Naylor, Mr. Ross, Mr. Petula, Mr. Stark, Mr. Thorne. Administrators present: Mr. Rakauskas, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Glynn, Ms. Talarico, Mr. Kordish, Ms. Kuchak.

There were five members of the public and one reporter present at the meeting.

All motions approved by unanimous approval unless indicated otherwise.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Ms. Naylor to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2019 as submitted.

[NO motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 4 meeting]

The Oath of Office for New and Returning School Directors was performed by Honorable Judge Shurtleff.



+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Bianchi to nominate Phil Stark for Temporary President of the Board of Education

+ Motion by Mr. Mulhern, Ms. Naylor to close the nominations for temporary president of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Bianchi that Phil Stark be elected temporary president of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Mulhern, Ms. Naylor that Dave Thorne be nominated for President of the Board of Education

+ Motion by Mr. Petula, Mr. Bianchi to close the nominations for President of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr. Mulhern that Dave Thorne be elected President of the Board of Education.

Passed 8-0-1, Mr. Thorne abstaining.

+ Motion by Mr. Mulhern, Mr. Ross that Phil Stark be nominated for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Petula, Mr. Ross to close the nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Minick that Phil Stark be elected Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Passed 8-0-1, Mr. Stark abstaining.

There was a public discussion lead by the Superintendent addressing the Single Bus Stop "Policy". The general consensus was that a single pick up point could be established for a student and a single drop-off point, not necessarily the same as the pick-up, also established for the same student. More evaluations are being conducted to accommodate emergency and serious needs of the community. But, in response to a question by Mr. Strauch, there is no plan to formalize the decision and process by incorporating official language into the District Policies & Procedures manual.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Ms. Naylor that the Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Education will conduct the monthly work sessions and board meetings at 7:30 PM in the board room on these dates in 2020.

Work Sessions

Monday, January 6

Monday, February 3

Monday, March 2

Monday, April 6

Monday, May 4

Monday, June 1

NO JULY Work Session

Monday, August 3

Tuesday, September 8

Monday, October 5

Monday, November 2

Regular Meetings

Monday, January 13

Monday, February 10

Monday, March 9

Tuesday, April 14

Monday, May 11

Monday, June 29

Monday, July 13

Monday, August 10

Monday, September 14

Tuesday, October 13

Monday, November 9

Monday, December 7 Reorganization/Regular Meeting

+ Motion by Dr. Mould, Mr. Bianchi that the Business Manager be authorized to pay any necessary December bills (list will be included with January bill listing).

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Thorne to approve the Van Strien Consulting Proposal of Services for the E-Rate program in the 2020-2021 Funding Year at a rate of $ 3,000 for Category One requests and $2,000+ 2% of committed funds for Category Two requests be approved.

+ Motion by Mr. Minick, Dr. Mould to authorize Sweet Stevens Katz and Williams to approve the assessment appeal settlement on property ID #0790207000113 at a $36,000 assessed value.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Ms. Naylor to approve the Disciplinary Adjudication for student #25133.

Passed 7-2, Dr. Mould & Mr. Thorne voting 'NO'

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr. Ross to approve the Disciplinary Adjudication for student #24062.

Passed 7-2, Dr. Mould & Mr. Thorne voting 'NO'

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Bianchi to approve the appointment of Jennifer Boccadori to the Elementary Physical Education Teaching position beginning Thursday, January 2, 2020, at Bachelr's Level Step 1 and salary $49,660 prorated, as stipulated in the collective bargaining agreement.

+ Motion by Ms. Naylor, Mr. Ross that the board acknowledge Stacy Stuenzi's resignation from her paraprofessional position, effective December 20, 2019.

+ Motion by Mr. Minick, Mr. Stark to approve Kathy Ewing's intermittent Family Medical Leave request, for up to 12 weeks of leave, to be used during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, the effective start date is December 2, 2019.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Stark to approve the Game Manager rate of $65 per event for the 2019¬2020 school year. There was considerable concern expressed by several board members as to how this would be funded and how it would impact budget concerns. Passed 6-3, Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Ross and Mr. Petula voting 'NO'.

+ Motion by Ms. Naylor, Mr. Bianchi to approve Stan Harder as the Equipment Manager at a stipend of $2600 prorated, according to the LEA Collective Bargaining Agreement starting on January 2, 2020. All Clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Ms. Naylor, Mr. Mulhern to appoint Ed Gaidula as the full time Athletic Director for the 2019¬2020 school year at a prorated stipend of $12,000, effective December 21, 2019. Passed 8-1, Mr. Ross voting 'NO'

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Minick to appoint Dan Jones as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach and driver for the 2019-2020 Season. All Clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Dr. Mould to approve Jim Kotz's request to take the sixth grade class to New York City to Radio City Music Hall and Rockefeller Center in early November 2020 at no cost to the district.

During the public discussion period Mr. Rakauskas answered Mr. Strauch's question about the school lockdown on November 21 saying that the Pennsylvania State Police and Dalton Police were instrumental in investigating the situation. He would not comment when if there were any civil or criminal charges.

Meeting adjourned 9:01pm.

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There was an Executive Session from 5:00 - 7:33pm.

+ job interviews for Elementary Physical Education

+ to discuss Contract negotiations

+ to discuss a student issue regarding Expulsion Waiver

An Executive Session was held from 9:10 to 10:20pm to

+ discuss teacher union negotiations

+ discuss personnel, contracts and Healthcare consortium

Another Executive Session is anticipated before the next meeting.