Unapproved, unofficial Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Lackawanna Trail School Board Meeting

The LTSD Board of Education had a ZOOM meeting on December 7, 2020 @ 7:30pm in the Board room and ZOOM, 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, Ms. Kuchak, Mr. Schofield, Solicitor Audi.

There were up to 78 participants in the ZOOM session.

All motions approved by unanimous approval unless indicated otherwise.

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr Ross to approve the minutes from the November meetings as submitted.

+ Motion by Mr. Mulhern to nominate Mr. Stark for Temporary President of the Board of Education

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne to close the nominations for temporary president of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Dr. Mould that Mr. Stark be elected temporary president of the Board of Education.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Dr. Mould that Mr. Mulhern be nominated for President of the Board of Education

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr. Thorne to close the nominations for President of the Board of Education.

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

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

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Bianchi that Mr. Minick be nominated for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

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

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

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

Discussion directed by Solicitor Audi regarding the correspondence received. As per advice, there was no reading of any correspondence at this meeting. The reason is that the material was deemed to be sensitive and personal. Also, all material pertinent to the Superintendent and all such correspondence, as well as any related discussion during the meeting would be restricted both from the public and from being included in the official minutes of the meeting. Such material was declared not open to Right to Know Law. This denial of the public's right to comment on matters of concern appears to violate the PA Sunshine Law Section 710.1. If anyone was expecting their correspondence to become public, the channel of using correspondence or discussion at this meeting did not provide any such opportunity.

+ Motion by Mr. Minick, Mr. Stark 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 2021.

Work Sessions

Monday, January 4

Monday, February 1

Monday, March 1

Tuesday, April 6

Monday, May 3

Monday, June 7

NO JULY Work Session

Monday, August 2

Tuesday, September 7

Monday, October 4

Monday, November 1

Regular Meetings

Monday, January 11

Monday, February 8

Monday, March 8

Monday, April 12

Monday, May 10

Monday, June 28

Monday, July 26

Monday, August 9

Monday, September 13

Tuesday, October 12

Monday, November 8

Monday, December 6 Reorganization/Regular Meeting

+ Motion by Dr. Mould, Mr. Ross that all bills found to be true and accurate be approved.

+ Motion by Dr. Mould, Mr. Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr. Bianchi to appoint Mr. Thorne as Board Secretary for the remainder of the current term that expires on June 2021. Approved 8-0-1, Mr. Thorne abstaining

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi to remove from the table the motion to approve the Superintendent's contract.

[+ Motion by Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern to approve the Superintendent's contract renewal for Matthew Rakauskas for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026 at a cost to the district of **$645,054 plus benefits**. Passed 7-2, Ms. Naylor and Mr. Petula voting 'NO'. View contract here.](Contracts-Agreements/SuperintendentContract2020.pdf)

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Stark to revise the current COVID-19 Travel Policy, to include:

1. Students traveling into and returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from any other State or Commonwealth or an international location, must produce evidence of a negative SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth, or quarantine for 14 days upon entering, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions specified in Section 4.

2 Employees traveling into and returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from any other State or Commonwealth or an international location, must produce evidence of a negative SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth. Without a test the employee may not return to school for 14 days. The 14 days does not qualify for FFCRA, but the employee may use his/her accrued leave.

Passed 8-1, Mr. Minick voting 'NO' after a discussion reacting to Mr. Ross' suggestion to pivot to a full virtual environment for the remainder of 2020. Comments by those in attendance gravitated to recognizing the difficulty of enforcing the restrictions and are included here.

*\* If violating the state law, would you turn in the offender to officials?*

*\* I agree with Joe Ross. My kids are virtual so it does not affect our family but I know that there will be far more people who will break the quarantine for Christmas more so than Thanksgiving. We personally have cancelled all plans for any holidays until at least Spring.*

*\* I agree completely.*

*\* What checks and balances are in place with the daily morning checklist? Is anyone knowing who completes and doesn’t complete that form.*

*\* Thanks Joe. Also agree*

*\* Thank you Mr. Ross. I agree completely.*

*\* I agree with me Ross think about your students and teachers and their families here agreed*

*\* 100% with Joe ross*

*\* I think Mr. Ross has an excellent idea for protecting the students and teachers*

*\* Thank you for your support Mr. Ross.We hear you.*

*\* I also agree with Mr. Ross. If you truly believe that your staff are all following the rules you are kidding yourself.*

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Minick to approve Maddie Lengel for the Maintenance II position, starting at a rate of $14/ per hour, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, to begin December 8th, 2020. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Minick, Mr. Thorne to approve Kristin Pietrzak as a Level I Personal Care Assistant starting December 17, 2020 with a pay differential of $2.50/hr. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi, Mr. Stark to approve Michael Kishbaugh as a Private Vehicle Substitute Driver for the 2020-2021 school year. All clearances are currently on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi, Dr. Mould to approve James Michael Vasky as a Substitute Bus Driver for the 2020-2021 school year. All clearances are currently on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Minick to approve Kelley Buck's request to extend her intermittent FMLA leave to conclude on January 14, 2021.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Bianchi to approve the Van Strien Consulting Proposal of Services for the E-Rate program in the 2021-2022 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. Mulhern, Mr. Bianchi to approve contracting of electrical services to repair and replace out-dated wiring at the Junior Senior High School sewer plant not to exceed $10,000.

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi, Ms. Naylor to approve the purchase of 50 Dell Chromebooks from assigned fund balance at a cost of $14,706.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Bianchi to approve purchase of My Math and Glencoe Math consumables from Smethport Area School District in the amount of $6,000.

+ Motion by Mr. Stark, Mr. Bianchi to delay the start of the winter sports season for the 2020-2021 school year until January 4, 2021, and allow the continuation of voluntary workouts, conditioning, and open gyms from December 14th-20th. On December 21st the official start of winter sports practices may begin, dependent on local conditions related to COVID-19 data.

+ Motion by Mr. Ross, Mr. Thorne to approve Tyler Rzucidlo as a Volunteer Junior High Boys Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mr. Bianchi to approve resignation of Laura Evans as Jr. High Field Hockey Coach

There was a report that the new school website would become available on January 4, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 9:21pm.

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There was an Executive Session from 6:36 - 6:58pm to

+ discuss coaching stipends (apparent violation of 65Pa.C.S.§§708)

+ address personnel matters that appear on the agenda

+ to discuss the high volume of correspondence expressing subjective opinions about personnel and how to react (apparent violation of 65Pa.C.S.§§708)

+ to discuss the superintendent's contract renewal

+ to accept the Solicitor's report

Another Executive Session is anticipated before the next meeting.