Unapproved, unofficial Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Lackawanna Trail School Board Meeting

The LTSD Board of Education had a ZOOM meeting on January 11, 2021 @ 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, and Tara Crum.

There were up to 33 participants in the ZOOM session.

There was a Public recognition of Board service followed by a video presentation by HS students on that topic and the awarding of certificates and COVID masks by the EC students.

There were two questions by Mr Strauch during the public comment session. First, why was there an Assessment Appeal processed through the district rather than the courthouse? The answer is that it was processed at the courthouse and then rolled down to the district. Second, why is the official district website not up and running? Mr Rakauskas stated that it would be up by the end of the week. No other public comment.

All motions were approved by unanimous vote unless indicated otherwise.

+ Motion by Mr Stark, Mr Bianchi to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings as published.

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

+ Motion by Dr Mould, Mr Minick to approve the Treasurer’s Report (December 2020, and January 2021) as submitted.

+ Motion by Mr Minick, Mr Mulhern to accept the Assessment Appeal Stipulation for the following property: PIN number 0480301000600 to the assessed valuation of $14,500 as of January 1, 2021. As per Public Record, this is a property in Dalton owned by a district employee.

+ Motion by Mr Mulhern, Mr Petula to approve a resolution pursuant to Act I of 2001 indicating that the Lackawanna Trail School District will not raise the rate of tax support of its public schools for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the district of 3.8%.

+ Motion by Mr Stark, Mr Bianchi to approve the contract with DeHEY McAndrew for the 2020 tax year for preparation of 1094-C and 1095-C forms.

+ Motion by Mr Mulhern, Mr Ross to approve the sale of gym lockers to Factoryville Fire Company at a bid of $25.00. Approved 8-0-1, Mr Bianchi abstained

+ Motion by Dr Mould, Mr Bianchi to approve the appointment of Sweet Stevens Law Firm for the district’s solicitor services, with Attorney John Audi as the main contact for the 2021-2022 fiscal/academic year. This contract does not include an increase in fees. Annualized estimate is $50,000 to $60,000 for legal services.

+ Motion by Mr Bianchi to acknowledge the School District Office’s physical address 179 College Avenue, Factoryville, PA 18419, and the mailing address as P.O. Box 85, Factoryville, PA 18419 for the purpose of reporting and communicating with the Department of Education.

+ Motion by Mr Thorne, Mr Minick to acknowledge the retirement request of Cris Wiswell from her teaching position effective April 7, 2021.

+ Motion by Ms. Naylor, Mr Minick to approve Courtney Gwizdz to extend her long term elementary substitute position in first grade through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

+ Motion by Mr Minick, Ms Naylor to approve the retroactive and intermittent FMLA request for Gail Franko, beginning December 1, 2020, through January 15, 2021.

+ Motion by Ms Naylor, Mr Bianchi to approve the request from Dana Marion for anticipated FMLA which will begin at an unknown time, due to the nature of her circumstances and last for up to twelve weeks from the day that it begins.

+ Motion by Dr. Mould, Mr Mulhern to approve Adrienne Mellott as the Jr. High School Field Hockey Coach starting the 2021-2022 season, at a stipend of $3750, according to the LTEA contract, will not be paid if the season is cancelled. All clearances are on file.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

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There was an Executive Session from 6:31 to 6:53 pm to

+ review upcoming personnel issues

+ discuss potential early retirements

Another Executive Session is anticipated before the next meeting.