Unofficial Minutes of the February 14, 2022 Lackawanna Trail School Board Meeting

The LTSD Board of Education had a meeting on February 14, 2022 @ 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, Dr. Mould, Mr. Mulhern, Mr. Petula, Mr. Ross, Mr. Schmidt, Mrs. Wescott. Absent:. Mr. Minick. Administrators present: Mr. Rakauskas, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Glynn, Ms. Talarico, Ms. Kuchak, Mr. Schofield.

There were up to 49 participants including one reporter attending either in the Board Room or via ZOOM.

The meeting began with a detailed presentation about the Student Recreation & Wellness Center Project by Ms. Wescott. She presented information about the planned addition to the main building of the High School, the estimated cost of $1,926,000 adjusted after receiving the $500,000 grant. There was no plan to upgrade the concession stand, and no plan for additional public restrooms.

+ Motion by Ross, Bianchi that the minutes from the previous two meetings be approved as submitted. Mr. Petula requested they be amended to report the subject and names of discussion by the public participants.

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

+ Motion by Mould, Bianchi to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.

+ Motion by Petula, Wescott to amend the Act I Resolution motion from January 17, 2022 to indicate the correct adjusted rate of 4.4%.

+ Motion by Schmidt, Mould to approve the contract with Conrad Siegel for the 2021 tax year for preparation of 1094-C and 1095-C forms at a flat rate of $5200.

+ Motion by Bianchi, Ross to approve the budget for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Lackawanna Trail’s contribution is $13,193.94.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Mould to approve the solicitation of bids for the construction of the Lackawanna Trail Student Wellness Center.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Petula to approve the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Cooperation Agreement with Wyoming County.

+ Motion by Wescott, Bianchi to approve the Jr. and Sr. High 2022-2023 Curriculum/ Course Description Guide. Passed 6-1, Mr. Schmidt voting ‘NO’

+ Motion by Ross, Mould to approve the Elementary 2022-2023 Curriculum/ Course Description Guide.

+ It was announced by Mr. Mulhern that the Board met in Executive Session to evaluate the candidates in secret, behind closed doors and decide who should be selected for the position. That action appears to be in violation of the Sunshine Act section 708. According to Mr. Mulhern, the District Solicitor advised that they could take such action. There were originally six candidates, but the first listed below withdrew for personal reasons. The candidates were: Marie Codish, Mark Carpenter, Mike Bass, Kyle Stanton, Stephanie LaCoe and Dr. Deborah Flynn.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Wescott to appoint Mark Carpenter as School Board Director representing Region I to complete the remainder of David Thorne’s unexpired term ending in 2023, effective February 14, 2022. Passed 5-0-2, Petula and Ross abstained.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Schmidt to remove from the table the motion from December 6, 2021 to appoint TBA to complete the remainder of Philip Stark’s unexpired term on Intermediate Unit 19’s Board of Directors through 2023.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Bianchi to appoint Dr. Mould to complete the remainder of Philip Stark’s unexpired term on Intermediate Unit 19’s Board of Directors through 2023.

+ Motion by Bianchi, Mould to deny LTEA Grievance #2022-1. No details were presented and the Public was prohibited from any questions or discussion about this motion. That appears to be a violation of the Sunshine Law Section 710.1.

+ Motion by Wescott, Ross to approve Amanda Carpenter as a part-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 4¾ hours per day, as scheduled at the rate of $13.25 plus $2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, to begin February 17, 2022. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Bianchi, Mould to approve Kara Waters as a full-time Level I Personal Care Assistant at 6 ½ hours per day, as scheduled at the rate of $13.25 plus $2.50 per hour whenever supporting a Level I student, per the LTESPA collective bargaining agreement, to begin March 7, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mould, Petula to approve Kaylee Hager as a contracted driver for the 2021-2022 school year. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Schmidt to approve Tom Lengel as Stagecraft Director to begin the 2021-2022 school year at a stipend of $1675 according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances on file.

+ Motion by Ross, Petula to approve Elissa Loubet as Dramatics Director to begin the 2021-2022 school year, at a prorated share of the stipend of $2300, according to the LTEA agreement. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Ross, Mulhern to acknowledge the resignation of Laurel Kinback from her position as Unified Track & Field Coach effective immediately.

+ Motion by Schmidt, Wescott to approve Megyn Stevens as the Unified Sports Track and Field Coach at a stipend of $750 for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mould, Schmidt to approve Mark Lloyd as a volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Wescott to approve Tim Ronchi as a volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Bianchi to approve Mary Smarkusky as a volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Schmidt to approve Jenn Boccadori as a volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Schmidt, Mould to approve Max Brewer as a volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Bianchi to approve John Yanniello as a volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mulhern, Bianchi to approve Samuel Luke Ryon as a volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Schmidt, Ross to approve Jeff Edwards as a volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Wescott, Bianchi to approve Mark June as a volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

+ Motion by Mould, Petula to approve Charlie Cobb as a volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. All clearances are on file.

Public ZOOM CHAT Comments during meeting

The decision was made NOT to allow the Public to participate via ZOOM CHAT.

In the Public Comment area:

+ Ethan Norman asked about the efficacy of masks and requested data to support the mask mandate.

+ Chelsea Gumbel asked why the financial data she requested via FOIA is not available. She also wanted to know the details about Cyber students’ enrolment.

+ Ronda Normal asked “what will it take to get the masks off our kids” and wanted to know what data supported the mandate in the district.

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There was an Executive Session from 6:30 to 7:28pm

+ to discuss a personnel matter

+ to discuss State Policies relevant to the District (apparent violation of 65Pa.C.S.§§708)

+ to discuss legal issues with Health and Safety

There will be an Executive Session following the Public meeting and another scheduled before the next meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm.