

**LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 3, 2024

A special meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board for the purpose of voting on a resolution pursuant to Act 1 of Special Sessions 2006, "Taxpayer Relief Act," was held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Wright, at 7:01 p.m., and opened with Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

<u>DIRECTORS</u>	<u>Roll Call</u>
Robert Baran	Present
Kevin Carey	Present
Al DeAngelis	Present
David Paulauskas	Present
Drew Salko	Present
Mark Wallace	Present
Scott Walsh	Present
Rob Wojtowicz	Present
Robert Wright	Present

Others Present:

James E. McGovern, Superintendent
Tracey Liparela, Assistant to the Superintendent
Joe Caputo, Business Consultant
Mary Jo Casaldi, Superintendent's Administrative Asst./Board Secretary
Tabitha Miscavage Spagnuolo, Personnel/Benefits Manager

Ava Baran	Beau Baran	Michael Evans	Jamie Janosov	Rich Janosov
Jeremy Janosov	Hayden Evans	Rose Rybka	Christina Kotis	Tammy Evans
Gavin D. Hawk	David Fedor	Joseph Fedor	Mike Sholtis	Rachelle Daniels
Jeff Daniels	Gavin Shoemaker	Javer Rogowski	Cole Daniels	Carter Deyo
Logan Deyo	Nick Joseph	Chris Teetsel	T.J. Meehan	Jacob Prest
Chris Sholtis	Ben Dowling	Daniel Lee	Jake Evans	L. Napierkowski
C. Napierkowski	Blaise Napierkowski	Trey Borger	Chase Cole	Rob Kuschke
Lisa Dowling	Jeff Dowling	Brayden Savage	Aiden Gaus	Chad Honeywell
Melanie Maciejczak	M. Major	Robert Gregor, Jr.	Walker Gregor	Courtney Judge
Sandy Boyle	Jamie A. Walsh	Rick Evans	Rob Kuschke	Michael Gaus
Melinda Gaus	Vladimir Lee	Trent Gaus	Gavin Wallace	Frank Kurtz
S.D.	Damian Napierkowski			

READING OF MEETING NOTICE

Mrs. Mary Jo Casaldi, Board Secretary, read the meeting notice which was published in the Times Leader newspaper.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session of the Board was held on January 3, 2024, to discuss personnel/coaching positions.

READING OF MISSION

Mr. McGovern read the following “Mission” of the Lake-Lehman School District.

“The Mission of the Lake-Lehman School District is to inspire students to achieve personal fulfillment through the context of community, independence, generosity and mastery within a safe learning environment.”

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. McGovern provided an explanation of the resolution that the board will be voting on.

VISITORS – Comments relative to approval of ACTION ITEMS.

No comments.

ACTION ITEMS

SCHOOL BOARD

Motion was made by Kevin Carey, seconded by Al DeAngelis, to move on the following item:

Mr. Robert Baran read the following resolution:

1. Adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the “Taxpayer Relief Act” (hereinafter “Act 1”);

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Lake-Lehman School District index for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is **6.1%**;

WHEREAS, the Lake-Lehman School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Lake-Lehman School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 3rd day of January, 2024, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Lake-Lehman School District (hereinafter “District”) Board of Directors (hereinafter “Board”) the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
 - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
 - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
 - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

Vote: Upon roll call, all board members present voted yes; motion carried.

SET MEETING DATES

Mr. Wright read the following meeting information:

The combined Committee-of-the-Whole and regular monthly meeting for voting purposes has been scheduled for January 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

VISITORS

<p>Gavin Hawk, Jackson Township</p>	<p>In reference to Action Item #1, Mr. Hawk asked for an explanation on how the tax percentage rate works?</p> <p>Mr. Caputo, responded and gave an explanation of the tax percentage rates between the two counties.</p>
<p>Dave Fedor, Lehman Township</p>	<p>Dr. Fedor addressed the Board with the following question which he also provided in writing, to the board secretary, requesting that it be entered into the official meeting minutes.</p> <p>“From 7:58 p.m. on November 20, 2023 up until 7:00 p.m. on January 3, 2024, how many student-athletes that are eligible to play on the varsity football team for the fall 2024 season were consulted by the Lake-Lehman school directors for their opinions regarding any potential changes to football coaching positions?”</p> <p>Mr. Wright responded that he was not aware.</p>
<p>Christine Napierkowski, Rob Kushke, Harveys Lake Jacob Prest Cierra Scaggs, Shickshinny Damien Napierkowski Rick Evans Tammy Evans Judy Denmon Bob Gregor T. J. Meehan Rose Rybka Larry Napierkowski Blaise Napierkowski Trey Borger</p>	<p>All members of the community listed, which include parents, assistant coaches, former and present team members, addressed the board individually and offered their overwhelming support of retaining Lake-Lehman Head Football Coach, Gerry Gilsky.</p>

Mr. Salko questioned Mr. Caputo about the deadline for voting on the resolution.

Mr. Caputo responded that the deadline to vote on the resolution is January 4, 2024. This is because of the change in the date of the primary election.

Mr. Wright thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Drew Salko, seconded by Rob Baran.

Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Non-Member, Board Secretary,
Mary Jo Casaldi

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