

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2024

The combined Committee-of-the-Whole and regular monthly meeting for voting purposes of the Lake-Lehman Board of School Directors was held on Monday, October 21, 2024, in the library of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Wright, at 7:00 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	Absent
David Paulauskas	Present
Drew Salko	Present
Jean Sayre	Present
Mark Wallace	Present
Scott Walsh	Present
Rob Wojtowicz	Present
Robert Wright	Present

Others Present:

Tracey Liparela, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mary Jo Casaldi, Superintendent's Administrative Asst./Board Secretary
Avery Smith, Esquire, District Solicitor
Matthew Nonnenberg, Junior-Senior High School Principal
Tabitha Miscavage Spagnuolo, Assistant Junior Senior-High Principal/Personnel/Benefits Manager
Donald James, Lehman-Jackson Elementary Principal
Doug Klopp, Lake-Noxen Elementary Principal
Michael Kostrobala, Ross Elementary Principal
Brian Murphy, Technology Coordinator/Buildings and Grounds Director
Tina Antonello, Director of Special Education
Erica Orock, School Psychologist

Anita Koziol	Courtney Judge	Logan Walsh	Richard Logan
Brenda Morris	Marion Gallagher	Sarah Remley	Jennifer Walp
Dawn Dennis	Arthur Price	Rachel Coffee	Jamie Walsh
Dallas Hanna	Richelle Steele	Amber Scelenski	Sandra Reno-Gromniak
Abby Wojtowicz	Colby McDonald	John McDonald	

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session of the Board was held on October 21, 2024, to discuss employment opportunities – professional staff, support staff, and also coaching/extra-curricular appointments.

READING OF MISSION

Mrs. Liparela read the 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.”

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Liparela, Assistant Superintendent, reported on the following:

Calendar Update- A Full Act 80 In-service day is being added to the calendar on Friday, Nov 1st for professional development. This is a non-student day. No school for students on Friday, Nov 1st.

Mission Academy Trunk or Treat- The Mission Academy is participating in a Trunk or Treat with Reds Subs and Pizza. The Trunk or Treat will be held on Monday, October 28th at Reds. Mission Academy volunteers are helping with candy donations, packing trick or treat bags, and assisting at the event.

Athletics:

- District II playoffs are starting this week.
- Girls varsity soccer will be playing in the WVC division 2 championship game tonight vs. Holy Redeemer.
- Charles Weidner is playing in the PIAA golf championships today and tomorrow.
- JH football advanced to the semifinals, playing Berwick tomorrow.
- Boys and Girls varsity cross country won the WVC division 2 championship.
- JH Boys XC won the WVC Championship.
- The Old Shoe Game is this Friday at our stadium. Kickoff at 7 p.m.

Band- The L-L Band was named Chapter Champions in the Tournament of Bands. They were recognized for excellence in Music, Percussion and Color Guard.

Library Update at LJ- The library will open this week for book exchange. All students will have the opportunity to once again visit the library for a scheduled book exchange period. The Book Fair, which will be held in the library, will begin tomorrow and will run for 2 days. Students will start visiting the library again on Thursday for book exchange. Mrs. Liparela noted that some changes have been made after hearing concerns at last month's meeting.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

No report.

WEST SIDE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Salko provided highlights from the August 26, 2024, meeting of the West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee.

LUZERNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

Mr. Walsh provided highlights from the meeting of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit held August 7, 2024.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Wright read the following report provided by Student Council.

"This past month, the student council experienced great success with our Black and Gold Bake Sale as well as our Black and Gold Class Competition with the Freshman and eighth-grade being named victors. Club members also assisted in organizing, promoting, and participating in the dodgeball tournament on October 11.

Moving into October, we planned a Pink Out Class Competition for Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and in the very near future, we will host a Halloween-themed bake sale on October 30th as a precursor to our annual Halloween Assembly which will take place on Halloween (October 31st). Additionally, we are excited to begin initiating several service projects, such as a proposed Stadium Cleanup sometime in November. As always, thank you for your continued support!"

FOOD SERVICE

Sara Walsh, Food Service Director, provided a report on the latest cafeteria news.

Ms. Walsh was happy to report that the cafeteria is fully staffed. She also reported that one of their goals is to increase student participation for both breakfast and lunch. Ms. Walsh also noted that breakfast is free for all students.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Liparela reviewed and read the agenda and addendum items.

Mr. Wright noted the agenda is approved as read and amended.

VISITORS – Comments relative to approval of Minutes, treasurer’s report, payment of bills, and ACTION ITEMS.

Rachel Coffee		<p>Mrs. Coffee questioned the purpose of the November 1st Act 80 Day?</p> <p>Mrs. Liparela responded that the purpose of the Act 80 Day is for professional development.</p> <p>Mrs. Liparela also noted that there will not be a day added on at the end of the year as the requirement for hours has been satisfied.</p>
---------------	--	---

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Salko, seconded by Mr. Paulauskas, to approve the following minutes.

September 16, 2024 - regular monthly meeting

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Salko, to approve the Fund Accounting Payment Summary with payment date listed as October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$700,245.28, and interim payments dated October 4, 2024, in the amount of \$147,381.84, and September 20, 2024, in the amount of \$314,711.02; subject to audit.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion was made by Mr. Paulauskas, seconded by Mr. Salko, to approve the treasurer’s report as of September 30, 2024.

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

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS AND FILE FOR AUDIT
(Attached to Treasurer's Report)

Balances as of September 30, 2024

- Ross Elem. Activity Fund
- Lake-Noxen Fund
- Junior-Senior High Activity Fund
- Junior-Senior High Principal's Fund
- Athletic Fund
- Food Service
- Lehman-Jackson Fund

ACTION ITEMS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

No items.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1. Approve Keystone Sports Construction of Phoenixville, PA, an approved COSTARS vendor, to install a perforated underdrain in a clean stone trench, in the stadium located between the concession stand and the existing running track, at a total cost of \$24,887.80.

The above motion was tabled.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Motion was made by Mrs. Sayre, seconded by Mr. Paulauskas, to move on the following items:

1. Authorize administration to advertise for the following positions:

A.	S.A.D.D. Club Advisor
B.	National Honor Society Advisor

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

2. Approve the following as School & Booster Volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year; all clearances on file:

A-1	Tiffany Adams	N-1	Mary Godwin	A-2	Arthur Price
B-1	Kayla Brown	O-1	Dallas Hanna	B-2	John Remus
C-1	Amy Casterline	P-1	Kathleen Holena	C-2	Melissa Remus
D-1	Beth Chocallo	Q-1	Amanda Kania	D-2	John Remus
E-1	Barbara Chocallo	R-1	Christopher Lathrop	E-2	Melissa Remus
F-1	Patrick Chocallo	S-1	Kimi Makarewicz	F-2	Bethany Roman
G-1	Megan Crawford	T-1	Eric Middleton	G-2	Nicole Skipalis
H-1	Elizabeth Cummings	U-1	Major Moore	H-2	Kayla Smith
I-1	Dawn Dennis	V-1	Molly Mulligan	I-2	Taylor Urbanski

J-1	Nicole Doty	W-1	Brynn O'Brien	J-2	Julie Vitack
K-1	Stephanie Featherman	X-1	Janelle Oliver	K-2	Tricia Wilhelm
L-1	Michael Featherman	Y-1	Pamela Pall		
M-1	Cassandra Garrison	Z-1	Krista Patla		

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

3. Appoint the following Head Coaches/ Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2024-2025 school year, all clearances on file.

A	Walter Simko	Yearbook Advisor – Senior High	\$3,542.59
---	--------------	--------------------------------	------------

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

4. Appoint the following Assistant Coaches/ Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2024-2025 school year, all clearances on file.

A	Ronald Strohl	Boys Lacrosse	Volunteer
B	Rachel Shook	Girls Lacrosse	Volunteer

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

5. Appoint Shoshana Mahoney as Substitute Physical Fitness Director, at the hourly rate in accordance with LLEA Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective immediately. All clearances on file.

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

TRANSPORTATION

Motion was made by Mr. Salko, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz, to move on the following item:

1. Approve the following bus/van drivers for the 2024-2025 school year. All clearances on file.

A	Michael Kasper	Back Mountain Transit
B.	Angela Mock	Back Mountain Transit

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

Motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Sayre, to move on the following items:

1. Rescind the motion of September 16, 2024, appointing Jennifer Dixon of Dallas as Part-Time Library Aide.

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

2. Ratify the appointment of Donna Grey of Dallas as Part-Time Library Aide, 5.75 hours per day, 186 days per year, at an hourly rate of \$15.00; effective October 7, 2024. All clearances on file.

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

3. Appoint Rachelle Daniels of Sweet Valley as Full-Time Head Custodian, 8 hours per day, 260 days per year, at an hourly rate of \$15.50 plus Head Custodian differential. All clearances on file.

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

4. Authorize administration to advertise for the following positions:

- A. Part-Time Food Service Worker, 5 hours per day, 186 days per year
- B. Part-Time Custodians, 5 hours per day, 260 days per year

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Baran, seconded by Mr. Wallace, to move on the following items:

1. Authorize administration to accept Requests for Proposals for the construction of a metal building for the purpose of storage and athletic training.

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

2. Approve the first reading of the following Board Policies:

A.	113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
B.	113.2 Behavior Support

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

3. Ratify the renewal of the agreement between Rural Health Corporation and the Lake-Lehman School District to provide comprehensive and primary and preventative health care services for the students and personnel of the Lake-Lehman School District effective for two years beginning July 1, 2024.

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

4. Authorize administration to execute the 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and the Lake-Lehman School District, to provide and operate programs and services as outlined in said agreement, at a total cost of \$466,628.40.

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

5. Authorize the Business Manager to open additional depository accounts with PSDLAF for the following funds: Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Child Care Fund.

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

6. Approve a donation to the Back Mountain Library in the amount of \$2,000.00.

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

7. Exonerate John Ricci, of Jackson Township, from payment of all real estate taxes that become due on or after August 20, 2024, which apply to the property listed on the Exemption Certificate, and all terms and conditions which apply as listed on the certificate, as determined by the Pennsylvania State Veteran's Commission for Real Estate Tax Exemption, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

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

8. Ratify the approval of the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Richard Matysik, Lake-Lehman Youth Basketball, for use of the junior-senior high school new gymnasium/old gymnasium and concession stand area for Youth Basketball games and practice to be held beginning Monday, October 14, 2024, through March 31, 2025. Game times are designated on the schedule included with the application. Practice times are upon availability.

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

9. Ratify the approval of the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Richard Matysik, Lake-Lehman Youth Basketball, for use of Lehman-Jackson Elementary School gymnasium, for Youth Basketball practice to be held beginning Monday, October 14, 2024, through March 31, 2025, upon availability, and at a time as designated on the schedule included with the application.

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

10. Ratify the approval of the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Christopher Kukosky, Club Vollocity LLC, for use of the junior-senior high school new gymnasium and restrooms for AAU volleyball tryouts on September 29, 2024, from 4-6 pm.

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

11. Approve the following reimbursement(s) due to increased prescription co-pays, effective July 1, 2017, as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Lake-Lehman School District and the Lake-Lehman Educational Support Personnel Association:

A.	Employee #1385	\$100.00
B.	Employee #1403	\$20.00

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

12. Approve the revised 2024-2025 school year calendar to reflect the addition of a full Act 80 day on November 1, 2024, for the purpose of professional development.

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

INFORMATION AND RECOGNITION

Mr. Wright noted that all informational items are as listed.

BOARD DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE BUSINESS

None.

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 November 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the junior-senior high school.

VISITORS

Rachel Coffee	<p>Mrs. Coffee commented that she appreciated the reinstating of the library and asked to verify the square footage.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy, Buildings and Grounds Director, responded to her question.</p> <p>Mrs. Coffee asked how our schools are performing in regard to math scores?</p> <p>Mrs. Liparela responded that the math coach was moved to the JSHS.</p> <p>Mrs. Coffee commented that there is a need in the elementary schools and we must address that need and follow through.</p> <p>Mrs. Liparela stated that she appreciates her concern and will report on performance.</p> <p>Mrs. Coffee stated that the district needs to hire someone at Lake-Noxen who would be able to open doors for coaches and players to access the gymnasium for practice. Also expressed concern that kids are not allowed adequate practice time and asked why coaches are not permitted to have keys?</p> <p>Mr. Salko responded that while coaches are busy coaching kids, who would be watching the school building and hallways?</p> <p>Mr. Scott Walsh stated that he has spoken with Mr. McGovern who is working on an alternative.</p>
---------------	--

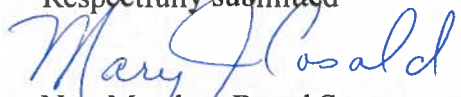
Logan Walsh, student		Addressed the Board in regard to a history class current events assignment which did not allow the use of political articles, stating that it was a conflict of interest.
Sarah Remley		Appreciative of the changes in regard to the Lehman-Jackson library, but disappointed in the loss of classrooms.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Salko, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz.

Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Non-Member, Board Secretary

Mary Jo Casaldi

