

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

September 16, 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, September 16, 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	Present
David Paulauskas	Absent
Drew Salko	Present
Jean Sayre	Present
Mark Wallace	Present
Scott Walsh	Absent
Rob Wojtowicz	Present
Robert Wright	Present

Others Present:

James E. McGovern, Superintendent of Schools
Tracey Liparela, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mary Jo Casaldi, Superintendent's Administrative Asst./Board Secretary
Sarah Modrick, Esquire, District Solicitor
Joseph Caputo, Business Consultant
Matthew Nonnenberg, Junior-Senior High School Principal
Tabitha Miscavage Spagnuolo, Assistant Junior Senior-High Principal/Personnel/Benefits Manager
Donald James, Lehman-Jackson Elementary Principal
Michael Kostrobala, Ross Elementary Principal
Brian Murphy, Technology Coordinator/Buildings and Grounds Director
Lori Bednarek, Special Projects Coordinator
Tina Antonello, Director of Special Education

Donna Richards	Dara Lopasky	Jen Gribble	Dawn Dennis	Richelle Steele
Patricia Manzoni	Lisa Wallace	Arthur Price	Linda Van Orden	Jennifer Welby
Anita Koziol	Kathleen Weaver	Dianna Burkley	A. Burkley	Shelby Reese
Sarah Remley	Jennifer Walp	Eileen Walp	Cheryl Koval	Rachel Coffee
Tammy Schnable	Jamie Walsh	Kathleen Selner	Jill Casale	Amy Lingobardo
Erin Hunsinger	Landen Aritz	Cecilia Jennings	Mark Major	

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session of the Board was held on September 16, 2024, to discuss employment opportunities – professional staff, support staff, administration, coaching/extra-curricular appointments, School Resource Officer, process for election of PSBA officers and school safety/clearances.

READING OF MISSION

Mr. McGovern 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

The Superintendent’s Report included the following:

- Lake-Lehman School District applied for an Environmental Repairs Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education in June. We are pleased to announce we will be receiving \$959,340.00. Lake-Lehman was the only district in the county to receive the award and 1 out of only 109 districts in the state to get the funding. The money will be used for removal of underground fuel tanks and upgrades to the sewage treatment plant.
- Mr. McGovern provided an update on the auditorium renovation project.

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Joseph Caputo, Business Consultant, stated that he did not have a report this evening but mentioned that he is currently working with our auditors.

WEST SIDE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Salko provided highlights from the July 22, 2024, meeting of the West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee.

LUZERNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

No report.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Landen Aritz, Student Council President, provided the following report.

“Good evening, the Student Council is thrilled to once more be on our way to another great year. Our primary goal is to foster a sense of community and provide opportunities for student engagement. The Student Council is dedicated to organizing events that promote school spirit and support various student initiatives. Currently, we have begun collecting donations for Dress Down Days, which will fund end-of-year scholarship opportunities for senior students. In addition, we will host a bake sale on September 25, themed black and gold for school spirit; on the same day we will host a class competition, also themed black and gold. As we look forward to an exciting year, we have many activities in the works, especially as we approach October and our much-anticipated Halloween events. We are eager to make this year memorable for all students and appreciate the continued support of the school. Thank you!”

OLD BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. McGovern 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.

No comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Baran, to approve the following minutes.

August 19, 2024 - regular monthly meeting

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Salko, to approve the Fund Accounting Payment Summary with payment date listed as September 17, 2024, in the amount of \$429,445.41, and interim payments dated September 6, 2024, in the amount of \$102,496.80, and August 23, 2024, in the amount of \$33,506.68; subject to audit.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion was made by Mrs. Sayre, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz, to approve the treasurer’s report as of August 31, 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 June 30, 2024

- Lehman-Jackson Activity Fund

Balances as of July 31, 2024

- Lehman-Jackson Activity Fund

Balances as of August 31, 2024

- Ross Elem. Activity Fund
- Junior-Senior High Activity Fund
- Junior-Senior High Principal’s Fund
- Athletic Fund
- Food Service

ACTION ITEMS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

1. Accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Noelle Benderavich, Occupational Therapist, effective September 19, 2024.

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

2. Approve a leave of absence for Employee #2147 effective August 28 - December 3, 2024. It is understood the leave will consist of sick days in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act; not to exceed 60 days.

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

3. Appoint the following Mentor Teacher/Nurses for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Mentor	New Teacher	Stipend
A.	Kelly Feinauer	Elizabeth Vojtko	\$612.94
B.	Amanda Shipula	Kayla Smith	\$612.94
C.	Jennifer Ferkel	Sarah Traver	\$612.94

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

No items.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Motion was made by Dr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Salko, to move on the following items:

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

A	Nicholas Budzyn	J	Danielle Kane	S	Neil Popko
B	Michelle Budzyn	K	Sarah Klick	T	Suzanne Popko
C	Alexandria Chinikaylo	L	Susan Magnotta	U	Carol Prater
D	Michelle Coombs	M	William Marusak	V	Ruth Roberts
E	Amy Flaherty	N	Mary Ann McCarthy	W	Hailey Rutcavage
F	Ivy Harris	O	Amanda McNulty	X	Rachel Shook
G	Samantha Hausman	P	Thomas McNulty	Y	Carla Thew
H	Erin Hunsinger	Q	Laura Nulton	Z	Therese Thomas
I	Janelle Jacob	R	James Paddock		

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

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

A	Janelle Jacob	Field Hockey	Volunteer
B	Brady Butler	Football	Volunteer
C	Brady Butler	JH Wrestling	\$3,303.90
D	Shane Stark	Varsity Wrestling	\$4,932.67
E	Allen Scott	Wrestling	Volunteer
F	Michael Ayala	Varsity Boys Basketball	\$4,932.67
G	Brynn Giordano	Boys Volleyball	Volunteer
H	Miranda Parry	Varsity Boys Volleyball	\$2,115.36
I	Mark Major	Boys Volleyball	Volunteer
J	Melissa Janick	Boys Volleyball	Volunteer
K	Scott Shotwell	Varsity Softball	\$3,045.60
L	Sarah Traver	JH Softball	\$3,045.60
M	Lisa Finnegan	Softball	Volunteer
N	Michael Evans	Varsity Boys Lacrosse	\$3,045.60

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

TRANSPORTATION

No items.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

1. Ratify approval for administration to advertise for the following position:

A. Full-Time Head Custodian, 8 hours per day, 260 days per year

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

2. Appoint Jennifer Dixon of Dallas as Part-Time Library Aide, 5.75 hours per day, 186 days per year, at an hourly rate of \$15.00. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

3. Appoint Robin Johnson of Monroe Twp. as Part-Time Food Service Worker, 5.5 hours per day, 186 days per year, at an hourly rate of \$15.00. All clearances on file.

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

SCHOOL BOARD

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

1. Approve and authorize the execution of the Letter of Engagement for Rainey & Rainey C.P.A.'s, of Scranton, PA, to perform an audit of financial statements for the Lake-Lehman School District for the Year ended June 30, 2024.

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

2. Approve and authorize the execution of the Letter of Engagement for Rainey & Rainey C.P.A.'s, of Scranton, PA, to perform an audit of Real Estate and Per Capita Tax Collection for the Lake-Lehman School District as of, and for the Year ended December 31, 2023.

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

3. Approve the West Side Career and Technology Center Articles of Agreement, effective for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029, by and between the Lake-Lehman School District, the Northwest School District, the Dallas School District, the Wyoming Valley West School District and the Wyoming Area School District, collectively referred to as the "Member Districts."

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

4. Approve the Pat Curley Detective Agency, Inc. Mountaintop, PA to provide SRO services for the 2024-2025 School year at the Ross Elementary School.

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

5. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities for Brian Cutter, Back Mountain Shoot Out, for use of The new gymnasium/old gymnasium and concession stand for a Girls Youth Basketball Tournament be held on March 1, 2025 and March 2, 2025. Event time designated on the application.

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

6. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities for Brian Cutter, Back Mountain Shoot Out, for use of The new gymnasium/old gymnasium and concession stand for a Youth Basketball Tournament be held on December 27 through December 29, 2024. Event time designated on the application.

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

7. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities for Brian Cutter, Back Mountain Shoot Out, for use of The new gymnasium/old gymnasium and concession stand for a Boys Basketball Tournament be held on March 8, 2025 and March 9, 2025. Event time designated on the application.

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

8. 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	\$225.00
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Vote: Upon roll call, all members present voted yes; motion carried.

9. Approve the recommendation of the following candidates to be voted on and registered by the Lake-Lehman Board of School Directors for the position of officers and representatives to the 2024 Pennsylvania School Boards Association. (Attachment emailed)

A. President-Elect (1-year term)

(1) Sabrina Backer ☐

Franklin Area School District

B. Vice President (1-year term)

(1) Matt Vannoy ☐

Sharon City School District

C. PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees: (3-year term)

Choose up to 3

(1) Nathan G. Mains ☐

(2) Richard Frerichs ☐

(3) William S. LaCoff ☐

D. 2025-2027 Eastern Zone Representative (3-year term)

(1) Holly Arnold ☐

Tunkhannock Area School District

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 October 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the junior-senior high school library.

VISITORS

Richelle Steele		<p>Concerned with the library cart in Lehman-Jackson Elementary replacing the library.</p> <p>Mr. McGovern responded that we should give this a chance and we will address problems as they arise.</p> <p>Mr. Wallace added that libraries have changed. Today we are moving libraries into classrooms with over 3,000 searchable books.</p>
Sarah Remley		<p>Concerned that students are losing access to the library because of Building Blocks and classrooms are being displaced.</p> <p>Mr. McGovern responded that the increased identified student population at L-J has doubled and Building Blocks provides preparation for students.</p>
Rachel Coffee		<p>Without the library, L-J students are at a disadvantage, the whole school is impacted.</p> <p>Questioned why there wasn't a board motion to approve this?</p> <p>Mr. Salko added that this was approved through the partnership. Mr. Salko stated that he had some of the same concerns and after having a discussion with Mr. McGovern he believes there are opportunities that the program will provide.</p>
Sarah Remley		<p>Stressed the importance of student's physical movement from one classroom to another and that we should be striving for the best for our students.</p> <p>Asked if the Bookfairs are cancelled?</p> <p>Mr. McGovern responded that the Bookfairs are not cancelled, just reviewing books that will be offered.</p>

VISITORS comments continued...

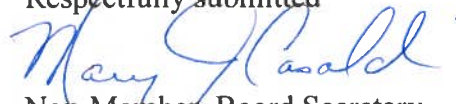
		Mr. Wojtowicz added that the books were screened for sexual content and extreme violence.
Patricia Manzoni		Expressed concerns about library books available on Chromebook and the related screen time.
Erin Hunsinger		Concerned with the addition of more Building Blocks classrooms.
Sarah Remley		Parents should have been made aware of the classroom changes before the first day.
Amy Lingobardo		Stressed the importance of reading a book on paper; reading a book with family. Removing books is a disservice to under-represented students who do not have the opportunity to visit the Back Mountain Library. Also concerned with the library classrooms separated by a partition where you are able to hear the other side.
Dara Lopasky		Upset with displacement of classrooms.
Arthur Price	Jackson Township	Commented that it is horrendous that the student's only space is taken away.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Baran, seconded by Dr. Carey.

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

Respectfully submitted


Non-Member, Board Secretary
Mary Jo Casaldi