



Lehigh Valley Area School District
Administration Building - Board Room
1000 Union Street, Lehigh Valley, PA 18035
August 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Board Meeting Minutes

1. Opening Exercises

1.1. Call to Order

Board President, A. Matika called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1.2. Opening Exercises

Opening Exercises included the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.



1.3. Meeting Announcements

A Board Meeting was held on July 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.

A Special Board Meeting was held on August 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.

A Workshop Meeting was held on August 10, 2026 after the Special Board Meeting in the District Administration Board Room.

A Board Meeting will be held on August 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.

A Workshop Meeting will be held on September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.

1.4. Roll Call

PR/AB

PR	Ms. Joy Beers	PR	Mr. Jeremy Glaush	PR	Dr. Alex Matika
AB*	Mr. David Bradley	PR	Ms. Denise Hartley	PR	Ms. Heather Neff
PR	Mrs. Lory Frey	PR	Dr. William Howland	PR	Mr. Timothy Tkach

**D. Bradley arrived at 7:06 PM*

Also Present:

Mr. Jason Moser, Superintendent

Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Roy James, Fred Kemmerer, Autumn Abelovsky, Frances Haas & Family, Bill Mack, Dave Krause, Reagan Abelovsky, Aiden Dugan, Adam Danner Jarad Hedes, Xander Smith, John Orsulak, Sandy Michalik, Gretchen Laviolette, and Atty. Jeffrey Sultanik via Google meet.

1.5. Presentations/Recognition

Frances Haas has resigned as a Crossing Guard after 59 years of service.

A. Matika recognized F. Haas for her 59 years of dedicated service to the district as a crossing guard following her resignation from the post. The district presented F. Haas with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her years of service. F. Haas expressed her gratitude to the district and shared her enjoyment of working with the children over the years, noting that health issues ultimately prevented her from serving an additional year. J. Partenio announced that refreshments, including cake and lemonade, were provided in honor of F. Haas, after which J. Moser offered closing thanks.

1.6. Public Comment - Only on the Board's Proposed Approval of the Agenda as Presented or as Modified

None at the time.

1.7. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the agenda as presented.

YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

1.8. Public Comment - Traditional Public Comment Period on Agenda Items Only

None at the time.

1.9. Reports

Reports will be given at this time.

1.9.A. Student Board Representatives Report

D. Bradley arrived at this time (7:06 PM)

A. Danner greeted the Board and expressed appreciation for the summer work conducted by district personnel and Board members. A. Danner reported that SAT testing was held at the high school on June 6 and August 22. A. Danner acknowledged the official first day of school, wishing students, staff, and Board members a successful academic year, and noted that the marching band completed a successful summer band camp during the first two weeks of August in preparation for the upcoming football season.

A. Dugan reported that fall sports—including football, cross country, soccer, golf, and cheerleading—began official summer practices. A. Dugan highlighted that students traveled to Japan from July through early August via EF Tours. Regarding school orientation, A. Dugan noted that over 100 freshmen attended Freshman Orientation on August 13, which featured an informational assembly and student-led facility tours conducted by Student Council and AVID/Адам members. Additionally, 2025–2026 yearbooks were distributed, and incoming seniors completed portrait sessions for the 2026–2027 yearbook over the summer.

R. Abelovsky shared that student and alumni band members J. Cordes, N. Charles, C. Houser, and A. Lowe performed at Musikfest on August 3. R. Abelovsky recognized recent district retirees Mr. Borowski, Ms. Maurer, and Mr. Potts, thanking them for their dedicated service to students. Finally, R. Abelovsky announced that the annual "Meet the Tribe" night introducing fall sports and programs would take place on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. J. Glaush welcomed the student representatives back.

1.9.B. Superintendent Report

J. Moser welcomed staff back for the 2026–2027 school year, thanking the administration, faculty, and staff for their preparation during recent in-service days, which included dedicated classroom setup time and interactive workshops. J. Moser commended the maintenance and custodial personnel for having all district facilities in pristine condition for the first day of school. Additionally, J. Moser formally welcomed returning students, emphasizing the district's commitment to supporting their educational pathways.

J. Moser outlined four primary academic initiatives for the upcoming school year:

- Autistic Support Classrooms: Two classrooms are operational at the Elementary Center, with pending agenda items to complete support staffing.
- Reading Curriculum Resources Pilot: Led by district administrators and piloted by two teachers per grade level at the Elementary Center over the course of the full school year.
- Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (IMTSS): Implementation across the Elementary Center and Middle School in partnership with the CSIU team, focusing initially on Tier 1 general classroom instruction to establish a systematic, evidence-based approach by the end of the year.
- AP Capstone Program: Successful launch of the first course, AP Seminar, at the High School, with administrative site visits planned during the year to prepare for the rollout of the second course, AP Research, in the following school year.

Regarding standardized testing, J. Moser explained that the public presentation of preliminary PSSA and Keystone exam results was temporarily paused following a state-level directive advising superintendents to withhold public dissemination while scores undergo further state review. J. Moser noted that the report will be presented to the Board and the public in September once final data is released. In response to an inquiry from D. Bradley regarding data availability, J. Moser clarified that 2024–2025 results are public, but the 2025–2026 results remain pending final state release.

1.9.C. Business Administrator Report

A. Matika inquired about the Business Administrator's Report, and J. Partenio confirmed that no report was submitted for the meeting.

1.9.D. LCCC Representative Report

D. Krause reported on a new dual-enrollment program launching in Spring 2027, which utilizes grant funding to cover up to 12 credits, textbooks, and fees across five key career sectors: criminal justice, education, healthcare, computer science, and technology/advanced manufacturing. D. Krause noted that the LCCC Foundation awarded \$1.5 million in scholarships to 1,294 students over the past year, representing a 19% increase in recipients and an 18% increase in total funds. D. Krause also detailed his attendance at a statewide higher education workshop focused on streamlining curricula and aligning workforce needs, highlighting a discussion with Catasauqua regarding their Career Connections Coordinator position, and provided an update on LCCC's expansion into aviation management.

1.9.E. CLIU Representative Report

J. Glaush shared highlights from recent CLIU presentations regarding the Extended School Year (ESY) program for students with disabilities and the opening-day theme, "Where Service Meets Heart." J. Glaush reported that the annual Annie Sullivan Award was presented to L. Wedling, and announced the appointment of J. McCullum as the new Director of Business Services following a retirement. J. Partenio agreed to link the CLIU presentation to the meeting minutes and agenda.

Board Summary August 2026

1.9.F. CCTI Representative Report

H. Neff introduced W. Mack as the new principal at CCTI. W. Mack addressed the Board, reporting a successful first day of school across the five sending districts and inviting Board members and administrators to attend upcoming CCTI student events throughout the year. A. Matika and H. Neff discussed incorporating CCTI events into the district's master calendar.

1.9.G. Lehigh Memorial Library Representative Report

D. Hartley reported that initial results from the library's annual July fundraiser indicated higher gross receipts than the prior year, with final numbers pending at the library board's upcoming meeting.

1.10. Minutes

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the Minutes of the July 27, 2026 Board Meeting, the August 10, 2026 Special Board Meeting, and the August 10, 2026 Workshop Meeting.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2. Financial Matters

2.1. * Consent Agenda

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by H. Neff, to approve consent agenda items *2.2-*2.4.

A. Matika introduced Item 2.1, Consent Agenda, requesting a motion to approve Items 2.2 through 2.4, which included a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Panther Valley School District, a 403(b) plan resolution, and a settlement agreement. D. Hartley seconded the motion.

During discussion, D. Bradley inquired about the availability of the complete settlement agreement details, raising concerns regarding the background and origins of the underlying complaint. J. Moser and D. Hartley noted that the document was provided during the workshop meeting, with J. Moser adding that a broader audit was underway. D. Bradley requested that the settlement agreement (Item 2.4) be separated from the consent agenda.

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by H. Neff, to approve consent agenda items *2.2-*2.3.

A. Matika called for a Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.2. * MOU with Panther Valley School District

Approve the MOU with Panther Valley School District to share equipment to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, and support educational and facility operations while maintaining accountability for District-owned assets.

This will prevent duplication of services and keep costs down.

2.3. * 403(B) Plan Resolution

Approve the attached 403(b)-retirement plan documents as provided by OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, the District's third party administrator. In order to maintain the qualified status of Lehighton's 403(b)-retirement plan, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) periodically requires employers that use pre-approved plan documents to formally restate their plans. These required restatements consolidate legislative, regulatory, and administrative changes that may have accumulated since the prior restatement and ensure the plan document remains fully compliant with current IRS and Department of Labor requirements.

2.4. Settlement Agreement

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Settlement Agreement and corresponding attorney fees for a student.

D. Bradley recommended postponing the vote until the Board received a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the agreement. J. Glaush suggested convening an Executive Session for Superintendent J. Moser to brief the Board on the underlying details.

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by D. Hartley to enter into an Executive Session.

YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

The August 24, 2026 Board Meeting was suspended at 7:29 PM.

The August 24, 2026 Board Meeting returned at 7:55 PM.

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Settlement Agreement and corresponding attorney fees for a student.

Upon reconvening from Executive Session, D. Hartley recommended that moving forward, the district provide a brief summary snippet of settlements prior to motions so the Board remains fully informed, while noting that research on pending matters was underway. A. Matika expressed agreement with implementing a one-page summary format for future settlement reviews. D. Bradley commended J. Glaush for requesting the Executive Session to ensure the Board was fully informed before taking action.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Mr. David Bradley, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.5. GESA/SitelogIQ

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by H. Neff, to authorize the Superintendent to execute a GESA Agreement with SitelogIQ, pending final review by Solicitor. The agreement shall not commit any appropriations on the part of the District, nor commit to any projects.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.6. Library Agreement

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the Funding Agreement For Lehigh Area Memorial Library as attached.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.7. Donations/Local Grants

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the following donations and/or local grants:

1. Camera & Photography equipment to the High School Photography Department including 2 Nikon DSLR cameras with lenses, flash, batteries and chargers, a few camera bags, and some smaller accessories such as filters, gels etc.
2. 10 boxes of various school supplies from Kids In Need Foundation, courtesy of their esteemed partner, the Burger King Foundation.
3. Giant Food Stores "Stuff a Bus" donation for various back-to-school supplies for students.

J. Glaush and J. Moser expressed their gratitude for the generous contributions and noted the positive impact the supplies would have on the students.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.8. UTV

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by H. Neff, to purchase a 2027 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Cab (Avalanche Gray) from Backwoods Outdoor Center in an amount of \$21,999.00

This UTV is going to replace the current 2014 Kawasaki Mule side by side that has front end damage and starting issues.

** This has been updated to reflect a corrected recommendation.*

J. Moser clarified that the item was removed from the consent agenda due to an incorrect recommendation presented during the prior workshop meeting, which was subsequently updated in the current selection. In response to an inquiry from D. Bradley regarding the cause of the front-end damage, J. Moser and J. Glaush noted the age of the vehicle and its routine use for heavy tasks such as snow plowing.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.9. Per Capita/Occupational Tax Exemptions

MOTION by T. Tkach, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax Exemptions for August 2026.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.10. Per Capita/Occupational Tax Refunds

MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax refunds for August 2026.

-James Lambert - 2026 Occupation Tax - \$122.50 - Retired
-Susan Tertel - 2024 & 2023 Occupation Tax - \$245.00 - Disabled
-Dene Smith - 2025 Occupation Tax - \$122.50 - Retired

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.11. Activities Funds

MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by H. Neff, to approve the Lehigh Area High School and Lehigh Area Middle School Activities Funds for July 2026.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.12. Financial Reports

MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Financial Reports for July 2026.

July 2026

Condensed Board Summary
Expenditure Report
Revenue Report
Treasurer's Report
Fund Summary

D. Bradley inquired whether employee stipends approved in June were processed through payroll. J. Moser confirmed that all stipends are run through payroll and agreed to provide a report verifying this processing. L. Frey then questioned when a business manager would attend board meetings, to which J. Moser responded that a business manager is expected to attend starting with the September workshop meeting.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.13. Payment of Bills

MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the following Payment of Bills:

August 2026:

General Fund:

--Non-Negotiable	\$ 94,505.40
--Regular Checks	\$1,811,724.16
--Credit Card	\$ 0.00
Debit Card:	\$ 2,022.27
Payroll (July):	\$2,124,213.71
Capital Reserve:	\$ 7,136.00
Food Service Fund:	\$ 81,391.10
Total:	\$ 4,120,992.64

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3. Personnel

3.1. * Consent Agenda

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by J. Beers, to approve consent agenda items *3.2-*3.4.

A. Matika expressed gratitude to Ms. German, Ms. Lilly, and Ms. Johnson for their service to the district.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.2. * Cross Country Workers

Approve the following individuals to serve as event staff for the home Cross Country Meet on October 6th at a \$35.00 stipend for working the event.

Brenda Buffington
Grace Kern
Skye Hawk

Cross Country Event Workers are needed due to the large number of athletes participating for a multi-district meet.

3.3. * Resignations for Retirement

Accept the resignation for retirement of the following employees with appreciation:

Lori German - Middle School Licensed School Nurse effective October 19, 2026 after 23.98 years of service to the District.

Donna Lilly - Elementary Center Paraprofessional effective November 2, 2026 after 24.12 years of service to the District.

3.4. * Resignations

Accept the resignation of the following employees, with regret:

Vikki Johnson - High School Part-Time Cleaner effective August 3, 2026.

3.5. Candidates for Employment

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the following candidates for employment in accordance with the respective contracts, pending any necessary paperwork:

Erin Lauda - Behavior Technician at the Elementary Center at an annual salary of \$36,000.00 prorated for the 2026-2027 school year and an effective date on or about August 25, 2026.

Michael Yeakel - Paraprofessional at the Elementary Center at an annual salary of \$21,923.00 prorated for the 2026-2027 school year and an effective date on or about August 25, 2026.

Stacey Hoffman - Paraprofessional at the Elementary Center at an annual salary of \$21,923.00 prorated for the 2026-2027 school year and an effective date on or about August 25, 2026.

Noah Hottenstein - Part-Time Cleaner effective August 25, 2026 at a rate of \$13.50 per hour.

After-School Lobby Supervisor at a contracted rate of \$37.00 per hour:

Nicholas Costantino
June Potts
Timothy O'Connor
Angela Harris

Saturday AM Detention Monitors at a contracted rate of \$37.00 per hour:

Melissa Solt
Carrie Kenny
Timothy Sharrow

D. Bradley questioned the need for three Saturday detention monitors based on zero or low detention numbers listed in the state Safe Schools (PIMS) report. J. Moser and L. Frey clarified that PIMS only tracks reportable severe offenses resulting in detention rather than standard disciplinary detentions, which accounts for the low figures on that specific state report. J. Moser agreed to provide the board with a district report detailing actual Saturday detention numbers and explained that hiring three monitors allows for a rotating schedule based on staff availability. Additionally, J. Moser highlighted that the proposed behavior technician and paraprofessional positions would fully staff the district's two elementary autistic support classrooms, noting that all positions are accounted for within the passed budget through allocated funding or position reallocations following retirements.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.6. Candidates For The Substitute List

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by T. Tkach, to approve the following list of requested candidates for the 2026-2027 Substitute List, pending any necessary paperwork:

Kristine Betz - Substitute Teacher
Kathleen Silvonek - Substitute Teacher
Morgan Nothstein - Substitute Teacher
William Kunkle - Substitute Teacher
Devin Dunwoodie - Substitute Teacher
Glen Whiteman - Substitute Teacher
Shirley Rodgers - Substitute Teacher
Emily Sangiuliano - Substitute Teacher
Joseph Lynn - Substitute Teacher
Ashley Russo - Substitute Teacher
Amber Miller - Substitute Teacher
Madelyn Kessler - Substitute Teacher
Martha Cox - Substitute Teacher
Atasha Hunter - Substitute Nurse
Dorothy Pollock - Substitute Nurse
Susan Eremus - Substitute Secretary/Paraprofessional
Paula Ewing - Substitute Secretary/Paraprofessional
Kyle Smith - Substitute Secretary
Doris Sheckler - Substitute Lunch Aide
Susan McHale - Substitute Cleaner/Custodian
Stacey Hoffman - Substitute Cleaner/Custodian
Asher Andrew - Substitute Cleaner

D. Bradley left at 8:08 PM.

J. Moser noted that many of the candidates were returning individuals, including several regular substitute teachers, expressing appreciation for their continued service to the district. A. Matika concurred with those remarks.

Vote - YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.7. Candidates for Athletic Coaching/Manager

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by W. Howland, Recommendation to approve the following requests for Athletic Coaching/Manager Candidates, as per contracted rates, pending any necessary paperwork:

Emily Summers - Assistant Sideline Cheerleading Coach at a stipend of \$4,033.25.
Tatum Hartsell - Assistant Sideline Cheerleading Coach at a stipend of \$4,033.25.
Megan Kusse - Assistant Competition Cheerleading Coach at a stipend of \$4,033.25.
Zachary Zehner - Volunteer Middle School Football Coach
Tyler Rehrig - Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$4,140.34.
Alex Schwab - Junior High (Freshman) Boys Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$4,042.00.
Nicole Salerno - Assistant Girls Middle School Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$4,042.00.
Jennifer Grima - Assistant Girls Middle School Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$4,042.00.
Danielle Uyvari - Volunteer Girls Middle School Basketball Coach

Spring Head Coaches for 2026-2027 School Year:

JC Dietz - Head Baseball Coach at a stipend of \$6,323.61.
Ed Ziegenfuss - Head Softball Coach at a stipend of \$6,323.61.
Erica Pagotto - Head Track and Field Coach at a stipend of \$6,323.61.
Andrew Hozza - Head Tennis Coach at a stipend of \$3,176.95.

Fall Game Managers for the 2026-2027 school year per the Game Workers Pay Scale:

Theresa Kokinda
Diane Brownmiller
Ronald Rabenold
Timothy Sharrow

Vote - YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.8. Candidates for Extracurricular Activity Advisor

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by W. Howland, Recommendation to approve the following requests for Extracurricular Activity Advisor Candidates, as per contracted rates, pending any necessary paperwork:

Terry Haberman - Fall Weight Training Advisor at a stipend of \$1,052.30.
Lydia Weller - Theater Production - Dance Advisor at a stipend of \$750.00.

D. Bradley returned at 8:10 PM

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.9. Pre-Approval of Employee Continuing Education Courses

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by T. Tkach, to approve the following requests for pre-approval of Courses/Programs of Study for employee continuing education:

1. **Employee # 1943** - August 24-December 11, 2026 - Advanced Psychology of Learning (Educational Psychology - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
2. **Employee # 1943** - August 24-December 11, 2026 - Collaborative Consultation in Education Settings (Educational Psychology - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
- 3.. **Employee # 1072** - September 1, 2026-June 1, 2027 - Educational Development and Strategies Program (Wilkes University - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
4. **Employee # 951** - July 13-September 14, 2026 - Creating an Effective Co-Teaching Classroom (Graduate Course/Non-Degree Seeking- up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
5. **Employee # 951** - July 13-September 14, 2026 - Emotional Intelligence (Graduate Course/Non-Degree Seeking- up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
6. **Employee # 1783** -August 24-December 12, 2026 - Problem Based Learning Through Instructional Technology (Instructional Technology Certification - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
7. **Employee # 1783** - August 24-December 12, 2026 - Distance Ed/K-12 Educator (Instructional Technology Certification - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
8. **Employee # 1084** - July 28, 2026-January 27, 2027 - Transition and Life Skills Development for Students with Disabilities (Graduate Course/Non-Degree Seeking - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).

9. **Employee # 1084** - July 28, 2026-January 27, 2027 - Community Based Learning (Graduate Course/Non-Degree Seeking - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
10. **Employee # 1775** - September 1-December 1, 2026 - AI Uses for Special Education (EDUC - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 6 Semester Hours).
11. **Employee # 2002** - August 24-December 12, 2026 - Leadership for Reading Educators (Reading Specialist - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
12. **Employee # 2008** - December 16, 2026-June 19, 2028 - M.Ed. with initial Certificate Program Grades 7-12 (Kutztown University - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
13. **Employee # 2004** - August 24, 2026-June 18, 2029 - Master in Library Science Program (Kutztown University - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).
14. **Employee # 1884** - August 24, 2026-May 30, 2028 - Family & Consumer Science Ed Cert Program (Indiana University of Pennsylvania - up to \$602.00 per credit for up to 15 Semester Hours).

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4. Programs

4.1. * Consent Agenda

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve consent agenda items *4.2-*4.8.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstention
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.2. * 2026-2027 School Calendar

Approve the revisions to the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Detail revisions affected by the additional Professional Development Day on August 17, 2026.

4.3. * 2026-2027 Bus Stops

Approve the 2026-2027 Bus Stops.

Bus Routes are not posted publicly for safety purposes.

4.4. * School Meals and A La Carte Items

Approve the 2026-2027 School Meal prices as well as a la carte prices, as per the attachments.

All students at the Lehigh Area High School, Lehigh Area Middle School and Lehigh Area Elementary Center will have access to free breakfast and free lunch through the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for the 2026-2027 school year.

4.5. * 2026-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for Title I Equitable Services with CLIU#21

Approve the 2026-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for Title I Equitable Services with CLIU#21 for Title I services provided to eligible LASD students who attend non-public schools.

4.6. * PA Beef and Veal in the Classroom Grant

Accept the PA Beef and Veal in the Classroom Grant for the High School and the Middle School, should it be granted.

For 2026-2027 the Lehigh Area School District was approved for 2 grants from the Pennsylvania Beef Council for the Middle School Family Consumer Science class and the High School Family Consumer Science class for cooking lessons. We are awaiting final details.

4.7. * Community Based Instruction

Approve Special Education Community Based Instruction (CBI) Trips for the 2026-2027 School Year.

4.8. * High School Enrichment Journeys– Academic, Cultural, Performance, and Career Exploration Visits and Volunteer Opportunities

Approve 2026-2027 off-campus High School learning trips for invited classes, clubs, and student groups visiting local educational, civic, and industry sites, such as the Carbon County Courthouse, local history walks, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) campuses, St. Luke's University Health Network, and regional agricultural sites including local orchards and farms.

These experiential learning visits provide students with direct exposure to career pathways, civic processes, regional history, and hands-on scientific concepts that extend classroom instruction into real-world settings. Students will be transported either by walking, school vans, or buses funded through LAHS budget projections, and all outings will be fully chaperoned by district faculty and staff with required permissions and safety protocols maintained prior to each trip.

Purpose:

To support student engagement in community service, artistic performance, and academic enrichment through meaningful, real-world experiences that promote leadership, civic responsibility, and intellectual growth and to provide meaningful experiential learning opportunities that promote physical wellness, mental health awareness, student leadership development, and career exploration in the health and wellness fields.

4.9. School Enrichment Journeys

MOTION by J. Glaush, SECONDED by H. Neff, to approve the following School Enrichment Journey requests:

1. **LAHS Earth Science/Ecology Class (Jordan Cook)** - October 26, 2026 - 9:00-11:30 AM - No. 9 Coal Mine, Lansford, PA - Local Mining industry and ecological impacts.
2. **LAHS National Honor Society (Suzanne Howland)** - September 9, 2026 - 8:30 AM-1:30 PM - Franklin Township Fire Company - Volunteer for the Senior Expo.
3. **LAHS Student Forum (MaryJo Frehulfer)** - October 5, 2026 - 7:30 AM 2:15 PM - CLIU #21 - Student Forum Event.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.10. Use of School Property

Approval of the Use of School Property for the following requests:

1. **LABC (Jeremy Stein & Stephanie Haldeman)** - Dates TBD August November (Including Sundays) - 8:00 AM-5:00 PM - Multipurpose Stadium - Football Games.
2. **LAMS PTO (Anika Frey)** - October 24, 2026 - 1:30-10:00 PM - Middle School Parking Lot - Fundraising Opportunity for Shuttle Service to Downtown Event.
3. **Voters for Christian (Dolores Olonovich)** - September 17, 2026 - 7:00- 9:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium - Town Hall to Discuss Property Tax Reform.

MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by J. Beers to separate the LAMS PTO request from the group.

Following a reminder from D. Bradley regarding board action procedure, A. Matika opened the floor for public comment on altering the voting agenda. There was no public comment.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.10 A - MOTION by H. Neff, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the Use of School Property for the following requests:

1. **LABC (Jeremy Stein & Stephanie Haldeman)** - Dates TBD August November (Including Sundays) - 8:00 AM-5:00 PM - Multipurpose Stadium - Football Games.
3. **Voters for Christian (Dolores Olonovich)** - September 17, 2026 - 7:00- 9:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium - Town Hall to Discuss Property Tax Reform.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.10 B - MOTION by J. Glaush, **SECONDED** by W. Howland, to approve the Use of School Property for the following requests:
2. LAMS PTO (Anika Frey) - October 24, 2026 - 1:30-10:00 PM - Middle School Parking Lot - Fundraising Opportunity for Shuttle Service to Downtown Event.

An extended debate occurred among board members regarding district facilities usage, safety, and content neutrality. H. Neff and J. Beers voiced reservations about the nature of the event, with H. Neff arguing that the district should prioritize student safety over questionable fundraising activities and noting that alternative parking was available downtown. Conversely, D. Hartley warned that rejecting the request while having just approved a political event set a dangerous and discriminatory precedent, maintaining that the board must remain inclusive rather than arbitrarily deciding which legal groups are permitted on campus. D. Bradley asserted that as elected representatives, directors have a moral obligation to scrutinize each request individually and establish appropriate oversight, emphasizing that different events present distinct safety risks that warrant board discretion.

As the discussion progressed, J. Moser clarified for the board that the PTO was not asking to host the market on school grounds, but rather to use the parking lot solely for visitor parking and shuttle transportation. J. Moser and District Secretary J. Partenio confirmed that under District Policy 707, the board could mandate security for the event at the applicant's expense without needing to amend the motion. J. Glaush added that during a past instance when the shuttle service was allowed, local law enforcement and a stationing resource officer reported no safety issues or disruptions. Following the exchange, J. Beers called the question, and A. Matika directed J. Partenio to take a roll-call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	0	X	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	0	X	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	X	0	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	0	X	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

YES - 5 NO - 4 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion Passed.

4.11. Disposal of Surplus Property

MOTION by J. Glaush, **SECONDED** by H. Neff, to approve the disposal of the attached unneeded surplus, unusable, and/or obsolete property from the District that is consuming valuable storage space according to policy 706.1.

H. Neff requested that the supervisor field on the administrative form be updated to reflect that the district no longer maintains an assistant superintendent position, a change acknowledged by A. Matika.

Vote - YES - 9 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

A. Matika stated there were no miscellaneous items, no old or new business items and no Directors' concerns were received.

5. Miscellaneous

None at the time.

6. Old Business

None at the time.

7. New Business for Discussion

None at the time.

8. Communications

8.1. Director's Concerns

In accordance with Policy 006 - Board Members may submit items for the agenda in writing, together with supporting materials, before noon - five (5) days prior to regularly scheduled Board meetings. All items so submitted shall appear under the category Directors' Concerns.

D. Bradley raised a concern regarding the board's contractual and statutory obligation under Pennsylvania School Code Section 1073.1 to complete the superintendent's annual performance evaluation. D. Bradley distributed a prepared statement to the board and argued against using an evaluation form provided by a third-party entity like the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), asserting instead that the board must collect district data and deliberate publicly before conducting evaluations in executive session. A heated exchange ensued involving A. Matika, T. Tkach, and D. Bradley over time constraints, parliamentary procedure, and First Amendment rights. D. Bradley formally introduced a motion to postpone the superintendent's performance evaluation. In framing the motion, D. Bradley argued that the board was failing to uphold its statutory and fiduciary responsibilities, accusing the majority of blocking necessary district data and relying on a third-party lobbyist's evaluation template rather than criteria established under the Pennsylvania Department of Education school code. D. Bradley asserted that proper protocol required the board to first collect comprehensive performance data and deliberate on those data points in a public forum. Under D. Bradley's proposed procedure, the board would only convene in a private executive session to execute the staff and superintendent evaluations after completing that public review. D. Bradley characterized the motion to postpone as a necessary departure from what was described as past tactics of plausible deniability and lack of transparency within the board.

8.2. Public Comment

Amidst the tension, A. Matika called for public comment, but there was none.

8.3. Adjournment

MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by W. Howland, to adjourn the Meeting.

YES - 8 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

D. Bradley did not vote since he was talking.

The August 24, 2026 Board Meeting was officially adjourned at 8:32 PM.

***Following the official adjournment, D. Bradley continued to maintain the floor, asserting that A. Matika lacked the authority to silence him while he had an active motion on the floor, claiming his First Amendment rights were being violated regarding an ongoing board responsibility. As T. Tkach attempted to interject to allow Board Solicitor J. Sultanik to speak, a sharp dispute arose between T. Tkach and D. Bradley over floor control and parliamentary order. D. Bradley then cited student performance metrics, stating that over 50 percent of district students were failing to meet PSSA standards across ten performance areas.*

When Atty. J. Sultanik began to address the procedural mechanics of how a board handles a motion to delay an evaluation, D. Bradley interrupted to clarify that he was not currently introducing a formal motion, sparking a debate over whether a motion was actually on the floor. Atty. J. Sultanik noted that a member cannot unilaterally initiate a motion without proper board approval or an agenda amendment under recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court precedent. D. Bradley repeatedly maintained that he was not introducing a motion at that moment, but was rather utilizing board floor time to emphasize the board's statutory mandate under School Code Section 1073.1 and duty of fidelity under Section 321. Atty. J. Sultanik acknowledged the distinction, confirming that while an individual member cannot unilaterally bring a motion on the floor without procedure, the board maintains an unquestioned legal and contractual obligation to evaluate the superintendent annually.

D. Bradley then resumed reading his prepared statement, referencing historical district hazing incidents, court litigations, and financial settlements as rationale for thorough board oversight. He read aloud an email from Board Treasurer L. Frey dated August 14, in which L. Frey expressed difficulty evaluating daily administrative functions without direct staff input and suggested anonymous feedback from the administrative team. D. Bradley criticized this stance, characterizing it as an attempt to "rubber stamp" evaluations rather than fulfill elected duties. During this address, D. Hartley and J. Glaush noted that the meeting's public live stream had ended and members of the audience were leaving. D. Bradley acknowledged the stream's conclusion and stated the statement would be shared publicly regardless. J. Glaush concluded the exchange by noting that board members can effectively evaluate the superintendent using gathered community feedback, meeting observations, and standard forms without needing internal administrative surveys.

Notice was made by D. Hartley and J. Glaush that the live stream of the meeting had disconnected during the statement. J. Glaush noted that board members gather sufficient information through community interactions, meeting observations, and administrative feedback to complete the evaluation using the current form. D. Bradley then concluded his presentation since the live stream ended and the room cleared.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Karpowicz, Board Secretary
By Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary