



**Southern Lehigh School District  
Board of School Directors  
School Board Meeting  
January 8, 2024**

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School Board Meeting  
January 8, 2024  
Southern Lehigh High School  
High School Boardroom  
5800 Main Street  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
6:30 p.m.**

**School Board Meeting Minutes Monday, January 8, 2024 pending approval.**

**Members Present:** Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Melissa Torba

**Members Absent:** Mary Joy Reinartz, Christopher Wayock

**Administrators Present:** Ethan Ake-Little, Andria Buchman, Michael Mahon, Joshua Miller, Michael Rohrbach, Tamara Solometo, Christopher Summa, Karen Trinkle

**Others Present:** Anne Marie Lobley

**1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- a. Call to Order
  - i. Emily Gehman called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm
- b. Recording of Attendance
  - i. Present: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Melissa Torba
  - ii. Absent: Mary Joy Reinartz, Christopher Wayock
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
  - i. Emily Gehman led the Board and others attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**2. VISITORS' COMMENTS**

- a. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker to provide input to the board on items that are before us, or may come for us for a vote.

- i. Jamie Caverly spoke on the topic of full day kindergarten.

### **3. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

- a. Southern Lehigh Education Foundation Update
  - i. Michael Mahon provided the following update on the Southern Lehigh Education Foundation: organization structure, board members and where to find additional information on our [website](#). Appreciation expressed to SLEF for their support of District initiatives. Questions and comments occurred by the Board.
- b. District Update
  - i. Michael Mahon provided the following district updates: acknowledgement of School Board Appreciation month, welcome extended to Melissa Petronio, our new Assistant Principal for the High School who was in attendance for the meeting and notation made regarding tomorrow's rain/flooding event, closely monitoring with local authorities.

### **4. CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF SERVICES**

- a. Presentation: [Southern Lehigh High School English Language Arts Curriculum](#)
  - i. Dr. Karen Trinkle and Dr. Tamara Solmeto presented on the Southern Lehigh High School English Language Arts Curriculum highlighting the following: Dr. Trinkle noted that the presentation will be focused on Study Sync as it relates to grade 12. Dr. Solometo and Dr Trinkle provided an overview of what StudySync is, how this was selected for grades 7-11 and rationale for the inclusion of StudySync for grade 12. Dr. Solometo noted how the implementation and timeline will work. Professional development offerings will be extensive and guided for what teachers need. Micheal Mahon provided details for why the move is occurring to StudySync for grade 12 core. Amy Bausher provided teacher input regarding Study Sync. Questions and comments from the Board concluded this presentation.

*Nicole King left the meeting at 7:06 pm and returned at 7:37 pm*

- b. Presentation: [Southern Lehigh High School Course of Studies](#)
  - i. Mr. Joshua Miller presented on the Southern Lehigh High School Course of Studies noting the following: dual enrollment will be renamed to college credit programs, english: updates made to reflect StudySync curriculum for grades 9-12, science: removal of survey of science due to low enrollment numbers and reactivated courses, geology, meteorology and astronomy. Social Studies systematic changes being made. Current students will be grandfathered, new students will move into the updated pathway. Family and consumer science: movement from full year to half year course. Tech Ed/STEM courses: name changes and descriptions

noted. Visual Arts: prerequisite updates for courses and Portfolio II removed due to low enrollment numbers. Input from the Board given regarding LCTI specifically the Emerging Health and Animal Science majors. Personal Finance course as a requirement in 2026 per PDE was noted. Dr. Trinkle closed out the presentation expressing gratitude for the work that has been done on the Program of Study.

## 5. BUDGET AND FINANCE

- a. Preliminary discussion of 2022-2023 local audit
  - i. A preliminary discussion of the 2022-2023 local audit occurred. Michael Mahon noted the following: the auditor will be at the 1/22/24 board meeting to provide the full report. District has a new firm this year. Local audit report is clear with no findings with a surplus for the year. Challenges moving forward are: debt, maintenance projects, millage and medical and pension costs.

## 6. FACILITIES

- a. Update on project prioritization
  - i. The following updates were provided on project prioritization: 14-17 million dollar major maintenance projects ahead. EI Associates is looking at prioritization. Future presentations will be made to the Facilities Committee and full Board.
- b. Update on building entry maintenance
  - i. Server Virtualization
    - 1. The following updates on building entry maintenance and server virtualization were made: Issues with District doors remaining locked were noted, firmware upgrade will be done to correct this. Savings from the server virtualization will be applied toward this upgrade. Work will begin soon..
- c. Update on Liberty Bell Elementary playground project
  - i. Michael Mahon provided the following update on the Liberty Bell Elementary playground project: thanks extended to the PTA for contributions for the Liberty Bell Elementary playground project.

## 7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Ethan Ake-Little provided a brief update on all items listed on the Human Resources Report.

- a. [Human Resources Report](#)
  - i. **Motion to approve the following personnel items presented in the Human Resources Report.**

Motion: Candi Kruse, seconded by Stephen Maund

Motion Carried

No Discussion Followed

Yea: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Melissa Torba

Nay: None

Absent: Mary Joy Reinartz and Christopher Wayock

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### a. LCTI JOC Representatives

- i. **Motion to appoint Timothy Kearney and Stephen Maund to the LCTI JOC (Joint Operating Committee) for the term December 2023 through December 31, 2026.**

Motion: Candi Kruse, seconded by Nicole King

Motion Carried

No Discussion Followed

Yea: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Melissa Torba

Nay: None

Absent: Mary Joy Reinartz and Christopher Wayock

### b. Other Reports

- i. Committees formation of education, technology and policy. Along with current committee Facilities, APMC & Negotiations.
  1. APMC Timothy Kearney noted committee met in December. Methods of education discussed. Approved list of schools reviewed and noted that list should be used to provide guidance.
  2. Facilities Committee: Eric Boyer noted that they are looking to schedule a public meeting later this month or beginning of February.
  3. Technology committee: Melissa Torba noted that meeting dates will be established soon.
  4. Education committee Timothy Kearney noted that a meeting dates will be established soon.
  5. Policy committee: Emily Gehman noted that discussions are occurring. Meeting dates will be announced.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. No other business was noted.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Timothy Kearney provided an update on the upcoming musical, holiday events at Liberty Bell and Hopewell, HS Winter Concert and the Robotics kick off event.
- b. Melissa Torbra extended congratulations to the competition cheer squad for moving onto states.

**11. VISITORS' COMMENTS**

- a. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker to provide input to the board
  - i. No visitor comments were made at this time.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Adjourn
  - i. Emily Gehman adjourned the meeting at: 8:20 pm.
    - 1. Motion: Stephen Maund

*Respectfully submitted by Anne Marie Loble*

*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Meeting Recorder*