



**Southern Lehigh School District  
Board of School Directors  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2024**

**Southern Lehigh School District  
School Board Meeting  
June 10, 2024  
Southern Lehigh Middle School  
Auditorium  
3715 Preston Lane  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
6:30 p.m.**

**School Board Meeting Minutes Monday, June 10, 2024 pending approval.**

**Members present:** Eric Boyer (phone connection until arrival at 7:13 pm in person), Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse (remote by phone), Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Melissa Torba, Christopher Wayock

**Members absent: None**

**Administrators present:** Ethan Ake-Little, Michael Mahon, Louis Pepe, Jim Stulgis, Karen Trinkle

**Others present:** Anne Marie Lobley

**1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- a. Call to Order
  - i. Emily Gehman called the meeting to order at: 6:42 pm
- b. Recording of Attendance
  - i. Present: Eric Boyer (remote by phone at time of roll call-present in person at 7:13 pm) Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse (remote by phone), Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Melissa Torba, Christopher Wayock
  - ii. Absent: None
- 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. Shannon Stokes spoke on the topic of theater program needs
  - ii. Lisa Maloney spoke on the topic of arts
  - iii. Renee D'Amico spoke on the topic of funding for the 2024-2025 budget
  - iv. Pat D'Amico spoke on the topic of funding for the 2024-2025 budget
  - v. Tammy Evans spoke on the topic of funding for the 2024/2025 budget
  - vi. Sophie W spoke on the topic of budget requests
  - vii. Patrick D spoke on the topic of budget requests
  - viii. Kyle Gangewere spoke on the topic of theater
  - ix. Betty G spoke on the topic of theater
  - x. Maria Ault spoke on the topic of students and parents
  - xi. Jamie Caverly spoke on the topic of RFP
  - xii. Julie Bird spoke on the topic of full day kindergarten and school counselors
  - xiii. Wyatt Mullins-Bell spoke on the topic of budget
  - xiv. Jonathan Saunders spoke on the topic of budget
  - xv. Molly Frey spoke on the topic of budget
  - xvi. Orrin Bossert spoke on the topic of budget
  - xvii. Aimee Saunders spoke on the topic of budget
  - xviii. Carolyn Boscia spoke on the topic of Title IX changes

*Eric Boyer arrived in person at 7:13 pm*

## **3. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

- a. District updates
  - i. Michael Mahon provided the following District updates: thank you was extended to student speakers, high school administration and staff along with a congratulations extended to our graduating class of 2024. In conclusion of district updates it was noted that the board meeting schedule for the 24-25 calendar year is up for discussion tonight.
- b. Discussion Item: 2024-2025 Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Calendar
  - i. Michael Mahon opened discussion regarding the 2024-2025 Southern Lehigh School Board calendar. A draft calendar was provided to the board for consideration highlighting the following: the committee of the whole meeting (workshop) on the second Monday of the month would be replaced by committee meetings. The committee meetings would fall on the first and second Mondays of the Month with the committee of the whole, (voting meeting) continuing to fall on the fourth Monday of the month. This new schedule provides organization structure for committees. Discussion occurred by the Board. Board President, Emily Gehman noted

that the committee chairs do not prefer this draft schedule and agree that predictability is needed. Alternative schedule would be preferred. Concerns were addressed from Board members regarding the time schedules of committee meetings for working families along with the elimination of Board workshops. Suggestion was made by Administration for a potential to keep the workshop but move to all Mondays in the month for committee, workshop and voting meetings. Conflict was noted regarding CLIU 21 Board meetings which fall on the third Monday of the month. Discussion concluded noting that Committee Chairs will work with the Board President to create the 2024-2025 Board and Committee meeting schedule.

- ii. Discussion occurred among the Board on the agenda process and in light of visitor comments it was decided that the Theatre discussion would occur tonight. Emily Gehman indicated what adjustments should be made to the final budget for the 24-25 year they are as follows: increase from \$12,000 to \$25,000 for the theater budget, \$2500 increase each to the music department budgets for Liberty Bell and Hopewell, \$5000 increase to the JPLIS music department budget, \$5000 increase to the middle school budget. \$4500 deficit from Debate team in the current fiscal to be covered by the District. Also for the Administration to work with the Debate team for additional expenses as they occur during the 24-25 fiscal year. Lastly, 20-25 new microphone packs to be purchased using the current fiscal year surplus. Notation made that costs being currently covered by the music parents in the amount of \$7500 would be covered by the District and an adjustment would be made to the 24-25 Budget for this. Louis Pepe clarified requests made by the Board President indicating that she is asking for an adjustment of \$39,500 to the budget for the 24-25 year? Agreement of yes noted by the Board President. Discussion occurred among Board members regarding the additional Assistant Directors stipends for Theatre requested in the public comments this evening. Notation was made that this would need to be added to the ancillary worker schedule. This amount would be between \$7000-\$9000 dollars. Clarification occurred regarding revenue from ticket sales and where funds will remain in the budget. Mr. Pepe then noted the Budget process for the District. Discussion concluded noting that proposed changes outlined from this conversation and clarified tonight by Mr. Pepe would have Board support.

*Stephen Maund left the meeting at 8:10 pm and returned at 8:12 pm*

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

**Motion to take items a and b together under category 4. Curriculum/Student and Staff Services**

Motion: Timothy Kearney, seconded by Candi Kruse

Motion Carried

Discussed occurred

Yea: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Melissa Torba, Christopher Wayock

Nay: None

Abstain: None

- a. Request for Proposals (RFP) Comprehensive feasibility study for Full Day Kindergarten
  - i. **Motion to authorize administration to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive feasibility study for Full Day Kindergarten for the Southern Lehigh School District.**
- b. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement to Participate FY 2024-2025
  - i. **Motion to approve Southern Lehigh School District participation in the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS program (SBAP) Local Education Agency for the FY 2024-2025 per the attachment below.**
    1. [FY 2024-2025 SBAP LEA Agreement](#)

## 5. TECHNOLOGY

Melissa Torba provided a brief committee report for the technology committee meetings held on May 9, 2024 and June 6, 2024 specifically discussing the use of Chromebooks for 7th grade and state of Applecare which is expiring for current student devices. Cost of repairs noted for Macbooks along with overall cost for Chromebooks and Macbooks purchased as new. Task force suggested to look into what would be best for students and staff. Notation made that Melissa Torba would be a no for the vote on Chromebooks this evening.

- a. Middle School Chromebooks
  - i. **Motion to authorize the purchase of approximately 275 Chromebooks for 7th grade student use at Southern Lehigh Middle School in the 2024-2025 School Year.**

Motion: Stephen Maund, seconded Christopher Wayock

Discussion occurred

Call to question: Emily Gehman

Yea: Nicole King, Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Christopher Wayock

Nay: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Candi Kruse, Melissa Torba

Abstain: None

Motion does not carry

## **6. HUMAN RESOURCES**

Dr. Ethan Ake-Little provided a brief update of all agenda items listed under category 6. Human Resources

Motion: Christopher Wayock, seconded by Eric Boyer

Motion carried

Discussion occurred

Yea: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Melissa Torba, Christopher Wayock

Nay: None

Abstain: None

- a. Human Resources Report
  - i. **Motion to approve the following personnel items presented in the Human Resources Report.**
    - 1. [Human Resources Report June 2024](#)
- b. Policy First and Second Readings
  - i. **Motion to approve second reading of policies: 105.1, 105.2, 114, 117.**
    - a. [Policies Second Reading](#)

**Motion to take first and second readings of policies together.**

Motion: Christopher Wayock, seconded by Mary Joy Reinartz

Motion Carried

Discussion occurred

Yea: Eric Boyer, Emily Gehman, Timothy Kearney, Nicole King, Candi Kruse, Stephen Maund, Mary Joy Reinartz, Melissa Torba, Christopher Wayock

Nay: None

Abstain: None

- ii. **Motion to approve first reading of policies: 103.1, 622, 625, 704, 706, 708, 828.**

- a. **Policies First Reading**

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Facilities: Committee met on June 4, 2024 update on HVAC project for the High School made and presently on target for finish on time. Update on grant submissions for roof projects and chiller projects was made. RFP discussion for the High School Library is moving forward for the June 24, 2024 Board meeting. Changes for the auditorium at High School level may be within the library project.
- b. Technology: Report made earlier this evening
- c. Education: RFP for all day Kindergarten discussed at the last meeting
- d. APMC: Next meeting July 17, 2024
- e. Policy: no report
- f. LCTI: update from last meeting was provided by Timothy Kearney to the Board members. Awards received by LCTI Seniors from SLSD noted. Status of enrollments shared.
- g. CLIU: upcoming meeting on June 17, 2024

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. No new business items were presented.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. The following other business items were addressed: Various community and District events provided by Timothy Kearney. Congratulations regarding Freddy awards noted. SLEA retirement recognition event noted and requested to have the district bring back the end of the year event made.

**10. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Congratulations extended to the Middle School ESports Team.

- a. **Field Trip Requests**

**11. VISITORS' COMMENTS**

- a. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker to provide input to the board.
  - i. Julie Bird spoke on the topic of respond to board discussion this evening
  - ii. Shannon Stokes spoke on the topic of budget
  - iii. Kristin Seasholtz spoke on the topic of theater

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Adjourn
  - i. Emily Gehman adjourned the meeting at 10:01 pm
    - 1. Motion to adjourn: Timothy Kearney

*Respectfully submitted by Anne Marie Lobley  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Meeting Recorder*