LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2026

The combined Committee-of-the-Whole and regular monthly meeting for voting purposes of the Lake-Lehman Board of School Directors was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, rescheduled from August 17th, in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Wright, at 7:07 p.m., and opened with Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

DIRECTORS	ROLL CALL
Robert Baran	Present
Sarah Saylor Kashatus	Present
Christine Napierkowski	Absent
Drew Salko	Present
Jean Sayre	Present
Mark Wallace	Present
Scott Walsh	Present
Robert Wojtowicz	Present
Robert Wright	Present

Others Present:
James E. McGovern, Superintendent
Tracey Liparela, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mary Jo Casaldi, Superintendent's Administrative Asst./Board Secretary
Sarah Modrick, Esq., District Solicitor
Joseph Caputo, Business Consultant
Matthew Nonnenberg, Junior-Senior High School Principal
Donald James, Administrator
Tabitha Miscavage Spagnuolo, Lehman-Jackson Elem. Principal/Personnel/Benefits Coordinator
Mike Kostrobala, Ross Elementary Principal
Doug Klopp, Lake-Noxen Elementary Principal
Lori Bednarek, Special Projects Coordinator
Brian Murphy, Technology Coordinator
Tina Antonello, Special Education Director
Erica Orock, School Psychologist
Brady Butler, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Arthur Price	Scott Price	Richelle Steele	Lindsay Cupp	Cheryl Koval
Mary Simmons	Tommy Johnson	Kelly Brelsford	Patty Hackling	Mark Major
Valerie Nat	Cathy Marchakitus	Courtney Judge	Kate Hubbell	

READING OF MEETING NOTICE
Mrs. Mary Jo Casaldi, Board Secretary, read the meeting notice published in the Times Leader newspaper.

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

- An Executive Session of the Board was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 to discuss:

  A. Coaching/extra-curricular appointments/potential openings
  B. Security Contracts
  C. Support Staff openings
  D. Personnel
  E. Professional Staff openings
  F. Grievances

- An Executive Session of the Board was also held on Thursday, August 20, 2026 to discuss:

  A. Coaching/extra-curricular appointments/potential openings
  B. Security Contracts
  C. Support Staff openings
  D. Personnel
  E. Professional Staff openings
  F. Grievances

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:

- Mr. McGovern announced that the first day of school is set for Monday, August 31, 2026 and noted that anyone who has not registered their child should contact the school registrar's office.

- Mr. McGovern thanked the custodial staff, summer staff and Mr. Butler and his maintenance team for all of their hard work with summer projects and preparing for the start of the school year.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

No Report.

WEST SIDE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Salko presented a report from the June 24th meeting of the WSCTC Joint Operating Committee.

LUZERNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

Mr. Walsh reported on highlights of the June 17th meeting of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

No Report.

FOOD SERVICE
No Report.

OLD BUSINESS
No items.

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. Salko, seconded by Mrs. Sayre, to approve the following minutes.

July 20, 2026 - 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 August 26, 2026 in the amount of $817,796.78 and interim payments dated August 7, 2026, in the amount of $12,741.52, and July 24, 2026, in the amount of $26,745.55; subject to audit.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT
Motion was made by Mr. Baron, seconded by Mrs. Sayre, to approve the treasurer's report as of July 31, 2026.

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 May, 2026

- Lake-Noxen Activity Fund

Balances as of June 31, 2026

- Lake-Noxen Activity Fund

Balances as of July 31, 2026

- Athletic Fund
- Food Service
- Jr/Sr High School Activity Fund
- Jr/Sr High School Principal's Fund

- Ross Activity Fund
- Lehman-Jackson Activity Fund
- Lake-Noxen Activity Fund

ACTION ITEMS:

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

1. Approve the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School Student handbook for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

2. Approve the Lake-Lehman School District Elementary Student Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

3. Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Doreen Johnson, Elementary Teacher, effective July 19, 2026.

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

4. Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Erin Yurko, Elementary Special Education Teacher, effective August 25, 2026.

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

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

A.	Elementary Special Education Teacher

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

6. Appoint Daniel Luce of Dallas as a Temporary Professional Employee, effective for the start of the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of $49,981.00, Bachelor’s Level, Step 1. Initial assignment: Elementary Teacher. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

7. Appoint Alissa Fenner of Shavertown as a Temporary Professional Employee, effective for the start of the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of $49,981.00, Bachelor’s Level, Step 1. Initial assignment: Elementary Teacher. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

8. Appoint Sarah Wittle of Dallas as a Temporary Professional Employee, effective for the start of the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of $53,830.00, Masters Level, Step 1. Initial assignment: Elementary Special Education Teacher. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
No items.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES
Motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. Walsh to move on the following items:

1. Approve the following as School & Booster Volunteers for the 2026-2027 school year; all clearances on file:

A	Damian Concklin	E	Allen Scott
B	Miley Judge	F	Jared Vedro
C	Maria Morreale	G	Julie Vedro
D	Lawrence Romero	H.	Cate Makarczyk

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

2. Appoint Patricia Hackling of Noxen as Athletic Director, effective immediately at a stipend of $10,934.03, for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

3. Rescind the following Assistant Coach appointments for the 2026-2027 season:

A.	March 16, 2026	Motion 3-W	Janene Kasarda	JH Field Hockey
B.	March 16, 2026	Motion 3-Q	Donald Michalisin	JH Boys Soccer

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

4. Appoint the following Assistant Coaches/ Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2026-2027 school year, all clearances on file.

A.	Allen Scott	Varsity Cross Country	$1,225.82
B.	Scott Renfer	JH Football	$4,847.47
C.	Damian Concklin	Football	Volunteer
D.	Robert Lugiano	Golf	$1,262.06
E.	Amy Hadaway	Field Hockey	Volunteer
F.	Rebecca White	Girls Volleyball	Volunteer
G.	Brynn Anna Sweppenheiser	Jr High Volleyball	Volunteer

Vote: Upon roll call, Mr. Salko voted yes on 4 (A) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G), and no on 4(B). All other directors present voted yes on all; motion carried.

5. Appoint the following Assistant Coaches/ Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of all clearances within the mandated timeframe.

A.	Garrett Jesse	JH Boys Soccer	$2,796.13
B.	Paul Jesse	Boys Soccer	Volunteer
C.	Fred Hodges	JH Boys Basketball	$3,370.31

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

6. Post for the position of junior-high assistant wrestling coach for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

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

1. Approve the transportation fuel reimbursement in the amount of $68,777.44 for Back Mountain Transit Co. Inc., for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

2. Approve the list of bus/van drivers for the 2026-2027 school year. All clearances on file.

Back Mountain Transit					
A-1	James Barrall	O-1	Eileen Headman	C-2	Michael Peck
B-1	Joan Belles	P-1	Morgan Headman	D-2	Patricia Rifenbery
C-1	Belle Boice	Q-1	Donna Hopfer	E-2	Nancy Romanowski
D-1	Leonard Crawford	R-1	Denise Hosey	F-2	Rodney Simon
E-1	Shirly Crawford	S-1	Douglas Johnstone	G-2	Barbara Shaver
F-1	Amanda Daubert	T-1	Michael Kasper	H-2	Barry Shaver
G-1	Lorrie Duris	U-1	Courtney Kreidler	I-2	Sue Sutton
H-1	Sally Emanuel	V-1	Fran Lewis	J-2	Eugina Traver
I-1	Patricia Englehardt	W-1	Kyndra Lutz	K-2	Sandy Traver
J-1	Joe Foose	X-1	Nikki Maciejczak	L-2	Toni Traver
K-1	Chad Fox	Y-1	Joann McRoy	M-2	Tony Traver
L-1	Debbie Frear	Z-1	Rachel Miers	N-2	Sharron Walker
M-1	Karen Gingrich	A-2	Angie Mock	O-2	Vince Williamson
N-1	Desirae Headman	B-2	Emily Murphy	P-2	John Young

Keystone Valley LLC					
A-3	Kenneth Pizano	F-3	Taryn Groves		
B-3	Kenneth Pizano, Jr.	G-3	Jennifer Thomas		
C-3	Beth Kaminski	H-3	Tyquasha Haynes		
D-3	Rhonda Forester	I-3	Deanna Jordan		
E-3	John Coulton	J-3	Evelyn Kline		
Van Contractors/Drivers					
A-4	Kurt Jones	C-4	Roxann Williams		
B-4	Al Scovish				

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

1. Approve the revised job description for the position of: Child Accounting/PIMS Clerk.

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

2. Appoint Sheila Cooper of Dallas as Full-Time Food Service Worker (Cook), effective immediately, at an hourly rate of $15.00. Pending receipt of clearances within the mandated timeframe.

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

3. Accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Christopher Traver, Full-Time Custodian, effective October 2, 2026; and authorize administration to advertise for the position.

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

SCHOOL BOARD

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

1. Renew the Facility Use Agreement between the Lake-Lehman School District and the American National Red Cross for use of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School as a disaster relief center to be used as a shelter and a service delivery site for victims in the event of a disaster.

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

2. Approve the Pet Addendum to the American National Red Cross Facility Use Agreement to allow the Red Cross to permit its clients while occupying a portion of the premises to keep only those pets described, as per terms and conditions outlined in the Addendum. Household pets including assistance/therapy animals, service and or guide animals will be permitted. All other terms and conditions are defined in the Addendum.

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

3. Approve the MOU between Lake-Lehman School District and the United Way of Wyoming Valley outlining participation in the Nurse's Pantry Initiative for the 2026-2027 school year. Amount of award for Lake-Lehman School District: $2,200.00.

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

4. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Lake-Lehman School District and the United Way of Wyoming Valley for participation in the See to Succeed Program for the purpose of additional vision screening services for school nurses and students through use of the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener. Duration of the program: the 2026-2027 school year.

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

5. Approve the settlement agreement and release for parents of and on behalf of student # 864357 in the amount of $50,000.00, with $25,000.00 of the total amount designated as a compensatory education fund for said student.

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

6. Approve the ESL contract between Lake-Lehman School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, for English Language Development Services for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of $110.94 per hour, approximately 4 hours per day.

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

7. Approve the Title III Consortium MOU between Lake-Lehman School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

8. Approve and execute 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, 2026.

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

9. Approve and execute 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, 2025.

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

10. Ratify the renewal of the appointment of Assured Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as broker of record for Liability Insurance coverage at a total cost of $295,870, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

11. Ratify the renewal of the appointment of Assured Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as broker of record to provide Student Accident/Health, Insurance coverage, at a total cost of $19,055, effective August 1, 2026 until July 31, 2027.

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

12. Exonerate Jarett P. Tuttle of Wyoming County, from payment of all real estate taxes becoming due and payable after the effective date of June 30, 2026, which apply to the property listed on the Real Property Tax 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 directors present voted yes; motion carried.

13. Approve a leave of absence for Employee #3440 effective September 20, 2026 – January 1, 2027. It is understood the leave will consist of sick, personal, vacation and unpaid days in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act; leave will exceed 60 days.

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

14. Approve the termination of Employee #2787, effective, August 31, 2026.

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

15. 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	$195.00

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

16. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Tommy Johnson, Lake-Lehman Youth Basketball, for use of the junior-senior high school new gymnasium/old gymnasium for youth basketball practice to be held from September through March. Practice dates and times listed on the schedule are upon availability.

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

17. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Tommy Johnson, Lake-Lehman Youth Basketball, for use of the elementary school gymnasiums for youth basketball practice to be held September through March. Practice dates and times listed on the schedule are upon availability for the following elementary buildings:

A.	Lehman-Jackson Elementary
B.	Ross Elementary
C.	Lake-Noxen Elementary

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

18. Approve the application for Use of Facilities submitted by Amy Lingobardo, Lake-Lehman Elementary Wrestling, for use of the junior-senior high lobby area for in-person registration on September 30, 2026 and October 7, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

19. Approve the application for Use of Facilities submitted by Amy Lingobardo, Lake-Lehman Elementary Wrestling, for use of the junior-senior high wrestling room for practice from October 1, 2026 through May 30, 2027, Monday through Friday; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., upon availability.

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

20. Approve the application for Use of Facilities submitted by Amy Lingobardo, Lake-Lehman Elementary Wrestling, for use of the junior-senior high old and new gymnasiums, concession stand, locker rooms, cafeteria and lobby for a wrestling tournament to be held on January 9, 2027 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with a reschedule date of January 16, 2027, in the event of inclement weather.

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

21. Appoint the following individuals as Lake-Lehman Armed Security Guards at an hourly rate of $37.00 per hour, pending receipt of clearances and necessary certifications.

A.	Scott Price of Shavertown
B.	Scott Renfer of Hunlock Creek

Vote: Upon roll call, Mr. Salko voted yes on 21(A) and no on 21(B). All other directors present voted yes; motion carried.

INFORMATION AND RECOGNITION

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

BOARD DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE BUSINESS

No items.

SET MEETING DATES

The combined Committee-of-the-Whole and regular monthly meeting for voting purposes has been scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

VISITORS

Mrs. Valerie Nat, addressed the board in regard to concerns surrounding the Lake-Lehman girls volleyball program and requested that her concerns be addressed at the appropriate administrative level.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wright called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wallace motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz. Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Non-Member, Board Secretary
Mary Jo Casaldi