

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

March 16, 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 Monday, March 16, 2026, 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

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

ROLL CALL

Others Present:

Tracey Liparela, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mary Jo Casaldi, Superintendent's Administrative Asst./Board Secretary
Avery Smith, Esq., District Solicitor
Joseph Caputo, Business Consultant
Tabitha Miscavage Spagnuolo, Personnel Benefits Coordinator/Lehman-Jackson Elem. Principal
Matthew Nonnenberg, Junior-Senior High School Principal
Donald James, District Principal
Mike Kostrobala, Ross Elementary Principal
Brian Murphy, Technology Coordinator
Jeff Shook, Athletic Director/School Resource Office
Tina Antonello, Special Education Director
Erica Orock, School Psychologist
Brady Butler, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Bill Evans	Arthur Price	Gina Major	Mark Major	Dallas Hanna
Ella Aritz	Richelle Steele	Joe Steele	Scott Price	Ryan McGurk
Tracey McGurk	John McGurk	Chris Kuhar	Rachel Gruver	Tina Pinkney
Colby Galka	Courtney Judge	Jon Runquist	Connor Runquist	Rich Cronin
Ava Baran	Beau Baran			

EXECUTIVE SESSION An Executive Session of the Board was held on Monday, March 16, 2026 to discuss:

- A. Coaching/extra-curricular appointments/potential openings
- B. LLEA/LLESPA Grievances
- C. Security Contracts

- D. Support Staff openings
- E. Potential purchase of property
- F. Personnel

READING OF MISSION

Mrs. Liparela 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

Mrs. Liparela, Assistant Superintendent, provided a report on the following:

- Spring Musical - The Lake-Lehman Theatre Troupe will present You’re a Good man Charlie Brown next month on April 18th and 19th. Information will be shared in a global call and on the district’s Facebook page. Tonight, we welcome the Peanuts Gang to share a song with us from the production. (Cast members entertained with a musical selection.)
- Jeff Shook, Athletic Director, introduced Coach Chris Kuhar who presented Connor Runquist, with a Certificate of Athletic Achievement for being awarded District II Swimming - 500 Freestyle Champion. Coach Kuhar thanked Mr. McGovern and the Board for their support of the program.
- Mrs. Liparela announced that the Junior-Senior High School Chorus Concert is scheduled for March 17th at 7 p.m.
- Online Kindergarten Registration will open on April 1st. The online registration must be completed prior to the in-person component and screening in May. May dates are as follows for the in-person screening: May 18th - Lake-Noxen, May 19th - Lehman-Jackson and May 20th – Ross.
- The 2026-2027 school calendar is on the agenda for approval this evening. The first day of school is scheduled for August 31, 2026. This was decided based on how late Labor Day falls this year.
- There is a motion relative to PIAA playoffs on the agenda. This is in reference to non-boundary schools such as cyber, cyber/charter, private and parochial having their own athletic playoff and championship games.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Brady Butler, Buildings and Grounds Director, reported on the following:

- The Maintenance Department has been busy preparing the outdoor facilities for spring sports. The monthly turf grooming maintenance will be starting soon with a vendor inspection and testing to show the field meets all safety requirements. Mr. Butler also provided an update on the Lehman-Jackson HVAC Project and the School District Vestibule Upgrade Projects and also noted that he appreciates the patience and cooperation from staff, parents and students throughout the process.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

Ross Elementary: Mr. Kostrobala, Principal, reported on the following:

- During the week of March 2nd a fun week of Read Across America activities were coordinated by Title Reading Teachers: Mrs. Ferkel and Mrs. Plisko. Special guest readers included Paralympian skier and medal winner Stephanie Jallen, skeleton participant Dan Barefoot, figure ice skater & Olympics press officer Taylor Dean, USA women's hockey goalie Ava McNaughton and WBRE news anchor Gianna Galli. The week culminated with students participating in “winter Olympics” in the gym with the aid of Ms. Miner.
- February Noble Knights were awarded for positive student behavior.

Lake-Noxen Elementary: Mr. Klopp, Principal, reported on the following:

- Lake-Noxen Elementary School, led by Dr. McDonald, recently celebrated Read Across America Week, a national week-long celebration held around March 2nd that encourages children across the country to develop a love of reading. The week is also a fun opportunity to show our school spirit while celebrating books and literacy. The events were Snuggle Up to Reading, Go Crazy For Books, Wild About Reading, Team Up and Read and Book Character Day. We had many guest readers in classrooms with the most celebrated being 13 Varsity Lake-Lehman Football Players! Throughout the week, our PTO hosted a Scholastic Book Fair, giving students the opportunity to explore new books and build their home libraries. To continue the excitement around reading, our first and second grade students are currently participating in “March Magic,” where they are reading sixteen different picture books and voting to determine their favorite, ultimately selecting a champion book.
- First graders celebrated the 120th day of school by decorating shirts with 120 items and completing fun activities centered around the number 120 to meet the PA Math Standard of counting to 120. The celebration ended with a school parade where students proudly showed off their shirts
- Signs were displayed in the hallways to announce a L-N alien invasion. Mrs. Williams dressed life-sized aliens in the student’s lost and found clothes and students were encouraged to collect their belongings from the display.

Lehman-Jackson Elementary: Ms. Miscavage Spagnuolo, Principal, reported on the following:

- Read Across America week was celebrated March 2nd-6th with a variety of themed outfits, reading activities and special guests. Special guest readers included Trooper Bill Evans, Jon & Renie Meyer, Mrs. Sears, the Jr/Sr High School Interact Club, Band, Softball, Girls Soccer & Lacrosse teams. The PTO hosted a book giveaway where each student was able to choose a new book to keep and also Champ’s Home Run Readers, which runs through the month of March, where students record minutes reading outside of school to earn tickets to an upcoming Rail Riders game.
- Lake-Lehman elementary gifted students participated in the K’NEX STEM Design Competition held at Misericordia on March 5th. In this challenge, students were asked to design part of a factory that produces a product using sustainable practices and prepare a prototype demonstration to showcase how the machine works and supports sustainable production. The 6th grade team took 3rd place in their age group of 6-8th grade students.

- Finally, the PTO Skate Night is scheduled for next week on Thursday March 26th. The theme is Cowboys & Cowgirls. Students and siblings under the age of 16 are invited to enjoy the night.

Junior-Senior High School: Mr. Matt Nonnenberg, Principal, reported on the following:

- The Junior-Senior High School hosted an anti-bullying assembly called “Ryan’s Story” which was a huge success with positive feedback. Many students expressed how much the assembly impacted them.
- 6th grade students were invited to tour and become familiar with the junior-senior high school. They received a warm welcome from teachers and staff and also received a “Class of 2032” T-shirt. Students also watched a short video of current 7th graders explaining “What I wish I knew about 7th grade, learned how to successfully open a locker, participated in a scavenger hunt, foul shot competition and ended the tour with a group photo. Mr. Nonnenberg shouted out a big “thank you” to our Band, Cheerleaders, Mighty Knight, Athletic Image for donating the t-shirts, Crystal Savage for decorating and Mrs. Molino for coordinating the event.
- February’s “Mystery Singer” was Mrs. Maciejczak who sang: “I’d like to Teach the World to Sing” with Mrs. Hettes’ class guessing the singer and winning candy from Mr. James’ candy cart.
- From the Career and Advisor Corner...Mr. Major, planned a trip to Proctor and Gamble with 8 students who are interested in joining the workforce directly after high school. A trip to the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble is also planned for April. A junior student at Lake-Lehman has been accepted to the Geisinger Co-Op Program for the first time. A student who has been shadowing one of our Speech Pathologists has taken steps to sign up for a Speech and Language Pathology Camp at Misericordia University. An “Each One, Teach One” new student volunteer initiative was started by Mr. Major and 2 students from Lake-Lehman are actively volunteering to tutor students in the Lehman-Jackson Elementary.
- February students and teacher of the month were celebrated with a pizza party with over 60 in attendance. Mr. Gorski, February Teacher of the Month, along with the 12th grade student of the month was treated to park in a V.I.P. parking spot with a custom name plate on the sign.

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Caputo introduced Mr. Tom Rainey of Rainey and Rainey CPA’s, who provided a report on the Single Audit, Year Ended-June 30, 2025.

WEST SIDE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER REPORT

Mr. Salko reported on highlights from the January 26, 2026 meeting of the WSCTC Joint Operating Committee.

LUZERNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

Mr. Walsh reported on highlights of the January 28, 2026 meeting of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Ella Aritz, provided a report on Student Council and SADD activities.

The student council has been very successful the past few months! In January we encouraged the students to wear PJs for spirit day, and anyone who did was eligible to win a Sheetz gift card. We also hosted two dress down days in January and will host two in February as we continue to collect money to

fund our senior scholarships. We held our annual Mr. Knight assembly in February. It was a huge hit! Our 2026 Mr. Knight is Nate Johnston. We also held a Valentine's Day bake sale. Coming in March, we plan to host a bake sale on Wednesday and all proceeds will go to Ruth's Place to support the women's shelter. We will be doing our monthly spirit day ticket handout. This month's theme will be pajama day in correspondence with the SADD Club for National Sleep Awareness Month.

The SADD Club had a successful bake sale in January, and our message to the student body was how to fight the winter blues. In February, the club's main focus was kindness. We made inspirational posters to hang around the school and we sold kindness candy grams and distributed them last week to the students. We participated in National Kindness Week, so each day we showed appreciation to a different group at the school: custodians, secretaries, administrators, teachers and cafeteria staff. An announcement of appreciation is made for one group per day, and our club brought in treats and goodies each day for them to enjoy! In March, we are focusing on national sleep awareness week and National Drug and Alcohol Facts week!

FOOD SERVICE

Monthly Food Service Report emailed to Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Liparela 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 Mr. Wojtowicz, to approve the following minutes.

February 17, 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 March 17, 2026, in the amount of \$753,460.68 and interim payments dated March 6, 2026, in the amount of \$167,879.99, and February 20, 2026, in the amount of \$147,520.76; subject to audit.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Mr. Baran, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz, to approve the treasurer's report as of February 28, 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 January 31, 2026

- Lehman-Jackson Activity Fund

Balances as of February 28, 2026

- Athletic Fund
- Food Service
- Jr/Sr High School Activity Fund
- Jr/Sr High School Principal’s Fund
- Ross Elementary Activity Fund
- Lehman-Jackson Activity Fund

ACTION ITEMS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

1. Appoint the following as per diem substitute teachers, at a daily rate in accordance with adopted substitute pay schedule, without contractual rights/benefits. All clearances on file.

A.	David Hopper of Noxen	Industrial Arts K-12 Certification
B.	Eric Schreiner Jr. of Blue Bell	Social Studies 7-12 Certification
C.	Larry Schuler of Dallas	Health & Physical Education Certification
D.	Stuart Tripler of Harvey’s Lake	Social Studies & Principal 7-12 Certification

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

2. Appoint the following LIU Guest Teacher Program Participants, as per diem substitute teachers, at a daily rate in accordance with adopted substitute pay schedule, without contractual rights/benefits. All clearances on file.

A.	Michele Balliet of Shickshinny	Emergency Permit – All Instructional Areas PK-12
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Vote: Upon roll call, all members present voted yes; motion carried.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

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

1. Authorize administration to advertise for Bids for the Ross Elementary Carpet Replacement Project. A project description and scope of work will be provided upon request.

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

2. Approve the change order for Project #25037 LLSD Vestibule Security Upgrades. Work to be completed as per change order #3: Demolition and improvements to existing vestibules at Ross and Lehman-Jackson Elementary per drawings and specifications provided by designBLD LLC of Exeter, Pa. Improvements include vestibule security, lighting, carpet, and ceiling finishes. Total cost: \$530,000.00.

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

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz, to move on the following items with the exception of item 3-I, which Mr. Wright announced was Tabled.

1. Approve the following as School & Booster Volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year; all clearances on file:

A.	Florena Williams
B.	Arthur Gialanella

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

2. Appoint the following Assistant Coaches/ Extra-Curricular Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year, all clearances on file:

A.	Lawrence Smith	Baseball	Volunteer
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Vote: Upon roll call, all members present voted yes; motion carried.

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

A.	Randy Paraschak	Varsity Football	\$5,586.06
B.	Jason Simoson	Varsity Football	\$5,586.06
C.	Brady Butler	Varsity Football	\$5,586.06
D.	Cody Lamoreaux	Varsity Football	\$5,586.06
E.	Robert Gregor	Football	Volunteer
F.	Damien Napierkowski	Football	Volunteer
G.	Jacob Prest	Football	Volunteer
H.	Jacob Mleczynski	Football	Volunteer
I.	Scott Renfer (tabled)	JH Football	\$4,847.47
J.	Miranda Parry	Varsity Girls Volleyball	\$3,106.82
K.	Mark Major	Co-Ed JH Volleyball	\$3,106.82
L.	Brynn Giordano	Girls Volleyball	Volunteer
M.	Kylee Blazick	Girls Volleyball	Volunteer
N.	Richard Wooditch	Varsity Boys Soccer	\$2,796.13
O.	Kyle Greenwood	Boys Soccer	Volunteer
P.	John Christopher Chapple	Boys Soccer	Volunteer
Q.	Donald Michalisin	JH Boys Soccer	\$2,796.13

R.	Lynn Coury	Field Hockey	Volunteer
S.	Melissa Smigielski	Field Hockey	Volunteer
T.	Katie Laudenslager	Field Hockey	Volunteer
U.	Janelle Jacob	Field Hockey	Volunteer
V.	Courtney Thomas	Varsity Field Hockey	\$4,357.61
W.	Janene Kasarda	JH Field Hockey	\$3,619.74
X.	Samantha Swingle	Field Hockey	Volunteer

Vote: Upon roll call, all members present voted yes on items 3-A. through 3-X., with the exception of item 3-I., which was tabled.

TRANSPORTATION

No items.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

1. Approve a leave of absence for Employee #3117, effective February 4 – May 4, 2026. It is understood the leave will consist of sick & unpaid 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.

2. Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Donna Lewis, Full-Time Food Service Worker (Cook), effective June 30, 2026, and authorize administration to advertise for the vacancy.

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

3. Ratify approval for administration to post for the position of Full-Time Head Custodian, 8 hours per day, 260 days per year.

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

4. Appoint Lucianna Morrison of Dallas as Part-Time Food Service Worker, 5.5 hours per day, 186 days per year, effective immediately 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. Salko, seconded by Mr. Wojtowicz, to move on the following items:

1. Approve the Lake-Lehman School District Comprehensive Plan for years 2026-2029, including the following sub-plans for years 2026-2029: Gifted Education Plan, Induction Plan, Professional Development Plan, and Student Services Plan.

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

2. Approve the first reading of the following revised Board Policies and Administrative Regulation.

A.	Policy: 236.1 Threat Assessment
B.	Policy: 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
C.	Policy 218.1 Weapons
D.	Policy: 218.1-AR-0 Weapons Notification to Appropriate Population of School Community

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

3. Approve the first reading, waive future readings, and adopt the following Board Policy attachment.

A.	Policy: 626 Attachment: Procurement-Federal Funds
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(Note: This policy attachment is updated annually to reflect annual pricing threshold updates for purchases subject to bid/quotations in accordance with the Department of Labor and Industry as required.)

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

4. Approve the calendar for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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

5. Approve the agreement between Lake-Lehman School District and Wilkes University for participation in the Sparks Scholar Program for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

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

6. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities submitted by Brian Cutter, Back Mountain Shootout, for use of the new gymnasium, old gymnasium and concession stand, for a junior high/senior high basketball tournament to be held Friday, June 19th through Sunday, June 21, 2026, upon availability, from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

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

7. Approve the application for Use of Facilities submitted by Martha Allen-Pearson, Lake-Lehman Jr. Knights, for summer cheer practice on the Lehman-Jackson campus from June through October from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

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

8. Approve the application for Use of Facilities submitted by Martha Allen-Pearson, Lake-Lehman Jr. Knights, for indoor cheer practice in the gymnasium or cafeteria from September through November from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

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

9. Accept and support the Petition to the Honorable Pennsylvania House of Representatives in regard to PA House Bill 41. (PIAA Championship Boundary)

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 Monday, April 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

VISITORS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wright called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wojowicz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Sayre. Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Non-Member, Board Secretary
Mary Jo Casaldi

Draft