LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 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, September 21, 2026, in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Wright, at 7:03 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	Present
Drew Salko	Present
Jean Sayre	Absent
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
Avery Smith, Esq., District Solicitor
Matthew Nonnenberg, Junior-Senior High School Principal
Donald James, Administrator
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
Brady Butler, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Courtney Judge Arthur Price Sarah Chidsey Brenda Morris Richelle Steele
Valerie Nat

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S) An Executive Session of the Board was held on Monday, September 21, 2026 to discuss:

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

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 acknowledged Mrs. Gail Honeywell for organizing a "Walk of Honor" in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. The Walk of Honor was held in remembrance of those responders who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives saving others. Lake-Lehman students who are members of "Knights on Fire" walked in gear through the hallways of the junior-senior high school as students and faculty lined up in silent observation. "Knights on Fire" is an organization made up of students who are actively volunteering in our local emergency response teams.

- Mrs. Liparela shared information in regard to policy 204.1 Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks. This policy is on the agenda for board approval. The purpose of the wellness check is to verify attendance and facilitate the safety and well-being of students who receive academic instruction exclusively through the district's virtual instruction program.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Butler's report included the following:

- The maintenance department has completed quite a few projects over the summer months including painting all the elementary gyms, classrooms at the high school, and a few other areas.

- Upgrades were completed throughout the campuses with mulch for the landscaped areas and playgrounds. We've also worked with Lake-Noxen PTO and have added 3 pieces of playground equipment at Lake-Noxen.

- Additional help received from our substitutes and part-time employees was much appreciated and we could not have accomplished everything without them.

- The Ross Elementary Carpet Replacement Project was completed this past month and looks great!

- The School District Vestibule Upgrade Projects have been completed and are open with a few small punch list items left.

- The tank removal and generator replacement project is also near completion.

- The new generator at the high school has been installed and all underground fuel storage tanks have been removed.

- The re-keying project at the Jr/Sr High School is near completion as well.

- Paving maintenance and the Paving Project for the school district have been fully completed.

- Lehman-Jackson HVAC project - All classroom unit vents have been installed and are operating. The rooftop units have been placed and are fully operational. The majority of the work that remains will be completed in the mechanical room in the back of the school for the next couple of weeks. There is approximately 3 weeks until substantial completion.

- A water line break occurred in the beginning of August at the JSHS. We were lucky enough to stop the source of the water after it had let approximately 7,000 gallons of water onto the floor of the administration offices, hallway, auditorium, cafeteria, and gym floors. Thankfully the company who came in to complete the remediation was there within an hour of shutting the water off. Thank you to Mr. Murphy for finding the leak and everyone who was involved with the clean-up. Fortunately, the repairs are minor to what they could have been. The sheetrock repairs are in the process of being complete and the gym floor is still being analyzed for the extent of damages. The start of the school year has been underway and is going great!

- Mr. McGovern also added that an industrial washing machine and dryer was purchased to wash athletic equipment in-house.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

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

- We have had a great start to a new school year at the JSHS.

- On September 11th we held a 25-year remembrance on the attacks of 9/11. Mrs. Honeywell did a fantastic job honoring emergency responders and honoring the families and loved ones that were impacted. Students lined the halls and our Knights On Fire members (These are the students that volunteer at their local fire halls and assist us in our monthly fire drill and emergency responses) did a memorial walk in full gear around the inside of the building for all emergency responders who lost their lives in 9/11.

- On September 17th we held a Club Fair during all lunches so students could see what is offered at the JSHS and can also sign up!

- Back to School Night was Thursday September 17th. This event was different from years past as we try to make the night most efficient for parents especially those that have multiple students in the building. We had a lot of positive feedback and we will continue to tweak the night to be most effective.

From JSHS Careers Corner:

- Our Co-op with Geisinger had a very nice turnout!

- We currently have 19 students involved in "Young Scholars" covering 3 different colleges.

- Elementary teachers are now involved as mentors in our Mission Academy program making it a full circle.

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

- The Pollinator Playground at Lake-Noxen is in full bloom and full of pollinators. From our garden this year, we have watched over 30 monarch caterpillars through the cycle, and have currently released over 15 butterflies.

- This summer, our Summer Knights Camp provided four exciting weeks of learning, exploration, and fun. Weekly enrollment of 124 registered students, with an average daily attendance of approximately 75 students each week. The students had a wonderful time and arrived each day excited to discover what new activities were planned. We also received very positive feedback from parents, who shared how much their children enjoyed attending camp and looked forward to returning each day. We are incredibly grateful to the staff, families, and community members who continue to help make this summer's program possible.

- The Lake-Lehman School District is partnering with CEO and the Weinberg Food Bank to provide a Children's Produce Market on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Lake-Noxen Elementary. The first market will be October 20th. The goal is to serve families in the community with fresh produce and supplemental food to create healthy meals.

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

- Mr. Kostobala commented that the new carpeting installed at Ross Elementary made a huge difference.

- The PTO held a "Chalk the Walk" the evening before school started on August 30th. Members of the PTO and students decorated the sidewalk with drawings and welcome back messages. The sidewalk helped brighten everyone's day on the first day of school. Students were welcomed back the following day along with 23 new kindergarten students.

- The PTO provided a "Welcome Back" Breakfast for faculty and staff on September 18th. It was much appreciated by the adults.

- Back to School night was held on September 16th. The PTO, girl scouts and boy scouts all set up a welcome table for parents and students to get information and receive prizes.

- Title Reading with Mrs. Ferkel and Mrs. Plisko held a pizza party for students that participated in their summer reading program. It was a nice reward for those students.

Lehman-Jackson Elementary: Ms. Miscavage Spagnuolo, Principal

- The PTO sponsored a Harlem Wizards assembly for the entire school on September 16th at the Jr/Sr High School. The program treated our students to an interactive & fun experience with a focus on anti-bullying and treating others kindly. A special thank you to Mr. Nonnenberg & the Jr/Sr High School for hosting the assembly for us in the new gym.

- This week, on Thursday, September 24th we will have our Summer Reading Challenge Celebration. When school was dismissed in June, the PTO challenged students to read for 12 hours, broken into 36 increments of 20 minutes, over summer break. All students who participated will be treated to a celebration with treats and prizes to reward them for their work.

- Race for Education will be held on October 2nd. This is the most important fundraiser of the year for our PTO. Students will run, walk or jog around the track as many times as they can while collecting bracelets, listening to music and enjoying snacks & drinks.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT
No Report.

WEST SIDE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER REPORT
Mr. Salko presented a report from the July 27, 2026 meeting of the WSCTC Joint Operating Committee.

LUZERNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT
No report was available as a meeting was not held in July.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
No Report.

FOOD SERVICE
The Board received an emailed 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 Mr. Wojtowicz, to approve the following minutes.

August 25, 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. Wright, to approve the Fund Accounting Payment Summary with payment date listed as September 22, 2026 in the amount of $1,596,358.66 and interim payments dated August 21, 2026, in the amount of $16,440.30, and September 4, 2026, in the amount of $212,527.50; 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 Mr. Wright, to approve the treasurer's report as of August 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 August 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

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 Mentor Teachers for the 2026-2027 school year:

	Mentor	**New Teacher**	**Stipend**
A.	Stacey Ruddy	Rachel Shook	$625.26
B.	Kathryn Harteis	Alissa Fenner	$625.26
C.	January Albee	Ally Hummel	$625.26
D.	Corin Frey	Daniel Luce	$625.26

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

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

A.	Kaitlin Cole of Dallas	Registered Nurse
B.	Robert Obuhosky of Hunlock Creek	General Science 7-12 Certification
C.	Ellyn Harvey of Tunkhannock	English 7-12 & Social Studies Certification
D.	Donna Richards of Shavertown	Elementary K-6 Certification
E.	Doreen Johnson of Harvey's Lake	Elementary K-6 Certification
F.	Linda VanOrden of Luzerne	Elementary K-6 Certification

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

3. 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.	Florena Williams of Harvey's Lake	Emergency Permit – All Instructional Areas PK-12

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	Kyle Atchison	I	Michaels Phillips
B	James Fife	J	Jennifer Shires
C	Daniel Hadaway	K	Kimberly Smith
D	Mercedes Keller	L	Marlene Verdine
E	Vergida Kontra	M	Elijah Vigil
F	Jaime Kotch	N	Taylor Williams
G	Cate Makarczyk	O	Jeremy Williams
H	Shannon Paulsen-Konowalczyk	P	Tara Zubey

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

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

A.	Brynn Anna Sweppenheiser	JH Volleyball	Volunteer
B.	Joshua Bonomo	JH Wrestling	$3,370.31

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

TRANSPORTATION

No items.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Motion was made by Mr. Wojtowicz, seconded by Mr. Baran to move on the following item.

1. Appoint Tina Judge of Hunlock Creek as Child Accounting/PIMS Clerk, effective immediately, at an hourly rate of $18.50 (+ $0.50 one-time differential in accordance with LLESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article VIII, Section 2-D). All clearances on file.

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. Ratify the adoption of the 2026-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement between Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and Lake-Lehman School District with an estimated IDEA allocation for the district in the amount of $288,279.00, based on December 1, 2025, IDEA Child Count.

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

2. Approve the MOU between Western Governors University and Lake-Lehman School District for the placement of student teachers and classroom observations, to become effective at the date of signing by Lake-Lehman School District.

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

3. Approved the first reading of Policy 204.1 Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks.

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

4. 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 #1403	$20.00

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

5. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Lake-Lehman School District and the Lake-Lehman Education Association to amend Appendix B Field Hockey Coach positions for the 2026-2027 school year to reflect the following. The agreement shall be in effect only for the 2026-2027 field hockey season; thereafter, except as provided otherwise in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, shall revert back to the previous year salary.

A.	Head Coach	$6,472.35
B.	Varsity Assistant Coach	$2,870.56
C.	Varsity Assistant Coach	$2,870.56
D.	Junior High Assistant Coach	$2,870.56
E.	Junior High Assistant Coach	$2,870.56

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

6. Approve the First Aid and Safety Service Agreement with Cintas Corporation to provide three (3) Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) devices and any related products and services as outlined in the agreement. The AED's will be located and available in the softball and baseball dugouts, stadium concession stand, and the weight room-during the winter months, at a total monthly cost of $345.00. Term of Agreement is 36 months commencing on the delivery date of the first product.

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

7. Exonerate Joseph Maskalis Jr., of Ross Township, from payment of all real estate taxes becoming due on or after May 21, 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.

8. Approve the Application for Use of Facilities for Brian Cutter, Back Mountain Shoot Out, for use of the new gymnasium/old gymnasium and concession stand for a Youth Basketball Tournament to be held December 26, 2026 through, December 28, 2026. Event time: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

9. Approve the recommendation of the following candidates to be voted on and registered by the Lake-Lehman Board of School Directors for the position of officers and representatives to the 2027 Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

   A. President-Elect (1-year term)
      (1) Matt Vannoy
      Sharon City School District
   B. Vice President (1-year term)
      (1) Kristy Bolte
      Northwestern School District

   C. Treasurer (3-year term)
      (1) David Hein
      Parkland School District

   D. PSBA Eastern Zone Representative (1-year term)
      (1) Jason Mell
      Exeter Township School District

   E. Section E-1 Advisor (1-year term)
      (1) Christina Cosmello
      Blue Ridge School District

   F. PSBA Insurance Trustees (3-year term - choose up to 2 candidates)
      (1) Marianne Neel
      District not listed
      (2) Dr. Michael Faccinetto
      Bethlehem Area

   Vote: Upon roll call, all 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, October 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the auditorium of the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

VISITORS

Mrs. Sarah Chidsey, Lehman-Jackson parent and member of the American Heart Association NEPA Board of Directors, addressed the board in regard to opportunities available to schools with the American Heart Association's "Kids Heart Challenge/American Heart Challenge" programs. Mrs. Chidsey is requesting that the Board and administration consider bringing this program to the Lake-Lehman School District.

Mrs. Valerie Nat, parent, addressed the board in regard to concerns surrounding the Lake-Lehman girls volleyball program. Mrs. Nat stated that she reached out to the volleyball coach with her concerns and did not receive any follow-up or answers to her questions. Mrs. Nat is asking that her concerns be addressed.

Mr. Arthur Price requested that the district look into connecting the stadium speaker system to the concession stand. Stating that parents and volunteers working in the stand are not able to hear anything that is being announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wright called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baran motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Napierkowski. Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary J Casaldi

Non-Member, Board Secretary
Mary Jo Casaldi