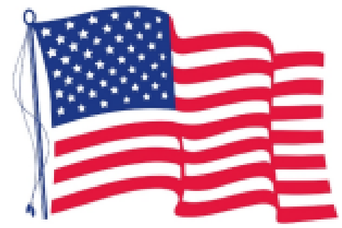
Lehighton Area School District
Administration Building - Board Room
1000 Union Street, Lehighton, PA 18235
July 27, 2026 Board Meeting - 7:00 PM

1. Opening Exercises

1.1. Call to Order
Board Vice President, H. Neff called the Board Meeting to order at 7:03 PM.



1.2. Opening Exercises
Opening Exercises included the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

1.3. Meeting Announcements
A Board Meeting was held on June 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.
A Special Board Meeting was held on July 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.
A Workshop Meeting was held on July 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.
A Special Board Meeting was held on July 16, 2026 at 7:30 PM in the District Administration Board Room.
A Workshop Meeting will be held on August 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.
A Board Meeting will be held on August 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Administration Board Room.

1.4. Roll Call
PR/AB

PR	**Ms. Joy Beers**	**AB**	**Mr. Jeremy Glaush**	**PR****	**Dr. Alex Matika**
AB	**Mr. David Bradley**	**PR**	**Ms. Denise Hartley**	**PR**	**Ms. Heather Neff**
PR	**Mrs. Lory Frey**	**PR**	**Dr. William Howland**	**PR**	**Mr. Timothy Tkach**

*** A. Matika present via Google Meet.*

Also Present:
Mr. Jason Moser, Superintendent
Ms. Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary

Kay Barry, Fred Kemmerer, Walter Zlomsowitch, Ryan Bowman, Autumn Abelovsky, Reagan Abelovsky, Roy James, Dave Krause, Jarrad Hedes, Drew Snowberger, Sandy Michalik, Gretchen Laviolette, John Orsulak and Beth Shore via Google Meet.

1.5. Presentations/Recognition
None at the time.

1.6. Public Comment - Only on the Board's Proposed Approval of the Agenda as Presented or as Modified
None at the time.

1.7. Approval of Agenda
MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

1.8. Public Comment - Traditional Public Comment Period on Agenda Items Only
W. Zlomsowitch addressed the Board regarding the finance section of the agenda, alleging that a Board Director had violated Board Policy 010. He requested that the Board take appropriate action regarding the matter. Additionally, W. Zlomsowitch shared concerns regarding past board meetings, stating that a director had previously attempted to silence him and that another director had made comments about him in his absence. He reiterated his right as a stakeholder to express his opinions to the Board.

R. Bowman addressed the Board regarding Item 4.10 (Additional Handbooks and Resources). He requested that the Board table the item for further review by the school solicitor, expressing concerns that provisions within the four proposed student handbooks may violate student rights and expose the district to potential legal litigation. R. Bowman noted that he had emailed a formal letter outlining his concerns to the Board and President J. Moser earlier that afternoon, emphasizing that tabling the matter would best serve the district, staff, and students.

1.9. Reports
Reports will be given at this time.

1.9.A. Student Board Representatives Report
None at the time.

1.9.B. Superintendent Report
J. Moser presented an analysis of the state budget, comparing projected revenues against actual state allocations following the passage of the state budget. He reported that basic education funding was over-projected by approximately $36,000, special education funding was under-projected by about $6,000, and foundational funding was precise. For adequacy funding, the district budgeted $849,220 compared to the actual allocation of $840,840. Overall, total state revenue was over-projected by roughly $30,000, achieving a 99.82% accuracy rate. W. Zlomsowitch offered a brief comment following the budget review.

J. Moser outlined key updates to the state school code, noting that the state is conducting a comprehensive study on standardized testing costs and preparation that may signal future reductions in testing requirements. He confirmed that the district already satisfies a new mandate requiring a district-wide facilities report through its existing work with SitelogIQ. Additional legislative updates included upcoming parental notification requirements for bullying incidents, mandated eating disorder and social media literacy education for the 2027–2028 school year, and a requirement for a daily 30-minute recess in grades K–5, which the district can fulfill.

J. Moser presented new state reporting requirements for Virtual Instructional Days and Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs), which require tracking used days, building-level impacts, specific reasons, and legal authority. D. Hartley, J. Beers, and J. Moser discussed the legal authorization process, anticipating that the local board will need to pass annual resolutions authorizing the administration to implement virtual days as needed. J. Moser indicated that further operational guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education is expected.

J. Moser concluded with updates on cyber charter regulations, explaining that cyber charter schools are prohibited from enrolling students who are habitually absent—defined as six or more unexcused absences—from their home district, with provisions allowing districts to withhold funding if violated. Following inquiry from D. Hartley regarding safety concerns and absenteeism, J. Moser and L. Frey clarified that parentally excused absences and documented safety concerns do not count toward unlawful absenteeism thresholds. Finally, J. Moser highlighted new requirements for cyber charters to provide proof of residency twice per year before concluding the superintendent's report.

1.9.C. Business Administrator Report
With the approval of the 2026-27 general fund budget, the new millage rate and homestead relief figures were provided to the six tax collectors to generate and mail the real estate tax bills upon business office review and approval.

Requisitions were approved and orders placed for instructional supplies and software renewals, athletic supplies and equipment, as well as nursing supplies, and academic and psych testing materials.

In addition, food service refunds were processed for families of graduating seniors who had not exhausted their prepaid funds.

General liability insurance policies reviewed and authorized.

J. Moser noted that the report was included in the board packet and offered to assist with any questions regarding its contents.

1.9.D. LCCC Representative Report

D. Krause reported that the Joint Coordinating Committee—comprising LCCC, Carbon County Technical Institute (CCTI), and the Intermediate Unit—has officially disbanded due to meeting overlap and direct communication among the entities. Regarding finances, state funding for LCCC remained flat, though additional funding was received for dual enrollment programs. He noted that while overall summer enrollment experienced a slight decline, dual enrollment continues to grow, and marketing efforts remain focused on recruiting both high school and adult student cohorts. Additionally, the administration completed its annual curriculum review to eliminate low-enrollment or low-value programs. D. Krause shared local enrollment data, noting 16 December graduates, 13 May graduates, and seven anticipated August 2026 graduates from the early college program, alongside 114 students enrolled for the fall term.

In response to the enrollment update, J. Moser inquired about LCCC's post-graduation tracking methods, sharing that the district is partnering with the National Student Clearinghouse to monitor student trajectories five to ten years post-graduation to better evaluate long-term district preparation. D. Krause confirmed LCCC tracks graduate outcomes across higher education and workforce entry to address student retention challenges. W. Howland inquired about student interest in LCCC's aviation program. D. Krause confirmed steady enrollment in the program, which operates out of Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) and enables students to earn a private pilot's license, agreeing to provide additional demographic breakdowns for the cohort.

1.9.E. CLIU Representative Report

Video presented at Monday night’s meeting: G-Club summer camp program held at Camp Moseywood. The video showcased inclusive activities for participating students, including zip-lining, tie-dye crafts, and collaborative group meals designed to foster socialization and connection among campers.

1.9.F. CCTI Representative Report

H. Neff announced that Executive Director D. Reinbold submitted his resignation effective March 17th, and the board has begun advertising for his replacement. She added that CCTI is seeking a robotics advisor for Saturday morning sessions, which includes a $1,500 annual stipend.

1.9.G. Lehighton Memorial Library Representative Report

D. Hartley provided the Lehighton Memorial Library Representative Report, highlighting the recent "Christmas in July" fundraising event held on Saturday. She reported strong community participation and donations, including 71 gift baskets and 40 gift certificates for the raffle, noting that complete financial details will be presented at the upcoming library meeting.

1.10. Minutes

MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the Minutes of the June 22, 2026 Board Meeting, the July 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting, the July 13, 2026 Workshop Meeting and the July 16, 2026 Special Board Meeting.

Vote: YES - 6 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 1

J. Beers abstained since she was not in attendance at some of the meetings.

2. Financial Matters

2.1. * Consent Agenda

MOTION by W. Howland, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve Consent Agenda items *2.2-*2.7.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.2. * Carbon, Monroe Pike Drug & Alcohol Preventative Services

Approve the contract with Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc., for Drug and Alcohol Primary Prevention and SAP/Intervention Services for the 2026-2027 school year, in the total amount of $34,200.00.

This agreement provides for Drug and Alcohol Primary Prevention and SAP/Intervention Services at a total cost of $34,200.00 over a period of 38 weeks over the school year.

2.3. * MusicFirst

Approve MusicFirst online curricular resource for the Elementary Center in the amount of $795.00.

Cost is to come out of 2026-2027 technology budget.

2.4. * Word Origins

Approve the purchase of Word Origins printed morpheme tiles for the elementary center, grade 4 in the amount of $4,300.00.

2.5. * Achieve for The Practice of Statistics for the AP® Course

Approve the purchase of Achieve for The Practice of Statistics for the AP Course from BFW Publishers in the amount of $4,558.58.

Achieve for The Practice of Statistics for the AP Course (Six-Use Online; Add-On). Purchase to come out of the curriculum budget.

2.6. * Settlement Agreement

Approve the Settlement Agreement and corresponding attorney fees for a student.

2.7. * George's Transportation Agreement

Approve the agreement with George's Transportation for student transportation for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School years, as well as the Field (Activity) and Athletic trip rates.

2.8. Donations/Local Grants

MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by W. Howland, to accept the following donations/local grants:

1. Miscellaneous snack items to be used for BRAVE camp from People's EC Church.
2. $3,000.00 Donation from the Lehighton Orioles Club to be used toward the purchase of the Gettysburg Diorama to be displayed at Lehighton Area High School for educational and historical purposes in the history hallway.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

J. Moser expressed appreciation to both donors for their support. In response to an inquiry from R. Bowman regarding the diorama, J. Moser confirmed that the display depicts the Gettysburg battlefield.

2.9. Pearson Education

MOTION by T. Tkach, SECONDED by D Hartley, to approve the purchase of 20 Pre-Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic AP edition student textbooks and MyMathLab as well as 1 teacher edition book at a cost of $4168.80 to be paid out of the 2026/2027 curriculum budget.

Purchase of AP Pre-Calculus textbook and online access.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.10. Teaching Strategies - GOLDFinch

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by T. Tkach, to approve the purchase of GOLDFinch assessment for Pre-K at a cost of $1,388 to be paid out of the 2026/2027 Pre-K Counts grant.

GOLDFinch is a Teaching Strategies assessment for Pre-K.

J. Moser sought confirmation that an approved assessment tool is required for the program. G. Laviolette confirmed that the purchase is a state-required assessment.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.11. PTD - SIP's

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the contract with PTD for 2 additional SIPs at a one-time cost of $20 and monthly cost of $23.40 to be paid out of the 26/27 technology budget.

Additional SIPs through PTD for district-wide paging.

G. Laviolette explained that the SIP trunks enable the district-wide paging system to broadcast emergency or general announcements to all four school buildings simultaneously over an internet-based connection. Superintendent J. Moser noted that the feature enhances district security at an annual cost of roughly $300. G. Laviolette commended PenTeleData and Berkshire for collaborating at no additional labor cost to integrate the intercom infrastructure. In response to a clarifying question from R. Bowman, G. Laviolette confirmed that authorized personnel will be able to initiate simultaneous district-wide broadcasts from any main office in an emergency.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.12. Food Service Transfers

MOTION by A Matika, SECONDED by L. Frey, to make the following transfer from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund as per the Reimbursements from the Commonwealth:

June 2026

NSLP Lunch Federal $39,698.83
NSLP Breakfast Federal $15,482.26
NSLP State Lunch $2,028.38
NSLP State Breakfast $3,119.12
CACFP Child & Adult Care Food Program $166.77

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.13. Per Capita/Occupational Tax Exemptions

MOTION by T. Tkach, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax Exemptions for July 2026.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.14. Per Capita/Occupational Tax Refunds

MOTION by T. Tkach, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Per Capita and/or Occupational Tax refunds.
Description: -Brian Demko - 2024 Occupation Tax - $122.50 - No Income.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.15. Activities Funds

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by A. Matika, to approve the Lehighton Area High School and Lehighton Area Middle School Activities Funds for June 2026.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.16. Financial Reports

MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the Financial Reports for June 2026.

To June 30, 2026

Condensed Board Summary
Expenditure Report
Revenue Report
Treasurer's Report
Fund Summary

From July 1, 2026 to July 27, 2026

Condensed Board Summary
Expenditure Report
Revenue Report
Fund Summary

J. Partenio clarified that the financial statements were split into two sets (June 30 and July 1 through July 27) due to the rollover of the district's fiscal year. D. Hartley inquired whether the items required separate motions, to which J. Partenio confirmed a single motion was sufficient. D. Hartley then asked if this item contained previously questioned attorney fee charges; J. Partenio clarified that those disbursements fall under the payment of bills in the following agenda item.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

2.17. Payment of Bills

MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the following Payment of Bills:

Up to June 30, 2026:

General Fund:	
--Non-Negotiable	$ 1,555,273.70
--Regular Checks	$ 642,755.41
--Credit Card	$ 0.00
Debit Card:	$ 799.00
Food Service Fund:	$ 2,933.86
Total:	$ 2,201,761.97

July 2026:

General Fund:	
--Non-Negotiable	$ 23,000.17
--Regular Checks	$2,478,781.78
--Credit Card	$ 0.00
Debit Card:	$ 2,489.62
Capital Reserve:	$ 40,067.95
Payroll (June):	$1,651,962.55
Food Service Fund:	$ 162,062.25
Total:	$4,358,364.32

D. Hartley requested clarification on legal billing procedures following recent public inquiries, asking whether an email chain involving a board member had inadvertently routed legal questions outside established protocols. A. Matika clarified that an email containing legal questions had been sent directly to him and J. Moser with the solicitor copied. He explained that policy specifies sending communications to the board president or superintendent first to determine if legal forwarding is necessary, though extenuating circumstances existed in this instance due to multiple concurrent email threads.

D. Hartley suggested reinforcing policy across the entire board to ensure members direct legal questions exclusively through the board president and superintendent rather than copying the attorney directly. R. Bowman and A. Matika discussed the specific timeline of the email thread, with R. Bowman noting that the board member had clicked "reply all" on a pre-existing thread that already included the solicitor, rather than initiating a new direct inquiry. L. Frey stated that the conversation was meant to clarify procedural expectations moving forward rather than assign blame.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3. Personnel

3.1. * Consent Agenda

MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve Consent Agenda items *3.2-*3.6.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

J. Moser expressed gratitude to outgoing staff members K. Cederberg, J. Holloman, and K. Nenscel for their service and dedication to the District, wishing them success in their future professional endeavors.

3.2. * Candidates for the Substitute List

Approve the following list of requested candidates for the 2026 - 2027 Substitute List, pending any necessary paperwork:

Jane Maurer - Substitute Teacher

Deanna Blasiak - Substitute Nurse

3.3. * Candidates for Athletic Coaching/Manager

Approve the following requests for Athletic Coaching/Manager Candidates, as per contracted rates, pending any necessary paperwork:

Tegan Durishin - Assistant Varsity Football Coach at a stipend of $4,576.34

Greg Swatt - JV/Varsity Assistant Boys Soccer Coach at a stipend of $3,925.07.

Cody Scherer - Volunteer Football Coach

3.4. * Professional Development

Approve the following Professional Development opportunities:

Employee #s 153, 1036, 1666, 1172, 1932 and 1936 to attend the LETRS Course 2. Cost not to exceed $2,700 and will come out of the professional development budget.

3.5. * Uncompensated Leave

Approve uncompensated leave for employee #1239 from November 11, 2026 through the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.

3.6. * Resignations

Accept the resignation of the following employees with regret:

Kianna Cederberg - English Language Arts Teacher at the Middle School effective June 19, 2026.

Jessica Holloman - Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School effective August 1, 2026.

Karissa Nenscel - Learning Support Teacher at the Elementary Center effective August 17, 2026.

3.7. Candidates for Employment

MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by L. Frey, to approve the following candidates for employment in accordance with the respective contracts, pending any necessary paperwork:

Daniel Derr - Part-time cleaner for the District at a rate of $12.96 per hour, effective July 28, 2026, pending any necessary paperwork.

<u>Mentors at a contracted rate of $37.00 per hour for up to 16 hours:</u>

Donna Zacharias as a mentor to Jamie Scott

Suzanne Cordes as a mentor to Janine Matika

Nick Costantino as a mentor to Vanessa Michalik

Mentors to 2nd year inductees for the 2026/2027 school year at a contractual cost of $37 per hour not to exceed 10 hours each:
Kathy Martin as a mentor to Hannah Daly
Donna Zacharias as a mentor to Jesi Schlegel
Brooke Breiner as a mentor to Laura Filchner
Amber Williams as a mentor to Conner Grabfelder
Lauren Cortright as a mentor to Jennifer Grima
Stephanie Kulpa as a mentor to Maria D'Alessandro
Erica Pagotto as a mentor to Sebastian Roberts
Mary Boaz as a mentor to Alexia Sieger

2026-2027 Advisors:
Melissa Blocker - Assistant Scholastic Scrimmage at the High School at a stipend of $1,700.00.
Stephanie Kulpa - 5th Grade Chorus at a split stipend of $1,000.00.

Operation Council Members for the High School at a contracted rate of $1,800.00 each for the 2026-2027 School Year:
Nicholas Miller, Angela Harris and Michelle Rohrbach

Operation Council Members for the Middle School at a contracted rate of $1,800.00 each for the 2026-2027 School Year:
Theresa Kokinda, Sarah Dunchack, and AnnaLeigh Conway.

Operation Council Members for the Elementary Center at a contracted rate of $1,800.00 each for the 2026-2027 School Year:
Janine Matika, Norine Zehner, Kristel Orsulak, Jamie Scott, and Drewann Troutman

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

D. Hartley noted that all operations council positions had been successfully filled following vacancies noted at the recent workshop meeting. J. Moser confirmed that these council roles were created under the new collective bargaining agreement, reallocating previous positions such as grade-level leaders to serve as advisory bodies.

3.8. Candidates for Extracurricular Activity Advisor
MOTION by T. Tkach, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the following requests for Extracurricular Activity Advisor Candidates, as per contracted rates, pending any necessary paperwork:
Douglas Bowman - High School Extracurricular Advisor - Science Olympiad Head at a stipend of $2,200.00.

Lydia Weller - High School Extracurricular Advisor - Drama/Theater Production at a stipend of $2,100.00.

Amy Meixsell - High School Extracurricular Advisor - Science Olympiad Assistant at a stipend of $1,700.00.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.9. Buildership University's 100% Collective Subscription
MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve a one-year subscription, at a cost of $1,200, to Buildership University's 100% Collective for staff member #532. Collective "helps principals apply Buildership® to the real work they're already doing-walkthroughs, PLCs, evaluations, coaching-and make it work better, faster, and with more purpose."

D. Hartley inquired whether the subscription provided graduate credits or served primarily as a mentoring and instructional opportunity. Superintendent J. Moser clarified that while no graduate credits are granted, the request constitutes professional development permitted under Act 93 agreements. He added that the requesting administrator will share learned strategies back with the administrative team. Curriculum Director G. Laviolette noted that the administrator may petition the state for Act 45 credits and clarified that the cost will be paid from the budgeted administrative professional development account.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

3.10. Pre-Approval of Employee Continuing Education Courses
MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the following requests for pre-approval of Courses/Programs of Study for employee continuing education:

1. **Employee #655** - July 13, 2026-November 13, 2027/American College of Education - M.Ed., Instructional Design and Educational Tech. (up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
2. **Employee #1968** - August 24, 2026-May 5, 2028/Kutztown University - Elementary Ed PreK-4 Initial Certification, M. Ed. (up to $100.00 per credit/up to 18 credits per year).
3. **Employee #1309** - August 18 - September 30, 2026 - Game On! Enhancing Math Learning with Interactive and Engaging Practice (Coursework for MA +30 - up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
4. **Employee #1309** - July 1- August 31, 2026 - AI in Formative Assessment and Feedback Loops (Coursework only - up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
5. **Employee #577** - September 1, 2026 - September 1, 2027 - Let the Students Talk: The Power of Conversation in the Classroom (3 Credits/Non-Degree - up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
6. **Employee #577 -** September 1, 2026 - September 1, 2027 - Civics Education Today (3 Credits/Non-Degree - up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
7. **Employee #1072** - September 1 - October 19, 2026 — Instructional Coaching (Educational Development & Strategies - up to $577.00 per credit/up to 15 credits per year).
8. **Employee #1841** - August 3-17, 2026 - Game On: Enhancing Math Learning with Interactive and Engaging Practice (Continuing Education - Up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
9. **Employee #1841** - August 3-17, 2026 - Elementary Math Topics (Continuing Education - Up to $577.00 per credit/up to 6 credits per year).
10. **Employee #656** - August 24, 2026 - June of 2029 - Alvernia University's Ed.D. in Transformative Education Program ($450 per credit not to exceed 12 credits per fiscal year).

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4. Programs

4.1. * Consent Agenda
MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by A. Matika, to approve Consent Agenda items *4.2-*4.9

D. Hartley inquired about Item 4.7 regarding student handbooks, asking whether the school solicitor had reviewed the documents for legal compliance following discussion at the prior workshop meeting. J. Moser explained that administrative review was conducted first and adjustments were made directly to address necessary revisions. He clarified that because the revisions satisfactorily resolved the concerns, formal referral to the school solicitor was deemed unnecessary prior to board consideration.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.2. * ATSI Non-Title I School Plan 2026-2027
Approve the Lehighton Area High School 2026-2027 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) School Improvement Plan, as presented.

Included is a copy of the plan, a parent/community summary and the signature page; the plan will be posted on the website and the summary will be sent out to the high school community.

The plan has been reviewed and signed by the educational consultant from Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 and, upon Board approval, will be posted publicly on the district website and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with state requirements.

4.3. * CLIU Title III Consortium
Participate in the CLIU #21 Title III Consortium for the 2026/2027 school year.

4.4. * ECYEH Letter of Agreement
Approve the Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement with Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program Roles and Responsibilities for the 2026-2027 School year.

4.5. * Pathstone MOU
Approve the Pathstone MOU and Letter of Understanding.

4.6. * SHINE Program
Approve the Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement with the SHINE afterschool program and the meal contract to provide food service at $4.95 per student for the 2026-2027 School Year.

4.7. * Student/Parent Handbooks
Approve the following student/parent handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year:
Description: Lehighton Area High School
Lehighton Area Middle School
Lehighton Area Elementary Center
Lehighton Area Pre-K Counts
Lehighton Area Virtual Academy (LAVA)

4.8. * Secondary Evacuation Site
Approve the 2026-2027 Secondary Evacuation Location Memorandum of Understanding and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information and MOU Appendix B Code of Conduct: Parents/Guardians, Visitors, Volunteers and Consultants.

Please note that attachments and specific details are to remain confidential for security purposes.

4.9. * Disposal of Surplus Property
Approve the disposal of the attached unneeded surplus, unusable, and/or obsolete property from the District that is consuming valuable storage space according to policy 706.1.

4.10. Additional Handbooks/Resources
Recommendation to approve the following additional handbooks/resource guides for the 2026-2027 school year:
McKinney Vento Resource Guide
Home Education Handbook
LASD Coaches Handbook
Therapy Dog Handbook

A. Matika made a motion to amend the item to approve the handbooks subject to administrator and solicitor review and approval, citing legal concerns raised regarding language in select handbooks earlier that day.

MOTION by D. Hartley, SECONDED by L. Frey to amend item 4.10, subject to solicitor administrator approval and review.

J. Beers supported solicitor review, recommending that the Home Education Handbook be reviewed by legal counsel specializing in homeschooling laws to avoid potential litigation, while questioning whether the item should be tabled until the following month. D. Hartley inquired whether the district's policies address emotional support animals in addition to therapy dogs as students return from out-of-district placements.

Following procedural clarification from Atty. B. Shore regarding the pending motion to amend, W. Howland asked whether substantive legal revisions would require future board re-approval. J. Moser and Atty. B. Shore clarified that minor technical updates or legal alignments would not require re-approval, but any substantive deviations from District policy would return to the Board. J. Moser confirmed he would submit the handbooks to the District solicitor for immediate review.

Roll Call Vote to amend agenda item:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstension
Ms. Heather Neff, Vice-President	X	0	0	0
Mr. Timothy Tkach, Member	X	0	0	0
Ms. Joy Beers, Member	X	0	0	0
Mr. David Bradley, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Lory Frey, Treasurer	X	0	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Member	0	0	X	0
Ms. Denise Hartley, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. William Howland, Member	X	0	0	0
Dr. Alex Matika, President	X	0	0	0

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

The floor was opened for public comment since the agenda was amended. R. Bowman expressed appreciation to the Board for subjecting the handbooks to legal review by the school solicitor. He noted that formal legal vetting protects student and staff rights while mitigating liability for the district, specifically pointing out the omission of the Anti-Hazing Act in the Coaches Handbook as an area requiring administrative attention.

MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the following additional handbooks/resource guides for the 2026-2027 school year subject to solicitor and admin review and approval:
McKinney Vento Resource Guide
Home Education Handbook
LASD Coaches Handbook
Therapy Dog Handbook

Vote: YES - 6 NO - 1 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

J. Beers voted no.

4.11. 2026-2027 School Calendar
MOTION by L. Frey, SECONDED by D. Hartley, to approve the revised 2026-2027 School Calendar to include a professional development day for all professional staff on August 17, 2026, to complete the 8 days available through the LAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Calendar revision to add in an additional professional development day on August 17, 2026.

J. Moser clarified that the revision reflects an added professional development day finalized after the approval of the new collective bargaining agreement and does not impact students or families. He commended G. Laviolette and the association for collaborating effectively to schedule the date smoothly.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.12. Second Reading and Final Approval of Policies
MOTION by J. Beers, SECONDED by W. Howland, to approve the following policies for Second Reading and Final Approval:
249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying

D. Hartley commended the administration for revising the policy following concerns raised during the prior workshop meeting. Superintendent J. Moser explained that the updates directly incorporated revised language from recently enacted state school code legislation, aligning district policy with the new statewide requirements.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

4.13. Use of School Property

MOTION by A. Matika, SECONDED by T. Tkach, to approve Use of School Property for the following requests:

1. Lehighton Cheerleading (Amanda Hunsicker) - August 8 & August 9, 2026 - 11:30 AM-4:30 PM - High School Gym - UCA Cheer Camp.
2. LASC (Ashley Moser & Alicia Hughart) - August-October 2026 (Saturdays & every other Sunday) - 12:30-5:30 PM - Middle School Soccer Fields & Outside Fields - U13 & U16 Games.
3. Lehighton Cheer (Brianne Farrell) - November 7, 2026/11:00 AM-6:00 PM - November 8, 2026/6:00 AM-6:00 PM - High School Gym/Auditorium/Foyer/Chorus Room/Girls Locker Room/Weight Room/Mat Room - Cheer Competition.

H. Neff noted a past concern regarding the use of street shoes on wrestling mats during facility rentals in the wrestling room. Superintendent J. Moser affirmed that administration would ensure those involved are made aware of facility rules and that street shoes will not be permitted on the mats.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

5. Miscellaneous

None at the time.

6. Old Business

None at the time.

7. New Business for Discussion

None at the time.

8. Communications

8.1. Director's Concerns

None at the time.

8.2. Public Comment

None at the time.

8.3. Adjournment

MOTION by W. Howland, SECONDED by A. Matika, to adjourn the Meeting.

Vote: YES - 7 NO - 0 ABSENT - 2 ABSTENTIONS - 0

The July 27, 2026 Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Karpowicz, Board Secretary
By Janine Partenio, Recording Secretary