



EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committee of the Whole Meeting June 8, 2020

A Committee Meeting of the Eastern Lancaster County School Board of Directors, which was properly advertised in the LNP *Lancaster Newspaper*, was held on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Due to the current stay-at-home order for all Pennsylvanians, declared by Governor Wolf on April 1, 2020, the subsequent order closing schools through indefinitely, and in consideration of the health and safety of the school community, the Eastern Lancaster County School Board of Directors held this meeting virtually via Zoom Video & Webinar.

Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were: Gary Buck, Brian Conroy, Jonathan Dahl, Jacqueline Geyer, Paul Irvin, Kevin McCarroll, Bryan Naranjo, and Thomas Wentzel **Note:** *All Members were joining via videocam.*

Board Members not in attendance were: Dina Maio

Also in attendance were: Dr. Robert Hollister, Justin W. Johnson, Dr. Nadine Larkin and Keith Ramsey

Staff/Public in attendance were: Several citizens of the community and staff members of the District and a member of the media.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Wentzel opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

President Wentzel led in a silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens of the District Comments

The Board encourages citizens of the district to come before the Board to present their petitions, inquiries, or other communications of interest. The Board invites public (*Citizens of the District*) comment on any topic that is within the Board's jurisdiction. As outlined in Board Policy 903, the Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district. Due to the virtual aspect of the Board meeting, the Board is requesting if you wish to provide public comment during the virtual board meeting, you should sign-up to do so by completing the online form prior to the meeting.

[PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP FORM](#)

Public comments will be read aloud during the public comment section of the agenda.
Thank you.

COMMENTS:

Darrel Martin, 117 N Hill Rd, Terre Hill, PA 17581

I want to thank you for all you do to make Garden Spot a safe place to go to school. Please read this prayer.

Lord I ask for your blessing over this school district, the students, the teachers, and this Board. I pray for wisdom from heaven to guide the decision that are made by this group of people. I pray for peace over this school board as they have been facing many stressful situations and decisions. We pray for unity in the school district, and a unity that strengthens this community. Lord we pray against the things that are causing division and strife. And Lord we pray for the safety and provision for Students, the families in the Garden spot School district and the families on this Board. In Jesus name, Amen.

Michele Zook, 305 Cottonwood Lane New Holland PA 17557

Hello! When the Governor first ordered us to stay inside, I complied along with probably everyone else in Lancaster County. We were told 15 days to slow the spread which we did. Thankfully, our hospitals did not become overwhelmed. As of today, I believe we have had 307 deaths in Lancaster County with 273 in nursing facilities which I do not write flippantly. My father is in a nursing facility, and I understand the dangers. However, the narrative from our Governor and Secretary of Health keeps changing. Slow the spread...to stop the spread....to until there is a vaccine. What if a viable vaccine is never developed? If this virus is as virulent as we have been told, I am thinking with all the gatherings of tens of thousands across our country over the last several days, it should spread through the population, people will build immunities, and by fall we can move forward. That is my prayer. Regardless, I am concerned as to what school will be for our children going forward if the Governor stands by that we will be in green until there is a viable treatment or vaccine. My two kids are looking forward to school. Online learning was not a good experience for either of them. My son struggled with one of his classes (even though he earned an A the third marking period in a traditional setting). My daughter has always disliked computer work. She does much better with paper and pencil. It was very isolating for them, as well. They both miss their friends. As I flipped through the yearbook and saw smiling faces, kids sitting next to one another, arms around each other, I cannot imagine a nurturing environment where students have to wear a mask and stay away from one another. My two are also looking forward to sports. My son wants to try football for the first time, and my daughter has been looking forward to volleyball since it ended last October. However, they have said that they do not want to go to school if they will be required to wear a mask and "social distance". They said that environment is not school to them. I hold a Master's degree in Education and support public schools, but if school will be like this, I will be looking at other options.

4. Approve Personnel Report

Dr. Larkin highlighted the recommendation of the Administration to hire Mr. Robert Arrick as permanent Principal at New Holland Elementary and Melissa Martin as Assistant Principal at New Holland Elementary effective July 1, 2020. She also recognized two new special education employees, Abigail Foster and Samantha McCarthy and the resignation of Betsy Schonour, school psychologist who had been with the District 17 years.

Irvin made a motion to approve the personnel report. It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent)**

Dr. Hollister welcome new employees to the District.

5. Property and Services

a. Action Item: Approval of Final Budget for General Fund Approval Resolution

The final budget does not include a tax increase

Mr. Ramsey presented the action item to approve the Final Budget for the General Fund Approval Resolution. He indicated that the only change from the May 11th Meeting was the adjustments recommended by the Board which included the elimination of the 5 vacant positions, salary & benefits; the inclusion of the 2 Assistant Principal positions; the elimination of 8 STS employee positions, and the elimination of the 4 learner slots at River Rock Academy. Mr. Ramsey also noted that the Budget included no tax increase, leaving the tax rate at 12.5711 mills.

b. Action Item: Approval of Annual Tax Levy Resolution

This resolution sets the tax rates for 2020-21. The real estate tax rate is 12.5711

Mr. Ramsey presented the action item to approve the Annual Tax Levy Resolution setting the tax rate for 2020-2021 at 12.5711 mills. He noted that collection due dates would remain the same, however adjustments would be made if there were any legislative changes.

c. Action Item: Approval of Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

The real estate tax reduction amount for 2020-21 is \$64.73 per homestead and farmstead

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution, noting that the amount went up \$0.09 for a total of \$64.73.

d. Action Item: Authorize Budgetary and Fund Transfers for the 2019-20 school year with approval, of such, at acceptance of the Audit Report

This approval authorizes the Chief of Finance and Operations to make the necessary budgetary transfers, after June 30, 2020, for the completion of the 2019-2020 financial

reports and fund transfers with subsequent approval of such at acceptance of the final audited financial statements.

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with the annual action item to authorize him to make the necessary budgetary transfers after June 30, 2020. He noted that this would allow him to clean up any accounts with negative balances. He also informed the Board that these transfers would be approved with the Auditor's report.

e. Action Item: Approval of the Resolution for Commitment of June 30, 2020 Fund Balance

This resolution just authorizes what areas will be included in the committed fund balance. Currently, the District's committed fund balance includes PSERS and Technology Initiatives.

Actual amounts committed will be included in the audit report.

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with the annual action item to approve the Resolution for Commitment of June 30, 2020 Fund Balance which would be committed to PSERS, technology initiatives, and curriculum textbooks and software. He noted that the actual amounts would be approved with the Auditor's report.

f. Action Item - Approve the Special Education Service Contracts with the Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13 for the 2020-21 School Year

Contracted Special Education Services	\$ 637,615 (\$ 495,658 for 19-20)
Job Training Services	\$ 138,377 (\$ 139,914 for 19-20)
Speech and Language Itinerant Services	\$ 0 (\$ 1,512 for 19-20)

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board approve the Special Education Service Contracts with the Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13 for the 2020-21 School Year. He informed the Board that there was an increase of \$142,000 for services based on need, a small increase in Job Training services due to increase of days, and a decrease in Speech and Language services as these services were no longer needed.

g. Approval of the Change orders that were executed for the HS/MS Locker Room and HVAC Project, as follows:

General Contractor - ECI Construction

GC-02 \$500 Deduct - Removal of job site sign

GC-03 \$1,394 Add - Add 1/4" steel closure plates on the existing unforeseen steel column
Architect's comment on GC-03 - The background behind this is there is an existing structural steel column that was not shown on the existing drawings, nor picked up in our survey. It's embedded within an existing wall to be removed, and its profile is that of an "I" beam (not a tube column). As a result, that column will now be located within the new training room. The cost is to have the contractor tack weld a new steel plate on each open end of the column and finish so it looks like a finished tube column. Removing the column is an option,

though the cost to re-work structure above would be significant. We could just leave the column alone, however not only would it not look good aesthetically, but it's a dirt collector as well.

GC-04 \$1,269 Add - Add 1/4" steel closure plate to exposed sections of unforeseen steel column

Architect's comment on GC-04 - It's a little less than GC-03, and the background behind it is the same. This column is at a corner location, and more than aesthetics and dirt-catching, my biggest concern would be because it sticks out slightly from the wall, the safety of people turning the corner tightly.

GC-05 \$2,730 Add - Additional support beam

Architect's comment on GC-05 - The background behind this is that during demolition, the contractor discovered an existing steel column that had been cut off during a previous renovation and left unsupported. This change order adds a beam to remedy the support condition. The structural engineer reviewed the cost and found it to be in line.

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with the approval of 4 change orders that were executed for the HS/MS Locker Room and HVAC Project. These included a deduction of \$500 for the removal of the job site sign, an addition of \$1,394 to put 1/4" steel closure plates on the existing unforeseen steel column, an addition of \$1,269 to add a 1/4" steel closure plate to exposed sections of unforeseen steel column, and an addition of \$2,730 for an additional support beam, all based on the recommendation of the Architect. He also presented a change order log for the Board's review.

h. Action Item - Trash Removal RFP Award

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with the action item to award the Trash Removal RFP to Eagle Disposals. He noted that Eagle Disposal was the current District vendor and was happy to see that their quote came in at the lowest. Mr. Ramsey also noted that this was for 5-year contract.

i. Action Item - Part-Time Classroom and Food Services RFP Award

Mr. Ramsey presented the Board with the action item to award the Part-time Classroom and Food Services RFP to STS (Substitute Teacher Service, Inc.). He indicated that the submitted RFPs went through an evaluation process with a review team that based the proposals on cost, experience, qualification, and references. Mr. Ramsey noted that based on this review, the Administration was recommending to continue the District's contract with STS.

j. Action Item - Approve Addendum to Agreement with Brightbill Transportation, Inc. concerning period of COVID-19 school closure

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board approval the Addendum to Agreement with Brightbill Transportation, Inc. concerning period of COVID-19 school closure. He noted that the District's solicitor had reviewed the addendum and there were no changes since the last time that this was presented to the Board. Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that this agreement would renegotiate the contract with Brightbill Transportation, so that the District would receive its full subsidy as if Covid-19 had not happened.

k. Information Item - Artificial Turf Options and Track

Mr. Ramsey introduced Mr. Jim Hocker of Derck & Edson Associates and Chris Barnett of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates to present the artificial turf options and track reconstruction proposal. Mr. Hocker presented the Board with three options for the installation of a turf field: #1 option replacing field along Grandview Avenue for a total cost of \$2.95-3.2 million, #2 option the replacement of the current main stadium field for a total cost \$2.5-2.8 million, and #3 option, the largest of the three, replacing field along tower road for the a total cost of \$3.2-3.4 million. Mr. Hocker and Mr. Barnett presented the cons and pros of each of the options. They also presented the current state of the track and the total cost of a reconstruction project of \$600,000.

The Board, Administration, Athletic Director, and Architects discussed the presented options, the timetable of construction, construction codes, parking space availability, track reconstruction, other options for turf field, and total project costs.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that due to the discussion; he was requesting the Architects to come back to the Board with an additional fourth option at the upcoming Board meeting for further discussion.

l. Information Item - Auction Date set for July 15, 2020

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the auction of the sale of property was set for July 15, 2020.

m. Information Item - Student Accident Insurance for 2020-21

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the District would be adding Student Accident Insurance to the District's Insurance for the 2020-2021 school year. He noted that the District had originally cut this to control cost, however through an insurance pool with districts in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, a better option with tremendous coverage with minimum cost had been presented which covered not only all sports, but all student school activities on and offsite. Mr. Ramsey noted that this would go into effect on July 1, 2020.

6. Program

a. Action Item - Approve Assistant Superintendent signing SAP contract with Caron Foundation for the 2020-2021 School Year.

This contract with Caron Foundation provides the school district with 7 days of Student Assistance Program (SAP) K-12. 4-5 days will be at the secondary level and 2-3 days will be at the elementary level. Total cost of the contract is \$60,315.00. We have added a day to last year's contract due to additional needs at the elementary level with groups of learners.

Dr. Larkin requested the Board approve her signing the SAP contract with Caron Foundation for the 2020-2021 school year. She noted that the total cost for the contract was \$60,315, a \$9500 increase due to the addition of another day to help meet the needs of learners at the Elementary level.

b. Action Item - Approval of TSI Plans for Blue Ball Elementary and Garden Spot High School

Dr. Larkin informed the Board that both Blue Ball Elementary and Garden Spot High School had been designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). She indicated that the Every Student Succeeds Act identifies schools with challenges under three different designations: CSI Schools, A-TSI Schools, and TSI Schools. Dr. Larkin informed the Board that the TSI designation functions as an early warning system for at-risk learner groups and is based on these criteria: learner group exhibits achievement at or below the statewide average achievement rate of 48.4% and falls within a specific achievement-academic growth profile and Learner group meeting step 1 criteria also performs below state averages for either ESSA-required indicator or both state-selected indicators.

Dr. Larkin informed that Board that school designated as TSI were required to develop building level improvement plans approved from the Board of School Directors. She noted that both Blue Ball Elementary and Garden Spot High School pulled together building improvement teams and developed building improvement plans that targeted whole building growth areas.

Mrs. Heather Schrantz, Blue Ball Elementary Principal and Dr. Matthew Sanger, Garden Spot Secondary Campus Principal, presented their building improvement plans, indicating building strengths, areas of growth and challenges, and the plans for meeting those challenges.

Dr. Larkin requested the Board to review and approved the TSI Plans for Blue Ball Elementary and Garden Spot High School.

c. Information Items - None.

7. Management

a. Action Item - MOA between ELANCOSD and ELCEA regarding Teacher In-Service Days

Dr. Hollister presented the action item of the Memorandum of Agreement between Eastern Lancaster County School District and ELCEA (Teacher Association) regarding Teacher In-Service Days for the 2020-2021 school year. He noted that this swap out for an additional In-Service Day at the beginning of the year was for this school year only.

b. Information Items

Dr. Hollister commented to the Board that he knew that the Board and Administration were receiving many questions regarding the reopening of school in the Fall. He informed the Board that he had been currently meeting with a number of people regarding different options and hoped to have communications sent out soon regarding the District's intentions. He also

stated that he would like to wait until August 1st before finalizing any official announcements and would keep the Board updated.

Dr. Hollister also recommended that the Board continue to meet virtually for the next June meeting due to the social restriction of gatherings of no more than 25.

8. Announcements

Dr. Hollister announced that there was a need for an executive session prior to the start of the upcoming Board Meeting, on Monday, June 15, 2020 to receive the required Annual School Safety Report.

The Board and Administration discussed when staff would be returning to the buildings and how staff would be paid going forward. Dr. Hollister informed the Board that currently support staff would remain coming into the building as needed.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Geyer. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent)**

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
June 8, 2020