

Lackawanna City School District  
Board of Education  
245 South Shore Boulevard  
Thursday, October 14, 2021

APPROVED NOV 09 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Lackawanna City School District's Board of Education held on Thursday, October 14, 2021 after the 6:00 PM Work Session.

**A) OPENING**

Meeting called to order by Board President Leonard Kowalski at 7:38 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Azaldeen Mohamed, Mohamed Munassar, Anthony Catuzza, Kimberly Bukaty, Nicholas Sobaszek & Leonard Kowalski  
Excused: Mona Abdulla

Leonard Kowalski welcomed visitors and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Keith Lewis	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Kiel Illg	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Grant	Assistant Superintendent for Business
Carl Morgan	Special Education Attorney

**C) ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

C-1 Announcement of upcoming Meeting Dates:  
Monday, November 8, 2021– Work Session @ McKinley Admin Building, 6PM  
Wednesday, November 10 – Board Meeting @ McKinley Admin Building, 7PM  
C-2 Presentations: NONE  
C-3 Public Comment: NONE

**D) MINUTES:**

D-1 September 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting  
Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, to accept as read.  
DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR / NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

**E) PERSONNEL-TEACHING**

Leonard Kowalski called for a motion to omnibus items E-1 through E-20.  
Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Azaldeen Mohamed to omnibus E-1 through E-20.  
Nicholas Sobaszek disclosed that he was related to E-6.

E-1 Approve APPR Evaluators

- E-2 Approve Mentor
- E-3 Approve Board Canvass – MOA with LTF
- E-4 Approve resignation of Boys Varsity Bowling Coach and Post
- E-5 Approve Board Canvass – Anticipated Elementary Teacher
- E-6 Approve Retirement of Elementary Teacher – E. Kidd
- E-7 Approve Home Tutor
- E-8 Approve Graduate Hours – S. Grimm
- E-9 Approve FMLA and Long-Term Posting
- E-10 Approve Retirement of Elementary Teacher – C. Sardo
- E-11 Approve Board Canvass – Addition to Certified Substitute List
- E-12 Approve Board Canvass – Elementary Teacher
- E-13 Approve Varsity Bowling Coaches
- E-14 Approve Board Canvass – Post for Long Term Substitute Teacher
- E-15 Approve NON-Certified Substitute List Addition
- E-16 Approve Preferred Substitute Teacher Rate
- E-17 Approve Preferred Substitute Teachers
- E-18 Approve Teacher Transfers
- E-19 Approve Long Term Substitute
- E-20 Approve Long Term Substitute

Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Azaldeen Mohamed to accept as read.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

Leonard Kowalski congratulated Elaine Kidd and Claire Sardo on their retirement.

E-21 Approve Resolution, Hilary Donegan

Motion was made by Mohamed Munassar and seconded by Azaldeen Mohamed, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law Section 2509(1) and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Hilary Donegan, possessing NYS certification in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6, is hereby appointed as a 1.0 Elementary Teacher for a probationary period of 4 years at Step 5 of the Masters Salary Schedule.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law Sections 2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure at the conclusion of the probationary period, said teacher shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years, and if said teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, they shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

E-22 Approve Resolution – Natasha Benston

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law Section 2509(1) and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Natasha Benston, possessing NYS certification in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2), and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), is hereby appointed as a 1.0 Elementary Teacher for a probationary period of 4 years commencing on November 1, 2021 at Step 4 of the Masters Salary Schedule and ending on October 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law Sections 2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure at the conclusion of the probationary period, said teacher shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years, and if said teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, they shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

E-23 Approve Mentor

Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the attached/Mentor/New Hire for the 2021-2022 school year.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

**F) PERSONNEL-NONE-TEACHING**

Leonard Kowalski called for a motion to omnibus items F-1 through F-6.

Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Mohamed Munassar to omnibus items F-1 through F-6.

F-1 Approve Termination of Cleaner

F-2 Approve Resolution – Desiree Owns, Cleaner

F-3 Approve Resolution – Victoria Walawender, Cleaner

F-4 Approve Additions to the Athletic Support Staff

F-5 Additions to NON-Teaching Substitute Lists

F-6 Approve Ending LOA - Account Clerk Typist

Leonard Kowalski disclosed that he is related to F-6.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

F-7 Approve Contract – Director of Facilities II

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the attached contract

extension with Kenneth Jackson, Director of Facilities II. I further recommend approval for Board President Leonard Kowalski to sign the contract on behalf of the District.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

F-8 Approve Resolution – Mason Hucksoil, Custodian

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the resolution as read:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mason Hucksoil who will successfully complete the 52-week civil service probationary appointment, will hereby granted to a permanent position to serve as Custodian effective November 1, 2021.

Leonard Kowalski disclosed that he is a distant relative.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

F-9 Approve Resolution – Mark Kwasniewski, Building Maintenance Mechanic

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis to approve the resolution as read:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mark Kwasniewski who will successfully complete the 52-week civil service probationary appointment, will hereby granted to a permanent position to serve as Building Maintenance Mechanic effective November 1, 2021.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

F-10 Approve Resolution – Cheryl Van Houten, Teacher Aide

Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Kimberly Bukaty, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis to approve the resolution as read:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Cheryl Van Houten is hereby appointed to a position of Teacher Aide subject to a 52-week probationary period. The probationary period commences on October 18, 2021 and ends on October 17, 2022. The salary for the school year 2021-2022 is \$31,084.00.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

**G) GENERAL ITEM**

G-1 Approve ASBO Conference Request

Motion was made by Mohamed Munassar and seconded by Kimberly Bukaty, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the request for Laura Kowalczyk to attend the ASBO New York District Treasurer Workshop from

November 2-5, 2021.  
DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-2 Approve Agreement with Baker Victory Services

I recommend the Board approve the attached agreement with Baker Victory Services for Title1 Part D Funding for the 2021-2022 school year and for Superintendent Keith Lewis to sign said agreement on behalf of the District.  
No motion was received – No vote taken.

G-3 Approve Board Canvass – Use of Facilities for Lackawanna Little Loop

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the Board Canvass taken on September 29, 2021 for the Lackawanna Little Loop Cheerleaders.  
DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-4 Approve CSE/CPSE Reviews and Report Summary/Annual Report

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the attached CSE/CPSE Reviews and Report Summary/Annual Report.  
DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-5 Approve Apptegy Agreement

I recommend the Board approve the attached agreement with Apptegy to build our website, custom mobile app, and our alert and notification system. I further request permission for Superintendent Keith Lewis to sign this agreement on behalf of the District.  
No motion was received – No vote taken.

G-6 Approve Board Canvass – Harassment Officer

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the Board Canvass taken on October 7, 2021 approving Richard Collins, Atty, as the backup Harassment Officer.  
DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-7 Approve Excess Athletic Department Items

Motion was made by Mohamed Munassar and seconded by Azaldeen Mohamed, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the excess the attached list of outdated/broken Athletic Department items.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-8 Approve Use of Facilities – City Swim Project

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the attached Use of Facilities request from City Swim Project.

Kimberly Bukaty asked if it is replacing the Lackawanna Recreation Program.

Superintendent Lewis said that it is a different program and both programs will be offered.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-9 Approve Remember Ryan Foundation Grant

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to accept the attached Remember Ryan Foundation Corporate Sponsorship Grant in the amount of \$2000 awarded to Russell Carere to be used to purchase musical instruments.

Leonard Kowalski commented that we have received this for several years.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-10 Approve Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation Grant

Motion was made by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation Grant in the amount of \$2206 and for Keith Lewis to sign on behalf of the District. These funds will be used to purchase a commercial grade washer/dryer and supplies for the High School Family and Consumer Science Room.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

G-11 Approve NYSCATE Conference Request

Motion was made by Nicholas Sobaszek and seconded by Mohamed Munassar, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to approve the request for Andrea Tamarazio to attend the NYSCATE Annual Conference from November 20-23, 2021 as per attached.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE  
ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED  
Passes 6-0

**H) FINANCIAL MATTERS**

H-1 Approve External Audit

Motion was made by Mohamed Munassar and seconded by Anthony Catuzza, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Lewis, to accept the 2020-2021 External Audit by Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro.

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

**I) RECEIVE AND FILE**

Motion was made by Anthony Catuzza and seconded by Azaldeen Mohamed and Kimberly Bukaty to Receive and File all Items.

I-1 Budget Transfers – August

I-2 Treasurer's Report - August

I-3 Richard Collins – Investigative Report

DULY PUT TO A VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR/NONE OPPOSED

Passes 6-0

**J) TABLED ITEMS -NONE**

**K) OLD BUSINESS - NONE**


**L) PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

A discussion was held regarding a proposed \$58 million Capital Project for the following: 1. Redo McKinley Administration Building to become an instructional building, 2. MS/HS Turf, 3. Building Condition Survey across all buildings. Of the \$58 million, 21 million is unaidable. This will need a 60% approval rating from the voters. Eight million will go to McKinley Administration Building and 11 million will go to incidental work. The complete project will cost taxpayers \$113/per \$100,000 assessed home for 15 years. If McKinley is left out it would be \$46/per \$100,000 assessed home for 15 years. There are many options to be considered and explored.

**M) ADJOURNMENT**

Recommend by Azaldeen Mohamed and seconded by Anthony Catuzza to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Lackawanna City School District Board of Education at 8:13 PM. in the Superintendents Conference Room, 245 South Shore Blvd, Lackawanna, NY 14218.

ADJOURNED AT 8:13 PM.

  
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Kathleen McHugh  
Board Clerk