

**LAKELAND SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 19, 2021 @ Lakeland's Corporation Office**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. President David Larimer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other Board Members present were Brett Bateman, Rob West, Jessica Holbrook, Derrick Sherck, and Sue Keenan. Also seated at the table Dr. Eva Merkel, Superintendent. Present in the audience was: Jenny Landez, Kirby Doidge, Traci Blaize, Vanessa Wyss, Brad Targgart, Rachel Stroop, Kim Kabrich, Allecia Leer, Sam Lovelace, Chelsea Superczynski, Bob Albaugh, Kyle Grossman, T.J. Schneider, Katie Allen-Casten, Bob Casten, Jason Schackow, Greg Baker, and Christina Baker. Representing the media was Patrick Redmon with the Kendallville News-Sun and Mike Stiles from WTHD Radio.
- b. Pledge to the United States Flag

**II. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**

- a. No additions or deletions were needed.

**III. INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO SPEAK TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

- a. No one requested to speak.

**IV. REPORTS**

- a. "Spotlight on Education" featuring Lakeland Intermediate School
  - i. Brad Targgart gave a report out on highlights from this past school year.
- b. Communications
  - i. Dr. Merkel shared a letter from the LaGrange Chamber of Commerce. They donated \$250 toward Lakeland's Blessings in a Backpack Program.
- c. Treasurer Report
  - i. Kirby Doidge shared cash balance information for the end of March. Cash balance is up \$1.2 million from a year ago.
- d. Facility Report
  - i. Kirby Doidge shared that Barton Coe Vilamaa will be conducting a facilities studies. BCV will provide a report on upcoming facility update needs district wide. The report should be completed by the June meeting.
- e. School Board President's Report
  - i. Mr. Larimer said he was excited about the new hires on the agenda. He also stated that the Board would like Mr. Doidge to provide a report on CARES and ESSER II & III funds at the June meeting. The Board said it was time to have a strategic planning meeting regarding finances.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Bateman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. West and approved with a vote of five (5) in favor and one (1) abstaining. Mr. Sherck was the abstaining vote.

The Board approved the following items:

- a. Approval of the March 15, 2021 board meeting minutes
- b. Approval of April 12, 2021 public hearing minutes
- c. Approval of payroll and claims for Lakeland School Corporation
- d. Retirement of Martha Yoder as a School Bus Driver effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
- e. Creation of Assistant JV Baseball Coach position due to increased numbers

- f. Creation of Tier 3 Intervention Teacher for Lakeland Intermediate and Primary School (2 positions)
- g. Creation of Permanent Substitute Teachers (3 positions)
- h. Employment of Matt Frost as Assistant JV Baseball Coach
- i. Resignation of Jeannine Leiter as Engineering Teacher at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
- j. Resignation of Katie Allen as Agriculture Teacher and High School FFA Sponsor at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
- k. Employment of Katie Allen as Alternative School Coordinator/Teacher at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year
- l. Employment of Alecia Leer as a Math Teacher at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School on a 60% contract effective with the 2021-2022 school year
- m. Employment of Emily Jordan as an Elementary Teacher (Regular Teacher Contract) effective with the 2021-2022 school year
- n. Employment of Tami Maxey as Senior Projects Assistant at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School
- o. Resignation of Lauren Moore as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
- p. Resignation of Megan Hamilton as Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach
- q. Approval of an overnight field trip for the Lakeland High School FFA to travel to Danville, Indiana May 7 & 8, 2021.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. No unfinished business items.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hiring of the Superintendent

Mr. West made a motion to approve the employment of Dr. Greg Baker as Superintendent of School effective July 1, 2021, seconded by Mr. Bateman and approved unanimously.

- b. Dr. Merkel recommended the Board approve the leasing tower space at Lima-Brighton Elementary School

Mr. West made a motion to approve the leasing tower space at Lima-Brighton Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Bateman and approved unanimously.

- c. The Board had 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2021-2022 Lakeland Jr/Sr High School Student Handbook.

Chelsea Superczynski went over all the proposed changes/updates to the handbook. The biggest change was the rule prohibiting all students from wearing bandanas in any fashion.

Mr. West made a motion to waive 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approve as submitted, seconded by Mr. Bateman and approved unanimously.

- d. The Board had 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2021-2022 Lakeland Primary/Intermediate Schools Student Handbook.

Vanessa Wyss went over all the proposed changes/updates to the handbook.

Mr. West made a motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approve as submitted, seconded by Mr. Sherck and approved unanimously.

- e. The Board had 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2021-2022 Lakeland Jr/Sr High School Athletic Handbook.

Kyle Grossman went over the proposed updates/changes for the handbook. One major change discussed was Jr. High School student eligibility requirements when it comes to grades. Board will have 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the handbook at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- f. Dr. Merkel recommended the Board approve a wage increase for substitute teachers at Lakeland School Corporation effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The recommendation was to pay substitute teachers \$13.55 per hour.

Mr. West made a motion to approve increasing the substitute teacher wage to \$13.55 per hour effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Ms. Keenan and approved unanimously.

- g. Dr. Merkel recommended the Board approve the renewal the agreement between The Impact Institute and Lakeland School Corporation for continued use of classroom space at Wolcott Mills Elementary building for the Health Occupations Education.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the renewal the agreement between The Impact Institute and Lakeland School Corporation for continued use of classroom space at Wolcott Mills Elementary building for the Health Occupations Education, seconded by Mr. Bateman and approved unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Persons wishing to make the Board aware of suggestions, ideas, and/or comments may address the Board at this time. Comments which involve personnel or students must be discussed in private.

- a. Rachel Stroop, Lakeland Education Association Co-President, she thanked the administration for allowing the LEA to speak to staff regarding opposition to proposed Indiana legislation.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. No comments were given.

X. CALENDAR REVIEW

- a. Lakeland Board of School Trustees' next meeting will be held on May 17, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Mr. Bateman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., seconded by Ms. Keenan and approved unanimously.

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Jenny Landez

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Date Approved

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David Larimer, President

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Brett Bateman, Vice President

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Rob West, Secretary

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Sue Keenan

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Jessica Holbrook

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Derrick Sherck