



Lower Merion School District  
301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399  
[www.lmsd.org](http://www.lmsd.org)

## **LMSD Board of School Directors Jan. 24, 2022, Business Meeting Highlights**

*For a complete agenda, visit the [BoardDocs section](#) of the District website.  
Closed-captioned [meeting videos](#) are available on the District website within five days.*

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE/PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Mumin discussed his community meeting at Zion Baptist Church where the importance of student voice was emphasized. He then introduced the student representatives to give their reports.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

Lower Merion High School Student School Board Representative Emmi Wu said that the majority of students and staff are being conscientious about COVID and are reminding each other to wear masks. She said topics of concern include the availability of COVID tests for staff and also the issue of sexism in STEM classes, particularly an offering of a STEM course for women and non-binary students only. As midterms begin, she stated that midterms are stressful and many students are wondering if midterms are necessary, especially since they contribute to stress. The students are looking forward to Amazing Ace, TSA weekend and the Hope Classic.

Harrington High School Student School Board Representative Eli Feldman noted that close to half the school opted for virtual classes for the two weeks after break, but it's good to see everyone in person again. He also mentioned midterms starting and that while upperclassmen appreciate the break in the regular schedule and that some teachers are offering projects in lieu of exams, underclassmen are more stressed, since they didn't have midterms before. School spirit is good, as students are supporting sports teams and other events.

Ms. Klain reported on the Dec. 22, 2021, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Anti-Racism where the new Director of Equity position was discussed, along with expanding the District's program with the Montgomery County Vocational and Technical High School.

Ms. Kalish reported on the Jan. 5, 2022, Curriculum Committee of the Board, where the new course offerings for K-8 were discussed, along with the extension of the Performance Tracker contract, scheduling for the K-4 day and an overview of the 5-8 programming. Finally, there was an update on the dual enrollment program. The current program with USciences is being discontinued by the university. The administration recommends switching the program to a

program with Gwynedd Mercy College in the fall, which will be taught by LMSD teachers and work better with our high school schedules.

Ms. Shafmeister reported on the Jan. 20, 2022, Facilities and Purchasing Committee meeting, which included review of the following items: the list of bills, the contracts and purchasing report items listed on tonight's agenda and an update on construction of the new middle school.

### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

During audience recognition, students and residents commented on the following topics, in person and via the chat feature on Zoom.

- Changes in school culture and fewer opportunities for students to collaborate and socialize at LMHS in recent weeks and BCMS students not being allowed to attend sports events or high school tours during COVID.
- Opposition to Mask-to-Stay and current MCOPH quarantine and isolation guidance, which the speaker thought were too relaxed.
- Timeline for making masks optional and allowing elementary students to remove masks and intermingle at recess.
- Full day kindergarten and a suggestion to use public school funds to pay for children to attend full-day private kindergartens.
- Which in-person spring activities will be happening for all schools?
- Issues with LMSD transportation to independent schools.
- The cost and necessity of playing fields for BRMS and the trees that will be cut down to build the fields.
- Disconnecting the issues of later start times for high schools and lights at Arnold Field.
- District legal fees.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Board approved the following:

- The PSBA Principles for Governance and Leadership Resolution.
- Ranier and Company Financial statements and single audit report.
- Resolution not raise the tax rate over the Act 1 index of 3.4% for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The following items were approved as a consent agenda:

### **ROUTINE/BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT**

The Board approved the minutes of prior Board meeting and committee meeting(s).

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Board approved:

- Personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board noted the passings of:

- Middle school teacher Mary De Leo-Nester, who was employed from 1984 through 2001.
- Harriton night custodian Lawrence Drain, who was employed from 1989-2005.

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Board approved:

- Educational Service Agreements for students receiving non-District educational services.
- Agreement with the MCIU for a school psychologist.
- Independent contractor agreement with Karen Anderson for nursing support.
- Service agreement with Lincoln Center for Family and Youth for school-based counselors.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The Board approved:

- Emergency Instructional Time template.
- Renewal of PerformanceTracker contract.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

The Board approved the following items:

- List of Bills.
- December 2021 LMSD Financial Report.
- Surety bonds for Lower Merion Township and Narberth Borough tax collectors.

The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:

- A bench and plaque valued at \$2750 for HHS from the Class of 1981.
- \$1500 from Independence Blue Cross Corporate Giving to support the HHS Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.
- A Wyeth print from the Lower Merion Symphony Orchestra in memory of Mr. Hughes.
- Donation of 28,000 KN-95 masks (18,000 adult and 10,000 child) from Lower Merion Township valued at \$11,000

### **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

The Board approved the following items:

- Contract for BAS upgrade at PVES; electrical service installation at BRMS; musical instruments for BRMS; grand piano for BRMS; furniture procurement for BRMS
- Quote from ePlus for renewal of Nutanix software and VMware
- Individual Work Order for professional services from Chester Valley Engineers for work at PWES
- Change orders for BRMS construction
- Resolution to acquire the portion of property needed for traffic signal at BRMS

The Board tabled:

- Dismantling and removal of temporary classrooms at PWES, BCMS and MES

**OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no Old Business

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board:

- Approved the nomination of Ms. Shafmeister for a seat on the MCIU’s Board of Directors

**SUNSHINE ACT**

Ms. Brooks, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, reported when the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session on Jan. 24, 2022, when District land acquisition matters were discussed.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Board Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the DAO Board Room:

- February 14 Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board Meeting
- February 22 Regular Business Board Meeting  
(Note: this is a Tuesday due to the holiday on Monday)

Committee Meetings will be held in the Board Room (and livestreamed) starting at 8:30 AM unless noted otherwise:

- January 26 Communications Committee @ 7:00 PM
- February 2 Curriculum Committee
- February 4 Policy Committee
- February 17 Facilities/Purchasing Committee
- February 23 Ad Hoc Committee for Equity and Anti-Racism @ 7:00 PM

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