

**LAKWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

The Lakewood Local School District Board of Education met for a Board Work Session on October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Local High School Library.

The following members answered to roll:

- Mr. Nathan Corum
- Ms. Tara Houdeshell
- Mr. Jon Lynch
- Ms. Brittany Misner
- Mr. William Pollard

Those in attendance via Zoom included:

- Mr. David Conley, Rockmill Financial Consulting
- Mr. Dennis Paben, Legat Architects
- Ms. Patti Pickering, Director of District Services
- Ms. Carol Field, Jackson Intermediate Principal
- Ms. Nikki Henry, Hebron Elementary Principal
- Ms. Cassie Kane, District Communications Consultant
- Ms. Jessica Corum, Prior Levy Committee Chair

**WORK SESSION ITEM**

Elementary School Discussion

The initial topic of discussion involved determining whether the Board of Education wants to place a Bond Issue on the ballot? If so, when does the Board want to place the Bond Issue on the ballot?

Ms. Misner commented that we need a new elementary school. Hebron Elementary and Jackson Intermediate are not serving our students and teachers to the full capacity.

Ms. Houdeshell agrees 100% that we need a new elementary school. She does worry about the timing of everything going on in and around our community.

Ms. Nikki Henry asked what haven't we communicate about our school. Maybe we should show what other school settings look like and what education could look like for our students.

# LAKWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

Ms. Carol Field discussed some challenges at Jackson Intermediate which includes:

- No handrails on bleachers
- Instructional time lost transitioning between the two (2) buildings
- Shortage of electrical outlets in classrooms
- Can't adjust classroom lighting
- Smaller classrooms do not allow for student collaboration
- Limited number of restrooms
- Building was designed in 1970 and it is not adaptable for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning.

Mr. Pollard recognizes the need for a new elementary school. Renovating Jackson A and Jackson B buildings is putting on a band aid. He is not sure if putting a Bond Issue on in the spring is a good idea due to the aftermath of the Presidential Election and he is also concerned with COVID and its impact. On the flip side, the low interest rates provide a perfect opportunity to save taxpayer's money.

Ms. Misner is not convinced that spring is the right time for a Bond Issue with the current feel of parent and community support.

Mr. Corum commented that we need to keep pushing the Bond Issue. Next fall we will have school board elections and the interest rates are currently low.

Mr. David Conley commented that the interest rate is at 2.5%. With a 2.5% interest rate the taxpayer's could save \$7,950,000 in interest costs over 28 years.

Mr. Lynch asked Mr. Dennis Paben what a current and post COVID elementary school looks like.

Mr. Dennis Paben commented that we have to address health conditions on site. The design for collaboration and flexible areas is still being done. Consideration is given to classrooms and what they should look like in times like these.

Ms. Houdeshell asked Mr. Conley if in his experiences with other districts he saw any benefits of pausing before putting levies back on the ballot after a number of failed attempts. Mr. Conley commented that a number of Districts give up and don't come back. There is no magic answer.

**LAKWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

Mr. Pollard commented that investing money in buildings that need to be replaced is wasting taxpayer dollars; but at the same time we have to maintain our buildings. Dr. Gleichauf agreed.

Ms. Houdeshell has been involved all four (4) times on the Bond Issue and she is concerned about the level of exhaustion of the small group. We need to drum up new energetic sustainable support.

Ms. Glenna Plaisted commented that the District's 5-Year Emergency Levy Renewal should be on the November 2021 ballot.

Mr. Lynch asked when is the right time for a Bond Issue. He commented on the unemployment rate and two (2) local issues that are on the ballot for Police and Fire protection. He personally has more questions than answers. There is also declining enrollment. The bond issues are not performing well because of community trust.

Dr. Gleichauf commented that we should not attempt to have an Operating Renewal Levy and a Bond Issue on the ballot at the same time. That takes us to the spring 2022.

Mr. Pollard commented that interest rates can look a lot different in 18 months.

Ms. Misner said it is disappointing that we have had four (4) failed bond levies and that so many positives would be lost if we wait until November 2021.

Mr. Paben commented that once the Bond Issue passes, it would take 12 months to design and 12-18 months for construction of a building.

Ms. Field asked how many children will have passed through our system and not have the benefit if we wait. Plus, how much money do we keep throwing money into these old buildings.

Ms. Misner commented we don't have a choice. Spring 2021 is our only option.

Mr. Pollard is ready to do it one more time.

**LAKWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

Mr. Lynch commented on the performance academically in Grades 6-12. This is a tough investment up front if we are not going to leverage it on the back end.

Dr. Gleichauf commented that what he is hearing is that we should move forward with the Bond Issue in the spring 2021.

The next topic of discussion is what should be included in the bond issue?

Mr. Pollard commented that the plan we have is the right plan. He is convinced that growth will come.

Ms. Misner commented we have to replace both Hebron and the Jackson Intermediate buildings and set the District up for success long-term.

Ms. Houdeshell is in favor of replacing Hebron and the Jackson Intermediate buildings.

Mr. Corum is in favor of replacing both Hebron and the Jackson Intermediate buildings. He asked if there is a creative way to show parents what instruction could look like and this is what others districts are getting with new facilities.

Dr. Gleichauf asked Mr. Paben what he has used for other Districts.

Mr. Paben commented that he could provide imagery of what we have versus something that has been built in the last couple years. If we draw a plan that shows the building imagery, people get lost in the details and this creates more challenges when we actually get to design the plans. Our approach has been to put pictures side by side of what we have versus what a new classroom could look like.

Ms. Jessica Corum provided some input:

- Demonstrate the need
- Lack of financial trust
- Marketing campaign – have we spent our funds wisely
- Comparing large quantities of monies is confusing to people
- Show how the District is spending money wisely
- Taking care of Hebron and the Jackson Intermediate buildings

**LAKESWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

Ms. Houdeshell would like to focus on YES voters. YES voters are not consistent. Also, how do we appeal to the over age 45 voters.

Ms. Cassie Kane commented that the overall message for the Levy Campaign is that “Our Kids are Worth It”. We need to target our specific campaign strategies and the activities that we should be covering. Building trust is critically important. It is great to have Dr. Gleichauf and his perspective at Lakewood.

Mr. Pollard asked what is the trust that the community thinks is missing. He is not sure where the trust is lacking.

Ms. Houdeshell commented that trust is a big issue. Her goal is to build trust. She continues to have interactions to show positive intent.

Mr. Corum commented that we continue to do the right things and make the right decisions.

Dr. Gleichauf commented that trust is earned through actions. The environment and COVID adds an extra layer to this. We will continue to showcase our students and will give them better opportunities than they have now. There is consensus to include both the replacement of Hebron Elementary and Jackson Intermediate on the ballot.

Mr. David Conley reviewed the financing options available for a new elementary school including the option to use a Permanent Improvement Levy to help pay for the building.

All Board members agreed that the traditional bond issue is the way to go. We need to maximize low interest rates and lengthen the bond to possibly get under 3 mills. We could possibly be using the 2020 property valuations for the millage calculation if those rates are certified by the County Auditor by December.

Mr. Corum commented that our messaging should include that the new elementary school will have the largest student population in our District.

Mr. Lynch commented that this is the largest undertaking of our District. Where we started three (3) years ago is vastly different than what we are looking at now.

**LAKWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Minutes of the Lakewood Local Board of Education**

**Work Session**

**Held at Lakewood Local High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)**

**October 19, 2020**

Ms. Houdeshell thanked everyone for Zooming participation.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Finance Committee Meeting:

Date: November 2, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Lakewood High School Library

Regular Board Meeting:

Date: November 11, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Lakewood High School Library (Board)  
Facebook Live (Public Viewing)

**APPROVE ADJOURNMENT**

**RES. NO. 041-21**

Moved by Ms. Houdeshell, seconded by Mr. Lynch that the Lakewood Local School District Board of Education adjourns at 9:06 p.m.

Yeas: Ms. Misner, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Corum, Ms. Houdeshell, Mr. Lynch

Nays: None. Motion approved.

---

Board President

---

Treasurer/CFO