

Southern Lehigh School District Board Meeting Full Cleaned Transcript

Date: December 4, 2024

Location: Southern Lehigh High School Board Room

Meeting Type: Annual Reorganization Meeting

Full Video: [YouTube Link](#)

Official Meeting Minutes: [December 4, 2024 SLSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Minutes FINAL](#)

Tim Kearney (remote): Testing now. Can you hear me, and can I hear you?

Emily Gehman: Yes, you can say your message again. Go ahead.

Tim Kearney: Happy holidays, everybody. I will be sending a weather report even though I'm working down here.

Board Member: Thanks, Tim. We haven't started the meeting yet. We're just waiting for Stephen to arrive. He said he'll be here momentarily.

Emily Gehman: Great. We'll just be a little bit delayed while we wait. We're not officially started, but thanks, Tim—we can hear you.

[After a sound check with virtual attendees]

Emily Gehman: This evening we have nine board members in attendance—two virtually. We did a sound check to ensure they can hear us and we can hear them. Tim Kearney and Mary Joy Reinartz are calling in; everyone else is physically present. We have a full house tonight. Thank you all for coming.

This meeting is the annual reorganization of the board for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for a term of one year. The first order of business is to elect a temporary president to chair this meeting. I'll be working from a script to ensure accuracy for this required meeting in the first week of December.

I open the floor for nominations for a temporary president.

Board Member: I nominate Emily Gehman.

Emily Gehman: Thank you. We have a nomination for Emily Gehman. Any other nominations? Hearing none, is there a motion to close nominations?

Tim Kearney: Motion to close.

Candi Kruse: Second.

Emily Gehman: All those in favor of closing nominations for temporary president, say "Aye."

All: Aye.

[Technical check to confirm virtual votes]

Emily Gehman: Tim, was your vote a yes?

Tim Kearney: Yes, I said yes.

Emily Gehman: Mary Joy, can you hear us now?

Mary Joy Reinartz: Yes, I can hear you. Thank you.

Emily Gehman: Great. The motion carries unanimously.

Now, as temporary president, I open the floor for nominations for the office of President. Are there any nominations?

Tim Kearney: I nominate Emily Gehman.

Chris Wayock: I nominate Eric Boyer.

Nicole King: I nominate Tim Kearney.

Tim Kearney: Before we proceed, I'd like to respectfully decline the nomination. I appreciate the consideration.

Emily Gehman: So we have two nominations: Eric Boyer and Tim Kearney. Any others? Hearing none, may I have a motion to close nominations?

Chris Wayock: So moved.

Candi Kruse: Second.

Emily Gehman: All those in favor of closing nominations, say "Aye."

All: Aye.

Stephen Maund: I'd like to make a motion to allow discussion.

Nicole King: Second.

Emily Gehman: All those in favor of allowing discussion, say "Aye."

Ayes: Reinartz, Maund, King, Wayock.

Nays: Kruse, Boyer, Gehman, Kearney, Torba.

Emily Gehman: The motion fails. We will proceed with the vote.

Roll call vote for Emily Gehman for President:

- Candi Kruse: Yes
- Eric Boyer: Yes
- Emily Gehman: Yes
- Tim Kearney: Yes
- Mary Joy Reinartz: No
- Nicole King: No
- Stephen Maund: No
- Christopher Wayock: Not even close. Absolutely no
- Melissa Torba: Yes

Emily Gehman: The motion carries, 5–4. I will remain President for the coming year.

Now I open the floor for nominations for Vice President.

Eric Boyer: I nominate Candi Kruse.

Stephen Maund: I nominate Stephen Maund.

Emily Gehman: Any other nominations? Hearing none, is there a motion to close nominations?

Candi Kruse: So moved.

Christopher Wayock: Second.

Emily Gehman: All those in favor, say "Aye."

All: Aye.

Stephen Maund: I make a motion to allow discussion.

Mary Joy Reinartz: Second.

Vote on allowing discussion:

- Melissa Torba: Yes
- Christopher Wayock: Yes
- Stephen Maund: Yes
- Tim Kearney: No
- Emily Gehman: No
- Mary Joy Reinartz: Yes
- Eric Boyer: No
- Candi Kruse: No
- Nicole King: No

Emily Gehman: The motion fails. We proceed with the vote.

Roll call vote for Vice President (Candi Kruse):

- Emily Gehman: Yes
- Eric Boyer: Yes
- Mary Joy Reinartz: Yes
- Tim Kearney: Yes
- Nicole King: No
- Stephen Maund: No
- Christopher Wayock: No (notes missed meetings)
- Melissa Torba: Yes

Emily Gehman: The motion carries, 6–3. Congratulations to Candi Kruse.

Now we move to items D and E: Depository Resolutions and Facsimile Signature Plates.

Motion: Candi Kruse. Second: Eric Boyer.

Emily Gehman: Any questions?

[None.]

All in favor: Aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Emily Gehman: Field trip requests are listed as information only.

Stephen Maund: May I make a comment?

Emily Gehman: Certainly.

Stephen Maund: I voted "No" on the President position because I believe leadership should rotate. Emily Gehman has served as President four times, three of those consecutively. Mary Joy Reinartz served two years straight. I think we should return to the tradition of annual change. I also have some concerns about attendance for running meetings effectively.

Melissa Torba: I just want to say happy holidays. I was really struck by the recent principal presentations—what Lou Pepe called the "Super Bowl of school board meetings." A key theme was the support our students need. As we head into budget season, I look forward to seeing how we can meet those needs—through staff or other resources.

Mary Joy Reinartz: I echo Mr. Maund. We should consider a policy revision for officer terms. For 40 years, the board rotated leadership annually. That changed recently. I served two years as President and in hindsight, I think it should've only been one. I also support clearer procedures about attendance. At LCTI, a physical quorum is required to hold a meeting—we should consider the same.

Dr. Michael Mahon: Congratulations to Mrs. Gehman and Mrs. Kruse. Budget season begins with our January work session. The audit will be presented, and we'll discuss where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.

Emily Gehman: Tonight is also the opening night for our girls' wrestling team—we can hear them down the hall. Congratulations to them. Enjoy the holiday season. This is our final meeting of 2024. I wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday.

Eric Boyer: Motion to adjourn.

Emily Gehman: Meeting adjourned. Thank you to Tim Kearney and Mary Joy Reinartz for attending remotely.