

Welcome to the Red Lion Area School District Board of School Directors Meeting

An informative guide to the meetings of the
Board of School Directors of Red Lion Area School District
696 Delta Road, Red Lion, PA 17356
(717)244-4518 / Website: www.rlasd.net

RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT **BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

Christine E. Crone, President – Region II

Stephen R. Simpson, Vice President – Region III

John R. Blevins – Region III

Cindy J. Herbert – Region III

John S. Lenhart, Jr. – Region I

Edward A. Miller – Region I

Joel R. Ogle – Region I

Michael D. Rowe – Region II

Jay J.R. Vasellas – Region II

Dr. Scott A. Deisley, Superintendent of Schools

Tonja J. Wheeler, Secretary to School Board

Yvonne D. Clutter, Treasurer to School Board

ADMINISTRATION

Scott A. Deisley, Superintendent of Schools

Jeanette Alexander, Director of Special Education **Katharine Diorio**, Supervisor of Pupil Services

Abby Gold, Elementary Principal **Grant Gouker**, Senior High Assistant Principal

Sarah Hoffnagle, Supervisor of Special Education **Sheila Hughes**, Elementary Principal

Lee Jordan, Elementary Principal **Chad Keiser**, Junior High Dean of Students

Teri Key, Elementary Principal **Amy Landis**, Elementary Principal

Michael Langan, Junior High Assistant Principal **Shane Mack**, Junior High Principal

Todd McClimans, Teacher Development **Amber Mentz**, Supervisor of Special Education

Gregory Monskie, Human Resources **William Rickard, Jr.** Senior High Asst. Principal

Mark Shue, Senior High Principal **Craig Slack**, Director of Buildings & Grounds

Mary Smith, Senior High Assistant Principal **Timothy Smith**, Instr. Practice/Tech Integration

Elizabeth Stambaugh, Elem. Supv./Principal **Melissa Swarr**, Elementary Principal

Tonja Wheeler, Chief Financial Officer **Eric Wilson**, Supervisor of Curriculum/Instruction/
Assessment

Gwyneth Yeiser, Elementary Principal

Welcome...

As a resident of the Red Lion Area School District, you have the right to provide input into your public schools. Your School Board cordially invites you to attend Board meetings and to take an active role in the educational affairs of your community.

The decisions of your elected School Board affect your child, your child's future, your tax rates, the well-being of your community and, in the long run, the well-being of your country.

There are many ways for you to participate in your schools:

- Stay informed and interested in your schools.
- Appear before the Board to express your views.
- Correspond with the Board.
- Elect the most qualified Board members.
- Participate in local parent-teacher units and on educational committees of various organizations when possible.
- Stay in touch with building principals and the district Superintendent about matters that concern you and your children.

Philosophy of the Board

It has always been the philosophy of the Red Lion Area School Board to develop and maintain the best school system possible, a system of education that is second to none.

The Board believes that superior individual scholastic achievement should be the rule rather than the exception in a program that challenges each student to achieve the maximum of his or her abilities. In addition to academic achievement, paramount importance is placed on health education, citizenship, and character development.

The School Board

The Red Lion Area School Board is governed by a nine-member Board. Three members are elected from each of the three regions comprising Red Lion Area School District. These regions are defined as follows:

- Region I – Red Lion Borough
- Region II – Windsor Twp. & Windsor Borough
- Region III – Chanceford, Lower Chanceford, & N. Hopewell Townships, Winterstown & Felton Boroughs

School Board members serve a four-year term of office. Normally, half of the positions are filled every two (2) years. Directors are not paid for their services.

The School Board is a policy-making body with its primary task being the formulation and evaluation of all policies necessary for the operation of the school district. The school district is managed by an administrative team which implements and works within the limits of School Board policy. The administrative team is guided by the Superintendent of Schools who is appointed by the Board.

Board Meetings

The School Board normally meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Board Room of the Red Lion Area Education Center. These meetings are held in the Board Room of the Red Lion Area Education Center and are recorded to aid in the completion of the official minutes. The meeting in July is scheduled for the third Thursday only. Occasionally, a holiday or other circumstances will alter this schedule. In this case, or in the event of a special meeting, public notice is given in advance of the change of date. Also, state law requires that the annual reorganization of the School Board be held during the first week of December.

Role of the School Board

The School Board sets policies within the framework of the Pennsylvania School Code. In effect, the Board is the legislative branch of the school district. It defines the policies which are carried out by the school district staff. All decisions must meet state standards.

The Board can:

- Adopt textbooks and approve curriculum
- Purchase, sell, or condemn land
- Maintain school property
- Create or increase indebtedness within strict state guidelines
- Levy taxes
- Adopt an annual budget
- Appoint and dismiss personnel

The Board can close, build and/or remodel schools and change academic requirements only with the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The Agenda

The meetings of the School Board follow a definite plan called "The Agenda." The agenda follows guidelines which are established by the State Legislature in the Pennsylvania School Code. Items on the agenda are recommended by the administration and Board members. The president of the Board, who is elected annually by his/her fellow school directors, presides at all regular and special meetings. The vice president presides in the president's absence.

To Speak at a School Board Meeting

Public participation is permitted as indicated on the order of business and at the discretion of the presiding officer on a given issue. The Board requires that public participants be residents of this district. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and should preface their comments by announcing their name, address, and group affiliation if appropriate. Each statement made by a participant will be limited to ten (10) minutes duration, but may be limited to fewer depending on the number of participants. All statements must be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room or on school grounds.

Charges, Complaints, or Challenges

No person may orally initiate personal charges or complaints against individual employees at a public meeting of the School Board. Any charges, complaints, or challenges should be presented to the Superintendent in writing and signed by the complainant. All such concerns, if presented to the Board directly, will be referred to the Superintendent for investigation and subsequent reporting to the Board.

If you have a problem...

The Board encourages parents and other citizens who have a concern about their children's education and other school-related issues to first try to resolve them at the level most directly involved, usually the classroom teacher or the principal.

The next level would then be the Superintendent. Ultimately, if a matter can only be resolved by changing a policy or by some other action of the Board, the School Board may become involved upon receiving a letter or a phone call or listening to a speaker at a regular public Board meeting.

Personnel and Other Regular Visitors

- **Superintendent** – The Superintendent is appointed by the Board and serves as its chief executive officer in administering Board policies in the operation of our schools. The Superintendent also acts as the primary advisor in keeping the Board informed of the needs and programs of the schools. The Superintendent is available to the Board as a professional resource and his recommendations normally precede any Board action relating to recruitment, election, and supervision of the professional staff; selections of textbooks and instructional materials; development of curriculum; school plant planning and fiscal affairs. The Superintendent is elected by the Board to a specific term of office (e.g., three, four, or five years).
- **Secretary to the Board** – The School Board Secretary is elected by the Board every four years and is responsible for the correspondence and accurate recording of all Board action.
- **Treasurer to the Board** – The School Board Treasurer is elected by the Board every year and manages the investment, accounting, and reporting of funds received and used by the District.
- **Solicitor** – The School Board Solicitor is an attorney retained by the School Board as a legal counselor and advisor for School Board action.
- **Administration and Staff Support** – The Director of Buildings and Grounds, Director of Human Resources, Supervisor of Pupil Services, Director of Special Education, Senior High School Principal, Junior High School Principal and other administrators attend the meetings and advise the Superintendent and Board on various matters related to their area of supervision.

All activities, educational programs and employment practices of the Red Lion Area School District are nondiscriminatory as required by Chapter VI, Title IX, and Section 504. If there are restrictions, they are based on one's ability and aptitude, not one's sex, race, color, national origin, or handicap. Additionally, handicapped students and employees may qualify for special services or instruction and equipment modifications. Complaints or questions concerning discriminatory treatment and racial or sexual harassment should be directed to the Compliance Administrator, Jeanette Alexander, Phone (717)244-5550.