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## Live with Lutz Summary & Notes

1 message

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**BWSD Superintendent's Office** <rlutz@bwschools.net>  
Reply-To: BWSD Superintendent's Office <rlutz@bwschools.net>  
To: jweber@bwschools.net

Sun, May 1, 2022 at 2:01 PM

# Live with Lutz

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## Summary and Notes 4.29.22

Discussion Recap

Link [here](#) for Video Archive of Today's Live with Lutz

Link [here](#) for for Summary Document of Today's Live with Lutz

### 1. Shout Outs & Positive News

Dr. Lutz addresses the District today from the third day of the Western Pennsylvania Superintendent's Forum. The focus has been on learner-centered leadership, a timely complement to our strategic planning.

On Monday, April 25, Dr. Lutz shared details of his time in Harrisburg for the PSBA/PASA Advocacy Day which affords the critical opportunity to meet with different officials who represent our district in Harrisburg. Discussions included funding, analysis of approximately 500 different mandates, including the example of exploring potential improvements to a District's requirement to transport students to any school inside of our community borders and up to 10 miles outside of our communities. We transport to nearly 45 schools in addition to our own, further complicating our driver shortages.

Dr. Lutz discussed BWSD's position on a [PSBA profile sheet](#) offering analysis of how our District performs in comparison to all others in the Commonwealth.

Revenue: BWSD collects approx. \$16,000 per student in revenue and the PA average is over \$18,000 per student.

Expenditures: BWSD spends approx. \$13,000 per student in revenue and the PA average is \$16,500 per student.

We consider our financial stewardship with great responsibility to our taxpayers, especially local taxpayers, who represent approximately 75% of our ability to operate.

Since 2010, overall Pennsylvania spending increases include the key areas of pensions, charter school tuition, salaries, and other purchased services - which in our District's case represents a shift from employing substitute teachers to utilizing an external service - Substitute Teacher Services (STS).

Overall, BWSD performs efficiently comparative to state averages as outlined in the [linked file](#) that outlines our financials together with Pennsylvania averages.

Dr. Lutz recognized the work of Mrs. Maureen Frew from the Avonworth School District for creating the Be The Kind Kid campaign.

Our congratulations to the University of Pittsburgh's Kenny Pickett for having been drafted to the Pittsburgh Steelers during last night's NFL draft.

## 2. Covid in Our Schools Update

Our concerns at this time surround the spread of the flu. We ask for an increased diligence and commitment for all to stay home when not feeling well or symptomatic. Because these protocols are becoming a reduced priority, and it is impacting our schools. For example, we have 32 teachers out today at Harrison, with only 15 absences covered. This means that we have 17 groups of students who will experience disrupted learning at points throughout the day today.

## 3. Comprehensive Plan Update

Our most recent meeting for the Comprehensive Plan took place on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at Baldwin High School. We have discussed insights from student discussions and have begun goal-setting and established five different areas for break-out sessions.

We continue to gather insights and feedback from students at every grade level to ensure that student focus and student needs are guiding our work, this week with student representatives from 2nd, 7th and 8th grade student guidance during our planning session.

## 4. Save the Date & Shirt Sales - Thursday, May 26 - We Are Neighbors

The District will host a special community engagement event on Thursday, May 26 from 6:00-8:00 pm at BHS central lot. The Baldwin-Whitehall School District will bring the community together to feature educational experiences and activities for the entire family to enjoy. With a focus on our neighbors coming together, we will offer a variety of food trucks, hands-on maker activities for the whole family, entertainment, games, and time to connect with each other to appreciate who we are as a district and community.

Shirts are available to order for \$10 by [clicking this link](#). Shirt sales will close on May 9 and shirts will be available to wear at the event on May 26 - shirts will be sent home with students unless other arrangements are made.

We hope to see you there!

## 5. District Employment Opportunities

Please note that the following employment opportunities available:

- Half-time Paraprofessional - Harrison Education Center
- Girls Varsity/JV Tennis Head Coach
- Anticipated Baldwin High School Musical Director
- School Bus Drivers and Bus Attendants

Interested applicants should inquire to Ms. Rachel Sprouse, Director of Employee Services:

Email: [rsprouse@bwschools.net](mailto:rsprouse@bwschools.net)

Phone: 412-884-6300 ext. 7466

## 6. The BW Pop-Up Shop

Special thanks to Dr. Kara Eckert and Ms. Natalie Grattan for their work in launching the mobile BW Pop-Up Shop, which hit the road for the first time on Wednesday, April 27th.

The District was so pleased to offer a new service in its first-ever BW Pop-Up Shop featuring free personal care items (toiletries, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes/toothpaste, baby diapers, etc.), and our featured item for this shop was prom attire and professional attire for men and women. The Pop-Up Shop is open to our entire community - everything is free for visitors to take what they need with no questions asked.

Dr. Kara Eckert was featured on [KDKA-TV news](#) and the initiative was featured on the front page of the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).

## 7. BWSD Community Outreach Speaker Series

All are invited to Save the date on May 16 from 6:30-7:30 in the BHS Auditorium - BWSD Community Outreach Speaker Series session will feature Erin Troup from Sprout Center for Emotional Growth and Development. She will talk about Parenting after the Pandemic: How to support my child while navigating new terrain. The event is free and will offer light refreshments. All are welcome to [register here](#).

## 8. Athletic Update

Congratulations to the Boys Track and Field team for qualifying for the WPIAL Playoffs. Playoffs are on Tuesday May 3, 3pm at Norwin High School. Good luck to the Boys Team! Congratulations to Jacob Lubawy for scoring his 100th goal during last night's lacrosse game! The milestone goal tied the score late in the third period. Congratulations Jacob!

## 9. Achievements of Indoor Band

On Saturday, April 23rd, the Baldwin High School Music Department and Music Patrons hosted the Tournament Indoor Association Championships. Both the Indoor Percussion and Winter Guard competed at this event. Indoor Percussion performed their show "Ding" and earned first place honors as well as receiving the most improved percussion score award. Special thanks to Clarissa Budd, Ciara Read, Dalton Stitely, Neil Maydick, and Dan Krug.

Winter Guard also performed their show "Own the Night", and placed 2nd after starting the season in 8th place; a huge increase in placement from last year. Special thanks to Kristie Gray, Adam Gerstacker, and Haley Kerr.

Both groups are overseen by Band Director, Marissa Virgin.

Congratulations to the following students with student leaders noted\*.

Indoor Percussion

Ryan Armstrong

Madison Benedict

Ryan Bramson\*

Gino Bonidie

Joey Bonidie

Sean Burns

Donnie Busch

Matthew Colwell

Liam Coulehan

Emma Damiani

Heidi Douglass

Nolan Dowling

Adam Drischler

Sara Higgins

Leland Lepperd

Jonathan Miklavic

Nicole Mullins

Marley Murajda

Jonny Pickell

Michael Scarpaci\*

Anna Schmidt

Sierra Schmidt\*

Aidan Simler

Katie Weber

Ellie Wilson

Josephine Wysocki

Winter Guard

Cindy Flaherty

Payton Fleszar\*

Julia Graham

Lena Guthrie\*

Jackie Rock

Emma Smerbeck

Mary Swinsinski

#### 10. Middle School Musical: Shrek, Jr.

Baldwin Middle School students are hard at work preparing for [the spring musical](#). You won't want to miss the vibrancy they bring to their performance of Shrek Jr.

All performances will be held at the Baldwin High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door. Remaining performances include: April 29 & 30 at 7:00 p.m. and May 1 at 2:00 p.m.

#### 11. Save the Date: The Eileen Kline Community Walk - May 21, 2022

All are encouraged to participate in the first-ever Eileen Kline Community Walk at Baldwin High School Stadium on May 21, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. with start time at 10:00 a.m. The event will feature a variety of activities such as refreshments, jump rope and hula hoop contests. Donations and proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association, a passion of the late Eileen Kline, a beloved and deeply missed member of the BWSD Family. Nurse Kline loved walking, especially with family and friends and was a devoted advocate of the AHA, so we are incredibly pleased to host an event so closely aligned with her legacy. Details are available by clicking [here](#) and all are encouraged to attend.

#### 12. The Baldwin-Whitehall Wellness Committee

The District will reinstate its Wellness Committee with a virtual on May 2, 2022 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. If you'd like to be part of the effort, we welcome teachers, staff, families and students to please contact Jennifer Lashley at [jlashley@bwschools.net](mailto:jlashley@bwschools.net) if you have an interest in becoming a member of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Wellness Committee. Members will receive a link to join the meeting after responding to the invitation.

#### 13. PSSA Testing

We are in the midst of our PSSA Testing which began on Monday, April 25th for all students in Grades 3-8.

Next week, Math PSSA testing takes place on Monday and Tuesday, May 2nd and 3rd.

Additionally, students in Grades 4 & 8 will participate in the science PSSA assessments on Wednesday and Thursday, May 4th and 5th.

Electronic devices, including smart watches and cell phones, are prohibited from the testing sites. Teachers are working to ensure protocols are in place to avoid these becoming a problem, but we ask for support in mitigating the interference of electronic devices during testing which can result in District ramifications including nullifying test results.

## 14. Questions and Answers

Q. Will we be notified if our child is receiving an award at the honors ceremony? If so, will it be an email or will the student be notified?

A. I would ask that this question be directed to Mr. Ross at BMS and perhaps he will take a look at this and address it in his notes to families on Sunday.

## Parting Expression & Reminders

This week, our parting expression is a story that Dr. Lutz wishes to share with the District - one submitted by a parent via email that characterizes our District pride and our focus on kindness.

"My son is able to run middle school track thanks to lots of support from para-professionals, his team, and an inclusive school.

When I picked him up from his first practice in which he was SO excited for-the first words he said to me were "I slow" and he hung his head down a little. Of course my mama heart dropped but I said, You are going to get stronger with more practice. Just wait and see. This is your very first sport ever and you have teammates who have already had lots of practice with sports such as soccer, football and hockey. They already built up their muscles but you are just starting out. Next year, you will be stronger, taller and have longer legs.

Right now just focus on getting stronger and have fun with it- and he does! He absolutely loves track and takes it seriously. I once asked him, what are you going to run? He said "I run 2 races. I run a straight line and I run a straight line and a curve." We knew nothing of track but got the idea at his first meet. He now says "I run 2 races, the 100 meter and the 200 meter"

My son comes in last at every race but he doesn't show disappointment, but excited to be there and has fun with it. It's great to see his team root him on and give him high fives and fist bumps in between races.

Yesterday, I got a text right before the 200-meter that said "you might want to record this one, you definitely do". I was so confused but got my phone out. Here comes my son running with some of the fastest runners on his team but he's in front of them! He came in 2nd place thanks to selfless individuals on his team! He was so excited along with the rest of us! How amazing are these kids? We later found out that his ankle was hurting and he ran the 200-meter in pain but he didn't tell anyone and still did the race! My son woke up this morning with an extra pep in his step and talked non stop about how he came into 2nd place in the 200-meter.

I know we hear a lot about kids not being nice to each other but there are also lots of good things going on too that we don't hear enough about and that's why I wanted to share. It

takes a village! Thanks for all that you do and your hard work, it's much appreciated! Have a great weekend!"

Please be safe.

Please be kind.

Please show grace.

#### NEXT LIVESTREAM UPDATE:

Our next Live with Lutz will take place on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 9:05 a.m.

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*For more information, please visit [bwschools.net](https://bwschools.net).*

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