

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MT. LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 18, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Howe students Dane Barber, Abby Basista, Ana Sofia Bonidie, Lorenzo Danley, and Aidan Hackett. The students reported on a service project to help children in Yemen and the fundraiser they held through UNICEF which raised \$1,138.95.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni (by phone), Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Michael Riemer
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Ms. Melissa Nelson

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on February 11, 2019; the Discussion Meeting held on February 11, 2019; and the Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members Sydney Kalafut and Kyra McCague reported on the activities at Jefferson MS. Student Council sponsored a candygram event in February for Valentine's Day. Students could send messages to their friends delivered to their homeroom with a treat. The Student Response Committee put together a Google Survey to allow the student population in the school to choose from five worthy organizations that would benefit from the candygram proceeds.

Two advisors, eight student presenters and 33 Student Council members attended the PASC Regional B Leadership Conference at Chartiers Valley Middle School on March 18. The theme for the day was "Our Future's So Bright." Patrick Mauer, an award winning motivational speaker, presented on the topic of leadership. His presentation was both touching and inspirational. After the opening session, students had an opportunity to experience two workshops presented by student council leaders, and to network with student council members from all over the region gathering ideas that we could bring back to Mt. Lebanon.

The week of March 25 will be Wish Week at Jefferson MS. The Wish Committee has been working hard, but in complete secrecy, so the details as to what events may be in store cannot be reported yet.

Changing up our collections from past years, the students have taken on an opportunity this year to help in an effort to save endangered animals and provide for elementary school students at the same time. Two sixth grade students, Eden Horey and Lydia Kalapos, came to our council to ask for support of the non-profit they established in 5th grade help endangered animals. They want to expand on that by encouraging people to recycle plastic, which damages the environment. Plastic lids would be collected and donated to provide a “Buddy Bench” for the Jefferson Elementary playground. Our council listened to Eden and Lydia’s presentation and voted to back their cause. Student Council plans to have a competition between teams to see who can collect more plastic. They expect this event to lift not only the student morale in the building, but also everyone’s awareness about saving our environment by recycling plastic.

Kelly Donis, High School Student body Co-President and Aidan Andra, Student Body Co Treasurer, presented a report on the activities at the High School. The “Sack Hunger, Pack Hope” PTA Council collection begins March 19. The high school students and staff will be collecting shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste for the South Hills Interfaith Movement.

The Senior Executive Student Council is busy organizing Spirit Week and the Spring Spirit Assembly. Throughout Spirit Week, students are encouraged to wear clothes that reflect the theme of the day, such as Groutfit Monday, Tropical Tuesday, Wild West Wednesday, Jersey Thursday, and Elementary School color or Lebo blue and gold Friday. Also that week, there will be four free Class Breakfasts that will take place during Spring Spirit Week provided by the PTSA to each student who chooses to attend. This is one of the favorite weeks of the whole school year.

The annual banner signing activity to “Spread the Word to End the Word” will take place on March 21. Last year over 300 students agreed to no longer use the “R” word with the goal to get at least more than 400 students to sign the banner this year. The General Student Council is hosting a Mini-Thon on April 12 to support continued research efforts to find cures for pediatric cancers. The goal is to raise \$3,500 this year.

Since the beginning of this school year, Mr. Stengel has met once a month with all eight of the Student Body officers. He has generously loaned an iPad or Chromebook to each officer for the entire school year so that they can experiment with the best ways to integrate technology into the classroom settings. The meetings with Mr. Stengel are always a positive learning experience and they appreciate the constant strive to better education technology by Mr. Stengel to ensure the best possible education for each and every student.

Kelly and Aidan encouraged the Board, administration, staff and members of the community to consider nominating Mt. Lebanon High School alumni for the 2019 Great Alumni award. This honor recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments either personally or professionally. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Reimer introduced Jesse Buchanan, a representative from Prudential Financial, to present High School Sophomore Everitt Meer with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award Bronze Medallion. Everitt was recognized for starting the “Treasure Our Veterans” project that raises funds for veterans’ community breakfast events. Mr. Reimer congratulated Everitt on this outstanding accomplishment.

This month's Extra Mile Award was presented to Washington Elementary teachers Gretchen Brown and Kim Robbins. Their colleague, Rose Davidson, nominated for the hours of time they gave each week to help a homebound student. From Mrs. Davidson's nomination: "Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Robbins both chose to assist a student who needed months of homebound instruction due to a significant medical issue -- this student received so much more than just math, reading, and Spanish instruction. Not only did both teachers provide the instruction the student was missing, but the additional love and care they shared was exemplary." Mr. Riemer presented both teachers with a certificate and an Extra Mile Award pin, and congratulated them both for going above and beyond for the students of Mt. Lebanon.

Mr. Riemer reported on his visit to Hoover Elementary School and activities and instruction he witnessed in the classrooms at Hoover. He thanked Principal Nicci Giehl and her faculty for welcoming him to Hoover and sharing the wonderful learning opportunities our students are experiencing at the school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has awarded the Mt. Lebanon School District with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the 34th year the District has been honored with this award. ASBO International's financial reporting award recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2018. The superintendent congratulated the staff of the Finance Office for this award.

Mt. Lebanon High School Evening and Technical Theatre Companies present *Fight Girl Battle World* by Qui Nguyen on March 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. Mt. Lebanon High School Fine Arts Theatre.

Dr. Steinhauer and Mr. Geletko presented draft #2 of the Base Budget for 2019-2020. A discussion was held on the addition of more elementary counselors.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Policy Committee met on March 11 to review the revisions to policy IF, Curriculum and Parental Rights. The Committee has recommended approval of these revisions and will be on the agenda this evening.

Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Beal reported that an Audit & Finance Committee was held on March 13. Mr. Geletko presented "School Budgeting 101," a clear and comprehensive presentation on how school budgeting works. Mr. Geletko's presentation will be broadcast on Channel 19.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that he is currently working with Dr. Steinhauer to customize a workshop for the team of 10 board members. He also reminded the Board that online courses are available for board members on the PSBA website.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that all 12 of Parkway West school districts passed the general operating and jointure budgets for the 2019-2020 school year, and eleven of the 12 schools passed the jointure agreement changes with the last district expected to pass the changes by the end of March.

Parkway held their annual spring Open House on March 5. Approximately 300 parents and students visited the program areas and the instructors.

On February 28, students collaborated with the Council of Carpenters and six other Career and Technology Centers in order to provide an innovated approach to preparing Building Construction Technology and Carpentry students for the upcoming NOCTI exam.

Sixteen culinary arts students earned their ServSafe certifications the week. ServSafe is a national portable industry certification that is required by local restaurants and food service operations across the country. In order for students to obtain this certification, they must take part in an eight-hour theory lesson and pass a qualifying examination.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the Pathfinder board met on February 20 to approve the contracts for the roof project. He also noted that they expect to collect \$12,000 in rental rates this year.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported on the inequalities between brick and mortar public schools and cyber charter schools, and the cost to public schools across the state. Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 would allow school district to provide their own cyber school learning programs creating a savings to school districts. Mrs. Cappucci will present a resolution supporting these bills at next month's meeting.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that the last SHASDA meeting was held on March 14 where students in the SHASDA schools presented student projects.

Community/District Task Force on Safety, Security & Mental Well-Being – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that a meeting was held on March 13 where the group discussed a visitor management system for every building. The Raptor system gives a quick screening of visitors by scanning a visitors government issued i.d. Since the Safe2Say app was launched in January, 92 reports have been received. The group also discussed elementary guidance counselors and infrastructure improvements. Mrs. Cappucci thanked Dr. Steinhauer and the administration for safety training for students with special needs.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports: (Copy in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2019,
- b. List of Bills dated February 28, 2019, and March 12, 2019,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated February 28, 2019, and
- d. Budgetary Transfers dated March 7, 2019.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the March 7, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised March 14, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy IF, Curriculum and Parental Rights, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$2,144,656 with an estimated cost to the District of \$82,519. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves a five-year contract with Finalsight for the website Content Management System (CMS) in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves a three-year contract with Verizon to provide supplemental Internet service in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the High School Ski Club trip to Jay Peak, VT, January 17-21, 2020.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- AIU Program of Services budget
- Charter School legislation
- Questioned how much is currently in the Fund Balance
- PIAA using MTL facilities for playoff games
- Cameras purchased by Aquacub for the pool area

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

/js