

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

April 15, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Foster Elementary School students Evie Walsh, Paolo Scolieri, Vivi Warhola, Olive Skocik, Adele Walsh, and Kai Scolieri. The students reported on the projects each one of them made in Foster's Matt's Maker Space, and displayed them for the Board to see.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni, 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, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Dr. Sarah Shaw

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2019; the Discussion Meeting held on March 11, 2019; the Audit & Finance Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2019; and the Regular Meeting held on March 18, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Student Council members Will Sandoval, Stella Delacour, and Lydia Volmrich reported on the events at Mellon Middle School. With the support of the Anti-Defamation League, Mellon Middle School formed a committee called, *No Place for Hate* to help plan several Tuesday Talk lessons. Members from student council, the teaching staff, the administration, and the PTA form the committee. For the first lesson, every student created a quilt square depicting each person's individuality, background, culture, and unique traits. The quilt shows how Mellon is a collection of individuals, who, together, create a special place of respect and acceptance. In the next lesson, students were given cards of respect and were asked to fill them out as they witnessed respectful acts throughout the building. The cards are now displayed in the entryway of the school and are read on the morning announcements. Cards were also distributed to local businesses to fill out when they "catch" a Mellon student being respectful in the community.

Student Council took part in the PASC Region B local conference held at Chartiers Valley Middle School. Members of student governments from all over Pennsylvania volunteered their

time to lead workshops teaching participants how to be better leaders and better members of a student council group.

Mellon Student Council held their third annual Shamrock Blitz in March. The hallways were decked with bright green shamrocks containing the names of each and every student in the school. As each student found their shamrock, the shamrocks were taped to a locker for a chance to win a prize.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co Secretary, Bridget Caste, reported on the activities at the High School. The school was able to contribute 1,829 items toward the Sack Hunger Pack Hope campaign. The Mt. Lebanon PTA Council coordinates this district-wide event to support the South Hills Interfaith Movement organization. The donated items included deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner.

The juniors are involved in the Student Council election process, and Center Court, skywalk and various hallways are quite colorful as the campaign signs of 14 candidates are displayed. Campaign speeches have been filmed and will be show in Social Studies classes during Campaign Week beginning April 23. A "Meet the Candidates Day will be held on April 24 during the lunch periods, and the general election will be held on April 26. All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will have the opportunity to electronically vote for the 2019-2020 Student Body officers.

Other events at the high school included the annual Art Show, the final blood drive for the year, and a very successful Mini THON raising \$11,000. The cast and crew members for the upcoming school musical, "*The Sound of Music*", are hard at work preparing for performances on May 2, 3 & 4.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reimer announced that this month's Extra Mile Award recipient is High School Biology teacher, Pamela Harris. Mr. Riemer stated that this particular award was a very special one, "because the nominators are students, Seniors Rebecca Schwartz and Alayna Mikush. I can think of no greater compliment for a teacher than to have your students recognize you for your efforts."

In their nomination form, Rebecca and Alayna wrote, "She is one of the hardest working teachers we have ever had, taking time to make sure that each of her students understands the class content. Her lectures, labs, and classroom activities are so engaging that we can still explain how the digestive system works two years later. We don't know if we've ever had a teacher so passionate about both her subject matter and teaching itself. Her teaching alone would qualify her for this award, but it is her work outside of the classroom coaching both the science Olympiad team and the Science Bowl team that makes her extraordinary. She volunteered over 60 hours of her time to train us for competition. She does all with a smile on her face, and her passion for science is contagious. It is teachers like her who make us excited to learn."

Mr. Riemer presented Mrs. Harris with a certificate and an Extra Mile Award pin and congratulated her for going above and beyond for the students of Mt. Lebanon.

The board president presented certificates of achievement to following members of the High School athletes for being WPIAL and/or PIAA Champions: Swimming Team--Trinity Ward, Maddie Dorish, Elizabeth McDyer, Meredith Reese, Sophia Donati, and Hannah Morelli; Basketball Team—Hayden Mitchell, Lucas DeCaro, Evan Jones, Blaine Gartley, Tim Walters, Mike Palmer, Sean Loughran, Joey King, Tommy Peters, Will Ehland, Andy Sapp, Jake Hoffman, Danny Simboro, and Evan Sentner; Wrestling—Luke Stout. Mr. Riemer congratulated the students and their coaches for these outstanding achievements.

Mr. Riemer announced that High School orchestra teacher, Robert Vogel, was awarded the 2019 Pennsylvania-Delaware String Teachers Association "Orchestra Director of the Year" for outstanding achievement as an orchestra conductor and contributions to the string profession. The board president stated "We can certainly attest to Mr. Vogel's outstanding achievement in advancing the excellence of our high school orchestra over his 38 year career of teaching and directing. This is a well-deserved recognition of Mr. Vogel."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the District received the 2019 Moody's Rating report which showed that the District has maintained a Aa1 rating. The District's credit position is very high quality, and its Aa1 rating is stronger than the median rating of Aa3 for US school districts.

The superintendent noted that there is an addition to the 2019-2020 textbook adoption list which will be approved in May. *College Physics for the AP Physics 1 Course* has been added to the list. The book can be reviewed in the Assistant Superintendent's Office.

The 5th Annual Taste of Lebo sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education will be held on Saturday, April 27 at Clearview Commons. Several restaurants and the Mt. Lebanon School District Food Service will be offering special appetizers for participants to eat while they stroll up and down Washington Road and students will perform throughout the afternoon to entertainment our savvy tasters. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online. Proceeds fund the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education.

Dr. Steinhauer announced that The Mt. Lebanon School District will host The World's Largest Matt's Maker Space on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. in Mt. Lebanon High School Center Court and will feature a variety of making activities for all ages. The event is free and open to the public. The Mt. Lebanon School District's World's Largest Matt's Maker Space is part of Remake Learning Days.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Policy Committee met on April 8 to review policies DFA, Investment of School District Funds, and DJA, Purchasing Authority. Both policies have been moved forward for approval by the Board this evening.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that a representative from PSBA met with the Board this evening to discuss developing board objectives and the superintendent evaluation process.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that PWCTC instructors conducted their second and final Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) Meetings for the 2018-2019 school year. The members of the OACs are comprised of local businesses and industry leaders related to the program area, post-secondary partners, students and parents. The purpose of these meetings is to help provide additional information and direction for each program to prepare to be career and college ready.

Parkway West has been working diligently to involve local business and industry leaders in their programs. Through industry visits, they have been building great relationships with industry leaders around the Pittsburgh Region. Throughout the year, each teacher visits two businesses that are related to their program. So far this year, staff members have visited a total of 37 different businesses and created many lasting partnerships, which have resulted in \$110,000 in donated consumable supplies and equipment to Parkway.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Parkway West has obtained several grants totaling \$93,814 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board Partners.

Mr. Riemer reported that Dr. Copeland was elected to serve as the Pennsylvania Association of Career-Technical Administrators (PACTA) Western Region President.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported that the Board will be voting on a resolution this evening supporting Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 which supports school districts to provide their own cyber learning programs.

MLFE – Dr. Diamond reported that the 5th annual Taste of Lebo will be held on April 27. Proceeds support innovated projects submitted by Mt. Lebanon teachers. Over the past 10 years, 130 grants have been approved. Applications are open for fall grants.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Pathfinder Budget and roof replacement

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2019, and
- b. List of Bills dated April 1, 2019, and April 10, 2019.

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

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the 2019-2020 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$102,552,712 setting the millage rate at 24.79, a .47 mill increase in the form presented. The Board directs that the budget be placed on the District’s website until final approval with such changes as may be directed on May 20, 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 Cappucci and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the April 4, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised April 11, 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 Cooper that the Board approves revisions to Policy DFA, Investment of School District Funds, 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 Lebowitz and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves revisions to Policy DJA, Purchasing Authority, 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 Strotmeyer that the Board approves the District's 2019-2022 Special Education Plan submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education 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 Olbrich that the Board approves the 2019-2020 South Central Area Special Schools Jointure Budget of \$872,000 with a cost to the District of \$150,500. (Copy in official minutes)

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

Mr. Frioni left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the lease fee schedule for 2019-2020 effective July 1, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved Strotmeyer and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the lease agreements with Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program per the 2019-2020 list of leases dated July 1, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Millage rate
Thanked the Board for all they do
Fantastic teachers in the District

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

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