

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

December 10, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Washington Elementary Students Lucia Mattison Orona, Noah Klaber, Haruya Iyobe, Lillian Mathieu, Nia Stanoev, Isabella Shane, Siyuan (Michelle) Yang, and Ben Kraemer. The students talked about mindfulness, their kindness challenge, an inclusion program so no one ever feels alone, notes of kind words left on lockers, and their warm winter wear collection project. They concluded with the recognition and presentation of gifts for retiring Director of Business, Jan Klein.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Michael Riemer
Absent: Mrs. Elaine Cappucci

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Ms. Melissa Nelson, Dr. Sarah Shaw

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on November 12, 2018; the Discussion Meeting held on November 12, 2018; and the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2018.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members, Ema Nagel and Trenton Wood, reported on the activities and projects at JMS. The 8th Grade Executive Board attended the PASC State Conference in Lebanon, PA. The students heard excellent speakers, attended workshops and participated in numerous leadership activities.

Jeans Day for teachers has become a favorite annual fundraiser to support Penn State's THON, a fundraiser to end childhood cancer. Teachers donate to wear jeans every Wednesday until the winter break. This year's Jeans Day resulted in a collection of \$500.

With the start of Hanukkah, Student Council felt this would be a most appropriate time to gather their resources and host a week of activities called Pittsburgh United Week to honor all those affected by the tragedy at the Tree of Life Congregation. This was about uniting the school and showing that there is NO place for hate in our schools. Council members made posters and hung

them all over the building to raise student awareness of the cause, and announcements and videos were shown every morning to remind students each day that JMS, as a school community, does not condone discrimination and that they will rally together to rid the school and the community of hate. In addition, fundraisers were held to rebuild Tree of Life. Black and gold wristbands with “Stronger than Hate” on one side and “Pittsburgh United” on the other were sold in the cafeteria each day for \$1. They also sold blue and white bands with “Stronger than Hate” on one side and the Hebrew translation for “Pittsburgh United” on the other. The collection for Tree of Life so far is \$350.00. Due to the popularity of the wristbands, the donations are still growing and they hope that the donation to Tree of Life will help them rebuild and also demonstrate the dream to live in a society free of hate where all can appreciate each other's diversity.

One of the General Student Council members, Allie Bruder, is spearheading a project to support the non-profit, Beverly's Birthdays which provides birthday cheer for children experiencing homelessness and families in need. Students will be collecting suitable gifts for children of all ages, and a suggestion was made that if a JMS student should receive a gift that they don't think they will use, rather than returning it, re-gift it to Beverly's Birthdays.

Other events this month are Wish Week, planning for a talent show, and hot cocoa sales for students and staff. The Theme Friday committee is working to come up with ideas that are different and even silly to brighten the week and change it up a bit. The first theme Friday is Pajama Day on Friday, December 21. The Random Acts of Kindness committee brightens students' days with small gestures of happiness. All these activities make JMS a school community that makes all feel welcome.

The Class of 2020 Co-Presidents, Madison Jones and Kyle Bloch, presented a report on the activities at the High School. Throughout the month of November, the Class of 2020 collected non-perishable food items from students, administrators, faculty, and staff members. Over 1,512 canned goods were donated to the South Hills Food Pantry.

The National Honor Society has organized the annual “Toys for Tots and Teens” drive. Each homeroom will purchase the gift requests of teenagers and young adults who are in treatment with or being supervised by the FamilyLinks organization. It is expected that all 82 homerooms will participate and close to 225 gifts will be purchased for the FamilyLinks' clients.

The rehearsals for the Class of 2019 Holiday Show have begun. This will be the 40th production of the annual event and students from all four grades are participating. The senior class will continue the tradition of donating the proceeds from the show to various charities. The recipients this year are The American Red Cross fund for the devastating California Camp Fire, the Four Diamonds Mini THON, the Georgia Pogue Personal Achievement awards, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, and the Mt. Lebanon High School Principal's awards. During the intermission of the show, the sophomore class will be selling refreshments and love notes, and the Student Council will be selling LEBO gear and Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education blankets.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer announced that Jen Sloan, a Personal Care Assistant at the high school, and Joe Mirt, a custodian at Jefferson Elementary School, are this month's Extra Mile Award recipients. Each year our faculty and staff are trained to recognize basic emergency situations and to respond to them until medical help arrives. Ms. Sloan observed a student in the high school cafeteria displaying symptoms of choking. She did not hesitate to perform abdominal thrusts and the food became dislodged. Mr. Mirt noticed a child in the Jefferson Elementary cafeteria who was choking and appeared to be in distress, and without hesitation, provided abdominal thrusts which dislodged the food. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Riemer thanked them for their awareness and

action to assist our students in distress, and applaud them for their quick response to help our students. The board president presented Ms. Sloan and Mr. Mirt with a certificate and Extra Mile Award pin for going above and beyond for the students of Mt. Lebanon.

Shell Oil and the Pittsburgh Steelers sponsored a recent competition called *Powering Pittsburgh – Make the Future Design Challenge* for students in Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties. Two teams of Mt. Lebanon students in the STEM Academy advanced to this final competition and the 10th grade team named “Future Female Scientists” was named the 2018 Champions of the High School Division of Powering Pittsburgh. These students, along with STEM Academy Director Susan Gillette Meer, received a check for \$1,500 for the STEM program and a Steelers Game Day Experience on December 2 where they were honored in a video at the Steelers’ game and presented with the check on the field. Mr. Riemer presented certificates of achievement to the following students: Chloe Spikula, Carmen Hagerty, Maddie Snyder, and Ava Duchin.

The board president presented an Extra Mile Award to retiring Director of Business, Jan Klein. Ms. Klein is retiring at the end of December after a stellar 37 year career as Director of Business. She is acknowledged by her colleagues in the school district and across the state as the gold standard for school finance directors. Over her career, Ms. Klein has worked with seven superintendents and 62 school board members. Through the years she has also cultivated a strong working relationship with staff at the Mt. Lebanon Municipality.

In her role as Director of Business, Ms. Klein is responsible for providing all business services for the \$99 million school system. During her tenure, Ms. Klein oversaw the financing of the renovation of the two middle schools in the late 1990's, the seven elementary schools from 2000-2005, and most recently, the \$110 million renovation and new construction of Mt. Lebanon High School.

Ms. Klein is known for her ability to explain complex financial issues for all to easily understand ranging from the nuances of budget discussions, to the complexities of the State Plan Con process and bond refinancing. She leaves the District in excellent financial health with the highest Moody's rating of any school district in Western Pennsylvania.

Ms. Klein also chairs the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium (ACHSHIC), a \$250 million self-insured healthcare trust led by 24 trustees which are half labor and half management. The Consortium is comprised of sixty one public schools and community colleges providing health benefits to about 20,000 employees covering almost 55,000 lives. Ms. Klein has been a trustee and chairperson for the ACHSHIC since 1997.

Ms. Klein is a member of the Board for the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health, was past president of PASBO and served on the board of ASBO.

Ms. Klein has garnered many awards over the years such as the ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the ASBO Meritorious Budget Award and various PSBA, NSPRA , PennSPRA and PASBO Awards.

In addition to these honors, she was recently presented with a Proclamation from Allegheny County in recognition of her service by designating December 5 as Jan Klein Day in Allegheny County.

On behalf of the Mt. Lebanon School District administration, staff and School Board, Mr. Riemer wished her the best, and much happiness in her retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer presented the traditional gavel to Mr. Riemer for his service as board president for 2018.

The superintendent introduced Mike Len from JT Sauers who presented an update on the upper practice field project. Due to current weather conditions and the condition of the field, work will not be completed until the spring.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the following items; Monthly treasurer's report; monthly list of bills; list of tax refunds; list of unusable equipment; appointment of School District Treasurer; monthly personnel report; 2019-2020 district school calendar; approval of attendance and expenses for board members at national, state and local conferences; Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate Training; student trips to Washington, DC; revised high school facilities fee schedule; and stipulated adjudication.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves; ratifies; and accepts the following financial reports; (Copies in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2018,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 30 and December 5, 2018,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2018, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated December 1, 2018.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board appoints Robert F. Geletko as the School District Treasurer until June 30, 2019.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, 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 December 6, 2018 list of personnel changes. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented by the administration. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Olbrich that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 2019.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, 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 an agreement with the Anti-Defamation League to provide the World of Difference Training Institute program training at a cost of \$2,000 paid by a donation to the District. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Jefferson Middle School 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC, April 15-16, 2019
- b. Mellon Middle School 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC, May 9-10, 2019.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves a revised High School Facilities Fee Schedule for 2018-2019. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, 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 Stipulated Adjudication in the form presented.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following;

Spoke about Jan Klein's strong leadership and strong financial guidance,
Congratulations on her retirement
Advised that there should be no work on the upper practice field if the ground is frozen
Student trips to Washington DC

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Riemer reported that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of student discipline and litigation matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board; it was moved by Frioni and seconded by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman; Secretary
Board of School Directors