

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

February 25, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hoover Elementary students Brooklyn Barton, Ahmed Elsaidi, Milan Tumba, and Colton Smith. The students reported on all the activities at Hoover that celebrate diversity, family traditions, and Black History month. The students at Hoover are making a cultural Keeping Quilt to be displayed at the school.

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. Ben Canan, Ms. Nicole Giehl, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on January 14, 2019; the Discussion Meeting held on January 14, 2019; and the Regular Meeting held on January 22, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Will Sandoval, Danny Flynn and Aubree Huntley presented the Mellon Middle School Student Council Report. Mellon' Student Council has organized many varied and fun activities for the students at MMS. The annual Pink Out was held in October followed by a fundraiser for the Movember Organization in support of men's health. In December, they celebrated the annual 12 Holly Days which consisted of fun winter-related dress-up and holly-day spirit. Candy canes were sold to defray the costs of projects and events. As a holiday gift to teachers and staff, Student Council members created handmade gifts for each staff member—cans of Sprite with whimsical notes hoping the break would be, "Merry and Sprite." After the winter break, Mellon celebrated their First Fun Friday of 2019 with music and cheer, and in February they celebrated with love songs while sporting red and pink.

Council members are looking forward to the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils meeting in March where they will attend conferences and lectures about leadership. They hope to be inspired by other student's ideas and activities to incorporate into Mellon.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co Secretaries reported on the activities at the High School. The 2019 Snowball dance was successful event though the weather threatened to prevent the dance from taking place. Five hundred and eighty four students, 80 less than last year, attended the dance. The theme this year was "Under the Sea." The skywalk was turned into a faux beach scene and creative decorations covered Center Court.

The Link Crew program continues to be a very successful mentorship program at the high school. The annual "Cocoa and Cram" event took place just before the final exams last month. Over 300 freshmen attended the event. The students were able to study in a relaxed environment and ask for assistance from their mentors and high school teachers.

The Vitalant blood drive occurred last month resulting in 48 blood products being donated by both students and faculty. The next blood drive will be held on April 8.

Alayna Mikush was selected as the February Rotary Student of the Month. Some of Alayna's accomplishments include being a National Merit Finalist, a soon to be inducted member of the Cum Laude Society, an invited member of the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute, volunteering to tutor middle school on playing the violin for the past two years, and being recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

#### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer presented the Extra Mile Award to two Mt. Lebanon faculty members. The first recipient was Chrissa Sullivan, the Family and Consumer Science teacher at Jefferson Middle School and was nominated by JMS Principal, Kelly Szesterniak. Mrs. Szesterniak wrote that Mrs. Sullivan's passion for her subject area, for her students, and for social emotional health for staff and students are unparalleled. Her enthusiasm, positive outlook, and relentless work ethic have allowed her to have a significant and lasting impact on the staff and students of JMS. She has become a leader within the district level Social Emotional Learning committee, constantly searching to new learn new strategies and read new research about the benefits of SEL. Mrs. Sullivan incorporates SEL skills into her curriculum so that students have the knowledge and skills to manage their emotions, make responsible decisions, and have empathy for others. She also voluntarily presents at faculty meetings.

In addition to all of her work in SEL, Mrs. Sullivan is also a risk-taker in the classroom. She is truly a life-long learner, and has adopted many new instructional approaches and instructional technology into her classroom. She leads by example in the truest sense of the word. And truly goes above and beyond to make this learning experience valuable and memorable for her students.

Mark Kernion was the second Extra Mile recipient. Mr. Riemer received an email from a high school parent who wrote that his daughter has taken Mr. Kernion Chemistry classes for the last two years. The student won Mr. Kernion's "Knights of the Periodic Table" annual award in 2017 and his teaching style, practice, and enthusiasm has been infectious to her and other students in his classes. The parent was so impressed with what she has accomplished under his tutelage – namely her love of chemistry and the sciences. Mr. Kernion is retiring at years end and with this start of this new year, the parent thought it would be fitting for the school district to honor not only his 30+ years in teaching, but for his teaching practices that have helped and continue to help children and to foster a love of education.

Mr. Riemer added that he echoed the sentiments concerning Mr. Kernion and his infectious teaching style. Mr. Riemer's oldest daughter had a passion for chemistry, and in fact had taken all of the chemistry classes that were offered in Mt. Lebanon High School. Her love of chemistry continued on into college and then into medical school. She is now a physician because of Mr. Kernion and many other teachers.

Mr. Riemer presented certificates and pins to Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Kernion for being the February Extra Mile Award recipients.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported on the Social and Emotional Learning initiative to advance CASEL's (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) framework, as well as tenants of Mindfulness. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. You can see Dr. Steinhauer's slide presentation at [https://www.mtisd.org/uploaded/District/images/2018-2019/03\\_SEL\\_Presentation.pdf](https://www.mtisd.org/uploaded/District/images/2018-2019/03_SEL_Presentation.pdf).

The superintendent reported that due to the four lost school days because of cold and inclement weather, the last day of school will be on June 12. Graduation will remain on June 6 and the elementary clap outs will be on June 12.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Policy Committee is recommending revisions to three policies and will be seeking approval this evening. Policies GBGB/JICI, Student Discipline for Possession of Weapons; JLJ, School Wellness; and KG, Community Use of Leasing of School Facilities. The Policy Committee is also recommending rescinding Policy JICJ, Student Discipline for Possession of Weapons which has been incorporated into GBFB/JICI.

Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Beal reported that an Audit & Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13. Robert Geletko will give a presentation on a student centered budget.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that has been in contact with PSBA on planning a summer workshop for Board members on board objectives.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that PWCTC held a Career Exploration Day for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on February 15. Students were able to visit two programs of their choosing and learn about what is offered at Parkway. More than 800 students attended the two-day event. The SkillsUSA District 8 Competitions were held in January. Eleven Parkway West students were 1st place winners in their respective competitions. John Mascaro, owner of Mascaro Construction, met with juniors and seniors from the construction classes on February 5. The students were provided information on a plethora of career ideas that many may have never considered. As earlier reported, Mascaro Construction is also sponsoring Parkway's Challenge Program which encourages excellence in attendance and academics. The school thanks Mascaro Construction for partnering with Parkway.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported the Pathfinder Board met on February 13 to discuss replacement of the roof. Some repairs will be covered by insurance. The Mt. Lebanon Board will vote this evening on the payment to Pathfinder to cover the cost of the roof replacement.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported that Governor Wolf’s proposed budget will include funding for early education and higher education, an increase in the minimum wage to \$12 per hour, lowering the school entrance age from 8 years to 6 years of age, and a change to all day kindergarten.

PSBA has published their State of Education report. The report can be found online at [www.psba.org](http://www.psba.org). There is proposed legislation that would save millions for school districts by would require parents to pay their child’s tuition at a cybercharter school if the student’s home district has an online program.

MLFE – Dr. Diamond reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education held a board meeting on February 27. The annual Taste of Lebo event will be held on April 27. Dr. Diamond noted that the results of the “Knit the Staircase” grant awarded to the high school art teacher can be viewed outside the meeting room.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that he met with Municipal Manager Keith McGill. Mr. Frioni wished the municipal public relations officer, Susan Morgans, well on her retirement. Commissioner Craig Grella and Mr. Frioni will meet to discuss the construction project at St. Clair Hospital and the safety of students in the area.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Pathfinder roof replacement

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 January 31, 2019,
- b. List of Bills dated January 31, 2019, and February 20, 2019,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated January 31, 2019,
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2019, and
- e. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100 dated February 5, 2019.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2019-2020 construction season as per the list dated February 11, 2019 in the amount of \$512,807.50. (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 Diamond that the Board, as a member of the South Central Area Special Schools Jointure, approves the roof replacement project at The Pathfinder School and agrees to contribute \$150,500 toward the project with the understanding that the project may commence as necessary even though said payment is not due from said district until after July 1, 2019 but prior to the expected project end date of August 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 February 7, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised February 11, 2019 and February 21, 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 Olbrich that the Board approves the outside consulting request of Dr. Marybeth Irvin as permitted under the Pennsylvania School Code.

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 GBGB/JICI, Possession of Weapons, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Olbrich,  
Strotmeyer, Riemer  
Against: Cooper  
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Olbrich that the Board rescinds Policy JICJ, Student Discipline for Possession of Weapons.

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 approve revisions to Policy JLJ, School Wellness 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 KG, Community Use and Leasing of School Facilities, 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 Strotmeyer that the Board approves a contract with St. Anthony School Programs to provide special education services for Mt. Lebanon exceptional students for the 2018-2019 school year at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 per student for no more than two students. (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 Lebowitz that the Board approves a contract with the Pittsburgh Public Schools Connection Program to provide community based life skills for Mt. Lebanon exceptional students for the 2018-2019 school year at a cost not to exceed \$47,100 per student for no more than two students. (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 Frioni and seconded by the Board approves the modifications to the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Jointure Agreement 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 Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center General Budget for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$6,691,838 with an estimated cost to the District of \$279,549.67, and the Jointure Budget in the amount of \$707,687 with Mt. Lebanon's share being \$119,685.56. (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 Cooper that the Board awards Bid #F-19-001, Refuse Removal and Recycling, to Republic Services, Inc. in the amount of \$71,248.84 for 2019-2020, \$72,673.81 for 2020-2021, and \$74,127.30 for 2021-2022 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (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 awards Bid # F-19-002, Dust Control Products and Services, to Cintas, Inc. in the amount of \$53,038.16 a year for three years as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (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 Upper Practice Field Resurfacing Project Change Order #2 at no cost to the District.

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:

Hosting WPIAL events  
Possession of Weapons policy  
Turf replacement  
Sunday Use of Fields

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Director

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