

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

November 19, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jefferson Elementary students Sam Wetzell, Long Nguyen, Cooper Whalen, Colbi Wilson, Reese Hall, Danny Munoz, and Sophia Hartman. The students demonstrated the keyboards they made in Matt's Maker Space using Makey Makey connectors.

ROLL CALL:

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

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Christopher Voltz, Solicitor's Office
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Ms. Natasha Dirda, Dr. Heather Doyle, Ms. Nicole Giehl, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Ms. Melissa Nelson, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Dr. Sarah Shaw, Ms. Kelly Szesterniak, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of Audit & Finance Committee Meeting held on October 2, 2018; the Policy Committee Meeting held on October 8, 2018; the Discussion Meeting held on October 8, 2018; and the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2018.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members, Lydia Volmrich, Stella Delacour and William Sandoval presented the report from Mellon. Six eighth grade students were chosen to be on the Executive Board—Madison Ausman, Danny Flynn, Aubrey Huntley, William Sandoval, Stella Delacour and Lydia Volmrich.

In October, student council members "Pinked Out" the hallways at Mellon with banners, posters and drawings in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Every Wednesday students were encouraged to wear pink and Student Council sold pink t-shirts, pink bandanas, and pink novelty items. The proceeds, \$878, went to the Breast Cancer Center at St. Clair Hospital.

Mellon's Annual Halloween Costume Contest was held at the end of October. One student from each homeroom was brought to the auditorium to be judged. Prizes were awarded to the best student costume in each grade and to the best teacher costume. The winners were Amelia Carey, 6th grade; Sarah Martin, 7th grade, Zeynab Abzarova, 8th grade; and Mr. Bryan Curtis, 8th grade physics teacher.

The Student Council had a schoolwide service project for active military serving in the middle each through an organization called Military Connections. Each homeroom assembled and stuffed 10 stockings with food, can and notes. A total of 500 stockings were created to be shipped around the world to military troops.

Upcoming events included fundraising for men's health through the Movember campaign, and the 12 Days of Holiday Spirit when students wear themed clothing to get in the holiday spirit.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Vice Presidents Adam Marks and Bridget Caste reported on the activities in the school. High School student supported the annual Pink Out fundraiser for St. Clair Hospital's Cancer Caring Center, and seventeen teachers were sponsored to wear a kilt for a day to support the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation. Both fundraisers were successful with donations totaling \$1,214.

The high school's tradition of conducting a Halloween door decorating contest continues. The theme this year was "Spooky Fairy Tales" with Mrs. Schuler's junior homeroom taking the grand prize. The door was a 3D version of the wolf from Little Red Riding Hood.

Link Crew leaders went to freshmen homerooms during an extended homeroom period to teach an interactive lesson about adjusting to high school. They also led a discussion about the obstacles that the freshman had faced so far and shared suggestions on how to overcome them. The Link Crew Leaders are planning social and community service events for the upcoming months.

The Class of 2020 is conducting a canned food drive that will end on November 30. All donations will be sent to the South Hills Community Food Bank to replenish food that was distributed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Students from the sophomore and junior classes attended the Pennsylvania Student Council State Conference on November 8-10 at Cedar Crest High School. The experience has inspired the students to recruit more of their classmates to become actively involved with Student Council and has given them several new ideas for volunteer activities and fundraising projects. Mt. Lebanon High School is submitting a bid to host the 2020 PASC State Conference. Approximately 1,300 students and adults could attend the conference.

On November 12, Student Council recognized Veteran's Day by publicly thanking the six veterans who work on the high school campus, and the family members of three students along with the family members of ten high school employees.

Student Council has organized a supportive letter writing campaign for the Tree of Life family members, first responders, and medical personnel who helped with the recent tragedy in Squirrel Hill. The Senior Class is organizing a corn hole tournament that will take place during lunch periods on November 27-29. All the monies raised from the activity will be donated to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh.

Throughout the school year, student body officers will be working closely with Mr. Stengel to develop ideas for integrating technology into the high school community.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Riemer recognized Mt. Lebanon High School junior Patrick Anderson. Patrick is the 2018 PIAA champion for Cross Country. He beat the competition for the state gold medal crossing the finish line first in 16:03. Not only does Patrick excel on the cross country course, he is an honor student as well with an exceptional CPA. On behalf of the school district, Mr. Riemer congratulated Patrick and his coach Mike Agostinella on this outstanding achievement.

The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded the Mt. Lebanon School District with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award recognizes districts that have met the program’s high standards for financial reporting and accountability. This is the 34th year the District has been recognized with the award due to the strong financial leadership of the Director of Business, Jan Klein.

The board president reported the progress of the upper practice field. Although the site conditions remain very wet, the contractor has continued to work when possible. Currently he is working to install the drainage piping and manholes and has begun to install the retaining wall. It is anticipated that the work will be complete, pending weather, sometime in December.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer presented an update on the safety and security enhancements planned. He then introduced Dr. Ron Davis and Dr. Marybeth Irvin who presented the annual Student Academic Outcomes Report. The report and presentation slides will be posted on the District website.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that the Policy Committee met on November 12 to review revisions Policy JLF, Reporting Child Abuse. The Committee recommended moving the policy forward for Board approval at this evening’s meeting.

Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Beal reported that his working on an agenda for an upcoming Audit & Finance Committee.

Board Development – Dr. Steinhauer reported for Dr. Strotmeyer. Dr. Strotmeyer is currently exploring a few workshops under development with the PSBA that will be a good match for our board this spring. Our board is eligible to attend a new evening training is being offered at Seneca Valley SD on December 11th, which will be a workshop-style training open to interested board members that may be interested in delving deeper into either policy or school finance. Finally, the PSBA invites our Superintendent and board leadership to the Board Presidents’ Panel end of January at USC.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that 248 Parkway West CTC students have met the requirements to earn a place on the Director’s List for the 1st quarter. Students who make the Director’s List each marking period for two years, will earn High Honors at graduation. Students who make the Director’s List each grading period for three or more years will earn Distinguished Honors at graduation.

Mascaro Construction is sponsoring “The Challenge Program” available to students at Parkway West. The Challenge Program’s mission is to build sustainable Business and Education partnerships, while introducing students to careers in their communities. These partnerships contribute to workforce and economic development by motivating students to develop the solid work habits required to succeed in school and in future careers.

Parkway West CTC staff members were educated on the principles of MAX teaching strategies. MAX stands for Motivation, Acquisition, and Extension. The essential goal of teachers who use the MAX teaching framework is to level the playing field by raising the bar for all students in a classroom environment while engaging all students in active learning from textbooks and other forms of textual matter.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that 80 students are enrolled at Pathfinder. Eleven students are enrolled in the Pride program for students age 18 to 22. Discussions regarding the roof replacement project are continuing. The cost is projected at \$400,000 to \$500,000.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that on November 15 Jocelyn Kramer, from Weiss Burkardt Kramer, presented a program on “The Private (or not so Private) Lives of Educators at the SHASDA meeting. Her presentation touched on the fact that not all speech gets the protection of the First Amendment, especially when it comes to social media. Also, educators should not accept friend requests from students or parents of students.

MLFE – Dr. Diamond reported that the next Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education will be held on December 5.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni met with municipal manager Keith McGill and “all is well.”

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Student Academic Outcomes Report
- Mellon math scores
- Dr. Davis’s contract
- Policy JLF, Child Abuse Reporting

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2018,
- b. List of Bills dated October 31, 2018, and November 13, 2018,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2018,
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated November 1, 2018, and
- e. June 30 List of Budgetary Transfers dated November 9, 2018.

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 disbursements for Donor Designated Gifts in the amount of \$52,000.21. (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 Beal and second by Lebowitz that the Board accepts and approves the Single Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2018 as audited by Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC. (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 November 8, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised November 15, 2018. (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 hereby re-elects Ronald P. Davis to the position of Assistant Superintendent for a term commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024, and does hereby approve an employment contract with Dr. Davis for said term and does authorize the President and Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute said documents with Dr. Davis substantially 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 Olbrich and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves revisions to Policy JLF, Child Abuse Reporting, 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 Frioni that the Board does hereby adopt the 2019-2020 graduation requirements, course offerings, and course options for Mt. Lebanon High School as 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 an agreement with the AIU for Translation Services provided by TransPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation and document translation for non-English speaking students and parents 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 a three-year agreement with Eidex to provide access to various data points relative to its and comparator performances at a cost of \$6,250, to be paid for from federal grant funds. (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 Cappucci that the Board approves Upper Practice Field Re-Surfacing Change Order #1 at no cost to the District.

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 Lebowitz that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Model UN Team to Newark, DE, March 1-3, 2019, and
- b. Model UN Team to Columbus, OH, April 5-7, 2019.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Mellon math scores
Policy JLF, Child Abuse Reporting
Student Academic Outcomes Report
Stated that Mellon is still a “finisher”
Question about progress on project at Washington and Bower Hill
Status of rifle range on Cedar Blvd
Congratulated Jan Klein on upcoming retirement

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Lebowitz to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

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