

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

October 15, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 15 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Markham Elementary students Fiona Emery, Evin Greenman, Ania Alloway, Luca Vujevich, Thandie Norris, and Colin Bozick. The students presented a report on the Mt. Lebanon and Markham community and their walking tour of Mt. Lebanon.

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  
Christopher Voltz, Solicitor's Office  
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Ms. Natasha Dirda, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Ms. Melissa Nelson

MINUTES

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of Policy Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2018; the Discussion Meeting held on September 11, 2018; and the Regular Meeting held on September 17, 2018.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members Helen Hickey and Zach O'Connor reported on the start of the year activities for the Jefferson MS Student Council. The Executive Board brainstormed and discussed options for the committees they would like to see this year. The seven committees for student involvement are Birthday, Wish Week, Advertising/Theme Fridays, Random Acts of Kindness, School Helpers, Student Response and Talent Show.

To help with leadership skills, the Executive Board will be attending the PASC State Leadership Conference hosted by Cedar Crest School District in Lebanon, PA. The conference is scheduled for November 8-10. The students look forward to exchanging ideas with other Student Council members from all over the state, experiencing student-led workshops, and listening to motivational speakers.

High School student body co president, Kelly Donis, presented a report on the high school activities and events. In August, the Link Crew program, comprised of juniors and seniors,

welcomed the Class of 2022 and new students to the High School. Link Crew will continue to socialize with these students to help with their transition to the school.

The seniors began the school year with the annual Senior Board Ride. It was a beautiful night to cruise the three rivers, dance with classmates, and chat with friends you don't normally have a chance to see.

The Mt. Lebanon High School recognized five great alumni this year. They are Mr. Dale Cable, Mr. David Conover, Mrs. Noelle Calabro Conover, Dr. John Haller, Jr., and Mrs. Shirley Erdner Hanson. The alumni were honored with a luncheon and evening recognition event during a football game. It was a great experience to learn firsthand about these wonderful people and their impact on our world.

Other activities for October include the Homecoming Parade, first blood drive of the school year, Homecoming Dance, the Pink Out to support the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation, Senior Recognition Night at the last home football game, Fall Spirit Week, and annual Halloween Homeroom Door Decorating contest.

### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer presented an update on the progress of the Upper Practice Field project. The board approved the installation of an artificial turf, regulation size field of the Upper Practice Field. As of this meeting, the excavation work is about 90 % complete. The engineering site work has been laid out and the contractor is beginning to grade the site. There were several trees around the field that needed to be removed in order to fit the field on the space and that work has been completed. Those trees will be replaced with trees approved by the municipality after the project is complete. The fencing that existed around the field has been removed in several areas and will be replaced at the conclusion of the project. After the excess soil is removed, the contractor will begin installing the retaining wall and the drainage system. We anticipate the project will be completed by the end of November.

As part of its 100<sup>th</sup> national concert tour, **“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band** will perform at Mt. Lebanon High School on November 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. Free tickets are available on the District website [www.mtlsd.org](http://www.mtlsd.org). Mr. Riemer invited the community to attend this very special concert. The Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. President since John Adams. Known as “The President’s Own” since the days of Thomas Jefferson, the Marine Band’s mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the Mt. Lebanon PTA presidents and PTA Council members who work tirelessly and volunteer thousands of hours each year to make our schools a better place for students and staff. The superintendent presented the following PTA presidents with a Certificate of Appreciation: Cara Wetzel, Foster President; Jamie Freeman, Hoover President; Wendy Liberty, Howe President; Kristin Archbold, Jefferson Elementary President; Tracy Adams, Lincoln President; Susan Galone, Markham President; Natalie Kukla, Washington President; Julie Smith, Jefferson MS President; Melissa Bailey, Mellon MS President; Julie Maselko, High School President; Katie Caste, PTA Council President, Bonnie Dougherty, PTA Council Vice President; Mary Ellen Donato, PTA Council Second Vice President; Rebecca Matheus, PTA Council, Secretary; Rich Messimer, PTA Council Treasurer; and Christina Battaglia, PTA Council Historian.

Five Mt. Lebanon High School seniors have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Less than 1% of the 1.6 million students, who as juniors, took the PSAT last fall, from across the country have been recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated these students and presented Certificates of Achievements to the following students: Margaret Brown, Alayna Mikush, Alexis Schulte-Albert, Rebecca Schwartz, and Meera Whitson.

Each year the Division of Federal Programs honors the top performing Title I schools in Pennsylvania. Dr. Steinhauer was pleased to report that both Lincoln and Washington Elementary Schools have been designated as 2018-2019 Title I Distinguished Schools. These schools are considered High Achievement Schools and are among the top 5% performing Title I School in the Commonwealth for both English Language Arts and Math. The superintendent congratulated Lincoln Principal Ron Kitsko, Lincoln Title I teachers Debbie Lewis and Jessica Zajac, Washington Principal Melissa Nelson, and Washington Title I teacher Kristen Mackey.

During the week of October 8, two important events that focused on social emotional health and wellbeing of students were held. On Monday, the District hosted educators from around the region to build, grow, and support compassionate and resilient learning communities at the inaugural *Building Compassionate Learning Communities Conference*. The organizing team, led by high school social studies teacher Tina Raspanti, created a conference designed to connect Pre-K to higher ed educators to provide opportunities for exploration, inspiration and discovery into the practices of social emotional learning, mindfulness, and resilience. On Wednesday, every employee of the District participated in a workshop entitled *Supporting Student Mental Health and Wellbeing* led by Dr. Mary Margaret Kerr. Dr. Kerr provided six tangible recommendations to all employees on how to support students: 1) Own the "unowned spaces" in the workplace, 2) Be a caring, trustworthy adult, 3) Avoid humiliation, 4) If you are concerned, tell someone, 5) Know what to watch and listen for, and 6) Foster resilience. Dr. Kerr's comments tied in nicely to our work with Social and Emotional Learning attributes. This program was aligned to our Safety and Security and Social and Emotional Learning goals.

Dr. Steinhauer invited parents and community members to attend a School Community Conversation of Safety and Security in the Mt. Lebanon School District on Wednesday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. This event will be a continuation of the conversation Mt. Lebanon Police Chief Aaron Lauth and Dr. Steinhauer held last March. They will discuss the updates made since then concerning the safety and security practices in the District and also share the long list of District's programs designed to support the emotional health and well-being of our students. The District administration knows that it is critical to address both the infrastructure and mental wellbeing of our children and staff in order to secure our schools.

The Board will be voting on an investment of up to \$1M dollars specifically designated for safety and security infrastructure. As described at the Discussion Meeting on October 8, the Mt. Lebanon Police Department conducted Safety & Security Assessments of each of our ten school buildings. The results from those audits will be used to prioritize safety & security upgrades throughout the District. Upgrades will occur in six general categories: 1) Door Hardware, 2) Signage, 3) Laminates for Windows and Doors, 4) Communication (radios, etc.), 5) Cameras and Surveillance Equipment, and 6) Protective Bollards.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that the Policy Committee met on October 8 to discuss revisions to policies BBA, Board Powers and Responsibilities, and BEDJ, Broadcasting/Taping of Board Meetings. Both revised policies are on the agenda this evening for Board approval.

Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Beal reported that the Audit & Finance Committee met on October 2. Mr. Tim Frenz, bond counsel from Janney, presented information regarding the District’s current bonds. The Committee also discussed debt structure and potential refinancing options. Given call features in the tax legislation, there are no prudent opportunities to restructure debt to reduce costs. The next possible opportunity to restructure a portion of our debt will be in 2023 with the refinancing of the general obligation bonds of 2013. Mr. Rob Geletko, incoming Director of Business, actively participated in the discussion and his input reflected a significant understanding of the complexities of debt.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that at the Discussion Meeting on October 8, Dr. Darby Copeland, Executive Director at Parkway, presented an overview of the programs at Parkway CTC. One new highlight is the newest course to be offered is diesel technology.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that a Pathfinder Board meeting was held On September 19. There are 78 students enrolled at the Pathfinder School and eleven students are scheduled to graduate this year. All students are participating in the STEM program. Mr. Cooper gave an update on the roof project stating that no architect is needed and the job will not be started until next summer. The next Board meeting is on October 17.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported HB 1095 is making its way through the Senate. HB 1095 will provide alternates to passing the Keystone Exams to show graduation readiness.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that SHASDA met on September 27. The speakers for the evening were attorneys Jocelyn Kramer and Annemarie Harr from Weiss Burkhardt Kramer who presented a program on school safety, preventive response, and use of security and school police.

MLFE – Dr. Diamond reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education met on September 19. The committee discussed the funds for the spring teacher grants awards, and identified a date for the Taste of Lebo fundraiser. The next meeting will be held on October 17.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that he met with Municipal Manager Keith McGill and he thanked Mr. McGill for their continue cooperation on issues like the school safety assessments prepared by the Mt. Lebanon Police Department and for allowing Police Chief Lauth to present the school safety forum with Dr. Steinhauer.

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 September 30, 2018,
- b. List of Bills dated September 28, 2018, and October 10, 2018,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated September 30, 2018, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated October 1, 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 Strotmeyer that the Board approves the transfer of \$1 million from the General Fund Assigned Fund Balance to the Capital Fund for safety and security capital projects and equipment purchases as recommended by the Superintendent.

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 the October 4, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised October 11, 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 Riemer and seconded by Cooper that the Board hereby re-elects Timothy J. Steinhauer to the position of Superintendent for a term commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024, and does approve an employment contract with Dr. Steinhauer for said term and does authorize the President and Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute said contract with Dr. Steinhauer 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 Diamond and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy BBA, Board Powers and Responsibilities, 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 revisions to Policy BEDJ, Broadcasting/Taping of Board Meetings, 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 Olbrich that as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the following members of the Student Assistance Team are memorialized by the Board of School Directors for the 2018-2019 school year:

**Central Office Representative:** Dr. Ronald Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction, and Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction.

**Allegheny Children's Initiative Liaison** – Jeaneen N. DeWitt

**Mellon Middle School Student Assistance Program Team:** Christopher Wolfson, Principal; Ben Canan, Assistant Principal; Do Sabol, Nurse; Heather Rehrig, Psychologist; Kara Gillespie, Counselor; Amy Whealdon, Counselor; Erica Harrington, Teacher; and Eve Kollar, Teacher

**Jefferson Middle School Student Assistance Program Team:** Kelly Szeszterniak, Principal; Jeff Zeiders, Assistant Principal; Lauren Suess, Nurse; Erika Vasquez, Psychologist; Erin Schmidt, Teacher; Ashlee Beckett, Teacher; Pete Berg, Teacher; Janice Cherry, Teacher; Kristen Hertzog, Teacher; Gwen Kassep, Teacher; Allison Levison, Teacher; Beth Luptak, Teacher; Ed Petsko, Teacher; Stephanie Ross, Teacher; Nicole Welsh, Teacher; Molly Wetmore, Teacher; and John Young, Teacher.

**Mt. Lebanon High School Student Assistance Program Team:** Brian McFeeley, Principal; Carlie McGinty, Unit Principal; Katelyn Deet, Unit Principal; Joel Thompson, Unit Principal; Diane Becker, Counselor; Casey Bowles, Counselor; Chad Johnston, Counselor; Tara Leja, Counselor; Joy Rullo, Counselor; Shelly Saba, Counselor; Beth Schneider, Counselor; Jan Billotte, Teacher; Frank Cremonese, Teacher; Jodi Dunlap, Teacher; Todd Forsyth, Teacher; Tim Kirsch, Teacher; Keary McFeeley, Teacher; Darren McGregor, Teacher; Ann Sartorio, Teacher; Rich Schmitt, Teacher; Stu Snodgrass, Teacher; Joe Tighe, Teacher; and Elizabeth Tighe, Teacher

**Hoover Elementary Student Assistance Program Team:** Nicole Giehll, Principal; Hilarie Bauer, Nurse; Kimberly Gamble, Counselor; Shania Vasbinder, School Psychologist; Katie Cornell, Teacher; and Stephanie Hull, Teacher

**Lincoln Elementary Student Assistance Program Team:** Ronald Kitsko, Principal; Deanna Hess, Nurse; Kristin Frommeyer, Guidance Counselor; Sheila Carr/Lyndsey Giannella School Psychologist; Lisa Locke, Teacher; and Kathryn Kennedy, Teacher

**Washington Elementary Student Assistance Program Team:** Melissa Nelson, Principal; Do Sabol, Nurse; Lori Morin, Counselor; Heather Rehrig, Psychologist; Matt Antis, Teacher; Kim Scheuble, Teacher

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 Cooper that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. PASCH-German-Triathlon Team to Estes Park, CO, September 27-29, 2018,
- b. Girls Basketball to Wilmington, DE, December 26-30, 2018,
- c. Boys Basketball to Jefferson City, MO, December 26-30, 2018,
- d. Girls Basketball to Philadelphia, PA, January 19-20, 2019, and
- e. Academic Games to Orlando, FL, April 26-30, 2019.

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 Strotmeyer that the Board awards the Jefferson Elementary Bank Stabilization Project to Filma, LLC, in the amount of \$33,400, 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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Riemer announced that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Director

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