

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

September 17, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln Elementary students Page Herzing, Cooper Williams, Andrew Quinlan, Stella Moore, and Madeline Zapko. The students gave a presentation on the Awesome Abes program at Lincoln.

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: Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Ms. Katelyn Deet, Mr. Ron Kitsko

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on August 13, 2018, and the Regular Meeting held on August 20, 2018.

Mr. Cooper asked that it be reflected in the August discussion meeting minutes that he did not vote against the contract with Marianni & Richards.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer reiterated the school board and administration's commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming school environment for all students. This school year the District continues to build on the measures we already have in place to support school safety such as staff training, conducting drills such as evacuation to alternative sites and ALiCE reviews. School safety assessments were conducted by the MLPD and our administrators are reviewing the documents to identify areas that need to be addressed. Many of these procedures and programs are the continuation of the good work of our staff and our strong partnership with the Mt. Lebanon Police and Fire Departments. The Olweus anti-bullying program and Social Emotional Learning initiatives are also very important programs that support the health and well-being of the students and staff.

The board president reported that he met with Governor Wolf and briefly discussed the most recent funding that he put forward in this year's State Budget for school safety and security. Mr. Riemer informed him just how important this issue is to all the communities and the anxiety that there is concerning the subject.

The Board recently announced that the Mt. Lebanon School District and the Mt. Lebanon Education Association ratified a five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement. This agreement provides continued superior education for the students of the Mt. Lebanon School District and ensures a positive working environment for our teachers while maintaining fiscal accountability for the taxpayers of the School District. This is a positive outcome for our schools and community, and Mr. Riemer thanked all involved in the process.

Mr. Riemer announced that high school English teacher Benjamin Minett is being recognized with the Extra Mile Award this month. Mr. Minette was nominated due to a letter written by Ms. Louanne Baily, the mother of one of his former students, and sent to the school board and high school principal, Brian McFeeley. Ms. Baily wrote that Mr. Minett played a pivotal, critical, and positive role in the life of her son, and that when her son recently contacted Mr. Minett for advice about his future, Mr. Minett listened to him and his concerns. Ms. Bailey thanked Mr. Minett for his commitment to knowing his students, his passion as a teacher, and his belief in her son. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Riemer congratulated Mr. Minett and presented him with the Extra Mile Award for going above and beyond for the students, past and present, of Mt. Lebanon.

The School Board and Dr. Steinhauer established the superintendent's five goals for the 2018-2019 school year. Goal 1 addresses Academics and Instructions; Goal 2 focuses on creating an Inclusive Environment in our schools; Goal 3 is Safety and Security; Goal 4 is Innovation and Goal 5 is Social Emotional Learning. These goals are aligned to the mission of the District "To Provide the Best Education Possible for Each and Every Student." The goals will be posted on the District website.

Congratulations to the 2108 recipients of the Mt. Lebanon High School Great Alumni Award: Mr. Dale Cable, Class of 1975; Mr. David Conover, Class of 1975; Mrs. Noelle Conover, Class of 1978; Dr. John S. Halle, Jr., Class of 1953; and Mrs. Shirley Hanson, Class of 1954. The recipients of this award are selected based on exceptional work in at least one of the following areas; improvement in the lives of others, involvement in community service, or achievement in a professional field. The Great Alumni will be honored on October 5 with a special luncheon as well as public recognition at the football game that night.

Mr. Riemer announced that Military Appreciation Night will be held on September 21 at the Mt. Lebanon vs. North Allegheny football game at Mt. Lebanon Stadium. All Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard veterans are invited for a pre-game recognition. The event is sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Athletic Department and the Mt. Lebanon Touchdown Club.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the high school's Link Crew program. Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. High school faculty Mike Locke, Shelly Saba, Christy Smith and Katelyn Deet coordinate this extremely successful program. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, this program trains mentors from the junior and senior classes to be Link Crew Leaders who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success. Dr. Steinhauer presented certificates of recognition to the four staff members who coordinate this program.

Dr. Steinhauer and several other Mt. Lebanon administrators are traveling to Washington DC on September 18 to be recognized for achieving the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools designation for Mt. Lebanon High School. Mt. Lebanon was selected as one of only two Pennsylvania schools to receive this distinction this year. Only 50 schools from across the country will receive this designation. The award highlights schools that have engaged in

promising practices and as a role model for other schools to employ. In addition, through well-designed curriculum and instruction all students are exposed to effective environmental and sustainability education, and programs and practices have been instituted to improve the health and wellness of students and staff in a learning environment that is conducive to achieving their full potential.

The Mt. Lebanon High School Blue Devil Marching Band will present its 24th annual Festival of Bands on Saturday, September 22 at 7:00 pm at the Mt. Lebanon Stadium, rain or shine. Marching bands from many local high schools will perform. Tickets are available at the gate or from any band member.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that the Policy Committee met on September 11 to review policies BDB, Board Officers; BEB, Special Board Meetings; and JID, Residency/Enrollment. These policies will be on the agenda for approval by the Board.

Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Beal reported that an Audit & Finance Committee meeting will be held on October 2. Agenda items include debt structure and potential refinancing options.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer indicated that he is working on a board training program to be scheduled during the winter months.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that the SkillsUSA National Competition was held in June and Parkway West CTX was well represented by the two student participants. Christina Walter, a Moon graduate, placed 1st in the National Health Occupations Professional Portfolio Completion. This is her second national gold medalist.

A parent/student orientation was held on Thursday, August 16 with approximately 350 parents and students attending. Attendees got an orientation and overview of all that PWCTC has to offer. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 is over 850 students which is the highest in more than 25 years.

Parkway had several building project upgrades over the summer including the remodeling of the student restrooms near the school office, relocation and remodeling of the West Wing break room and the SMARTT program and Business Office were relocated.

AYA Instruments has established a partnership with Parkway's Electrical System Technology Program. Through this partnership, AYA has made several equipment donations to the school including flex power solar panel, outback charge controller, outback energy storage, and outback grid/hybrid inverter charger. This valuable equipment will afford Parkway's program an excellent educational opportunity.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the enrollment at Pathfinder continues to grow. The school has expanded the work study program for students. The Board continues to discuss the roof situation of whether to replace the roof or just repair. Architects need to be hired to access the situation.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that the first SHASDA meeting of the year will be held on September 27.

MLFE – Dr. Diamond reported that a Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education meeting will be held on September 19.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that from the perspective of the Municipality, the opening of school went smoothly. Commissioner Fraasch has requested a joint Commission/School Board meeting in the future.

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 August 31, 2018,
- b. List of Bills dated August 31, 2018, and September 12, 2018,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated August 31, 2018, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated September 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 Lebowitz that the Board approves the contract with Mockenhaupt Benefits Group for an OPEB actuarial study at their quoted rate of \$7,500. (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 seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves authorizing the Tax Collector to remove all delinquent properties with assessments of \$8,000 or less from properties to be lienied for the 2017 tax year and approves the filing of liens on all remaining properties.

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 September 6, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised September 13, 2018 and September 17, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves revisions to Policy BDB, Board Officers, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Frioni that the Board approves revisions to Policy BEB, Special 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 Olbrich and seconded by Frioni that the Board approves revisions to Policy JID, Residency/Enrollment, 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 Lebowitz that the Board approves an agreement with Allegheny Children's Initiative (ACI) to provide Student Assistance Program services to the District for the 2018-2019 school year at no cost to the District. (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 an agreement with Wesley Family Services to provide site-based academic services to Mt. Lebanon students for the 2018-2019 school year 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 the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern PA for the 2018-2019 school year to provide student transition and skill development in their Transition Works! program at a cost not to exceed \$15,021 per student for no more than three 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 Lebowitz and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves submission of PlanCon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the High School Project to the State 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 Cooper that the Board approves the Devil’s Advocate and Lebanon Log student trip to Chicago, IL, October 31 to November 4, 2018.

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 That the Board authorizes the Board Secretary to vote for the following PSBA Officers:

President Elect: Eric Wolfgang
Vice President: Art Levinowitz
PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee: William LaCoff
Dr. Richard Frerichs
Nathan Mains

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:

PIAA alignment makes it too far to travel for some football games; all games should be local
Questioned the number of F-1 students in the high school
Agrees with board members who opposed revisions to Policy BDB
Pick-up and drop-off issues at Jefferson Elementary on Ella Street
Would like someone from the administration to observe the situation at Jefferson

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, it was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director