

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

March 19, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:37 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Howe Elementary students Emma Lefebvre, Scarlet O'Brien, Roman Niedinger, Sarah Doyle and Alexis Hough who shared their experiences and projects in the Matt's Maker Space at Howe.

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  
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor  
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Policy Committee Meeting held on February 12, 2018, the Discussion Meeting held on February 12, 2018; and the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2018.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members Emma Frink and Danny Flynn reported on the activities at Mellon. Student Council members took part in the PASC local conference held at Mt. Lebanon High School. Members of student governments from all over Pennsylvania volunteered their time to lead discussions that taught participants how to be better leaders and better members. Mellon Middle School contributed to the event by assembling thank-you gift bags for the volunteers at the conference.

Students will be raising funds for two teams of Mellon teachers running in the Pittsburgh Marathon for Autism Connection of PA. Homerooms will be assigned to support and fundraise for either the women's team for the men's team with all proceeds going to the Autism Connection of Western PA. Winning homerooms will compete for a catered lunch provided by Student Council. The goal of this event is to raise awareness for Autism by introducing a fun competition to increase student involvement.

Thomas Heagy and Will Buerger, the co-presidents of the High School student body, reported on the events at the High School. Student Council hosted the Pennsylvania Association of Student Council's Region B spring conference in which 650 Student Council delegates and 60 adults from 36 schools attended. It was a fantastic experience for the co chairpersons to organize such a huge event and to see it through to its successful end. Participants were entertained by our high school's Triple Trio, Drumline, and Dance Company. We are grateful for the many Mt. Lebanon

High School teachers who helped supervise, and for the forty Mt. Lebanon high school students who volunteered and were willing to help in any way that was needed. Finally, we want to express our appreciation to Dr. Steinhauer, Dr. Davis, and Mr. McFeeley for changing the school calendar and allowing us to host this conference. It was a tremendously positive experience for all of us.

The sophomore class conducted a fundraiser called “Pies 4 Puerto Rico”. Students were encouraged to donate money so that their favorite math teacher would get “pied” during one of the three lunch periods. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Bouvy, and Mr. Locke had the most money in their collection jars and appeared to enjoy having a whipped cream pie smeared on their face. Mr. McFeeley has also agreed to being “pied” during the Spring Spirit Assembly because the fundraiser resulted in more than \$314.00 being collected. All of the donations will be sent to the United for Puerto Rico fund, which will assist those citizens who are still struggling with the problems that resulted after the hurricanes so severely damaged the island.

On March 14, more than 800 Mt. Lebanon High School students joined together to demonstrate in support of the “Never Again” movement. Student who chose to participate assembled along Horsman Drive for 17 minutes of silence, honoring the 17 victims of the Majory Stoneman Douglas tragedy last month.

Students, faculty and staff members will be supporting the “Sack Hunger, Pack Hope” PTA Council collection. The high school will be collecting shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste for the South Hills Interfaith Movement organization which provides a lot of important services for many citizens who live in the South Hills.

The junior class sponsored a “Spread the Word to End the Word” banner signing activity in which over 300 students agreed to no longer use “the r- word.”

Fourteen members of the junior class are in the midst of planning campaigns for the candidacy for the eight study body officer positions. On April 20, a “Meet the Candidates” forum will take place during all three lunch periods, and the General Election will take place on April 27.

Thomas and Will encouraged the Board and the members of the audience to consider nominating Mt. Lebanon High School alumni for the 2018 Great Alumni award. This honor recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments either personally or professionally. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15 and the nomination form can be downloaded from the School District’s website or by contacting the Student Activities Office.

#### **BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Riemer reviewed the discussion concerning the Capital Campaign. Contrary to what people may have heard, his review has made it clear that--while the results were not what anyone wanted and some mistakes were made along the way-- there was nothing at all inappropriate or improper in the previous dealings with the campaign. He wants to put this behind the Board and, with the whole community, move the campaign to its next, new and exciting chapter. For the April discussion Board meeting I will be introducing William Moorhead and Noelle Conover to discuss moving this endeavor forward as volunteer leaders.

The board president reported on his school visits to Jefferson Middle and Jefferson Elementary Schools on March 16. Principal Kelly Szeszterniak and Mr. Riemer visited 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes including a social studies class where students took an online tour of various European destinations, a science class where the students were completing a lab on solubility, a math class where the students created a box and whisker plot using an estimation of the ages of people on the first floor, and in an English class the students were practicing punctuation and grammar. On his visit to 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes, English students were submitting the final drafts of a charity essay. In

Science students were working on a fossil lab and I got to see the class pet, Norman the snake. I was also able to visit with the teachers from both 8th grade teams. In Family and Consumer Science class students were planning their culminating meal that they will cook for their family at home.

On his second stop to Jefferson Elementary School, Dr. Sarah Shaw took Mr. Riemer on a visit to a 3rd grade classroom where I observed a classroom meeting. I learned that “Class meetings” are part of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in our schools. He stopped in the reading support classroom during a kindergarten lesson. The students were working on phonics skills using the Foundations resource. Mr. Riemer then visited a 4th and a 5th grade math class. In 4th grade the students were collecting and analyzing data, and in the 5th grade classroom, the students were working in collaborative groups exploring relationships between different measures of volume.

A visit to the elementary schools would not be complete without a visit to their Matt’s Makerspace. Jefferson’s makerspace is in the school library, which is a very versatile space with movable, modular tables and stools, a standing workbench, and a green screen. During the visit, children were working on a math enrichment project, where they were required to design and build a scale model of a swimming pool. I also learned about future plans for Jefferson’s Matt’s Maker Space that will introduce more resources and materials for students including a portable whiteboard partitions to provide students with a larger space to design, and a TV to project student presentations.

Mr. Riemer presented an Extra Mile Award to Ms. Peg Grasso, who teaches German at the High School. Ms. Grasso was nominated by Mrs. Susan Meers who stated that Peg Grasso Meyers’ dedication to her students and our community goes above and beyond what most teachers do in and out of the classroom. Her strong support of her students and the encouragement she gives to them leads one to understand why the German program is so strong here in Mt. Lebanon. The board president congratulated Ms. Grasso on this honor.

Business Director Jan Klein was recently awarded the PASBO Award of Achievement. This award acknowledges the creators of successful proposals, practices or publications in all areas of school management and education. Ms. Klein’s submission “Healthcare Plan Changes Saves School and Employees Money” was recognized as an outstanding practice by PASBO. Mr. Bill Kruck of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust presented Ms. Klein with a check made out to Mt. Lebanon School District for \$3,000 intended to provide a scholarship to deserving a student in the District.

Mr. Riemer encouraged all to attend a *School Community Conversation about Safety and Security in the Mt. Lebanon School District* on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Dr. Steinhauer and Police Chief Aaron Lauth will discuss the safety and security practices the District has in place to keep our schools safe for students and staff.

### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the organizers of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils 2018 Regional Conference held on March 1 at the Mt. Lebanon High School. The conference, titled “Putting the Pieces Together,” gave participants the opportunity to hear keynote speakers, share ideas, and get actively engaged in student-led workshops. The superintendent is proud of the Mt. Lebanon student organizers who were the perfect hosts, and he presented certificates of recognition to Kay Casturo, Sanjana Advani, William Buerger, Regional Conference Co-Chairs, and Thomas Heagy, Regional Conference Technology Chair. In addition, Student Activities Director, Judith Kolko, was recognized for her countless hours spent in preparing for the event and the excellent guidance she gave our students throughout the planning. Congratulations to Mr. Brian McFeeley for the wonderful representation of our high school at this state conference.

The superintendent echoed Mr. Riemer's invitation for all to attend our *School Community Conversation about Safety and Security* on March 20. This is an important opportunity for us to come together to discuss what is a key priority of our school district—the safety of our students and staff. I want to especially thank Chief Aaron Lauth for participating in the program along with the MLPD's continued support of our schools.

Dr. Marybeth Irvin presented Mrs. Emma Lou Nelson with the 2018 Sue Harper Endowed Teaching Award. Mrs. Nelson is a first grade teacher at Hoover Elementary School who has been teaching for 42 years, and was nominated by her principal Ms. Nicole Giehll. In the application, Ms. Giehll describes her as arriving each day with a smile on her face and a positivity that is contagious. She further says, "She is flexible and willing to take on any challenges that may come her way with tenacity and courage that is inspiring. It is abundantly clear that Emmy Lou (as she is known at Hoover) loves teaching the children in her classroom, but her lessons aren't limited to those walls. For those who have the good fortune of knowing her, Emmy Lou has taught us all how to approach each day with courage, grace, passion, and integrity. She truly is one of a kind!" Congratulations to Mrs. Nelson for receiving this recognition. The District is grateful for her years of dedication to the students of the Mt. Lebanon School District.

Dr. Steinhauer presented an update on the 2018-2019 Budget.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that a Policy Committee meeting was held on March 12 to review three policies—KBF, Classroom Visitation; KK, Visitors to the Schools; and MB, Opposition to Application for Malt Beverage and Liquor Licenses Within 300 Feet of Schools. Minor revisions were made to Policy KBF, and the Board will vote on the revisions at this evening's meeting.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported he is scheduling a Board retreat for June.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer met with Dr. Copeland, Executive Director for Parkway, to discuss maintenance issues with the facility.

Mt. Lebanon student, Emma Luther, will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on April 16. Emma is enrolled in the Cosmetology program.

The Parkway West Education Foundation was approved by the State of Pennsylvania as an education improvement organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Duquesne Light has made a very generous donation in the amount of \$30,000 to fund the construction of a mini smart house.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual summer career camp for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be held June 27-28 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students will learn about different careers through hands-on activities while gaining skills they can use in everyday life.

Parkway West CTC held its annual Spring Open House on March 6. This event is aimed at middle and high school students throughout the jointure school district who are considering enrolling in a career in technology career major.

Three students from Mt. Lebanon attending Parkway West CTC, Maximilian King, Jacob Benedict and Seth McKerley, are enrolled in the Community College of Beaver County Aviation Program. They are currently on course to complete 13 college credits this spring in the aviation program.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported that the House Education Committee is holding hearings on school safety. PSBA president, Michael Faccineto, testified before the committee with recommendation for the General Assembly. The Senate recently passed a bill to arm teachers in schools. Over 100 schools have signed resolutions opposing SB2 and Education Savings Accounts. Mt. Lebanon will be adopting a resolution at this evening's meeting.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that the last SHASDA meeting was the popular student presentations. Mt. Lebanon sent four students and their teacher from the technology education department.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that he met with Noelle Conover to discuss his role in the reset of the Capital Campaign committee. The Taste of Lebo, sponsored by the MLFE, will be held on April 12. As of this meeting, nine restaurants have committed to participating in the event. Tickets are available on the MLFE website.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that he spoke with Commissioner Kelly Frasch. Mrs. Frasch indicated that an invite will be coming for a joint Municipal/School District session. Also, the Municipality would like to discuss School Safety Officers.

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Resolution opposing SB2

#### 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 February 28, 2018,
- b. List of Bills dated February 28, 2018, and March 13, 2018,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated February 28, 2018, and
- d. List Unusable Equipment dated March 1, 2018.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Riemer

Abstain: Lebowitz

Against: None

MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC as the fiscal auditors at their quoted price of \$19,500 for 2017-2018, and \$19,900 for 2018-2019.

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 the March 8, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised March 15, 2018 and as revised March 19, 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 KBF, Classroom Visitation, 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 Cappucci and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for special education services 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 Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with the Keystone Oaks Project Succeed Program as an alternative education option for Mt. Lebanon students for the 2018-2019 school year at a cost of \$17,500 for no more than 15 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 Olbrich that the Board approves a contract with Southwood Hospital to provide educational tutoring services for the 2017-2018 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 Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves a three-year air conditioning maintenance agreement with Trane in the amount of \$45,763 for year one, \$47,136 for year two, and \$48,550 for year three. (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 Cappucci that the Board approves the Student Protect Product License in substantially the form presented, subject to final approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor. (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 Lebowitz that the Board approves the High School Ski Trip to Killington Resort, Vermont, January 18-22, 2019.

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 adopts a resolution opposing the ESA Voucher Program (SB2) in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Transportation services for special needs students; safety issues with various vehicles  
“See something, say something” initiative  
Background checks  
Questioned if the teacher contract will affect the budget

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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