

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

February 26, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2018, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Washington Elementary students Madeleine Buschman, Hadija Abzarova, Parker Gebben, Emmett Fitzgerald, Greta Colema, and Ella Mackey who shared their experiences and projects in the Matt's Maker Space at Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Mr. Michael Riemer
Absent: Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer

ATTENDING:

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on January 8, 2018, and the Regular Meeting held on January 15, 2018.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council member McKenzie Hughes presented a report on the activities at Jefferson. Between Thanksgiving and the winter break, students collected 70 coats along with mittens and gloves to donate to the South Hills Interfaith Ministries. Jefferson Middle School participated in Star 100.7's Hope for the Holidays program. The Executive Board selected a small family in need and sold candygrams to raise funds to make their holidays special.

The PASC Spring District Conference will be held at Mt. Lebanon High School this year, and the JMS Student Council has been busy putting together workshops and helping out where they can. Nine JMS members will be attending the conference as presenters.

The Wish Week Committee has been busy going through piles of wishes that hope to be granted. This is the big spring event for the building. The guideline for wishes is "the more creative the better," so the students look forward to see what wishes get fulfilled this spring.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council officers, Golda Gershanok and Thomas Heagy, presented a report on the happenings at high school.

The 2018 Snowball dance was a huge success with 650 students in attendance. The theme this year was “A Night in Wonderland.” The senior chairpersons turned the skywalk into Alice’s fall down the rabbit hole, and creative decorations covered Center Court.

The Link Crew program continues to be a very successful mentorship program at the high school. The “Cocoa and Cram” event took place just before final exams with over 300 freshmen attending. Students were able to study in a relaxed environment and ask for assistance as they prepare for final exams. The Crew Team sponsors are Mrs. Smith, Mr. Locke, and Mrs. Saba.

The Central Blood Bank drive occurred in January and resulted in 52 blood products donated by both students and faculty. The final drive will be held on April 30. Employees of the District and parents of the students are welcome to contribute.

Congratulations to Anne Jin for being selected as the February Rotary Student of the Month. Anne is a National Merit Finalist, member of the Cum Laude Society, concertmaster of the high school orchestra, 1st violin in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, a National Honor Society member, and has been published in the American Liberty of Poetry and Mt. Lebanon Magazine.

Mt. Lebanon High School will be hosting the PASC Region B Student Council conference. There will be 35 schools representing 640 students and 40 adult advisors. The opening session will feature motivational speaker, Kent Julian, followed by workshops for the students.

Cancer Awareness Week is this week under the leadership of student Georgina DiNardo. Each day students wear colored yarn representing particular cancers, and several teachers and staff members in the high school will be shown support for their recovery efforts.

The casting for the spring musical *Annie* has been completed. It should be a great production and all the students who are participating are very excited about performing on May 10, 11 & 12.

The Politics and Pizza club has been busy this month hosting candidates for the 18th Congressional seat that is up in a special election on March 13. Democratic candidate Conor Lamb and libertarian candidate Drew Gray Miller spoke to the club’s members. Many students came prepared with questions and impressed the two candidates. The republican candidate, Rick Saccone, chose not to respond to the students request to speak. The club and other student leaders, with the help of teacher Pete DiNardo, have also participated in a recent voter registration drive.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Riemer reported on his visits to Washington and Mellon schools. At Washington, he visited Matt’s Maker Space in the library and was impressed with the activities for creating projects. In the language classrooms, students were learning firsthand that it is much easier to navigate the world around them when they are equipped with multiple languages. He saw how the school’s music teachers create the foundation for the world class music education programs at Mt. Lebanon School District. Mr. Riemer thanked the students, staff and Principal Melissa Nelson for a wonderful visit.

On his visit to Mellon, he stopped in a 6th grade social studies classroom where the students were studying the countries of Africa. One group of students was using Chromebooks and Google Draw to collaborate and create depictions of their country. Another group was engaged in a very tactile lesson where students were analyzing the characteristics of various countries. Mr. Riemer visited the Applied Behavior Analysis classrooms at Mellon. He was impressed to see that students with significant needs are being educated in such a caring environment and included with their non-disabled peers as much as possible. The board president he listened in on a

“Tuesday Talk,” which is a model used around the Olweus program. Given the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Florida, teachers took the time to reassure students about school safety by reviewing the district ALiCE procedures. Mr. Riemer thanked the students, staff and principal, Chris Wolfson for a wonderful time.

Mr. Riemer took a moment to discuss school safety and security. Two Mt. Lebanon Police officers assigned to the schools educate our children on a variety of topics to include school safety, and the police department regular patrols the school both during the day and at nighttime to make sure the schools are safe and secure. The school district has had extensive training to staff, administration and students in the ALiCE program taught by the Mt. Lebanon Police Department. The acronym ALiCe stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate. The District has also invested considerable financial resources in the doors of the school to include the installation of a captured vestibule in all schools and electronic surveillance along with other security measures. The board president assured parents that the safety of our students is and has been a number one priority of both the school district administration, school board and the Mt. Lebanon Police Department.

The Mt. Lebanon High School is accepting nominations for the 2018 Great Alumni Award. This project honors people who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments either personally or professionally after graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School. Nominations applications may be obtained on the District website or by calling the high school Student Activities Office. The application deadline is April 15.

Mr. Riemer congratulated Business Director Jan Klein on being selected for the PASBO Award of Achievement for her best practices submission entitled, “Healthcare Plan Change Saves Schools and Employees Money.” The PASBO Awards of Achievement program is designed to identify extraordinary school management practices, proposals, and publications which lead to the effective use of valuable educational resources.

The board president introduced MLFE President Natalie Wagner who introduced the innovative grant awarded to Mt. Lebanon teachers in 2017. Nine grants totaling \$12,474 were awarded in the spring and fall of last year.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer read the following statement:

On February 14, a terrible tragedy took place in Parkland, Florida. I and our entire school community were saddened and heartbroken thinking of the victims, their families, surviving students, and the entire faculty and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School - know that our entire school community stand with and support all of those involved, during this difficult time. It is my personal hope that our country can come to reasonable solutions to stop these school shootings from ever happening again.

As Mr. Riemer mentioned in his report, we have extensive safety and security procedures in place for each building and we review them regularly with our administrators, faculty and staff. In addition, our partnerships with Chief Lauth and the Mt. Lebanon Police, the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department and MRTSA are extensive and comprehensive.

I believe that communication is critical to helping us prevent such terrible incidents. I urge parents to talk with their children, as well as with our faculty, staff, and administrators, if you become aware of anything that could be considered concerning. No image, statement, or rumor is too little or too incidental or unimportant to ignore or not report.

I would invite our parents to attend a School Community Conversation About Safety and Security in the Mt. Lebanon School District on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the High School

Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. *We will share and describe the measures, procedures, and protocols we have in place to keep our schools safe.*

During our conversation, parents will have the opportunity to hear about our proactive, preventative, and responsive efforts, as well as, the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas and suggestions.

Our School Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff and I work diligently to create and maintain a safe and orderly environment through which children will thrive and be successful.

The superintendent reported that High School Social Studies teacher Peter DiNardo will present *Beyond Members: Women as Anchors of the Movement* in the second of this three-part speaker series on the “*Forgotten Aspects of the Civil Rights Movement*” on Thursday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. This speaker’s series is co-sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon School District, the Mt. Lebanon Public Library and the Mt. Lebanon Historical Society and is free and open to the public.

Dr. Steinhauer congratulated the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams for their success in the playoff games and advancing to the WPIAL semi-final games. If they win this round, they will be in the WPIAL championships on March 3 at the Peterson Center.

As part of the ongoing report on the Superintendent goals, a presentation was made on the methods, resources, and assessment of the district’s elementary and middle school math curriculum. The presentation was made by math teachers Ms. Lisa Locke, Lincoln Grade 1; Mr. Jeff Elias, Foster Grade 3; Dr. Lori Knox, Mellon Grade 8; and Mr. Michael Locke, High School Mathematics and Department Chair.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Ms. Olbrich reported that two policies are being presented tonight for Board action. A minor revision has been made to Policy JICG, Student Smoking, Use and/or Possession of Tobacco & E-Cigarette Offences. Policy EFD, Meal Charge, is a new policy for adoption which was created due to additions to the Pennsylvania School Code regarding “lunch shaming.”

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Dr. Darby Copeland, Executive Director and his administrative staff. They discussed the following career majors available at Parkway: Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Construction Technology, Digital Multimedia, Information Technology Essentials, Health Assistant, Public Safety Technology, Veterinary Assistant Technology and Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Therapy Technology. Parkway is also preparing students for the industry certifications in these programs, and college credit courses from CCAC are also offered. These students must take the Keystone exams with their home school but must also take the National Occupational Certification Testing Institution (NOCTI) exam. The NOCTI is a combination written exam with a tactile exam. The State average of students passing this exam is 75%, but Parkway West is at 97%.

The December 2017 Student of the Month was Mt. Lebanon senior Emma Luther. Emma is enrolled in the Cosmetology program and attends both the morning and afternoon session. Mt. Lebanon senior Elaina Palka is the February 2018 Student of the Month. Elaina is enrolled in the Health Assistant program. She recently completed her Nurse Assistant Clinical Experience and is preparing to take the Certified Nurse Assistant examination in the spring.

The following Mt. Lebanon students made the CTC Directors List of Honor Students for the Second Quarter: Joseph Eisley, Patrick Fitzgerald, Summer Karl, Christine Meadows, Elaina Palka, and Arina Prakash. Mr. Riemer congratulated these students on their outstanding academic work.

Mr. Riemer showed a short video that was shot at the PWCTC/Energy Innovation Center Windmill ribbon cutting ceremony. This project was completed by students from Carlynton, West Allegheny and PWCTC's Electrical Systems Technology Program as part of the PWCTC/Energy Innovation Center collaboration. The students worked with subject matter experts to design the windmill, which was subsequently funded by a foundation.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the enrollment at Pathfinder is 75 students. Grow Pittsburgh is planting a garden for the students at Pathfinder as part of a learning tool. The plan is for students to sell the vegetables they grow at the St. Thomas More farmer's market. The roof problem at Pathfinder continues to be a major discussion. The cost to replace the roof is estimated at \$400,000, and Pathfinder only has \$300,000 in their reserves. The Pathfinder Special Needs Expo will be held on April 28. Mr. Cooper invited the Board to attend.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Cappucci asked if the Board would consider passing a resolution opposing Senate Bill 2, Education Savings Accounts for Students in Underperforming Schools. The Board supports the resolution and will be placed on the March agenda for action.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported on the presentation at the last SHASDA meeting regarding changes to the Pennsylvania School Code. Some of the changes included lunch shaming, drug use, Keystone exams, truancy laws, economic furloughs, the suspension of PlanCon, and school safety drills.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that the Municipality firing range and is exploring a partnership with the School District.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Policies on the agenda
- Safety concerns for propped open doors at the high school
- Security at the schools
- Questioned the frequency of lock-down drills

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2018,
- b. List of Bills dated January 31, 2018, and February 20, 2018,
- c. List of Contract in Excess of \$100 dated February 5, 2018, and
- d. List Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2018.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2018-2019 construction season as per the list dated February 12, 2018 in the amount of \$920,123.81. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the February 8, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised February 22, 2018, and February 26, 2018. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board adopts Policy EFD, Meal Charge, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves revisions to Policy JICG, Student Smoking, Use and/or Possession of Tobacco & E-Cigarette Offenses Policy, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$2,086,109 with an estimated cost to the District of \$80,973. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center General Budget for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$6,428,563 with an estimated cost to the District of \$287,021, and the Jointure Budget in the amount of \$703,183 with Mt. Lebanon's share being \$118,075. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the membership in the AIU Joint Purchasing Board for 2018 as per the attached resolution designating Richard Marciniak as the regular member and Jan Klein as the alternate member. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves a five-year agreement with Naviance at a cost of \$10,246 per year to provide a 6-12 guidance program for college planning and application. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Frioni that That the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Boys Lacrosse to Strath Haven, PA, April 20-22, 2018, and
- b. Girls Lacrosse to Annandale, VA, April 6-7, 2018.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cappucci that the Board nominates William L. Cooper as a Trustee of the Western Region for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium, for a two-year period effective April 30, 2018. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Lebowitz that the Settlement Agreement and Release with certain students and their parents and guardians is approved in the form presented.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Settlement agreement on agenda
Proposed municipal rifle range
Program on gun safety
Elimination of rifle program
Students of rifle team being bullied
Disagreed with previous speaker-doesn't understand how rifle team operates
Teacher contract negotiations
Shout-out to elected officials re: campaign promises
Presented donation to high school
Board member donation to recent board campaign
Century of Excellence Campaign

Requested that gun safety be presented at District's community conversation of school safety
Questioned how the District will handle a student walk-out regarding gun laws

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cooper and seconded by Frioni to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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