

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

January 15, 2018

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

Mrs. Olbrich called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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,  
Absent: Mr. Michael Riemer

ATTENDING:

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 7, 2017; the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2017; and the Special Board Meeting held on December 18, 2017.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Olbrich read Mr. Riemer's president's report in his absence.

*Thank you to the PTA Council for the reception they hosted for the Board prior to the meeting in honor of School Board Recognition Month. The Board greatly appreciates the volunteer work of the PTA members who work tirelessly on behalf of our students and contribute to the positive learning environment in our schools.*

*Mellon Middle School students David Poole, Noah Bhuta Tommy Hanson, Eli Heidenreich and Nico Vannarsdall took first and second place in the fall 2017 Pittsburgh/Southwestern Pennsylvania Stock Market Games in the Middle School Division. Their success was based on their knowledge of business, the global economy, and investing by creating top performing portfolios. Congratulations to the students and their Business Information Technology teacher, Deanna Amenta.*

*The current collective bargaining agreement with the Mt. Lebanon Education Association expires on June 30, 2018. As required by law, teacher contract negotiations are now underway. The Board plans to work with the leadership of the MLEA in good faith to come to an agreement that balances the needs of all District stakeholders, and have faith that this process will guide us to a positive outcome for our teachers, students, and community.*

*Today we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A day that represents his bravery, and his lifelong quest for unity, equality, and respect. Education is at the root of everything that he and the Civil Rights Movement stand for. This is a great time to talk about embracing differences, respecting others, anti-bullying and standing up for what is right. The demonstration of respect and understanding can play a critical role in a successful educational environment. It is only with a strong academic foundation - one that focuses on science, mathematics and letters for sure - but one that is cultivated in an environment that encourages understanding and diversity of opinion, can we nurture the students in our community who will change the world in ways large and small. So on this day we remember Dr. King, celebrate the values that he embodied and measure ourselves and our community against the ideal that he spoke of so eloquently during his all too brief life.*

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer thanked the PTA Council for the reception held this evening in honor of the School Board members. January is School Board Appreciation month, and Dr. Steinhauer read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

Dr. Steinhauer presented Board with certificates of recognition and a small token of appreciation for the countless hours of dedicated work that they perform for the students and community of Mt. Lebanon.

Congratulations to Mt. Lebanon High School junior Hannah Jones who won the Pearl Award for her art submission to the 2017 Ocean Awareness Student Contest, sponsored by Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs. Hannah was selected from more than 1,900 high school entries from 63 countries and 48 U.S. states and received a \$300 cash award. The 2017 Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Student Contest challenged students to create visual art, poetry, prose, or film around the theme of "Ocean Pollution: Challenges & Solutions" to reflect on the impact of ocean pollution, inspire viewers to consider possible solutions, and challenge them to take action. Hannah's submission, titled "Delicate Balance," addressed the specific issue of coral bleaching.

Dr. Steinhauer presented updates on Goals #5, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), and #6, Inclusiveness-Non-discrimination, from his 2017-2018 Superintendent Goals.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that a Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that he has been working with PSBA on a self assessment of the Board. The online survey will be sent to the Board in the weeks ahead.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the Pathfinder Board is meeting on January 16. On a positive note, an audit of Pathfinder has been completed and all issues were cleared.

MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer thanked Dr. Steinhauer for the gift to the MLFE in honor of the Board. A reception will be held on February 26 for the 11 fall teacher grant winners.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated December 22, 2017, and January 10, 2018, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2017.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves posting for community review a Preliminary Budget of \$99,348,859 requiring a millage rate of 24.66 mills in the form presented. The Board further authorizes the administration to apply for exceptions to the Act 1 of 2006 Index as allowable under the law. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the January 4, 2018, list of personnel changes, as revised January 11, 2018. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented by the administration. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board awards Bid No. 2018 Duplicating Paper to W.B. Mason in the amount of \$62,192 for High Speed Duplicating Paper and \$5,810 for Cover Stock Paper as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves a contract with JT Sauer & Associates for Athletic Field Design services at their bid price of \$72,500, subject to approval by the Solicitor and Superintendent.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questioned if the athletic field design included specs for a bid
- Questioned if the field will be a standard football size field and would there be lights for evening practices
- Questioned if there was a Budget Committee report
- Teacher negotiations
- Would like to see blinds on the windows at the pool
- Capital Campaign surpassed \$1 million in donations
- Reset for the Capital Campaign
- Prepared a document to present to the Board
- Asked to meet with the Board president and vice president to discuss the campaign
- Asked if discussion of the Capital Campaign will be on the February agenda

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Olbrich 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 Cooper and seconded by Frioni to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors