

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

December 11, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hoover Elementary students Mia Capriotti, Jackie Tang, Andrew Freeman and Luca Capriotti. The students presented a report on visiting Matt's Maker Space at Hoover and the exciting learning opportunities there. They thanked Noelle Conover for her donation to fund Matt's Maker Space at Hoover.

ROLL CALL:

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

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, Ms. Nicolle Giehl

MINUTES

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on November 13, 2017; the Discussion Meeting held on November 13, 2017; and the Regular Meeting held on November 20, 2017.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council member Jane Huston presented a report on the activities at Mellon. Student participation in the October Pink Out raised \$1,025 for the St. Clair Hospital Breast Cancer Foundation. The Pink Out and breast cancer awareness's goal was to make the community and the school more aware of the supports that St. Clair Hospital offers those impacted by the disease and the programs they provide to families. The Pink Out was followed by Mo'vember, a month dedicated to men's health. Students sold fake moustaches, finger tattoos, and other moustache goods so that anyone could support this event to help in need of good health. All proceeds, which was close to \$500, was donated to men's health organizations.

Currently, Student Council is working on the "Twelve Holly-Days," which helps students have fun while anxiously waiting the winter break. Students and staff are encouraged to wear festive things and have holiday spirit during the school day. Music is played in between periods to get everyone singing, and candy canes are sold during the lunch periods. A door decorating contest was held during homeroom to make them look festive and exciting.

Student Council is looking forward to their big fundraising effort in the 2nd semester in support of Autism Awareness. This encourages students to take measures to raise awareness for people with autism. Two teams of teachers will be running the Pittsburgh Marathon with all proceeds going to Autism Connection of 2018. It helps people realize how much of an impact autism has on some people's lives throughout the world.

Mt. Lebanon High School junior class co president, Kelly Donis, presented a report on the activities in the High School. The annual canned food drive, sponsored by the junior class, took place throughout the month of November and resulted in 1,244 items being donated to the South Hills Interfaith Movement. The donations will provide 1,416 meals to the 800 families provided food from the SHIM food pantry.

The National Honor Society members organized the yearly "Toys for Tots and Teens" drive for children, teenagers and young adults are in treatment with FamilyLinks. All 83 homerooms will participate and over 150 gifts will be purchased.

December brings many musical concerts that are being performed by members of the orchestra, band and percussion ensemble. High school students will display their amazing talents at the performance.

Everyone is excited about the annual Holiday Show on December 13. This is the 39th year that his event will be held. The variety of acts will include a solo Chinese YoYo performer, two comedians, and many others who will be playing musical instruments, dancing and singing. Students from all four grades will be participating. The Senior Class will continue the tradition of donating the proceeds from the show to various charities. The selected charities are the Georgia Pogue Awards, Mt. Lebanon High School's Principal's Award, the HLH Center of Excellence which supports research for finding a cure for childhood autoimmune diseases, the Hopeful Hearts organization that was founded to meet the medical, nutritional, and basic living needs of orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children around the world, and Bridges for Life, a local organization whose two main missions include helping those in need and to educate the community, especially teenagers, about the homeless who live under the bridges and along our local rivers.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer reported that he wishes to run the Board in a respectable and calm manner. There will be times when one of the members may make a mistake, or say something another board member may disagree with, or misspeak, or even a member may choose to not speak at the moment, and when that happens there is no need for any one of us to raise our voices, or accuse each other of being ignorant or unprepared. I would expect, as you would expect and as the community would expect for us all to utilize respectful and proper decorum. Turning on each other because someone disagrees or misspeaks, is not putting our children or this community first, in my opinion, and I would hope that we all, on this board, at the very least, could agree on that much.

The board president reported that it has been said that "public schools reflect a community's desires, feelings and dreams." This is certainly true of Mt. Lebanon where our School District has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence. It is one of the pillars upon which our community is built and has ensured both that each generation of graduating students leave as well rounded citizens and often look to return when the time comes to raise and educate their own children.

We have so much to be proud of. We have a community of educators and administrators who are the best in their fields. They are dedicated to our students and provide a value to our community beyond measure. As we look forward, as a Board we know that our role is to support, encourage and, yes, even challenge everyone to meet the high bar that we have established for Mt. Lebanon schools.

Today, we must recommit ourselves to not only ensuring that academic excellence remains the key focus of our schools, but also our duty is to ensure that our students are offered the best education to help them meet the complex and rapidly changing requirements of informed citizenship and participation in a global economy. We commit to providing a curriculum with a keen focus on science, technology, engineering and math while never losing sight of the importance of a well-rounded education that the arts, letters and athletics provide. And we recommit to the community that every voice will have the opportunity to be heard. Because it is our shared value of public education that has made us strong, but we can only remain strong if everyone's contributions are respected. An honest and open dialogue is not always easy - it can sometimes expose differences of opinion or principle – but it represents the only way that I believe we can fulfill the promise that we have made to our students, faculty, administration and neighbors. Our duty as School Board members is not to agree or even like each other beyond these walls, but to respect each other's opinions as well as the opinions of those brave enough to share them with us. When we do that, we nurture my fiercely held belief that together we can do the work and make the difficult choices necessary to improve our schools, the administration and even this Board.

Mr. Riemer recognized the following high school students who successfully auditioned with students throughout southwestern Pennsylvania and were selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Honors Band: Issac Burton Perez, Jordana Kleiner, Anna Sulecki, Max Siegert, Ben Lebowitz, and Abigail Dellovade. The board president also congratulated high school band director, Jason Cheskawich, for this outstanding accomplishment.

On November 30th, the District held a successful evacuation drill of Washington Elementary and Mellon Middle School to their alternative sites. Over 1,000 students, staff and public safety personnel took part in this important test of the District's emergency management plan. The successful planning for a drill like this depends on the focused coordination of our administrators along with the help of our partners in the Mt. Lebanon Police Department, Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Medical Rescue Team South and the churches that serve our alternative sites.

Mr. Reimer reported that the Board finalized Dr. Steinhauer's goals and will be posted on the District website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that many concerts are being held throughout the district showcasing our students in elementary, middle and high schools.

This evening's meeting a joint discussion/regular meeting so the format will be a bit different than usual.

Dr. Steinhauer wished everyone Happy Holidays.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2017,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 30 and December 6, 2017, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2017.

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the December 7, 2017 list of personnel changes. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Mt. Lebanon Secretarial/Aides Education Support Professionals Association, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022, is approved in the form presented, and the appropriate board officer and superintendent are authorized to execute the Agreement, and to take such other actions as are necessary to implement the terms of the new Agreement. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves and agreement with the AIU for Translation Services provided by TransPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation and document translation for non-English speaking students and parents in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Cooper that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 2018.

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the High School Model UN Trip to the University of Delaware, March 2-4, 2018.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Reorganization meeting
Questioned Board members on suspended policy at meeting regarding tabling motion on
appointing the solicitor
Supports the work of Thomas Peterson
Suggested that Board members be true to themselves when negotiating the upcoming teacher
contract
The Board looked shabby to the community at the reorganization meeting
Looked shabby to hang the solicitor in the wind
No transparency causes lack of trust in the community
Community entitled better and creates a toxic environment
Reminded the new board members that they took independent oaths
Agreed with the previous speaker
Reorganization meeting
Board should work together

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cooper and seconded
by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice
vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

/js