

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

November 20, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jefferson Elementary students Elise Hoyt, Sophia Perricelli, Tabitha Ranney, and Caroline Rost. The students presented a report on the STEAM challenges at Jefferson and the bridges they built in class.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mrs. Mary Birks  
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Riemer that the Board the minutes of the Policy Meeting held on October 9, 2017; the Discussion Meeting held on October 9, 2017, and the Regular Meeting held on October 16, 2017.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School students McKenzie Hughes and Libby Feldstein reported on the activities at Jefferson MS. Ninety students have joined the 2017-2018 the JMS Student Council. The first fundraiser was the annual Pop Tabs War which collected 80 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, \$1,210 in quarters to be sent to Brothers Brother to help areas that have been devastated by hurricanes, and 14 five gallon buckets full of school supplies were delivered to those areas by the same organization. The funds generated from recycling aluminum pop tabs help offset the Ronald McDonald House's expenses. Students also participated in events to benefit the Penn State THON to end childhood cancer. Council sponsored a teacher dress down day and a Halloween costume day which raised \$690.

Leadership training has been a priority for the JMS Student Council. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 26 sixth grade members attended a PASC mini-leadership conference hosted by the Community Day School. Students spent the morning attending workshops lead by high school students and listened to John Fetterman, Mayor of Braddock speak on the topic of Service. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, ten of the Executive Board members attended a three day PASC conference held in Red Lion

School District outside York, PA. There they focused on the topic of Every Problem has a solution. Three motivational speakers addressed this topic, each in their own way. Students also attended workshops conducted by student leaders, and they had many opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with other student council members from all over Pennsylvania.

The first event after Thanksgiving will be a coat drive. Jefferson Student Council will be collecting gently used coats to donate to SHIM in the beginning of December. Hopefully these donations will help to keep several local families warm this winter. Another project will be the annual candy gram sale. Students purchase tags attached to candy canes on which they can write kind messages to their friends. The funds collected will provide holiday gifts for a local Pittsburgh family.

High School Student Body Co Vice President, Golda Gershanok, presented the Student Council report for the evening on the activities at the High School. At the end of October, the high school students supported the annual PINK OUT fundraiser for St. Clair Hospital's Cancer Caring Center, and 27 teachers were sponsored to wear a kilt for a day in support of the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation. Both fundraisers were successful and were also supported by the elementary and middle schools.

Also in October, Link Crew Leaders met with freshmen in their homerooms during an extended homeroom period to teach an interactive lesson about adjusting to high school and the obstacles that the freshmen faced thus far and shared suggestions on how to overcome them. Link Crew Leaders are planning social and community service events for the upcoming months.

The Class of 2019 is conducting a canned food drive that will end on November 30. Many homerooms have filled one box with food items and they are working on filling their second box. All donations will be sent to the South Hills Interfaith Movement to be distributed after Thanksgiving when the food bank is low on food.

Twelve students attended the Pennsylvania Student Council State conference at Red Lion High School. The experience has inspired the students to recruit more of their classmates to become actively involved with Student Council and has given them several new ideas for volunteer activities and fundraising projects. Mt. Lebanon will be hosting the District B Spring conference on March 1st, 2018. Approximately 500 students could attend this event.

On November 10, Student Council recognized Veterans Day by publicly thanking the seven Veterans who work on the high school campus, and the family members of six students and 12 high school employees.

The student body officers have been working with Mr. Stengel, Director of Technology, to develop ideas for integrating technology into the high school community. ID cards were distributed to all students, and as of this week, ID scanners were incorporated into the cashier stations in the cafeteria. They hope to expand the system to other departments such as the high school library.

### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Birks announced that the Extra Mile Award for this month is Jefferson Middle School counselor, Allison Levison. Ms. Levison was nominated by JMS principal Kelly Szeszterniak and Assistant Principal, Jeff Zeiders. Mrs. Levison's presence in the guidance offices and the building has had an impressively positive impact on the students, parents, staff and school culture. Mrs. Birks presented Mrs. Levison with a certificate and pin for this honor.

The Association of School Business Officials International awarded the Mt. Lebanon School District with the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2017-2018 budget year. The MBA promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and is conferred only to school districts whose budgets have undergone a rigorous review by financial professionals and have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year the District was selected for this award. The board president congratulated Director of Business Jan Klein and her staff for meeting the rigorous criteria for this award.

Mrs. Birks announced that Coach Dick Black and his legendary career as basketball coach of the Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils will be celebrated on Saturday, November 25 with a tour of the new Hall of Champions and a Plaque Dedication. Coach Black was the head basketball coach at the high school beginning in 1960 and continued to coach the Blue Devils for more than 37 years, winning the first WPIAL basketball championship for the team in 1961. His overall record of 620-251 ranks him as one of the top coaches in Pennsylvania basketball history. On that same day, the Blue Devil Club is sponsoring a *Celebration of the Mt. Lebanon High School Hall of Champions* that will highlight over 80 years of Mt. Lebanon athletics.

The board presented reflected on her eight years on the Board of School Directors. She is grateful and privileged to serve the students and the community as a board member. Mrs. Birks reviewed the accomplishments of the Board during her tenure, and thanked the superintendent for his part in achieving those goals.

Mr. Moorhead presented Mrs. Birks with an engraved gavel in honor of year as president of the Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the 11 Mt. Lebanon High School students who were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 1.6 million juniors from more than 22,000 high schools entered the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered in the spring.

The superintendent presented Certificates of Achievement to the following Mt. Lebanon High School juniors for this outstanding accomplishment: Grace Brown, William Buerger, Jackson Debski, Anne Jin, Katherine McRury, Abby Mirra, Nikolas Mustian, Otis Smith, Mariana Tandon, James Wang and Jonathan Yang.

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the service of the three outgoing board members, Dan Remely, Bill Moorhead, and Mary Birks. All three have been hard working advocates for our students, administrators, staff and faculty in our school district. Under their careful watch, they have guided many accomplishments such as improved academic performance, improvement in learning and teaching environments at all then schools, labor peace, maintained continuity of key leadership positions throughout the district, and guided a strong and stable financial position from which our schools will benefit for many years. Dr. Steinhauer presented each with a token of appreciation for their years of service to the schools and community.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee met on November 13 to discuss the adoption of policy IMG, Service Animals in Schools. The Board will take action this evening on the adoption of the policy.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that new board member Dr. Aviva Diamond will be attending the PSBA new board member’s training on December 9 at Upper St. Clair High School.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that Parkway West will be a HVAC project at the school. Students taking the NOCTII exams received a total of 160 college credits this year.

Pathfinder School - Mr. Cooper reported that the enrollment at Pathfinder School is 70 students. A STEM program is being introduced at the school. Pathfinder is installing a Raptor system which checks in visitors and prints badges. Mr. Marciniak reported that he visited Pathfinder to give them a recommendation on their roofing issue. It was recommended that a contractor do a phased replacement of the roof and the Pathfinder board has approved the phasing of repairs instead of installing a whole new roof.

NSBA/PSBA – NSBA released a report from the Fordham Institute analyzing the plan submitted by all 50 states to the Federal government in accordance to ESSA. Pennsylvania plan received a strong rating for encouraging schools to focus on all students, a strong rating on measuring all schools fairly, and a weak rating on assigning schools annual ratings that are both clear and intuitive. NSBA also issued a statement opposing the elimination of state and local tax deduction and called this effort an assault on local governments and education.

Mr. Beal was honored to attend the PSBA annual conference in October in Hershey. School directors, administrators and others gathered from all over the state to present on various issues related to education. Dr. Steinhauer, Ms. Bowman and Chrissa Sullivan presented sessions that were extremely well received. The conference wrapped up with a discussion on the new PSBA bylaws. The highlight of the conference was a performance by the Mt. Lebanon High School Orchestra with solos by Will Buerger and Elise Reichenfeld. It was an outstanding performance.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that the first SHASDA meeting was held on November 16 to discuss future of SHASDA and the meetings. It was decided that the meetings were important information meetings, especially the legislative and student forums, and that they should continue.

Capital Campaign/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that posters will be displayed during teacher conferences requesting support for Maker Spaces in the elementary schools. The next meeting of the MLFE will be held on December 8 to discuss grant awardees, and stadium blankets are still on sale.

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Labor negotiator for teacher contract
- Rate of inflation and teachers salaries

#### NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated October 31, and November 14, 2017,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2017, as revised November 13, 2017, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated November 1, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Remely that the Board accepts and approves the Single Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2017 as audited by Maher Duessel, CPAs. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the November 9, 2017, list of personnel changes, as revised November 16, 2017. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Olbrich that the Board adopts Policy IMG, Service Animals in Schools, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board retains Ira Weiss of the Law firm of Weiss Burkardt Kramer LLC to serve as chief negotiator for the upcoming negotiations with the Mt. Lebanon Education Association, at a cost of \$125 per hour plus training services of \$1,500. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the renewal of the contract with PA-Educator.net at an annual cost of \$3,000. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that That the Board does hereby adopt the 2018-2019 graduation requirements, course offerings and course options for Mt. Lebanon High School as presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that That the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Academic Games team trip to Knoxville, TN from April 27 to May 2, 2018,
- b. Girls Varsity Basketball to Phoenix, AZ, December 18 -December 23, 2017, and
- c. Boys Varsity Basketball to Dallas, TX, December 27-30, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,  
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five (5) residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Support staff contract negotiations  
Encouraged board members to become familiar with the staff members  
Suggested Larry Lebowitz for president next year  
Bring up Mellon math scores; the school needs extreme attention  
Watch labor costs when negotiating teacher contract  
Thanked Mary Birks, Dan Remely and Bill Moorhead for their service; three of the best board members  
Expressed appreciation for Mary Birks, Dan Remely and Bill Moorhead  
Move comments from residents to the beginning of the meeting

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Birks 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 Remely and seconded by Lebowitz to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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