

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

September 18, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln Elementary students Carys Rowles, Kianna Patrick, Kyra Siegert, Stella Yeboa, Jacquelyn Rowles, and Reese Lockwich. The students presented a report on the new Lincoln Buddy Bench to be installed at the school.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper (by phone), Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead (by phone), Ms. Sara 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: Mrs. Sloane Astorino, Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mrs. Kelly Szesterniak, Ms. Nicole Giehl, Mr. Ron Kitsko

MINUTES

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on August 14, 2017, and the Regular Meeting held on August 21, 2017.

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

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Birks reported that the Mt. Lebanon Commission has established an ordinance barring discrimination in Mt. Lebanon in all matters involving employment, housing and use of public accommodations. The ordinance also establishes a Mt. Lebanon Human Relations Commission and provides for remedies for violations. The Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors supports this ordinance.

Congratulations to Mt. Lebanon senior Hannah Jones, and Mellon Middle School eighth-grader Benny Hornburg on winning Mt. Lebanon's Unity in the Community art contest sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Community Relations Board. The goal of the contest was to celebrate cultural diversity and its role in sustaining our community and was open to students who live in Mt. Lebanon in grades six through 12. Hannah and Benny's works are now being used to promote diversity and will be featured on T-shirts made by Commonwealth Press and on postcards and

that will be used as part of the library's year-long Unity program theme. The original art hangs in the municipal building.

Mrs. Birks reported that Mt. Lebanon High School advanced studio art students will be conducting a variety of demonstrations at the two-day Mt. Lebanon Artists Market on September 23. They will also be showing some of their creative work during the show. Jennifer Rodriguez, high school visual arts teacher and fine arts department chair, will be on hand to assist the students.

On Friday, October 6, the High School will honor the 2017 Great Alumni. The Great Alumni Award Program was developed by the Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council and the selection committee includes administrators, faculty, students and alumni. The recipients of the Great Alumni Award are selected based on exceptional work in at least one of the following areas: (i) improvement in the lives of others; (ii) involvement in community service; or (iii) achievement in a professional field. This year's recipients include: Dr. Judy Balk, Class of 1981; Dr. Cheston Berlin, Class of 1954; Dr. Tacy Byham, Class of 1986; Mrs. Steffanie Jones Lewis, Class of 1954; Dr. Linn F. Mollenauer, Class of 1954; and Mr. Michael J. Riemer, Class of 1978 and current school board member. Mrs. Birks congratulated all the recipients and thanked each of them for their contributions to both the District and the community.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that Hoover Elementary School was recently notified by Niche.com, a ranking review site, that their teachers were ranked the Best Public Elementary School Teachers in Pennsylvania. According to Niche.com, their rankings are based on rigorous analysis of academic and teacher data from the U.S. Department of Education. Factors include state test scores, student-teacher ratio, student diversity, teacher quality, grade school ratings, and the overall quality of the school district. Parent and student reviews are also included in the analysis. The superintendent congratulated Hoover Principal, Nicole Giehll, the entire Hoover faculty and staff, and the entire Hoover community on this special recognition.

Each fall, many of our alumni return to Mt. Lebanon for their high school class reunions, and the District is always pleased to offer tours of the high school as part of their reunion weekend activities. Recently, at least three alumni classes, classes of 1967, 1977 and 1997, toured the completed high school. By the end of October, the District will have welcomed close to 400 alumni. Dr. Steinhauer reported that he is always proud to report the accomplishments of our students and staff and show them the commitment their community continues to make in providing the best education possible as illustrated by this high school campus. If a class is interested in scheduling a tour of the high school as part of their reunion, please contact Cissy Bowman.

The Mt. Lebanon High School Blue Devil Marching Band will present its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Festival of Bands on Saturday, September 23 at 7:00 pm at the High School stadium, rain or shine. In addition to 9 area high school marching bands performing that evening, the Mt. Lebanon Blue Devil Marching Band will perform their show featuring music from Cirque du Soleil, the percussion front and drumline will be featured, and the Mt. Lebanon Alumni band will perform.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Olbrich reported that the Policy Committee met on September 11 to discuss rescinding Policy CGD, Federal Fiscal Compliance and replacing it with a new policy, and the adoption of Policy CGDA, Conflict of Interest-Federal Programs, and Policy CGDB, Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs. The Board will be taking action on these policies this evening.

High School Facilities – Mr. Remely reported that the punch list for the high school project will be completed this week. The air conditioning project at the elementary and middle schools is complete with the exception of a few punch list items. The generator in the high school, which is under warranty, needs repaired and a back-up was brought in while repairs were being made.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that the last Parkway West Board meeting was held on September 5. There are 835 students enrolled this year—the highest in 25 years. Enrollment in the sports medicine program has double and there are 120 student enrolled in the vet tech program. Parkway is advertising for an additional Veterinary Assistant. A decision has been made to reopen the HVAC program.

NSBA/PSBA – Mr. Beal reported that the House of Representatives returned to Harrisburg this week, narrowly passing its own version of a plan to fund the \$2.2 billion deficit in the \$32 billion spending plan approved by the General Assembly in July. Passage of the bill comes on the heels of a statement released this week by State Treasurer Joe Torsella warning that on Friday, Sept. 15, the General Fund's balance is projected to fall to zero. As a result, without corrective action, \$860 million in scheduled expenditures would be delayed until the General Fund has received sufficient revenue.

Thomas Gentzel, Executive Director of NSBA, released a statement regarding the ending of the DACA program.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education held a meeting on September 20 to discuss fall teacher grants.

The Capital Campaign website has been updated with recent financial information.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Municipality will be voting on September 25 to approve an anti-discrimination resolution. The deer cull will occur between September 16 and January 27 with a break with a break between November 25 and Christmas.

Mr. Riemer asked to speak regarding the Capital Campaign. He wanted to assure those who made donations, that their donations to the Capital Campaign will be honored. He also asked that there be an outside audit of the records.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated August 31, 2017, and September 13, 2017,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated August 31, 2017, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated September 1, 2017.

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 approves disbursements from the Capital Campaign for initiatives in the amount of \$25,000.

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 Cooper that the Board approves the September 7, 2017, list of personnel changes, as revised September 14, 2017 and September 18, 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 Strotmeyer and seconded by Remely that the Board approves entering into a contract with Prudential Insurance Company for Group Life Insurance at their quoted rate of \$22,050, pending review and approval by the solicitor.

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 the Board rescinds Policy CGD, Federal Fiscal Compliance.

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 the Board approves adoption of new Policy CGD, Federal Fiscal Compliance, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves adoption of Policy CGDA, Conflict of Interest-Federal Programs, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves adoption of Policy CGDB, Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs, 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 Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves revisions to the 2017-2018 school calendar 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 Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania to provide student transition and skill development in the UPMC Project SEARCH transition program at a cost of \$14,850 per student for no more than two students.

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves an agreement with Western Psychiatric Institute Licensed Academic School to provide specialized academic assistance to Mt. Lebanon students in substantially the form presented pending final approval of the Superintendent and Solicitor. (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 Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary to vote for the following PSBA officers:

<i>President Elect:</i>	David Hutchinson
<i>Vice President:</i>	Eric Wolfgang
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mike Gossert
<i>Western At Large:</i>	Daniel O'Keefe
<i>PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees:</i>	Michael Faccinnetto

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Six residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Turn out of residents at discussion meeting
- Lack of fencing around green space in front of high school entrance
- Asked if Preston McMurry, past Great Alumni awardee, could speak to the Board

The importance of the Capital Campaign  
Capital Campaign documents  
Questioned when MLFE meeting will be held  
Fundraising efforts  
Salary and fringe benefits of Director of Advancement  
Missing school board vote on “loan”  
History of Board action on Capital Campaign  
Change auditors  
Different auditor for Capital Campaign  
Questioned who is responsible for playground management for broken equipment  
Questioned Capital Campaign donor designated funds vs. unrestricted funds

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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