

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

August 21, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Birks asked for a moment of silence for the victims of Charlottesville and Barcelona.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, 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: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Joint Discussion/Regular Board Meeting held on July 17, 2017.

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

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Birks reported that Jefferson and Mellon Middle Schools are on the Best Middle School Teacher ranking from Niche.com. Jefferson teachers ranked #1 in Pennsylvania and #4 in the nation while Mellon teachers were ranked #2 in Pennsylvania and #9 in the nation. This ranking is based on an analysis of academic and teacher data from the U.S. Department of Education along with review from students and parents. Mrs. Birks recognized the leadership of Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, Jefferson MS principal, and Mr. Chris Wolfson, Mellon MS principal, for this outstanding recognition of our excellent teachers.

The Mt. Lebanon School District Community Speakers' Bureau is looking for community members and Mt. Lebanon High School Alumni who are passionate about their profession or area of interest and would like to share their expertise with our students. The Speakers' Bureau connects our teachers with individuals who have a desire to "pay it forward" by offering a presentation or sharing a skill or passion with the next generation. All teachers in the district have access to the information collected so every student in the district can potentially take advantage

of this collaboration. This initiative is led by the High School STEM Academy and the Global Studies Program departments. Visit [www.mtisd.org/speakersbureau](http://www.mtisd.org/speakersbureau) for more information.

Dr. Steinhauer began the orientation session for our newest teachers and staff members with the message focus on the words, Hope, Optimism and Kindness. Mrs. Birks had the privilege to welcome them to the toughest job they would ever love. She assured them that they have amazing mentors and team leaders that are here for them as they begin their journeys and that the Board supports their work with our students as part of the formula for success! This formula includes our professional teachers, our involved parents and students coming to the classroom, ready to learn. Everyone seemed very excited to begin their work with the district.

Another large part of the success of our district is directly linked to the leadership team. As Superintendent, Dr. Steinhauer leads a wonderful team, and sets high standards for himself and those who work with him; they in turn challenge him as well. The Board will vote this evening on the positive evaluation Dr. Steinhauer has received for the 2016-17 school year. In accordance with the School Code, Superintendents are awarded either a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory designation; as Dr. Steinhauer has met the agreed to performance objectives, he will be awarded a Satisfactory for his work in 2016-17. In accordance with his contract, the Board will be approving his much-deserved pay increase.

We continue to receive accolades on student achievement and overall district success; while the entire team of administrators and teachers contributes to this ongoing success, the leadership of Dr. Steinhauer has certainly had a direct impact on these successes. Mrs. Birks personally thanked him for his exceptional work, serving both the students and our community, knowing that he is committed to our district's philosophy of continuous improvement both personally and professionally. He would be the first to tell us that there is still more to be achieved; to that end, his goals for the 2017-2018 school year will be posted on the District's website as soon as they are finalized.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer congratulated Mrs. Szesterniak and Mr. Wolfson on receiving this recognition from Niche.com, and commended them for their hard work and commitment to the students and staff at the middle schools.

Dr. Steinhauer mentioned that high school football season begins Friday evening with the home opener against Fox Chapel. The football team, cheerleaders and marching band have been preparing hard to put on great effort and performance.

Tuesday, August 29 is the traditional Opening Day Convocation for all District staff. This is a celebration of the start of a new school year with recognition of new faculty and staff, recognition of our leaders, and recognition of employees who reach their 25<sup>th</sup> year milestone. It is a chance for faculty and staff to reconnect with colleagues and it is an important opportunity for us to share the district's mission and direction for the upcoming school year. This year the focus will continue to be on performance through innovation, well-being, and inclusiveness. Dr. Brian Galla, a leading researcher of social and emotional learning from the University of Pittsburgh, will be the special guest speaker.

Dr. Steinhauer reported on a panel discussion he attended, along with eleven other District staff members, that was sponsored by the Anti Defamation League. The program was entitled "Incidents of Hate in Schools." The panel consisted of speakers from throughout the region representing the Latino Community Center, Union of African Communities, PERSAD, Alliance for Police Accountability, Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

The superintendent stated that as he listened to the various speakers, one element became critical to fight hatred and bigotry—knowing where your leaders stand. Dr. Steinhauer stands for all of our students. He stands with our students who come from different countries, who have different colored skin, who speak different languages, and practice different religions. He stands with our students who have learning and physical challenges. He stands with students regardless of their gender, sexual Orientation, or gender identity. He stands with them all. All are welcome here. Bias, hate, discrimination, oppression, bigotry, harassment and meanness are not welcomed.

He is proud that this Board, this administration, faculty and staff continue to affirm through policy and action that our schools will be a place of inclusiveness—a place where both students and adults feel safe and welcomed—a place where we welcome, respect, and celebrate the diversity that exists both in our school and community.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that Policy Committee meetings will resume in September.

High School Facilities – Mr. Remely reported that the high school project is complete and PlanCon Part J is the final report to be completed.

All chillers have been installed in the elementary schools and started and will be ready for the start of school.

Mr. Riemer complimented Mr. Marciniak for the work on the fields at Jefferson and Mellon middle schools.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that enrollment for the new school year is 802, which is up 62 from last year. This is the highest enrollment in 20 years. Enrollment in the Vet Tech program is up and the school may need to hire another instructor. There is also an increase in the sports management program. The summer career camp, a program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, was 150 students. Christina Walters, a student from Moon, was a National Champion in the Skills USA competition.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that 70 students are registered to attend Pathfinder this year. The school may need a new roof with an estimated cost of \$600,000. More spaces and rooms are being rented.

NSBA/PSBA – NSBA is asking that board members need to advocate for public education. At PSBA, state funding part of the budget is in dispute in Harrisburg. Mt. Lebanon should receive all disbursements from the State in a timely manner.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that applications for MLFE fall teacher grants open on August 28. The EITC application was sent to the State in July. With the fall football season started, stadium blankets are still available for sale.

Municipal Liaison – The municipality has replaced the public steps from Cedar Blvd. to Austin Drive. Fire inspections are taking place at each building and will be completed for the start of the school year.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Salary increase percentages are double the inflation rate
- Increases put a strain on the District budget
- Keep fiscal responsibilities

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated July 31, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated August 1, 2017, and August 15, 2017,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated July 31, 2017, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated August 1, 2017.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Moorhead that the Board approves a Budget for Capital Campaign initiatives in the amount of \$26,750, and the reimbursement of operating costs of \$12,600.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Moorhead, Remely, Birks  
Against: Olbrich, Riemer, Strotmeyer  
Abstained: Beal, Lebowitz  
MOTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET FAILED FOR LACK OF BOARD MAJORITY  
MOTION FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF OPERATING COSTS APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the August 17, 2017, list of personnel changes, as revised August 21, 2017. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the list of annual contract salaries for food service employees to be effective September 1, 2017, reflecting an average increase as negotiated of 2.89% over the duration of the contract effective July1, 2016 to June 30, 2021. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the list of annual contract salaries for teachers to be effective September 1, 2017, reflecting an average increase as negotiated of 3.38% over the duration of the contract effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Remely that the Board rates the performance of the Superintendent as satisfactory and approves the salary of \$205,492 effective July 1, 2017.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the following Federal Grants: Title I - \$381,959, Title II - \$101,978, and Title III - \$22,178.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves a contract with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for its Waterfront Learning Services to provide cyber education program options for the 2017-2018 school year in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with Allegheny Children's Initiative, Inc to provide Student Assistance Program Services for the 2017-2018 school year in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with Interim Healthcare Services, Inc. for the 2017-2018 school year to provide skilled nursing services for a Mt. Lebanon student with special needs, including services during transportation, at a cost of \$42 per hour and will not exceed \$55,000. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves a contract with The University School to provide special education services to Mt. Lebanon exceptional students during the 2017-2018 school year at cost of \$25,000 per student for no more than two students. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with the Watson Institute Social Center for Academic Achievement (WISCA) for the placement of a Mt. Lebanon student with special needs for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost of that will not exceed \$43,875. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Services to provide a Mental Health Therapist for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost not to exceed \$73,800. The position will be funded through ACCESS funds. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. to grant non-exclusive rights and a license for marketing, manufacturing and distribution of apparel and accessories sold to retailers and consumers. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with the Mt. Lebanon Aqua Club for use of the High School Pool in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves an agreement with Mockenhaupt Benefits Group for valuation of Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) as required by accounting regulations at a fee of \$7,500 in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Landscaping around high school campus  
Teaching of bullying in school  
Opposes meatless Mondays; form of bullying-what you can't eat on Monday

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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