

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

January 16, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sara Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely (by phone), Mr. Michael Riemer, Mrs. Mary Birks
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 5, 2016, and the Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Birks thanked the Mt. Lebanon PTA Council for the reception before the meeting honoring the Board members for School Board Recognition month. The Board values the unique relationship which has developed between the District and PTA over the decades of dedicated work by thousands of volunteers.

The Board will be approving the school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year at this evening's meeting. Due to the air conditioning work scheduled to take place over the summer, the administration proposed that the first day of school for students be held after Labor Day on September 5. Highlights of the calendar include a half day for students on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Spring recess from March 28 to April 2, and the last day of school is set for June 14.

This evening, the Board will be voting on a preliminary budget for the next school year. The District is required to pass this budget before the end of January. There are many items that remain unknown including not having a State Budget from Harrisburg as well as not knowing all of our staffing needs for 2017-2018. In order to give the District the maximum flexibility to do what is best for the District, the Board's vote on this preliminary budget will enable the District to utilize all applicable Act One exceptions. The millage rate posted in the preliminary budget does not require the Board to raise taxes to that level. The Board will once again do their due diligence to do everything possible to minimize the tax burden on our residents.

Mrs. Birks thanked Representative Dan Miller and his staff for organizing the Unity Rally which took place on December 18th, and thanked all who were in attendance and many other who supported the rally but were not able to attend. The board president spoke at the rally on behalf of the Board, but the event could not have occurred with the involvement of the School District. The Board is very proud of the work by all involved as champions for equity and inclusion at our high school and beyond.

Mrs. Birks congratulated Mr. Ethan LaPlaca for an outstanding High School Chamber Choir Cabaret held the first week of January.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer presented an update on the inclusion activities in the District. The faculty, principals, staff and administration remain committed to maintaining and enhancing our safe, inclusive, and welcoming schools. The Board has taken a strong position to ensure that we bring best practices and best approaches to our efforts every day. Each and every one of us is held accountable for this effort.

Since late November when some unfortunate incidents occurred in and around our school, the District has redoubled their efforts with the students. There is no tolerance for actions, words, symbols that are contrary to the District's belief about inclusive schools. Principals, teachers, and staff have, and continue to lead, age appropriate efforts in each and every building. District leadership has met with many of the local and region's best thinkers and practitioners in this area of focus, and many of these same advisors have recognized and appreciated the District's direct and forward thinking efforts to maintain our inclusive schools. Our community should have no doubt that this is and will remain a priority for all.

January is school board recognition month across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Dr. Steinhauer to a moment to recognize the significant contributions of the members of our locally elected school board. These nine volunteers contribute countless hours in meetings, spend a great deal of time talking to parents, students, teachers, and residents, attend a wide range of school events, research and read important educational issues, and publicly deliberate regarding all types of important matters. They create an environment where success can happen.

Each brings their unique expertise, perspective, and personal experience to their collective responsibility as a school board. They are smart, compassionate, and committed, and it remains Dr. Steinhauer's privilege and honor to serve with them. The superintendent thanked the Board for all they do and presented them with a certificate and gift as token of appreciation.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Jodi Kubit, PTA Council President, who thanked the Board for their service to the community. PTA greatly appreciates the time and effort by the board in making the District great. The following books have been donated the Mt. Lebanon Public Library in honor of the Board members: *Stepping Stones* by Margriet Ruurs; *Colors! Colores!* By Jorge Lujan; *Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin; *Noisy Night* by Mac Barnett; *A Perfect Day* by Lane Smith; *Mark of the Plague* by Kevin Sands; *One Minute till Bedtime* poems selected by Kenn Nesbitt; *The You I've Never Known* by Ellen Hopkins; *Almost Adulting: All You Need to Know to Get it Together (Sort of)* by Arden Rose; and *Wires & Nerve, Vol. 1 (The Lunar Chronicles)* by Marissa Meyer

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the Board will conduct a self-assessment with the data to be compiled by PSBA. The information will be used to make sure the Board is keeping in line with governance and leadership polices.

Facilities – Mr. Riemer reported that he had a tour of the high school site today with Mr. Marciniak.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Beal reported that the enrollment at Parkway is at 750 students with 45 from Mt. Lebanon. Twelve students from Mt. Lebanon were on the honor roll for the first quarter. Every year students at Parkway take the NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) exams, and last year 97% of the students who took the exam passed. Parkway West approved their 2017-2018 budget and will be forwarded it to participating schools for their approval.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Beal reported that the Republicans now control the Pennsylvania House and Senate. Pension reform, charter schools, and property taxes are on their agenda. PSBA sent out a legislative alert that a bill is being introduced to eliminate school property tax. Senator Reschenthaler and Representative Miller are not in support of this bill.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Mr. Strotmeyer reported that MLFE has approved a 4th teacher grant. The grant winners will be announced at future Board meeting.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Lebowitz is scheduled to meeting with Municipal Manager, Keith McGill.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated December 22, 2016, and January 11, 2017, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2016.

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 Riemer that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2017-2018 school year.

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 a Preliminary Budget in an amount of \$98,912,010 requiring a millage rate of 24.76 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 law. (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 the Board approves the January 5, 2017, list of personnel changes as revised January 12, 2017 and January 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 Beal and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented by the administration. (Copy in official minutes)

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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