

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

February 27, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Markham Elementary students Avery Saba, Sara Mitchell, and Holden Darcy. The students presented a report on the Markham Student Council and the student leadership program at the school.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sara Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mrs. Mary Birks
Absent: Mr. William Cooper

ATTENDING:

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on January 9, 2017, and the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2017.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members, Miguel Bracco and Trey Reichenfeld, reported on the events at Mellon. In November, students sold mustaches to raise money for the Movember campaign in support of men's health. A THON fundraiser raised \$160 in one day supporting the efforts of a former Mellon student and current Penn State student, Alexis DePasqua. And the first "12 Holly-Days," was held in December which consisted of two weeks of fun winter related dress up days and holly-day spirit. Candy canes were sold during lunch periods to help defray costs. As a holiday gift to the teachers and staff, Student Council members created a hand-made giving tree decorated with lotto tickets wishing all staff members a very lucky New Year.

The First Fun Friday of 2017 was celebrated with a "Ring in the New Year with your Wild Card Gear" to support the Steelers competing in the wild card game against the Dolphins. The 100th day of school was celebrated in February by giving each of the teachers a 100 Grand candy bar with a note saying "Thanks for making the first 100 days of school grand."

The fundraiser for the second semester is the Pennies for Patients Project which benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma society of Western PA. The project is a competition between homerooms to see who can raise the most money for this worthy cause. The project has been a success and Mellon looks forward to reaching their goal of \$5,000 at the month's end.

Mattie Schmidt, High School Student Body Co-Vice President, and Glenn Ayieko, Student Body Co-Secretary, reported on the High School events. Approximately 617 students attended the annual Snowball Dance held in Center Court. The skywalk was turned into a luminaria lighted walkway with rose petals and topiary bushes leading to the entrance at Center Court.

The Student Congress election process for 11th graders has begun. Fifteen juniors are running for four offices resulting in eight new officers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Congratulations to senior Brendan Koch on his selection as the Mt. Lebanon Sunrise Rotary Club "Student of the Month." His entertaining efforts while dressed as a superhero have brought smiles to the faces of many children battling pediatric cancer at Children's Hospital.

The Link Crew program continues to be a very successful mentorship program at the High School. One recent event was organized for an evening prior to first semester finals. All of the freshmen were invited to the "Coco and Cram" held in Center Court where they could study in a relaxed environment and ask for assistance from the upper class students and high school teachers. The Crew Team leaders, Ms. Dirda, Mr. Locke and Mrs. Saba, provided supervision, hot chocolate and snacks for everyone.

The Class of 2017 organized their third and final annual dodgeball tournament. Entry fees were donated to the Brother's Brother Foundation. The Class of 2019 will be decorating the Ronald McDonald House in Shadyside with flowers and springtime decorations. They are also conducting a children's book drive under the supervision of the Booksburgh organization which in turn donates the books to Children's Hospital.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Birks reported that she attended the STEAM Showcase held at the high school. This was a district-wide, K-12 night of exploration and making. Music from our talented high school musicians greeted everyone as they entered Center Court. Elementary children filled the maker spaces, experimented with circuits, built towers, and fastened LED lights on wearable art. High School students assisted younger students in screen printing, and our teachers engaged in valuable conversations with parents as students coded little robots zooming around the hallways. Mrs. Birks thanked everyone on the planning committee for their hard work and the students whose work was highlighted.

Jefferson Middle School has been selected to play with the River City Brass Band during their Emerald Isle Concert on Thursday, March 9 at Carnegie Music Hall. The program will be broadcast live on WQED radio that evening. River City Brass Band artistic and general director, James Gourlay, rehearsed with the JMS ensemble. It is an honor for the students and their teacher, Mrs. Krista Wagner, to participate in this concert.

Mt. Lebanon High School is accepting nominations for the 2017 Great Alumni Award. This is a Student Council initiative and honors people who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment either personally or professionally after graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School. The nomination form is available on the District website or from the High School Activities Director, Judith Kolko at jkolko@mtlsd.net. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2017.

Mrs. Birks congratulated the Mt. Lebanon Girls' Basketball team on their playoff win against Norwin. The team moved on to the WPIAL semifinal game against North Allegheny.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dale Ostergaard, Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education president, who announced the following 2016-2017 MLFE Grant awardees.

Jason Phillips, Washington Elementary - Go Beyond the Textbook - Class sets of authentic literature for 5th graders were purchased to use to enhance their reading experience, which would be different than traditional textbooks. Students will read full literature texts rather than just pieces of text as is the case in traditional Reading text.

Nicole Giehill, Hoover Elementary School - Hoover Coding Club - The Coding Club at Hoover Elementary School was introduced in fall 2015 and takes place during lunchtime. Hoover would like to take the Coding Club a step further by extending the length of time that they are coding while using coding applications like Scratch Jr. and Hopscotch. The Coding Club would also like to introduce SPRK 2.0 robots by Sphero to enhance the experience.

Jennifer Marsh, Markham Elementary School - Lego Story Starter Classroom Pack - The LEGO Story Starter Kit will help students grades 1 – 5 create, illustrate and publish stories. The LEGO building materials will create the characters and scenes for their stories or other writing assignments. LEGO materials can be used to enhance cross curricular learning by integrating elements of engineering and technology into reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

Laura Wilcox, Mt. Lebanon High School - Exploring Alternative Energy - This student-driven project will help students explore alternative energy sources. Students will explore the use of hydrogen gas to power fuel cell. Funding for this project will allow students to experience the research process first-hand.

Regina Ketter, Howe Elementary - Beo String Quartet– A full day music seminar with a professional string quartet for grades 4th and 5th that focuses on teaching a newly developed composition or arrangement for elementary string orchestra. Emphasis will be on creating, rehearsing and performing the new work.

Jeff Elias, Foster Elementary - Beyond the Classroom – Project-based Learning is a method of teaching that allows students to build success skills that are valuable for today’s world, specifically collaboration, communication and critical thinking. Students will be working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge. The students’ project work will be made public by explaining, displaying and/or presenting it to people beyond the classroom.

Karen Auslander, Jefferson Elementary - Engineering Design Building Tools – This project will promote 21st Century skills through the development of Engineering Design Process skills. It ties to the Maker Movement by fostering creativity and problem solving through the use of both high tech and low tech building tools. Academic learning objectives from all STEAM areas will be promoted with these tools, which are included in the Little Bits STEAM Education Class Packs.

Jennifer Rodriguez, Mt. Lebanon High School - Interactive Art Installation – High school visual arts students will use a white couch as a three-dimensional canvas to create a seating area that is both aesthetically and appealing as well as functional. The project teaches students to see everyday objects in a new way.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Tim Frenz of Janney Montgomery Scott who presented an overview to the Board of the refinancing of the 2009 Series A General Obligation Bonds.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee met on February 13, 2017 to review Policies IJ, Selection of Instructional Materials and Resources, and KE, Parental Concerns and Complaints. The Committee determined that there were no revisions needed to Policy KE. Revisions were made to Policy IJ and the Board will be asked to approve those revisions at this evening’s meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on March 13, 2017.

Facilities – Mr. Riemer reported that the contractors have been busy. The concrete contractor has completed most of the curbing and sidewalks and is working on forming and pouring the concrete planters along Horsman Drive. The excavating contractor has completed grading on the roadway and is now doing minor work in a driveway near the north ticket booth. The excavating contractor will also continue to work to level the upper practice field. The landscape contractor has completed the under drain piping along Horsman Drive and has installed the geotextile fabric and stone on the roadway. The contractor will now concentrate his efforts on filling in the sidewalk areas with stone and installing topsoil in designated areas.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely again congratulated Mt. Lebanon student Brianna Kratovel, as the December student of the month. Brianna is in the Health Assistant student.

Parkway West was granted the Technical Education Excellence award from the Department of Education. The award is given to schools that had 75% of their students participate in the Student Educational Competency Exams. This is the second year Parkway has received this award.

In the last month, Parkway received two grants—one from the Workforce Investment Board for \$27,000 to help pay for summer student internships, and the other from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$32,000 for the purchase of equipment.

There were 11 District 1st place winners from Parkway in the Skills USA completion. These students move on to the state completion in April.

Mt. Lebanon students on the 2nd quarter Directors List are Jose Lopez, Isabelle Hamel, Lia Hanberry, Johathan Kemmler, Benjamin Minet, Luke Martin, Dominic Moretti, Kathleen O’Reilly, Elaina Palka, and Irina Karpenka. Mr. Remely congratulated these students.

The Parkway West annual Open House will be held on March 14 at 6:00 p.m. All Board members are invited to attend.

Pathfinder School – Mrs. Olbrich reported that the projected enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year was 62 students, and she was pleased to announce that the current enrollment is 77. Part of the increase is due to a new life skills program which has been developed for young adults aged 18-22. The students spend a half-day at Pathfinder and a half-day out in the community with a teacher mentor. Two students were added to the elementary program which required the opening of a new classroom.

There has been an increase in room rentals in the building even though they lost the rental of the pool by the YMCA. There is still a need for Wii’s in the physical education program.

The Pathfinder School Fair will be held on April 29.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Beal reported that he and Mrs. Birks attended a PSBA seminar on February 20 and his report will be based on the information received then. The governors’ budget calls for a 1.5% increase in basic education subsidy, and 2% in special education subsidy. PSERs contribution rate will 30% to 32.5% in 2017-2018. In 2021-2022 the contribution rate will level out at 36.5% and the need for increased funding will end. PSBA continues to express deep concern about a state proposal to shift school funding away from local property tax and to increased sales and personal income tax. The Mt. Lebanon School Board will be voting on a resolution opposing this proposal.

At the national level, NSBA is concerned about the appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. NSBA released a statement in response to this appointment.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that cultivation event was held on February 9 for the Capital Campaign. A reception will be held on March 20 before the School Board Meeting to announce the first recipient of the Sue Harper Teaching Award.

The 3rd Annual MLFE Taste of Lebo will be held on April 22. To date, 12 restaurants have committed to participate in this event. Tickets can be purchased online on the District website.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated January 31, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated January 31, 2017, and February 21, 2017,
- c. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100 dated February 13, 2017, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely, Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves opening a bank account with the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF) for Flexible Savings Account Funds, and authorizes the Superintendent to complete all forms necessary to implement this action.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely, Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2017-2018 construction season as per the list dated January 19, 2017 in the amount of \$804,497. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, 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 transfer of \$2.6 million from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for future capital projects.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, 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 February 9, 2017, list of personnel changes as revised February 23, 2017 and February 27, 2017. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves revisions to Policy IJ, Selection of Instructional Materials and Resources in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center General Budget for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$6,251,788 with an estimated cost to the District of \$306,169.39, and the Jointure Budget in the amount of \$563,596 with Mt. Lebanon's share being \$80,031.96. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, 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 both the Memorandum of Understanding and the Transportation Plan with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) for the transportation of students in foster care in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves change order GC-128-304 in the amount of \$25,109 to Nello for site work on the High School Renovation Project.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Resolution Opposing Property Tax Elimination in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Supports the Board's resolution opposing property tax elimination
Pool improvement suggestions
Questioned if there was a guarantee that the new air conditioning for the elementary and middle school buildings will work properly
Questions regarding PSERS contribution by the District and multiplier

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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