

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

December 12, 2016

A Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hoover Elementary students Ethan Karavias, Yousuf Khan, Nelly Kostrikin, and Sally Tan who each read a part of the report on the diverse culture at Hoover in their native language spoken at home and in English.

ROLL CALL

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

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Fred Wolfe, Solicitor's Office
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Rick Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Ms. Nicole Giehll, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Mr. Robert Mallery

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on November 14, 2016; the Discussion Meeting held on November 14, 2016; and the Regular Meeting held on November 21, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members, Lucy Hightower and Kelsey Cadahia, reported on the activities and leadership development at Jefferson. The Council has been busy sponsoring events that make JMS a great community and to raise money for worthy charities. October brought a Halloween door decorating contest and candy grams to support Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an annual campaign about staying substance abuse free. Candy gram sales raised \$686 for Team Tassy, an organization that works to aid families in Haiti.

The first community service project of the year was held at Jefferson Elementary School. Members of the Community Service Committee read to first grade students at the end of the day. Council thanked Mrs. Auslander, JMS librarian, for her cooperation in making this event happen.

The entire Executive Board attended the PASC State Leadership Conference in November. The Conference inspired the team to work on putting together workshops for the Spring District Conference in March.

Projects currently underway are the Wish forms distributed to every student, faculty and staff member at JMS. The Wish Committee will go through wishes submitted to determine which ones can be granted and coming up with creative ways to grant them. Wish Week is the highlight of the year. In January, Student Council will host a Tape the Teacher event, and in February they will be sponsoring the infamous Pop Tab Wars.

High School Student Body Co-President, Kay Casturo, presented a report on the events at the High School. Throughout the month of November, the junior class collected 2,000 non-perishable food items that were donated to the Brookline Food Pantry. The donation came at a critical shortage time which was right after Thanksgiving. They were very thankful for the donation.

The National Honor Society members are organizing the annual “Toys for Tots and Teens.” Each homeroom plans on purchasing the gift requested of teenagers and young adults who are in treatment with or being supervised by FamilyLinks.

The Class of 2017 Holiday Show will be held on December 14. Proceeds from the show will go to New Leash on Life, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Penn State Thon, the high school Principal Award, and the Georgia Pogue Personal Achievement Award.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Birks thanked Mr. Lebowitz for this exceptional service to the District, its students and the entire community as president of Board for the past two years. In honor of his service, the Board donated books to the high school library. Mrs. Birks presented Mr. Lebowitz with a gavel in recognition for being board president in 2016.

The board president reported on the holiday concerts presented by the talented students in the District. The high school orchestra and band performed for packed auditoriums earlier in the month. The middle schools and several elementary schools have orchestra and choir concerts scheduled in the next two weeks, the percussion ensemble will be performing this week and the annual Holiday Show is coming up. The Choir Cabaret Concerts scheduled for January 5th and 6th sold out in 24 hours so two additional shows have been added on January 3rd and 4th. These concerts and show are a celebration of what the District is all about. Congratulations to all of the dedicated musicians and teachers in the District.

State Representative Dan Millier is spearheading the “Everyone’s In—Unit Rally” on Sunday, December 18th at the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center Plaza. The community is invited to celebrate and re-affirm that Mt. Lebanon is a community where everyone is welcome.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that power was restored to the entire High School Campus after the site contractors inadvertently disrupted the main power feed to the campus that runs down the side of Horsman Drive.

The Mt. Lebanon School District was recently ranked #3 in Western Pennsylvania and #7 in the State by Niche.com in their 2017 Best School District list. All 10 of our school received a Niche “A+” ranking as well. According to Niche, their ranking is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and millions of student and parent reviews. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings, and more. The District is always pleased to recognize on these varying lists and rankings. It is one more positive indicator of school effectiveness.

Each year, the Division of Federal Programs honors the top performing Title I schools in Pennsylvania. Dr. Steinhauer was pleased to announce that both of our eligible schools have been selected as Title I Distinguished Schools. Congratulations to Lincoln Elementary School and Washington Elementary School teachers, administrators, parents and students on this exceptional indicator of academic achievement. Both schools ranked in the top five percent of all Title I Schools in the state based on aggregate PSSA Math and Reading performance. This recognition suggests that the curriculum, school leadership, and teachers and staff, are doing an excellent job educating our students while significantly closing specific achievement gaps. Dr. Steinhauer recognized the following staff from the two schools: Ron Kitsko-Principal, Lincoln Elementary School; Debbie Lewis-Reading Support Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School; Jessica Zajac-Reading Support Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School; Mary Kay Davis - Washington Principal; Robert Mallery- Substitute Principal, Washington; Krista Hartline-Reading Support Teacher, Washington Elementary School, and Kristen Mackey-Reading Support Teacher, Washington Elementary School.

The community is invited for a conversation on December 15th about mental skills training and mental performance with Lucid coaches, Graham Betchart and Andrew Zimmermann. The Lucid app is a mental training program developed to deliver mental skills training to athletes in incremental segments. High School teacher, Tina Raspanti helped the district become a beta site with completely free access to the Lucid mental training program and is part of our on-going initiative to help students develop their minds and bodies. Although Lucid program is geared towards athletes, the lessons on mental training, focus, grit, determination and peak performance are applicable in a variety of settings. This event is free and open to the public.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Supports installing air conditioning in the elementary schools
- Has a child with a medical needs which require an air conditioned environment

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the following items: Monthly treasurer's report; monthly list of bills; list of tax refunds; sale of unusable equipment; capital campaign disbursements; preliminary budget presentation; monthly personnel report; assistant superintendent commission renewal; ESL translation service agreement; international students agreement with WholeRen, Inc.; benefits management software purchase; attendance and expenses for Board members at national, state and local conferences and workshops; student trips to Sandusky, OH and Wildwood, NJ; change order for high school project, elementary and middle school air-conditioning; and creating a new board subcommittee called Academic Excellence.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2016,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 30 and December 7, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2016, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment for sale dated December 1, 2016.

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 a Budget for Capital Campaign initiatives in the amount of \$100,000.

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 Cooper that the Board approves preparation of a Preliminary Budget for 2017-2018 for public view in December of 2016 and announces its intent to approve such budget at its January 16, 2017, Board meeting with such revisions as it deems necessary.

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 Remely that the Board approves the December 8, 2016 list of personnel changes. (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 of School Directors hereby notifies Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Dr. Marybeth D. Irvin that the Board intends to retain her for a further term of five years, and approves the Employment Agreement in the form presented having a term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022 and providing for a salary of \$136,708 for the first year of such term.

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 approves and agreement with the AIU for Translation Services provided by TranPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation and document translation for non-English speaking students and parents 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 Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves an agreement with WholeRen, Inc. to recruit international students for acceptance at Mt. Lebanon High School 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 Cooper that the Board approves the purchase of a benefits management system software from Northwest Group Services in the amount of \$29,500. (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 Beal and seconded by Olbrich that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 2017.

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 Lebowitz that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Marching Band to Cedar Point, Sandusky OH to perform from May 13-14, 2017 (Replaces the previously approved trip to Washington, D.C.)
- b. Winter Guard to Wildwood, NJ to perform at the TIA Atlantic Coast Championships from May 4-7, 2017.

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 Lebowitz that the Board approves accepting a credit change order from Nello Construction in the amount of \$29,865.00 for the remainder of the signage package work.

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

It was moved by Remely and Olbrich that the Board awards a bid for air conditioning all elementary and middle schools to Trane Commercial Systems at the State Bid price of \$5,975,300 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign contracts necessary to implement this action.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Lebowitz Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely, Riemer,
Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: Beal
MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questioned the number of F1 students enrolled in the high school
- Questioned the types of signs need around the building

Questioned if the workers installing the air conditioning would have background clearances
Questioned the start of school for 2017-2018
Questioned when the remaining PlanCon money would be received
Questioned if writing such a large check for the air conditioning installation would affect the District credit rating
Academic Excellence subcommittee

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Lebowitz to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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