

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

November 21, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Jefferson Elementary students Anna Kushnir, Caroline Mackin and Elliot Whiteside led the Pledge of Allegiance and reported on the 5th grade service projects at Jefferson.

ROLL CALL:

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

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, Dr. Robert Freil,
Ms. Nicole Giehll, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Mrs.
Carlene McGinty, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Ms.
Sarah Shaw, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, Mr. Chris Wolfson, Mr. Robert Mallery

MINUTES

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Meeting held on October 10, 2016; the Discussion Meeting held on October 10, 2016; and the Regular Meeting held on October 17, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council member, Miguel Bracco, reported on the events at Mellon. Mrs. Susan McDonald assumed the role of Student Council sponsor and she will be assisted by Mrs. Alicia Bush. To encourage participation and commitment, an application process was implemented to join Student Council, and an executive board was selected through an exclusive application process.

In October, students participated in Pink Out activities which raised \$1,164 for breast cancer research. The annual Halloween costume contest rounded out the month with Mrs. Eve Kollar winning with her hand crafted costume. Students wrote letters to veterans and sent them through Operation Troop Appreciation, a cause the Council has supported in the past. A few letters were sent to former Mellon students stationed in the United States. Also, in November, Council supported a faculty member who was raising money for Men's Health and for "Movember." Student Council sponsored a school-wide holiday service project by supporting Operation

Christmas Child. Each homeroom assembled and stuffed two boxes filled with toys and necessities for underprivileged children.

Mellon Student Council members attended the PASC Conference at Deer Lakes High School for the first time alongside students from Jefferson Middle School to learn the student government process and about leadership. It was a great experience for all who attended.

High School Student Council co-presidents, Molly Merrick and Wyatt Smith presented a report on the activities at the High School. The two hugely successfully Pink Out activities raised \$1,040 for the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation, and \$1,200 for St. Clair Hospital's "Cancer Caring Center." The Halloween door decorating theme for this year was "Scary Nightmares." Mr. Saverese's freshman homeroom won the grand prize with a gruesome and haunted display that featured politicians.

The Link Crew Leaders went into freshmen homerooms during an extended home period to teach an interactive lesson on adjusting to high school, the obstacles that they have faced thus far, and how to overcome them. Link Crew will visit freshmen homerooms in December and are planning social and community service events for the upcoming months.

Approximately 250 students chose to attend a brief lecture by Mark Cuban, Mt. Lebanon graduate and "Shark Tank" host. Students learned about the "Shark Tank" reality show, the business success and failures that Mr. Cuban has had, and how he still feels connected to his alma mater.

The Class of 2017 Holiday Show will be held on Wednesday, December 14. Everyone is invited for a fun night of singing, dancing and comedy performances by students.

On Election Day, the senior class officers helped Mr. Stengel by playing a part in the secondary teacher in-service - the Technology Menu Day. After a very interesting keynote presentation from speaker Kevin Honeycutt, students were each paired with a teacher and sent to lead a discussion with one of the departments. It was a good exercise for all to have a focused conversation about how technology can and should be a part of our learning here at Mt. Lebanon.

The Class of 2018 is conducting a canned food drive. All donations will be sent to the Brookline Food Bank who typically runs out of food after Thanksgiving so the donation will be greatly appreciated. The sophomore class is currently hold a Yankee Candle fundraiser and will be selling love notes and refreshments at the Holiday Show. The freshman class is designing and will be selling their Class of 2020 t-shirts.

Student Council recognized Veterans Day by publicly thanking the seven veterans who work on the high school campus, and they recognized the family members of six students along with the family members of nine high school employees.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that after attending the community Halloween parade on October 29, he was so inspired that I needed to go home right then and start writing. Besides it being a beautiful day, the parade and everything going on around it once again made him realize just how fortunate we all are to live in such a great community, and that most people come to live in Mt. Lebanon for outstanding School District. It made him realize just how important and how awesome a responsibility it is this School Board. The Board, in conjunction with and in support of the administration, the teachers and the parents, are responsible for doing everything that they can to ensure that these young minds are given what they need to grow as both students and people. We truly are fortunate to live in a community where education is so important, the nine members on the School Board are equally fortunate to be such an important part of it. The board president thanked the Mt. Lebanon High School Band for their participation in the parade. They

were right in the middle of the parade, and looked and sounded fantastic. Thanks to Mr. Cheskawich, his colleagues and each member of the band for adding to what was indeed a memorable date in Mt. Lebanon.

On Friday, November 11, celebrations in honor of our community's military heroes were held throughout the District and attended by students, teachers and many people in the community. Mr. Lebowitz thanked all who organized these very important tributes and those who have served our country.

The board president congratulated the High School Model UN Team and their advisors, George Savarese, Adam Lumish and Pete DiNardo, for winning first place at the Penn State University Model UN Tournament in State College. This is the fourth year of the Penn State Model UN Tournament, and our students have won first place every single year. In addition to the team award, four students, Jacob Dale, Eion Wilson-Manion, James Perotti and Grace Brown, won first place honors and for others, Ben Akhtar, Jenny Yu, Marley Howell, and Antonio Carapella, received second place honors.

Two Mt. Lebanon High School faculty members were honored with teaching awards from outstanding universities. First, Mrs. Susan Meers, High School Chemistry teacher, was the recipient of the 2016 Yale University Educator Award which recognizes teachers and counselors from around the world who inspire and support their students to perform at high levels and to achieve excellence. Mrs. Meers was nominated by Nancy Lu, Mt. Lebanon Class of 2016 and a freshman at Yale University. Next, Mr. Robert Vogel was honored by Stanford University with their award for Exceptional Teaching. Mr. Vogel was nominated by Class of 2016 graduate and Stanford University student, Jerry Meng. Congratulations to both Mrs. Meers and Mr. Vogel for these much-deserved awards and thanks to both of them for their continuing efforts on behalf of our students.

Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Pennsylvania Legislature failed to pass pension reform before closing its final session for the year in October. This is indeed disappointing given the incredible need for reform so as to fix our state's broken pension system. A very considerable percentage of our taxpayers' dollars continue to go toward our PSEERS obligation, and those numbers will unfortunately continue to rise until and unless this problem is finally solved.

A very unwelcome result of the recent election has been numerous incidents of bullying, intimidation and harassment of students around the country. Unfortunately, Mt. Lebanon School District has not been immune from such behavior. Rest assured that the administration, fully supported by this Board, has zero tolerance for this type of behavior and will take any and all necessary measures to ensure that our students are able to learn in an environment that is both supportive and welcoming to all.

Mr. Lebowitz announced that this month's Extra Mile winner is Pam Wagner, our High School Campus Manager. Nominated by High School Unit Principals McGinty, Dirda and Thompson, Pam is responsible for being the "eyes and ears" of the administration throughout our High School buildings. Her genuine interest in our students and staff is obvious as she works tirelessly to ensure a safe school environment. On behalf of the entire District and the Board, Mr. Lebowitz congratulated and thanked Pam Wagner for being this month's Extra Mile winner.

The board president took the opportunity to wish everyone in the District a happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Lebowitz stated he was thankful for the opportunity to serve the District as the School Board President for the past two years and it was a great honor to lead the Board and work directly with our incredibly talented Superintendent and administrative team and thanked each of them for all of their support.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Dr. Steinhauer announced nine of our high school students were among those selected as 2017 National Merit Scholars. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The superintendent congratulated the following students on this outstanding academic accomplishment: Jacob Dale, Zhen Yu Ding, Dajue Dong, Maxwell D. Huber, Isacc T. Kalapos, Rajitha Pulivarthy, Harrison R. Ulery, Varsha Venugopal, and Jifeng Yu.

Dr. Steinhauer announced that the Association of School Business Officials International has awarded the Mt. Lebanon School District its Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation for 2016-2017. This is the 22nd consecutive year the District has been recognized. Earning this award continues to represent a significant achievement by Mt. Lebanon School District, Business Director Janice Klein, and the entire business office staff.

The superintendent introduced Sloane Astorino, the District's Director of Advancement to update the Board on the progress of the Century of Excellence Campaign.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dr. Ronald Davis and Dr. Marybeth Irvin who presented the 2016 Student Outcomes Report. The report shows that by all objective measures of student achievement – Mt. Lebanon students continue to achieve among the best students in the Commonwealth. The report will be posted on the District's website. The report represents the high quality work that our administrators and teachers do every day. Specifically, the information points to the successful academic leadership of Dr. Davis, Dr. Irvin and our building principals. All, in their respective roles, have the responsibility to operate a high quality educational program that this community has come to expect and our children deserve. Beyond the classroom teacher, research clearly illustrates that principal leadership is the most significant variable in student achievement. They have created and maintained an environment where teachers can teach and children can learn. I want to publicly thank them for their continued laser-like focus on student achievement.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee met on November 14 to review revisions to policies JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students; JICH, Student Drug and Alcohol Offenses; and JICF, Non-School Related Drug and Alcohol Violations. The committee is recommended approval of the revised policies at this evening's meeting.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that there was a surveyor's error in the slope of the tennis courts which has delayed work. The error has been corrected at no cost to the District. Asphalt work will be delayed until spring because it is too cold to lay the asphalt.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that as of November 16, the current enrollment at Pathfinder is 74 students and 49 staff members. There was a presentation from Siemens Corp. on a renovation at Pathfinder by the AIU years ago. The cost of the equipment would be paid over 15 years, but the down side was a cost of \$28,000 per year for maintenance. Mr. Cooper attended a spaghetti dinner fundraiser November 16, and met with students from the school and staff members. Pathfinder is still looking for donations of Wii console games for use in the adaptive physical education classes. Pathfinder is now renting the pool, gym and classrooms when school is not in session.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that the Parkway West Board has presented a preliminary budget for approval. The teacher contracts are near final. A career awareness day will be held February 2, 2017 at Mt. Lebanon High School. Students will now receive 3-4 credits for passing the NOCTII exams. Three Mt. Lebanon students, Joseph Roberto, Kalen Vaughn, and Aiden Donnelly, received three college credits each in 2015-2016.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the District received \$1,070,159 of the \$3.2 million in back payments owed to the District in PlanCon money. The exact date on when to expect the current year reimbursement, which is estimated at \$1.1 million, is not known, but expected before the fiscal year end in June.

Both parties in the Senate and House of Representatives elected their leadership for the upcoming 2017-2018 legislative session. PSBA congratulated those legislators and looks forward to working with the 26 newly-elected members who will be sworn in on January 3, 2017. The recent election changed the makeup of the PA State Legislature, giving Republicans a 34-16 edge in the Senate and holding 122 out of 203 seats in the House, the largest GOP majority since the 1950s.

In NSBA news, The *Sacramento (CA) Bee* reports that former DC Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee met with the President-elect Saturday about possibly taking on the role of Education Secretary. Rhee supports charter schools but also “supports the Common Core curriculum that is unpopular with many conservatives, and which President-elect has vowed to end.” *McClatchy* reports the President-elect also “met with Betsy DeVos, a Republican megadonor and education activist from Michigan who is also considered a candidate for education secretary.” The President-elect has vowed to “redirect \$20 billion in federal funds to school choice – in the form of block grants for an estimated 11 million school-age children living in poverty. It remains unclear what education policies the President-elect will pursue once in the Oval Office.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the MLFE Board met and awarded \$4,349 in grants to three teacher projects. The three grants are for an interactive art installation, Beyond the Classroom-Project-based Learning, and for engineering design building tools. There was a fourth submission that needed more information and the MLFE Board will vote on it at the December meeting.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported SHASDA met on November 17 and heard a presentation from two lawyers, Donald Palmer and Kate Dearson, about hot issues in school law. Two issues were about transgender students and how we will treat students on medical marijuana. Another issue is the change in the law concerning students with attendance problems which will go into effect in the new school year.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated October 31, 2016, and November 15, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2016,
- d. Budgetary Transfers dated November 4, 2016, and
- e. List of Unusable Equipment dated November 1, 2016.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the November 10, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised November 21, 2016. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to Policy JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Remely that the Board approves revisions to Policy JICH, Student Drug and Alcohol Offenses, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to Policy JKF, Non-School Related Drug and Alcohol Offenses, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Remely that the Board does hereby adopt the 2017-2018 graduation requirements, course offerings and course options for Mt. Lebanon High School as presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Birks that the Board approves PDE 339 Plan, K-12 school guidance counseling plan, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves an agreement with AMCA Systems, LLC to provide ACA TaxTrack Software at a cost of \$2,295 plus \$1.40 per IRS form 1095-C generated. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an amendment to the EduLink teacher supervision and evaluation software program agreement in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the membership in the AIU Joint Purchasing Board for 2017 as per the attached resolution designating Richard Marciniak as the regular member and Jan Klein as the alternate member. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Birks that the Board approves extension of the Natural Gas agreement with Direct Energy-Columbia through the AIU from December, 2016 through August, 2019 using a Natural Gas Blend at the NYMEX rate minus (\$0.274) cents per DTH and further authorizes the Superintendent to sign such forms as are necessary to implement this change.

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. High School Concert Choir to New York City, February 17-20, 2017
- b. High School Model UN Team to the University of Delaware, February 24-26, 2017, and
- c. High School Winter Guard to Orlando, FL, March 24-27, 2017.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Mellon scores are lower than Jefferson; should be equality between schools

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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