

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

October 17, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Washington Elementary students Haruya Iyobe, Kaili Woodland, Pranish Tamang, and Hrithika Tamang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Mr. Christopher Voltz, Solicitor's Office
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 Birks and seconded by Moorhead that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on September 12, 2016; and the Regular Meeting held on September 19, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Anna Schwartz and Rachel Short, Jefferson Middle School Student Council Executive Board members, presented a report on the activities at Jefferson MS. There are currently 14 Executive Board members and 77 General Student Council members. With 91 in the council, they are expecting a very productive and successful year.

Jefferson MS will continue their yearlong Birthday and Random Acts of Kindness projects, in addition to Wish Week. With a new Community Service committee, the goal is to have two successful events this year that solicit the participation of a good number of council members. They will also sponsor three larger events: a food drive, Pop Tab Wars, and Mini-THON.

At the end of October, JMS will observe Red Ribbon Week, a campaign to bring awareness to the dangers of drug abuse. Students will collaborate within homerooms to creatively decorate their doors that incorporate both a spooky theme and a strong Red Ribbon Week message.

Jefferson MS students will attend the PASC State Leadership Conference at Deer Lakes School District, on November 10, 11, and 12. They look forward to coming back from this conference with a multitude of new ideas and an even better handle on our leadership skills.

Mt. Lebanon High School student body officers, Kathryn King and Zach Dewit, reported on the activities that have taken place since school began. In August, the Link Crew program, comprised

of juniors and seniors, welcomed the Class of 2020 and new students to Mt. Lebanon High School. Members of the Link Crew have continued to socialize with these students at the Link Night game night, the tailgate party prior to the September 23 football game, by stopping in their homerooms, and occasionally having a scripted program during an extended homeroom.

The Class of 2017 Senior Boat Ride took place on September 18. It was a beautiful night to cruise the three rivers, dance with classmates, and chat with friends. The senior class selected "Dancing in the Moonlight" by King Harvest as our senior song and it will be played as the last song at every dance this school year.

The 2016 Great Alumni event took place on September 23. Four adults were recognized for their important contributions to mankind since they graduated from high school. They are Mrs. Mary Birks, a current Mt. Lebanon School Board member and the executive director of Outreach Children and Family Services, Ms. Ruth Colker, a Distinguished University Professor and the holder of the Heck Faust Memorial Chair in Constitutional Law at the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University, Mrs. Gretchen Haggerty, a retired Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the U. S. Steel/USX Corporation, and Dr. Mark Lester, who is a neurosurgeon and a Texas Health Resources physician executive. It was an honor to meet these extraordinary individuals and to learn firsthand about their impact on our world.

On October 14, Student Council hosted the Class of 2017 Homecoming Parade. The Homecoming Queen is Georgia Lawrence and the King is Robert Demsky. Then on Saturday, 999 Mt. Lebanon High School students attended the Homecoming Dance. The first blood drive of this school year will take place on Friday, October 21 in the North gym. The Pink Out football game is also this Friday and the student section is expected to be a sea of pink. Spirit Week begins October 24. The daily themes are 'Murica Monday, Tie Day Tuesday, Pink Out Wednesday, Tropical Thursday, and Elementary School Colors Friday. At the end of the week the Spirit Assembly will take place and the Pink Out fundraising activities will conclude. Mt. Lebanon High School is supporting the St. Clair Hospital Cancer Caring Center and the Young Women's Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz recognized the many contributions made to our school through the volunteer efforts of the Mt. Lebanon PTA. The Mt. Lebanon School District is very fortunate to have 10 active PTA Units along with a well organized PTA Council. This parent advocacy organization has been a vital part of our schools for over 85 years. The board president presented a certificate and a small token of appreciation to the following PTA presidents: Jodi Kubit, PTA Council; Mary Ellen Donato, Foster; Christina Battaglia, Hoover; Joyce Divine, Howe; Amy Shannon-Spector, Lincoln; Christine Neavin, Jefferson; Moira Aulbach, Markham; Allison Carey, Washington; Colleen Frank, Jefferson Middle; Bonnie Dougherty, Mellon; and Lisa Silverman, Mt. Lebanon High School.

In accordance with state law, each year the School Board is required to work with the Superintendent to establish goals for the upcoming year. At the same time, the Board looks back to see if the goals set in the previous year have been met. Mr. Lebowitz was pleased to report that both tasks have been accomplished, and Dr. Steinhauer both met last year's goals and is eager to do the same for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Steinhauer's goals for the coming year will be posted on the District website.

The Board will be voting on the Single Audit Report prepared for the District by our CPA firm, Maher Duessel. The report is extremely comprehensive and paints a very complimentary picture of the District's financial position, and very importantly, it makes it clear that our District's finances are extremely well managed by Ms. Jan Klein and her staff. The Board appreciates all of their collective efforts, along with that of Dr. Steinhauer, to help ensure the financial stability

of the District so as to enable us to achieve our goal of providing the best education possible for each and every student.

Mr. Lebowitz visited the High School where he spent part of the morning with Principal Brian McFeeley and Dr. Ron Davis touring through the halls and observing classes in Mathematics, English, Social Studies, World Languages, Special Education and English as Second Language. He had an opportunity to see teachers meeting as part of the Student Assistance Program. He also took the opportunity to sit in on an AP Government class and heard some very interesting connections being made between the goals of our founding fathers and what is occurring in election politics today

The board president thanked Mrs. Birks for representing the Board at the Foster 75th Anniversary Celebration. The event was a testament to the Foster community both past and present that so many people attended to celebrate this special milestone in the school's history.

Mr. Lebowitz congratulated the Girls Tennis team for their section championship and WPIAL runner-up finish. These accomplishments were achieved without the benefit of playing any home matches at Mt. Lebanon High School. The Tennis Team has had to play all of their "home" matches at a neighboring school during the entire construction process.

This month's Extra Mile Award winner is Mrs. Jeanine Szalinski. Having served five different Superintendents, Mrs. Szalinski is a consummate professional who supports not only our Superintendent but, also, our Director of Communications, our Director of Advancement as well as several different constituent groups. She is our "Right to Know" Officer which, as we all know, takes a lot of time and even more patience, and also does all of the administrative work on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Szalinski is always willing to help and, no matter how busy she is or how many other requests she is handling, she somehow finds the time to help us. She is someone who simply "gets it done" on a consistent basis and always with a positive attitude

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that Jefferson Middle School was recently ranked the #1 Middle School in Pennsylvania by StartClass.com, an education research website that provides students, parent, and educators with information to research education options. Using recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Civil Rights Data Collection, StartClass developed a formula to rank order all middle schools in the Commonwealth. Jefferson Middle School came out on top of the list. Congratulations to Jefferson Middle School.

Dare to Dream: REIMAGINING OUR ELEMENTARY LIBRARIES will take place on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Center Court. The special speaker for the evening will be Keith Webster, Dean of University Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University. Mr. Webster will share some of the latest ideas for 21st Century school libraries. This new initiative will help us explore ways we can enrich our current libraries with a view toward the future. The superintendent welcomes the community to attend this event to discuss opportunities to enhance our elementary school libraries.

The Mt. Lebanon School District is proud to host the United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants on October 29 at 7:00 p.m in the High School Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. The link to download your free tickets is available on our website.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dr. Davis, Dr. Irvin, and Mr. Stengel to share how technology is used in Mt. Lebanon as a catalyst for authentic learning.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee held a meeting on October 10 where they reviewed policies ACD/GBED, Tobacco-Free School/Tobacco-Free Workplace, BEC, Executive Sessions, and AC, Nondiscrimination. The Committee found that policies BEC and AC did not need revisions, and revisions to ACD/GBED will be presented to the Board this evening for approval.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the site work contractor has completed the walls for the handicap ramp to the tennis courts and will begin working on the landscape wall. The excavating contractor is continuing to install the storm and sanitary drainage piping near the top of the tennis courts. Interiors in crossover classrooms are complete.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely invited Board members to attend the Parkway West CTC open house on November 1 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks thanked the Board for the privilege of representing the District at the annual PSBA Conference and reported on the keynote speakers and educational sessions she attended. Julie Lythcott from Stanford and author of “How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success” was the main speaker for the conference.

NSBA reported that the Washington Post reported that the NAACP Board of Directors ratified a resolution that called for a moratorium on expanding charter schools and also called for increased oversight on them. The moratorium would remain in place until a number of conditions have been met, including increased transparency and accountability standards, ensuring funds are not routed to charter school at the expense of public schools, ensuring charter schools do not expel students and an end to what it calls de-facto segregation.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that she met with Sloane Astorino, the Director of Advancement. The Philanthropic Advisory Panel met and approved the recommendations for allocations from the Campaign--\$50,000 to the high school and \$50,000 to the elementary schools. *Reimagining Our Elementary Libraries* will take place on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Center Court. Fall grant applications to MLFE are due November 7, and the 3rd annual Taste of Lebo will be held in April, 2017.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer met with municipal manager, Keith McGill. They discussed the municipal rifle range, Main Entrance parking, Cochran Road PennDot project, and the Bower Hill/Washington Road development.

Economic Development Council – Mr. Beal reported that the Economic Development Council met on September 30th. The group focused on public space improvement on Washington Road, the Beverly Road parking study and the delay of the Pennsylvania Blvd project.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

North parking lot paving

Questioned if there would be a credit for this change order

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated September 30, 2016, and October 12, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated September 30, 2016,
- d. Year End Budgetary Transfers dated October 4, 2016, and
- a. List of Unusable Equipment dated October 1, 2016.

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Remely that the Board accepts and approves the Single Audit for the year ending June 30, 2016 as audited by Maher Duessel, CPAs. (Copy on official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the October 6, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised October 13, 2016. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy ADC/GBED, Tobacco-Free Schools/Tobacco Free Workplace, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the following members of the Student Assistance Team are memorialized by the Board of School Directors for the 2016-2017 school year: **Central Office Representative**, Dr. Ronald Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; **Mellon Middle School Student Assistance Program Team**, Christopher Wolfson, Principal; Melissa Nelson, Asst. Principal; Heather Rehrig; Psychologist; Kara Gillespie, Counselor; Amy Whealdon, Counselor; Do Sabol, Nurse; Erica Harrington, Teacher; Chris Hessler, Teacher; Eve Kollar, Teacher; and Dan Ridge, Teacher; **Jefferson Middle School Student Assistance Program Team**, Kelly Szeszterniak, Principal; Jeffrey Zeiders, Dean of Students; Peter Berg, Counselor; Allison Levinson, Counselor; Susan Anstandig, Librarian; Barbara Austin, Nurse; Erika Vasquez, Psychologist; Ashlee Beckett, Teacher; Janice Cherry, Teacher; Kristin Hertzog, Teacher; Gwenn Kassep, Teacher; Elizabeth Luptak, Teacher; Ed Petsko, Teacher; Stephanie Ross, Teacher; Krista Wagner, Teacher; Nicole Welsh, Teacher; Molly Wetmore, Teacher; and John Young, Teacher; **Mt. Lebanon High School Student Assistance Program Team**, Brian McFeeley, Principal; Natasha Dirda, Unit Principal; Joel Thompson, Unit Principal; Carlie McGinty, Dean of Students; Diane Becker, Counselor; Chad Johnson, Counselor; Tara Leja, Counselor; Joy Rullo, Counselor;

Shelly Saba, Counselor; Beth Schneider, Counselor; Janet McGeough, Nurse; Sheila Carr, Psychologist; Heather Rehrig, Psychologist; Shaina Vasbinder, Psychologist; Erika Vasquez, Psychologist; Frank Cremonese, Teacher; Jodi Dulap, Teacher; Todd Forsyth, Teacher; Tim Kirsch, Teacher; April McCracken, Teacher; Keary McFeeley, Teacher; Darren McGregor, Teacher; Rich Schmitt, Teacher; Stu Snodgrass, Teacher; Elizabeth Tighe, Teacher, Joe Tighe, Teacher, and Joel Austin, D/A Liaison.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Remely that That the Board approves an agreement with Pittsburgh Public Schools Connection Program for the 2016-2017 for the provision of community based life skills at a cost not to exceed \$45,850 per student for the 2016-2017 school year, for no more than four students. (Copy in official minutes)

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

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

- a. High School Journalism Production Class to Indianapolis, IN, November 10-12, 2016,
- b. High School Swim Team to Bucknell University, January 6-7, 2017,
- c. High School Wind Ensemble to Indianapolis, IN, March 9-12, 2017,
- d. High School Percussion Ensemble to Indianapolis, IN, March 9-12, 2017,
- e. High School Marching Band to Washington, DC, April 7-9, 2017, and
- f. Jefferson and Mellon Middle School 8th Grade Social Studies Classes to Washington, DC, May 11-12, 2017.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Remely that the Board approves a change order to Nello Construction for \$67,302.53 to install brick pavers in the North Parking lot. (Copy in official minutes)

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Questions regarding the dirt removal on the practice field
Supports the School District

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

/js