

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

September 19, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas Peterson, 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 Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on July 18, 2016; the Special Meeting held on August 8, 2016; the Discussion Meeting held on August 8, 2016; and the Regular Meeting held on August 15, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that although he was unable to attend last week's discussion meeting, the Board continued discussions regarding the possible implementation of air conditioning at the elementary and middle school buildings. A report was received from Trane focusing on the ongoing operation and maintenance costs associated with the air conditioning. The Board expects to receive final word on the cost of the project by the end of the year. At that time, and provided with all of the necessary information, the Board will make a decision, and if they do decide to proceed, work will begin early in 2017.

The Board president official welcomed Stephen Strotmeyer to the Board. Dr. Strotmeyer has been on the Board for one full month and is already contributing to the day-to-day work.

On Friday, September 23, the High School will honor the 2016 Great Alumni. The Great Alumni Award Program was developed by the Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council and the selection committee includes administrators, faculty, students and alumni. The recipients of the Great Alumni Award are selected based on exceptional work in at least one of the following areas: (i) improvement in the lives of others; (ii) involvement in community service; or (iii) achievement in a professional field. This year's recipients include Mary D. Birks, Class of 1982; Ruth Colker, Class of 1974; Gretchen Haggerty, Class of 1972; and Dr. Mark Lester, Class of 1970. All four of the deserving recipients will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, and before the

football game Friday evening. Mr. Lebowitz congratulated all the recipients and thanked each of them for their contributions to both the District and community as a whole.

The board president announced that the District will be hosting the third annual Alumni Tailgate on Friday, September 23. All Mt. Lebanon alumni and their guests are invited, and tickets are available on line at [www.mtlsd.org](http://www.mtlsd.org) for \$20 each.

Mr. Lebowitz extended a warm welcome to Mt. Lebanon High School alumni from the classes of 1956, 1958, 1966, 1971, 1976, and 1981. These classes will return to the High School over the next two weeks to tour the school as part of their reunion activities.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that Foster Elementary School is celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school on Saturday, October 8. The celebration will kick off with a Welcome Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. with an open house and activities to follow. The Foster community invites Foster Alumni and their families, former staff and all Mt. Lebanon residents to join them in marking this historic milestone for the school. Alumni are asked to share their memories by taking the Alumni Survey at [www.mtlsd.org/foster75](http://www.mtlsd.org/foster75).

The Mt. Lebanon High School Blue Devil Marching Band under the direction of Jason Cheskawich will present its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Bands on Saturday, September 24 at the Mt. Lebanon Stadium, rain or shine. Bands from around the Pittsburgh area, including the California University of PA band, will participate in the festival.

Mt. Lebanon Council PTA is presenting the nationally acclaimed film, "Screenagers" on Wednesday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The event is free and open to the community and is part of the PTA Council Parent Education program. According to producers, *Screenagers* reveals how tech time may impact kids' and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

Thanks to a generous gift from 2013 Great Alumni awardee Rich Lackner, his family and friends, a beautiful patio was dedicated on September 9 as part of the high school library in memory of his wife, Cindy Lackner. Cindy was a dedicated 22 year employee of the District who worked in the high school library and made a difference in the lives of the students she worked with. This gift gives our students a beautiful space to study and is a perfect way to honor Cindy's memory. We are grateful for the generosity of the Lackner family and thank them for this gift.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that a Policy Committee Meeting will be held on October 10, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

High School Renovation –Mr. Remely reported that the site work contractor is pouring the concrete steps at entrance C25. The excavating contractor is installing the storm drainage piping near the tennis courts, and a revised schedule on the project show all the work on the high school project to be completed by the contractor before the winter break. The District carpenters have built ticket booth B on the north end of Horsman Drive.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the first Pathfinder board meeting will be held on September 21, 2016.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that enrollment at Parkway Center CTC is 750 students. A joint in-service was held where 350 educators attending to meet

with Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera. Mr. Remely noted that 641 student certifications were earned by the students at Parkway, and there was a 97% pass rate on the NOCTII exams. Twenty-six students qualified for a least 9 college credits.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that a new public awareness campaign for public education was jointly launched by PSBA, PA Association of Intermediate Units, PA Association of School Administrators, PA Principals Association, PA School Boards Association, PA School Public Relations Association, and PA State Education Association. The Success Starts Here campaign is a multi-year statewide effort to share the positive news about public education through advertising, web, social media, traditional media and word-of-mouth with the goal of raising understanding of the value of public education in Pennsylvania. It is not an advocacy campaign.

PSBA presented testimony to the House Democratic Policy Committee on the issues of state-mandated exams, including Keystone Exams as graduation requirements. Representing the association was PSBA Assistant Executive Director John Callahan, who said there is no evidence that high-stake tests accomplish the majority of the policy goals they were developed to support.

Mrs. Birks was able to discuss Chapter 4 with Dr. Davis a week ago, and had follow up meetings with Representative Dan Miller and Senator Guy Reschenthaler’s staff, where we discussed the costs to our district as well as the Keystone exams and graduation requirements.

The State Board of Education began work on its requirement under Act 70 of 2014 to examine whether schools are providing human rights education. The State Board of Education's ad hoc advisory committee on data collection reduction met this week to continue its work required by Act 86 of 2016 to conduct a review of data collection requirements imposed on public school entities in the areas of finance, human resources, food services, transportation, child accounting, athletics, health and special education. The advisory committee will consider whether the data collected has a valuable purpose and identify those data collection requirements that are redundant, overly burdensome or no longer necessary and issue a report of its findings and recommendations on the data identified as such.

On August 31, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education posted the proposed supplement, not supplant rule that was sent to members of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The rule has not been formally published in the Federal Register, however once it is formally published, it will be open for public comment for 60 days.

In response, NSBA issued the following statement:

“The Administration’s proposed ‘supplement, not supplant’ rule ignores the plain language of ESSA and the clear parameters Congress included in the law to provide local school board members and educational leaders with more flexibility in making local funding decisions. The rule could result in unnecessary, increased costs to local school districts and redirect already limited resources that would otherwise benefit students and their schools. The proposed regulation forces local education leaders to focus on complying with federal mandates, and distracts from State and local governance provisions in ESSA. All children should have equal access to an education that maximizes his or her individual potential and NSBA is positioned to help ensure that supplement, not supplant provisions are implemented in a way that best serves and supports America’s 50 million school-aged children.”

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Campaign Committee met last Wednesday to share updates and develop plans for the coming months. The Director of Advancement attended a conference which provided insights on initiating and nurturing a culture of philanthropy that supports your role within the organization. The Philanthropic Advisory

Panel will meet October 6 to discuss two allocations for fall 2016—a \$50,000 donor-designated gift for high school fine arts and \$50,000 for elementary technology from undesignated funds.

The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education will hold their first meeting of the year on September 21, 2016.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Municipal Manger, Keith McGill, to discuss major issues. The ice rink is at the forefront of their agenda with pending problems such as a failing permafrost system. The Commission is looking for funding sources with possibly a bond in early 2017. The Planning Board will hopefully receive the final application for approval for the Pennsylvania Blvd. residential development which will bring new home on line for Municipal and District revenue sources.

Economic Development Council – Mr. Beal reported that the EDC discussed the new Uptown Mt. Lebanon strategic particularly connecting uptown to the “T.” With all the new businesses on Beverly Road, a parking study is being planned. The Denis Theater continues to raise money for the ongoing renovation of the theater.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated August 31, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated August 31 2016, and September 14, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated August 31, 2016, and
- a. List of Unusable Equipment dated September 1, 2016.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the September 8, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised September 15, 2016, and September 19, 2016. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with Phase IV Learning Center to provide an alternative educational option to high school students for the 2016-2017 school year at a cost of \$7,500 per student for the full school year and \$3,750 per semester, for up to three students. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary to vote for the following PSBA officers:

*President Elect:* Michael Faccinetto  
*Vice President:* David Hutchinson  
*PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees:* William LaCoff  
Kathy Swope  
Mark Miller  
Marianne Neel  
Michael Faccinetto

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Remely that the Board accepts the State's approval of PlanCon Part H in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three residents spoke before the Board about the following:

PlanCon H reimbursement  
PSER articles in The Almanac  
Air conditioning in the schools  
Encouraged Board to vote for air conditioning when it comes up for a vote in December  
Supports air conditioning the elementary and middle school buildings  
Encouraged Board to vote for air conditioning when it comes up for a vote in December

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors