

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

March 21, 2016

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

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Howe Elementary School Student Council members Emme Blasingame, Victoria Finizio, Ella Magaw, Ava Nardiello, and Callan Wilcox led the Pledge of Allegiance, and presented a report on their coin drive to benefit The Education Partnership's Student to Student project. Howe students collected \$1,116.15 to purchase school supplies for low income school districts.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Mary Birks, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz  
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent  
Mr. Matthew Hoffman, 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, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on February 8, 2016; the Discussion Meeting held on February 8, 2016; and the Regular Meeting held on February 22, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School students Su Sengupta and Lillie Tuck reported on the events at Mellon Middle School. Student Council sold cookie-grams to students, faculty, and parents to show their love and support for one another. Spirit Day Friday continues with efforts focused on National Heavenly Hat Day as their March service project. For a donation of \$1, students were permitted to wear a hat to school benefiting the Heavenly Hats Foundation which was created by a teenager who wanted to provide hats to cancer patients. Mellon raised \$180 for this worthy cause. The Mellon's hugely successful Cabin Fever program is underway with student council members volunteering their time after school to help teachers with the events. On St. Patrick's Day, shamrocks were hidden around the school for the first annual St. Patty's Day Shamrock Search. Students who found the lucky shamrocks received prizes. Looking ahead, Student Council is spear-heading Spirit Days for the PSSAs. Weather permitting; words of encouragement will be chalked on the sidewalks.

Maura Wallace, Co-Secretary of the high school's Executive Student Council reported on the activities in the high school.

It was just over a year ago that the high school celebrated “Lebo Day” which commemorated the completion of the renovation of the majority of the classrooms and the connection of all of the buildings on the high school campus. Maura reported that the students love the high school and would like to thank the Board and the administration for taking on and completing such a monumental project.

Senior Class Co-Presidents organized a very successful Community Service Week in which 44 students spent 96 hours helping to clean up after a St. Bernard’s fish fry, made lunches that the Red Door organization distributed to the homeless, sorted medical supplies at Global Links, helped at Foster’s Book Fair, and made No Sew blankets for the patients receiving chemotherapy at St. Clair Hospital.

The juniors recently sponsored the second annual dodge ball tournament and it was a successful fundraiser. They plan to visit Southminster Nursery school and assist with the school’s reading program. The sophomores have arranged for the Kona Ice truck to arrive after the Spirit Assembly ends which will hopefully result in a successful fundraiser and a new tradition. They are also working with the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy on setting a date to clean up Bird Park. The freshman class held a very successful fundraiser at Café IO and they will receive a percentage of the sales from every Blue Devil La Leche Blizzard sold at the Dairy Queen on Banksville Road throughout the month of April. They are developing the plans to provide a meal and decorating the halls of the Ronald McDonald house.

Since the beginning of this school year, Director of Technology, Mr. Chris Stengel, has met once a month with all of the Senior Class officers. He has generously loaned each officer with an iPad 2 or a Chrome Book for the entire school year and showed them how to best use the technology in the classroom.

Ms. Wallace encourages the Board and the members of the audience to consider nominating Mt. Lebanon High School alumni for the 2016 Great Alumni award. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15<sup>th</sup> and the nomination form can be downloaded from the School District’s website or by contacting the Student Activities Office.

### BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that 71 seniors were inducted into the Mt. Lebanon High School Chapter of the Cum Laude Society. In 1962, Mt. Lebanon High School was honored to be granted a charter for the establishment of a Cum Laude Chapter in one of eight national districts. At the time, Mt. Lebanon was the tenth public school to be granted a charter. Today Mt. Lebanon is one of only 26 public secondary schools in the United States and the only public high school in Pennsylvania to be granted a charter. This is a remarkable achievement and on behalf of the Board, Mr. Lebowitz congratulated the 71 inductees and their teachers who continue to make us proud.

The board president thanked the various representatives of the District for their work in the extremely successful STEAM K-12 showcase held at the high school earlier in the month. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) is the District and grade-wide program which focuses on these important areas of our curriculum. Of the 1,000 people who attended, a significant number were both parents and children either in our elementary schools or planning to be in the next few years. This kind of enthusiasm about our “cutting edge” program is exactly in line with what the School Board hoped for when we support our teachers and District in implementing this program a few years ago.

A Celebration of Education where the community is welcome to get a firsthand look at the exceptional learning experiences of our students in grades K-12 will be held on Saturday, April 2 in the high school Center Court. A display from each school will be set up and fine arts

performances will be held in the auditorium. This is a great opportunity for the community to visit our new high school.

Mr. Lebowitz reminded the community of the MLFE's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taste of Lebo-Battle of the Appetizers event to be held on April 16 from 2:00-5:00 pm at Clearview Commons. In addition to a sampling of appetizers from several of the local restaurants along Washington Road guests will also be able to enjoy student musical performances scheduled throughout the afternoon. Tickets can be purchased on the MLFE's website at [www.mtlsd.org/mlfe](http://www.mtlsd.org/mlfe).

The board president reported on his visit to Mellon Middle School on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highlights of his visit were the Writing Lab with parent volunteers conference one-on-one with students, Mr. Holliday's 8<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History class utilizing a computer lab to participate in Fantasy Geopolitics, Mrs. Brone's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conceptual Physics class building student-designed windmills for an experiment, and observing the team teachers getting together to collaborate and problem solve with respect to issues related to student performances on both an individual and group level. Mr. Lebowitz thanked Mellon principal, Chris Wolfson and his team for a most enjoyable morning at Mellon.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that since the District only needs to make up one student day for weather this year, the District is applying for an Act 80 day which will result in keeping the last day of school for students as Friday, June 10, 2016. The Department of Education allows school districts to apply for an Act 80 day which counts as a student day and allows our faculty and staff to participate in professional development activities.

For the past several months, the High School has been preparing for re-accreditation from the Middle States Association. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is a nongovernmental, nonprofit, peer-administered organization that provides recognition and accreditation for only those schools that attain and maintain a defined set of high standards. The Middle States self-study and site visit are meant to validate a school's adherence to an identified set of twelve standards or "best practices."

The preparation and submittal of a substantial self-study document and a site visit by a team of evaluators is required. Dr. Steinhauer reported that the visiting team is recommending full accreditation for the high school as evidenced by a glowing oral report issued by the evaluation team last Thursday afternoon at the conclusion of their visitation. An official written report will follow in a few months. The superintendent congratulated High School principal Brian McFeeley and his internal team led by faculty member Patricia Viale for documenting and presenting the Mt. Lebanon High School program so thoroughly and accurately. Thank you also to Board member Mike Riemer for participating on the internal team and for both he and Mary Birks for representing the Board in an interview with the visiting team. Dr. Stabile specifically mentioned that it was rare to have such knowledgeable, informed and engaged school governance members. Near the conclusion of their verbal report to the high school faculty and administration, Middle States visitation team member Rob Campbell stated "You [Mt. Lebanon High School] are a force in education!"

On the evening of Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, almost 2,000 of our district's students, parents, faculty, and administrators showcased, demonstrated, and experienced a sampling of the interesting learning that is occurring in the area of STEAM throughout our schools. The event was organized by high school physics teacher and HS STEM Academy Director Drew Haberberger, Washington Elementary School Principal Mary Kay Davis and Jefferson Middle School Principal Kelly Szeszterniak. Throughout the evening families could participate in hands-on STEAM activities set up in classrooms throughout the high school and view projects representing all of our schools displayed in center court. An unplanned and very positive consequence of the

evening was that it gave many of our younger students and their parents the opportunity to visit the high school and observe the wonderful opportunities that ultimately await them.

Congratulations to the Mellon Art Enrichment students for their First Place Win in the "Most Creative Work" category at the Galleria Junior Art Show on March 12. Over half of our student submissions were nominated in the categories of Best Portrait, Best Still-Life, Most Creative, and General. Mellon Middle School was the only middle school admitted to the art show this year. The students were awarded a \$200 check and big blue ribbon. Congratulations to our students and their teacher, Jennifer Rodriguez on this accomplishment.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee met on March 14 to review policies GE, Nepotism/Supervision and Evaluation of Staff; JIHA, Student Lockers; KFA, Public Conduct on School Property; and the adoption of policy JLCDA, Administering Naxolone. The Board will be taking action on revisions for policies JIHA and KFA, and adoption of policy JLCDA.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that interior spaces are nearly complete with a few punch list items remaining. Exterior brick work where buildings A and B connected is nearly complete, and landscaping work has begun. The contractor is mixing soil from the rock pile and crushed brick to fill the hole in where building C was and will begin to see tennis court work begin.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the Board will vote this evening on a proposal to appraise the Pathfinder School building to find out exactly what it's worth.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that the final audit for Parkway West Career and Technical Center was received. It was an unmodified opinion that there is a pension liability but the school did receive letters of recommendation of items to keep enhancing their efforts. Parkway now has a foundation and there is a golf outing on May 9. The National Technical Honor Society induction will take place on May 9. Two students from Mt. Lebanon will be inducted for 2016—Isabella Hamel and Alexis Smith.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that it is day 264 without a full 2015-2016 budget. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the House and Senate passed House Bill 1801 which was amended to contain a 2015-2016 education budget, and House Bill 1327, a fiscal code bill directing the allocation of the funding. The proposals sent to the governor would finally offer some relief to school districts by, adding \$200 million in education funding (\$150 additional for Basic Education and \$50 additional for Ready to Learn Block grants, pushing all funding over 2014-2015 levels through the Basic Education Funding Commission's BEF formula, and implementing a borrowing program for PlanCon through debt refinancing bonds that would begin reparation of the broken school construction reimbursement system. PSBA is asking everyone to contact the governor and urge swift action to enact the 2015-2016 state budget that provide public school districts with the funding they desperately need.

In NSBA news, The Washington Post reports that two of the three winners of the annual Intel Science Talent Search were girls, as well as 52 percent of the 40 finalists. This proportion of female representation was the highest in the program's 75-year history, and Intel Foundation president Rosalind Hudnell commented on the "progress toward closing the gender gap in technology and engineering." In the debate over whether school spending makes a difference in student achievement, US News & World Report reports that "a growing body of evidence" demonstrates that increased education spending has an "important" impact on "students in low-income schools."

Revenue Generation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that the MLFE’s “Taste of Lebo” will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Restaurants in uptown Mt. Lebanon will be competing for best appetizer. Tickets can be purchased on the MLFE website.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Municipal Manager Keith McGill. Topics included the jaywalking ordinance, the development of the property at Bower Hill and Washington Roads, a replacement to fill the position Mr. McGill held before becoming manager, the property sold at the end of Pennsylvania Blvd for the development of condos, and the new rifle range in Bridgeville.

Economic Development Council – Mr. Beal reported that at the Economic Development Council meeting a representative from the Municipal Parking Department to talk about changes to the municipal garages. Automated cashless pay stations will be installed in the garages and a new online parking permit application system will be added. The EDC approved the 2016 work plan which focuses on new development including the Zamagias property and public space improvements such as a better planter system. A new strategic plan was approved for uptown Mt. Lebanon. The plan will focus on the Parse Way development to better facilitate a connection between the mass transit and business district. Also, businesses need to be truly unique retail outlets with office spaces, not chain stores. Another concern was increase traffic in the Lincoln area with the development of a new restaurant on Beverly Road. Mr. Beal reported that Dr. Steinhauer and Mr. Kitsko will work on those concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated February 29, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated February 29, 2016, and March 15, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated February 29, 2016, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated March 1, 2016.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the March 14, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised March 21, 2016. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Remely that the Board approves revisions to Policy KFA, Public Conduct on School Property, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Remely that the Board approves revisions to Policy JIHA, Student Lockers, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Olbrich that the Board adopts Policy JLCDA, Administering Naloxone, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2016-2017 in the amount of \$2,021,185 with an estimated cost to the District of \$84,730. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for special education services for the 2016-2017 in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Riemer that the Board adopts the *Live Well Allegheny Resolution* in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board awards the Supplemental Internet Access Bid to Comcast in the amount of \$3,470 for three years as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves an agreement with T-Mobile by which their cellular signal will be included in the District's Distributed Antenna Network (DAS) at the High School and Hoover Elementary for 10 years with no cost to the District. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Remely that the Board votes for Joyce A. Snell as a trustee for the Western Region to the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Board for a two-year period beginning March 31, 2016.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the lease fee schedule for 2016-2017 effective July 1, 2016. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Remely that the Board awards Bid No. 16-002, Elevator Maintenance Service, to Kone Elevator in the quarterly billing amount of \$5,730 for year one, \$5,934 for year two, and \$6,144 for year three, as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board awards Bid No. F-16-002 Refuse Removal & Recycling, to Republic Services in the amount of \$76,596 a year for three years as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper that the Board awards Bid No. F-16-003, Dust Control Products & Services, to Cintas in the amount of \$50,983.94 a year for three years as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely that the Board awards Bid No. F-16-001, Ice Melt, to The Salt Factory in the amount of \$6.49/bag for year one, \$6.60/bag for year two, \$6.70/bag for year three, and \$6.90/bag for year four as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board gives permission to commission an appraisal of the Pathfinder education facility that is jointly owned by the South Central Area Special Schools Committee Board with the cost to be divided equally by the five (5) member districts. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the High School Winter Guard trip to Wildwood, NJ, April 27 to May 1, 2016.

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

2016-2017 Budget  
Should be seeding the lawns before May

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lebowitz announced 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 Riemer and seconded by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors