

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

April 18, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Foster Elementary School members Sara Stroh, Ben Mares, P.J. Luke and Chelsea Rattay led the Pledge of Allegiance, and presented videos of students singing "Plant a Tree" in preparation for the Arbor Day Celebration at Foster, and the "Foster School Song."

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 (by phone), 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, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Mr. Robert Freil, Ms. Nicole Giehl, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mrs. Sarah Shaw, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members, Madison Jones and Joey Harrington, reported on the events at Jefferson Middle School. The JMS Pop Tab Wars was a huge success with two charities benefiting from this fundraiser. Two hundred and ten pounds of pop tabs were sent to an organization know as Sewing Hope. This organization's mission is to give hope and dignity back to the young women of Northern Uganda and South Sudan in the aftermath of the civil wars there. The pop tabs are used to make handbags and empowers women to earn a living and have meaningful lives. The 4,400 quarters collected totaling \$1,104.50 were sent to the Mario Lemieux Foundation in honor of a sixth grades student at Jefferson MS battling leukemia.

Wish Week took place in the beginning of April with a variety of wishes fulfilled such as balloons, a musical send off, one lobster tail, and even a student shadow with the principal. The Wish Week Committee worked hard to fulfill 141 wishes this year.

Student Council will be hosting the Thomas Jefferson MS Student Mini-Thon 2016 and will be joining hundreds of schools and the Four Diamonds movement to conquer childhood cancer. The

first Mini-Thon will take place on Friday, May 15 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. The goal for this very worthy endeavor is \$5,000, and the students hope they can add it to their list of successful events that future student councils choose to continue.

High School Student Council representative Claire Dougherty reported on the activities at the high school. Two hundred and eleven people participated in Central Blood Bank the three drives for the school year. Students, teacher, staff members and members of the community have consistently supported this important cause.

Election process for the 2016-2017 class officers is moving along. A "Meet The Candidates Day" was held in Center Court where all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students were invited to talk with the candidates during each of the lunch periods. The 10 candidates were then filmed delivering their campaign speeches, and the speeches will be shown in Social Studies classes during Campaign Week. All 9th, 10th, and 11th graders will have an opportunity to vote for the Senior Class Officers for the 2016-2017 school year on April 18th.

The community is invited to watch a showing of "Napoleon Dynamite" at the Hollywood Theater to support the Class of 2018, and all through the month of April, Dairy Queen is selling a delicious Devil de Leche Blizzard created for a Class of 2019 fundraiser. A percentage of each sale is donated to the class.

The cast and crew members, in the upcoming school musical, are hard at work learning their lines and the songs for "Peter Pan". The boys and girls sports teams are just beginning their section competitions and everyone appears to be doing very well. The members of Odyssey of the Mind, FBLA, Forensics, Science Club, Academic Games, and Model UN are busy with their competitions on the local, regional and national levels.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz announced that the Board will take action this evening on a preliminary final budget of .56 mills while simultaneously utilizing \$750,000 from our Fund balance and cutting expenditures by \$592,000. He stressed that this is a preliminary budget which must be passed to comply with the state requirements including posting on the website for at least 30 days. This is, however, not the final budget. The Board has instructed Dr. Steinhauer and the administration to look very closely at ways in which the increased millage can be reduced. The State Senate and House approved legislation that could result in increased funding to the District of approximately \$344,000 plus receipt of the long-awaited PlanCon money. If both of these things happen, Dr. Steinhauer has indicated that they may well be able to reduce the millage below .56 with any further reductions.

An Agreement of Settlement and Release between the District and the general contractor for the High School project, Nello Construction Company, is included in the agenda for this evening. The motion seeks approval to reimburse Nello for \$205,000 in change orders along with a claim for delay damages in the amount of \$792,500 for a total of \$997,500. While this is a significant sum of money, this settlement is a fraction of what our potential exposure could have been not even including associated legal costs and expert fees. This settlement is in the best interest of the District and enables the District to resolve claims and get necessary assurances to complete the project in a timely manner from both Nello and their subcontractors. Mr. Lebowitz reported that there will no longer be the need to receive a construction update from P. J. Dick. Updates will be given on an "as-needed" basis.

The board president thanked the Mt. Lebanon Education Association for their work in the "Celebration of Education" event held at the High School on April 2nd. This was another example of the excellent relationship which our District has with our teachers and the incredible commitment with each of them has to our students.

The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education's 2nd Annual Taste of Lebo was held on April 16th. Attendees to this event were able to sample appetizers from restaurants along Washington Road and our own Food Services Department. The event was sold out and extremely successful. Mr. Lebowitz thanked Sloane Astorino, MLFE's Executive Director, Dale Ostergaard, current MLFE President, MLFE officers (including Elaine Cappucci) and the many volunteers for their time and effort in enabling MLFE to support teacher-driven projects which provide innovative learning opportunities for our students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Association of School Business Officials International has awarded Mt. Lebanon School District its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for having met or exceeding the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The District was recognized for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2015. This is the District's 31st year earning this recognition. Congratulations to Director of Business, Jan Klein and her staff on this outstanding achievement.

The Mt. Lebanon community has a proud tradition of providing strong support for the Fine and Performing Arts and as result of this commitment, Mt. Lebanon School District has been honored with designation as a 2016 Best Communities for Music Education from the NAMM Foundation. This is the 8th consecutive year the Mt. Lebanon Music program has received this distinction. The superintendent presented certificates to the District's music staff attending the meeting in recognition for a continued job well done. Certificates were presented to Jill Campion, elementary vocal; Diane Sadar, elementary orchestra; Doug Reichenfeld, elementary band; Mariann Fox, elementary vocal music; Christy Friesner, elementary band; Carol Froehlich, elementary vocal music; Katie Greer, elementary vocal music, Allison Harris, elementary strings; Ethanl LaPlaca, middle school vocal music; Pierce Cook, middle school orchestra; Linda Silver, middle school orchestra; Robert Vogel, high school orchestra; and Jason Cheskawich, high school band.

Both Lincoln and Washington Elementary School were recognized as Title I Reward Schools for High Achievement by the U.S. Department of Education. They were two of just 89 schools in the state that earned this distinction. Congratulations to Lincoln Principal, Ron Kitsko and Washington Principal, Mary Kay Davis, their faculty and students on this outstanding academic achievement. High Achievement schools score in the top 5% on the combined PSSA Math and PSSA English Language Arts. As a result of earning the High Achievement status, each school is eligible, and will apply, for a Reward School Grant of up to \$50,000.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Pittsburgh Business Times recently released their 2016 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools. Mt. Lebanon School District is ranked #2 in the region and #5 in the Commonwealth. Since its debut in 2005, the Pittsburgh Business Times has consistently ranked Mt. Lebanon among the top three school districts in the region and in the top seven in the state. In addition, this year each of our individual 10 schools ranked among the top 10% at their perspective grades levels. The superintendent recognized our two outstanding assistant superintendents, Dr. Ron Davis and Dr. Marybeth Irvin, our first-rate team of building principals, our high quality staff and our highly skilled support staff for this accomplishment. Dr. Steinhauer also recognized the Board for their unyielding commitment to our mission to provide the best education possible for each and every student.

Everyone is invited to attend the high school musical *Peter Pan* on May 5-7 in the High School Auditorium. A special matinee performance will take place at 2:00 p.m. on May 7 followed by an opportunity for children to have their photos taken with Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Wendy, the Alligator and the rest of the Neverland Gang.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that a Policy Committee meeting was held on April 11, 2016. The committee reviewed revisions to policies JLCD, Administering Medications to Students, and IJND, Network/Internet Use. The Board will take action tonight on the revisions to Policy JLCD.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the demolition contractor should be done with the work on the removal of building C. The site contractor for the tennis courts will be on site in a few weeks. The masonry work on the old building connector points continues. The landscaping work on the campus continues.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that the Parkway West graduation placement report indicated that three quarters of the graduates move on in the their field of study. Parkway will hold a summer camp for middle school students interested in the school.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the General Assembly passed and sent to Governor Wolf a revised version of House Bill 1589 that amends the Fiscal Code to implement the bi-partisan Basic Education Funding Commission's recommended funding formula for 2015-16 and to provide reimbursement to districts for school construction projects. Senator Reschenthaler and Representative Miller voted for this bill; we would like to thank both of these gentlemen for their support of funding public education. Regarding PlanCon funding, the bill authorizes a \$2.5 billion bond to provide for approved reimbursements to districts for school construction costs. This act shall take effect immediately with provisions retroactive to June 30, 2015, or July 1, 2015.

Mrs. Birks will be attending the upcoming NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington DC in June. There will be workshops focused on ESSA, speakers from Congress, as well as training for advocacy meetings with Pennsylvania members of the House and the Senate.

Revenue Generation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that the Taste of Lebo event brought in \$5,000 to be used towards “Expanding the Boundaries of Learning” grants for teachers. Afamia Mediterranean Grille on Washington Road was the fan favorite of the attendees of the event. Mrs. Cappucci thanked outgoing MLFE president Dale Ostergaard for this dedication to the foundation.

An awareness event will be held in the home of a Capital Campaign cabinet member to focus on Mt. Lebanon alumni.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated March 31, 2016, and April 12, 2016, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2016.

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 Proposed Final Budget in the form presented in the amount of \$95,216,027 at a millage rate of 24.11 mills, a .56 mill increase. The Board approves making this Budget available for public view until the meeting on May 23, 2016 when a Final Budget will be approved with any changes the Board deems necessary. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the April 11, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised April 18, 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 Birks and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy JLCD, Administering Medication to Students, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Remely that the Board approves an agreement with Keystone Oaks Project Succeed Program at a cost of \$15,000 per year for no more than 15 students. (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 Moorhead and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the Agreement of Settlement and Release with Nello Construction Company in the amount of \$997,500. (Copy in official minutes)

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:

Questioned is PSERS percentage based on
Questioned how much PlanCon money the District will receive

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Olbrich to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors