

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

January 18, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 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, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely (by phone), Mr. Michael Riemer, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Kathryn Devine, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Ronald Kitkso, Mr. Jason Ramsey

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 7, 2015, and the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 14, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz thanked the representatives of the PTA for the reception before the meeting in honor of School Board Recognition month. The Board appreciates the working relationship with the PTA and their invaluable contributions to the District.

Today the nation remembers and celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Of his many messages, one which is particularly applicable to District efforts is the need to treat everyone with respect and be inclusive in our day-to-day affairs. With the expansion of the English as a Second Language program in the District, we have more than 100 ESL students, and that diversity of our student body is unlike anything we have ever witnessed. Over 20 languages are spoken by students supported by the AIU's translation services.

The board president reported that the Board will be voting on the 2016-2017 school calendar this evening, which begins on August 29th, has a four-day spring break and ends on June 9th. Mr. Lebowitz thanked the teachers and administrators, in particular Drs. Davis and Irvin, for their much appreciated input in this process.

The Board will also be voting on a preliminary budget for 2016-2017. Without a State Budget from Harrisburg, it is absolutely impossible to know what the final numbers will be. To give the District the maximum flexibility to do what is best for the District, the Board will be voting on a

preliminary budget allowing us to take advantage of all applicable (Act 1) exceptions. The Board will do everything possible to minimize the tax burden on the residents while at the same time ensuring the excellence of our academic and extracurricular programs.

Mr. Lebowitz announced that there are two recipients of the Extra Mile Award, Bonnie Lackner from the Finance Department, and Maria Olivo from Human Resources. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, numerous requirements for reporting to both the IRS as well as employees were imposed on the District. Bonnie and Maria not only had to learn about the details of the law, but also to understand complicated IRS coding and language so that the District would be in compliance. They set up and implemented a tracking system to ensure not only that our nearly 1,000 employees were covered but, also, that the District was in compliance. Because of their home-grown expertise, they became a resource for other school district faced with the same challenges. In recognition of their extraordinary efforts to keep abreast of the law and to ensure ongoing compliance, Mr. Lebowitz presented both Bonnie Lackner and Maria Olivo with the Extra Mile Award.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that January is School Board Recognition month across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is a time to take a brief moment to recognize the significant contributions of the members of our local school board. In Mt. Lebanon, these nine volunteers contribute countless hours in meetings, spend a great deal of time talking to parents, students, teachers, and residents, attend a wide range of school events, research and read about important educational issues, and publicly deliberate regarding all types of important matters. Each brings their unique expertise, perspective, and personal experience to their collective responsibility as school board members. We are fortunate to have community members who bring their expertise, passion, and commitment to their important role on the school board. On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and administrators, Dr. Steinhauer presented a small token of appreciation and a certificate thanking the Board members for all they do.

The superintendent announced that Mary Birks and Dr. Ron Davis will co-facilitate a PSBA Leadership webinar entitled, *G.R.E.A.T. Leadership Needed in Schools*. This is part of a series of PSBA webinars available to all PSBA members that provide opportunities for collaboration and sharing of best practices. Dr. Steinhauer appreciates their efforts to share the Mt. Lebanon story.

On Monday, January 4th we began the New Year with the launch of our new District website. This project, led by Cissy Bowman and Chris Stengel, included a new District main page and the integration of 100s of other pages including the 10 separate school websites. Dr. Steinhauer introduced Cissy Bowman, Director of Communications, to give a brief overview of the new website.

In our ongoing effort to improve delivery of our educational programs, Dr. Marybeth Irvin and Foster Principal Jason Ramsey shared some of the improvements made to our kindergarten registration and orientation process. Information about kindergarten registration can be found on the District website.

BOARD REPORTS

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that C building is down and the contractor is working on removing the steel and debris. The contractor is also working the façade of B building and drywall and electrical has been installed in the 3-B classrooms and finance office.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Dr. Steinhauer reported for Mr. Remely. The proposed 2016-2017 Parkway West Budget is available for review to bring to the board in February

Mt. Lebanon students on the honors list for 1st quarter of 2015-16 are Jose Lopez, Isabell Hamel, Jonathan Kemmler, Benjamin Minett, William Richardson, Joseph Roberto, Alexa Smith, Kaylin Vaughn, and Albert Winschel.

Parkway counselors will begin their meetings with the counselors in the districts who send students to Parkway so they can start making decisions about course selection.

Sports medicine and rehabilitation therapy technology program will begin in 2016 and, the aviation academy, put on by Beaver County Community College, will also be offered in 2016. Students interested in a private pilot license, a commercial pilot license, an unmanned pilot license, air traffic controller or aviation management will have an opportunity to attend those classes.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that is now day 201 in the Pennsylvania budget impasse. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that with the 2016 campaign season opening next week, and all 203 House members who wish to retain their seats up for election, as are 25 of the 50 senators, a vote on raising sales or income taxes becomes less likely with each passing day. This means increased additional funding for public education is also less likely.

On Friday, January 8, PSBA filed a lawsuit in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania seeking an order to compel the continued timely release of federal and state funds owed to school districts across the Commonwealth. PSBA believes that the state is violating Article III, Section 14 of the state constitution, the supremacy clause of the federal constitution, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteen Amendment. The lawsuit also asks to court to award damages to school districts to compensate them for all interest and expenses incurred as a result of school borrowing nearly \$1 billion since the start of the budget impasse.

Mrs. Birks reported on four ways the state associations and local school boards have a role in Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Mrs. Cappucci reported Mt. Lebanon School District Century of Excellence Capital Campaign received a generous gift of \$25,561 from the Coach Lamprinakos Memorial Fund at Mt. Lebanon Community Endowment. The gift memorializes Coach Lamprinakos and also supports the wrestling program's needs.

The MLFE will hold the 2nd Annual *Taste of Lebo* fundraiser on April 16th.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that the met with the new Municipal Manager, Keith McGill, and commended Chief Aaron Lauth for the phenomenal job he has done with the School District. They also discussed the long range plan for the public works and the rifle range. Mr. McGill noted that the new hotel on Washington Road is meeting full occupancy and has increased revenue for the community. The proposal for property at the corner of Bower Hill and Washington includes high end condominiums.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Preliminary Budget

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated December 30, 2015, and January 13, 2016, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2015.

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 Cappucci that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2016-2017 school year.

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 a Preliminary Budget in an amount of \$94,734,968 requiring a millage rate of 24.35 mills in the form presented. The Board further authorizes the administration to apply for exceptions to the Act 1 of 2006 Index as allowable under law. (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 Riemer that the Board approves the January 11, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised January 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 by Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented by the administration. (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 Cooper that the Board authorizes participation in the Western Pennsylvania Electricity Consortium Extension for the purchase of electricity from Direct Energy only if the price is at or below our current price. The extended agreement will begin after the final meter read date in January 2018 under our current agreement for a period of 12 months and the price will include all costs except distribution, sales taxes, and other local utility charges as contained in the original agreement.

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 Cappucci that the Board approves the PlanCon Part I submission 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 approves the Model UN Team trip to Washington DC from March 31 to April 3, 2016.

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 Birks that the Board approves change order GC-122-297 to Nello for \$668 for window sill work. (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 Cappucci that the Board approves the contract with the AIU for Translation Services provided by TransPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation and document translation for non-English speaking students and parents 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 Cooper that the Board approves the Stipulated Adjudication in the form presented.

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:

An item mentioned by the Board at the Discussion Meeting was not included in public information packet
No Wi-Fi service in Board room; Questioned why public denied this service

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Riemer and seconded by Cappucci to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors