

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

February 22, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2016, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Hoover Elementary School students Chloe McConnell, Nolan McGill, Max Baran, and Gracie Petrich led the Pledge of Allegiance, and presented a report and video on the Hoover lunchtime clubs.

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, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Ms. Nicole Giehl, Mr. Brian McFeeley

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on January 11, 2016, and the Regular Meeting held on January 18, 2016.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members Maria O'Matz and Will Serrano reported on the activities at Jefferson Middle School. For one week in January, Student Council sponsored the Hunger Games to end Hunger to benefit the South Hills Interfaith Ministries food bank. Students collected 3,748 pounds of food which was donated to the food bank. Upcoming fundraisers include Pop Tab Wars, Wish Week and a Mini-Thon.

Twenty-six JMS members attended the PASC Spring District 3 Conference at Montour High School. They had the opportunity to listen to a motivational speaker, learned more about PASC, and attended student-led workshops. Eleven JMS students were presenters in five workshops on leadership topics for student council representatives from all over Allegheny County. In addition, JMS was elected for the honor of holding the middle level seat on the District Board for the 2016-2017 school year. This position allows members of the JMS Council to experience the inner workings of PASC.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body officers Claire Dougherty and Eleni Nickolas reported on the events at the High School. The recent Snowball dance, "Under the Northern Lights" was a huge success. Center Court was decorated with snowflakes, giant pine trees and twinkling lights.

The 637 students who bought tickets and attended this event had a great time dancing and being with friends.

The Student Congress election process has begun for 11th graders. Applications are being received from the members of the Class of 2017 who are interested in creating a positive environment for the high school. The election will result in eight new officers for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Eighteen students attended the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils District 3 Spring conference at Montour High School. Mt. Lebanon had two freshmen and two sophomores present workshops and a sophomore on the PASC District 3 Board. All of the students attending joined the audience in congratulating Mt. Lebanon High School teacher, Stu Snodgrass for being selected as the PASC District 3 Advisor of the Year. Mr. Snodgrass has been an advisor for the past ten years, and the seniors who nominated him thought it was a small way for them to show their appreciation for his guidance and support during their four years of high school.

High school senior, Emma Buerger, was selected as Student of the Month by the Mt. Lebanon Sunrise Rotary Club. Her outstanding efforts at fundraising for ALS and pediatric cancer research, being a captain of our varsity swim team, and her high achieving academic achievements makes her a natural selection for the award.

The Link Crew program continues to meet its goals. A very successful event called “Coco and Cram” was organized for an evening prior to first semester finals. On the evening of January 18, freshmen were invited to go to the Library or Center Court where they could study in a relaxed environment and ask for assistance from the upper class students, teachers and staff members in attendance. Ms. Dirda, Mr. Locke, Mrs. Saba and the PTSA provided supervision, hot chocolate and snacks for everyone.

The Central Blood Bank Blood Drive that occurred last month resulted in our faculty and students donating 73 blood products. Another blood drive is scheduled for April 15th.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz began his report with a recap of the board discussion earlier in the month regarding the installation of air conditioning in the elementary and middle school buildings. The main concerns are when will it be done, how it will be done and how will it be paid for. During the renovations of the elementary and middle school buildings, the infrastructure was put in place so that the costs would be reduced when equipment is actually installed. Tonight the Board will discuss when to undertake this project, whether to wait until the high school project is completed or taking the advantage of savings from various bond refinancing to proceed now.

The board president reported that the State Auditor conducted an audit of the District’s Food Service Program and that the program received very high marks from the State. Mr. Lebowitz congratulated the Food Service Department and the Finance Department for their hard work in the successful implementation of the new food service regulations.

Tazeen Chowdhury, the Director of the Food Service Department, was invited by the Pew Charitable Trust to travel to Washington, DC to meet with Pennsylvania’s Congressional Representatives in support of efforts to improve school nutrition. Mrs. Chowdhury will provide an example of how Mt. Lebanon School District is successfully providing students with healthier food options and once again evidencing our District as being an example to others in both Pennsylvania and nationwide.

Mr. Lebowitz reported that he visited Jefferson Middle School and had an opportunity to observe teachers and students in 13 different classrooms across all three grades. One of the exciting events was an 8th grade class participating in a STEM competition with which representatives of 10 different schools were paired with a manufacturing company and visited their particular facility in December. The JMS students won the award for Best Marketing Plan. Mr. Lebowitz also visited a family consumer science class embarking on a “farm to table” project funded by the MLFE and an Alcoa grant. Another family consumer science project involves researching genetically modified organism seeds vs. organic seeds. The board president thanked Principal Szesterniak, the teachers and the awesome students at Jefferson Middle School for his visit.

Mr. Lebowitz announced that Anisha Gupta, an Information Technology Specialist, is this month’s Extra Mile Awardee. Mrs. Gupta provides end-user support to District students, faculty and staff, and has set the standard for customer service since her first day in the District by always going the extra mile with every work order she services. On behalf of the District, the board president presented Mrs. Gupta with the Extra Mile Award.

It’s time to consider nominating an outstanding graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School for the Great Alumni Award. Recipients of this award are selected based on exceptional work in at least one of the following areas: improvement in the lives of others, involvement in community service or achievement in a professional field. Nomination forms can be found on the District website.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dale Ostergaard, former School Board member and the current President of the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education, to make a presentation about the MLFE’s teacher grants and innovative educational programs made available to our students. These programs result from specific requests made by teachers to enhance the learning experience for students in their classrooms. Innovated grants were awarded to the following Mt. Lebanon teachers: Karen Auslander, Howe Elementary, Multimedia Tools; Ro Bergstrasser and Mike Hathy, Mt. Lebanon High School, Wildlife Management; Catherine Jordaan and Chrissa Sullivan, Mellon Middle School, Compost Tumbler; Michelle Kramer, Mt. Lebanon High School, Filming Equipment; Andrew Kuskil, Mt. Lebanon High School, Doodle 2.0 Educational Bundle; Kimberly Robbins, Washington Elementary, *I Survived* series classroom set of books; Julie Snyder, Lincoln Elementary, MakerBot 5th Desktop 3D printer; and Amy Tucker, Foster Elementary, 2 Explore STEM.

The superintendent congratulated the following Mt. Lebanon High School Band members who recently participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 1 Band West; Allen Fry, Luke Lisowski, Reed Ulrey, Juliana Slater, and Alyssa Mule. Luke Lisowski and Reed Ulery successfully audition to participate in Region Band.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Mt. Lebanon High School principal, Brian McFeeley, who presented an overview of the Middle States Accreditation process. Mt. Lebanon High School is preparing for a visit from the Middle States Accreditation team in March.

Mr. McFeeley announced the seniors who have been selected as National Merit Finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition. All ten of our school’s semi-finalists have moved to the finalist round. Mr. McFeeley wished the following students best of luck as they advance through the scholarship competition: Ian Harris, Caroline Horrigan, Joshua Kalapos, Francesca Kavalir, Nancy Lu, Ziqi Meng, Stephen Porter, Madelyn Rice, Erik Sargent, and Jiawen Zhu.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee held a meeting on February 8, 2016, where they reviewed policies BED, Meeting Procedures; BEDL Board Teleconferencing; GE, Nepotism/Supervision and Evaluation of Staff; IMD, Holiday Ceremonies and Observances in Schools; and JKF, Non School Related Drug and Alcohol Violations.

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that work on removing the debris from the demolition of building C continues and the contractor is working on the windows and brickwork where B building was connected to building A. Nello continues working on the punch list.

Pathfinder School - Mr. Cooper reported that he, along with Ken Cross and Sarah Olbrich, visited the Pathfinder School. The school's current enrollment is 68 students with seven from Mt. Lebanon. The Pathfinder board is looking at ways to increase student enrollment to increase revenue. Districts not in the consortium pay a fee to send their students to Pathfinder.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Dr. Steinhauer reported for Mr. Remely. Parkway West CTC has been awarded the Career and Technical Education Award from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This award is given to the school that meets or exceeds 75% of students earning Advanced Level on the Student Occupational Testing Program (NOCTI). Eighty-one (81) percent of PWCTC students scored at the advanced level.

The following Mt. Lebanon students are on the Director's List of Honor Students for the second quarter of 2015-2016: Jose Guardado-Lopez, Jonathan Kemmler, Dominic Moretti, William Richardson, Joseph Roberto, Alexa Smith, Kaylin Vaughn and Albert Winschel. Will Richardson, a masonry student, placed third in the 2015-2016 District Skills USA competition.

Mr. Remely invited all Board members and the community to attend the annual Parkway West Open House on Tuesday, March 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the Senate and House of Representatives are adjourned until March 14 as the Senate and House Appropriations Committees convene hearings on specific components of Governor Wolf's budget proposal. On Tuesday March 8, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will meet separately with the Department of Education.

It is day 236 without a State budget. PSBA recently conducted a survey with districts to determine what impact the delayed budget had on them currently and in the future. For the districts that reported needing to borrow, the impact was wide spread.

This week Governor Wolf presented his 2016-17 state budget address to the General Assembly. The \$33.3 billion budget provides increase for both basic and special education and focuses accountability for school and charter school reform measures. With the beginning of the 2016-2017 state budget season now blended into the unfinished business of 2015-2016, missed and upcoming budget deadlines are woefully evident to school districts that are operating with a combination of the partial "emergency" state funding that was distributed last month.

The problems for districts are compounded by the fact that at the same time they are unsure of what additional funding they will receive for the remainder of the current 2015-2016 school year, they are required to be developing their 2016-2017 budgets between now and June 30.

PSBA has established a study group of stakeholders to provide recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and General Assembly that address four areas of reform opportunities under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that replaces No Child Left

Behind Act. The group will meet early next month and issue a report with its recommendation this spring.

Revenue Generation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that Sloane Astorino met with various committee members during the month. They Committee did not meet as a whole.

MLFE – Mrs. Cappucci reported that she would like the Board to hear how the grant projects awarded by the MLFE develop. The Board always hears about the projects in the beginning but a presentation on how the projects finished would be appreciated.

MLFE did receive EITC money from PJ Dick with a matching gift from Dollar Bank, and work on the *Taste of Lebo* event schedule for April 16 continues.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Chief Aaron Lauth to discuss Alice training, and the table top exercise for administrators on February 23. Mr. Riemer noted that a new rifle range was opened in Bridgeville and he invited board members to tour the facility with him and Rick Marciniak.

Economic Development Council – Mr. Beal reported that the Economic Development Council met on January 29, 2016. Municipal liaison Eric Milliron provided an overview of the 2016 developments which include but are not limited to an extremely detailed strategic plan for the uptown business district, facilitating the development of the property at Bower Hill and Washington Roads, and the restaurant and organic market in the Beverly Road business district.

Commissioner John Bendel stated that the commission's focus in 2016 will be on business retention, traffic calming, parking, and road construction. Another focus is on integrating the light rail system with the central business district.

Mr. Beal asked Mr. Milliron if he would be willing to talk to high school students about economic development and entrepreneurship. Mr. Milliron is very open to the opportunity to speak to our students.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Commented that there was no discussion on the 62 items of the Capital Projects list
- Would like to see more discussion in the future regarding Capital Project items
- Questioned what does the air conditioning operating costs do to the District operating budget

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2016,
- b. List of Bills dated January 29, 2016, and February 17, 2016,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated January 31, 2016,
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2016, and
- e. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100.

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 Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2016-2017 construction season as per the list dated January 7, 2016, in the amount of \$807,802. (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 Olbrich that the Board approves the February 8, 2016, list of personnel changes as revised February 22, 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 Birks and seconded by Cooper that Board approves revisions to Policy BEDL, Board Teleconferencing, in the form presented, and moved by Birks and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves revisions to Policy JKF, Non School Related Drug and Alcohol Violations, in the form presented. (Copies 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 Riemer that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center General Budget for 2016-2017 in the amount of \$5,919,322 with an estimated cost to the District of \$257,736.65, and the Jointure Budget in the amount of \$476,534 with Mt. Lebanon's share being \$80,031.20. (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 Riemer that the Board approves the agreement for a one-year extension with AIU3 Allegheny Connect Regional Wide Area Network in the form presented.

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 to amend the previous motion to read that the Board approves a **five-year** extension with AIU3 Allegheny Connect Regional Wide Area Network 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 Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the licensing agreement with Dick's Sporting Goods 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 Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves Boys' Lacrosse team trip to Reading, PA from April 1 to April 2, 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 Cappucci the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. GC-123-298 to Nello for -\$11,259 credit for work done by other contractors
- b. PL-38-299 to Vrabel for \$3,899 for storm piping and vent line

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 accepts the State's approval of PlanCon Part K 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 Olbrich 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 Settlement Agreement and Release in the form presented.

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 Stipulated Agreement in the form presented.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Questioned what STEM means
Questioned what does \$15,000 cost for air conditioning represent
Disgraceful what the State is doing; still collecting sales and income tax and denying school districts monies
Questioned if the costs on the Capital Projects list would be reduced during the year
Air conditioning projects should be done after the high school project is completed
Capital Project reserves

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors