

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

December 14, 2015

A Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:37 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Markham Elementary students Asha Bella Hunt, Megan Zimmerman, Mark Gardner, Josh London, Lily Bosch, Marina Kontos, Maggie McCormick, Sean O'Reilly, Molly Kubit, Scarlett Prendergast, William Tinnemeyer, Myer Markowitz, Amanda Green, Tyler Smith, and Trenton Wood. The students presented a report on the Markham Elementary School mission and what it means to be an effective communicator, a productive worker, a resourceful thinker, and inspired lifelong worker, and a respectful, responsible citizen.

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
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman; Dr. Ronald Davis; Ms. Katie Devine; Dr. Marybeth Irvin; Ms. Janice Klein; Mr. Rick Marciniak; Mr. Christopher Stengel; Dr. Robert Freil, Mr. Brian McFeeley; Mr. Chris Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the minutes of the the Policy Committee held on November 4, 2015; the Discussion Meeting held on November 9, 2015; and the Regular Meeting held on November 16, 2015.

MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH BEAL AND OLBRICH ABSTAINING

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members Meghan Maselko and Alexa Herbay reported on the activities at Mellon. A school-wide service project for Operation Troop Appreciation was held to collect food, supplies and homemade cards for our troops. Council was able to fill 25 boxes with supplies. Donations were collected for the Community Food Bank to help families in need during Thanksgiving. Students collected enough money to help the food bank provide approximately 1,000 Thanksgiving meals. Planning is underway for the Pennies for Patients program for Lymphoma and Leukemia.

Students and staff will be asked to dress up with their favorite holiday hats, holiday characters, ugly sweaters and holiday pajamas for the 3rd annual Spirit Sparkle Week. Homerooms will also be decorating their doors for a door decorating contest.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co-Treasurer Sara Niederberger reported on the activities at the High School. Throughout the month of November, the Class of 2017 collected non-perishable food items from students, administrators, faculty and staff to donate to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Members of the National Honor Society are organizing the annual Toys for Tots and Teens. Each homeroom plans on purchasing the gift requests of teenagers and young adults who are in treatment with or being supervised by FamilyLinks. Eighty-three homerooms will participate and 225 gifts will be purchased.

Class of 2016 Holiday Show took place on December 10 and was the best one to date. It was the 37th production and the level of talent within the student body was amazing. The senior class is proud to continue the tradition of donating the proceeds from the show to various charities. The Senior Executive Student Council selected to support Book 'Em, which is a program that mails books to prisoners, the Imani Christian Academy, Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education, the High School Principal's Award, and the Georgia Pogue scholarships.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz welcomed new board members Hugh Beal and Sarah Olbrich, and thanked the Board for selecting him to serve as president for another year.

The board president announced the following 2016 committee/representative assignments: *Policy Committee*, William Moorhead (Chair) and Sarah Olbrich; *High School Renovation*, Elaine Cappucci and Daniel Remely; *Board Development*, Mary Birks; *Pathfinder Representative*, William Cooper; *Parkway West CTC Representative*, Daniel Remely; *SHASDA Representative*, William Cooper and Mary Birks (alternate); *MLFE Representative*, Elaine Cappucci; *Municipal Liaison*, Michael Riemer; *Revenue Generation*, Elaine Cappucci; *PSBA/NSBA Liaison*, Mary Birks; and *Economic Development Council*, Hugh Beal.

Mr. Lebowitz encourages the community to nominate a district employee who has gone above and beyond for an Extra Mile Award. Nominations can be sent to Mr. Lebowitz at llebowitz@mtlsd.net.

The board presented commented that 2015 was a banner year for Mt. Lebanon School District and is looking for new challenges in 2016.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Mrs. Birks who presented an engraved gavel to Mr. Lebowitz in recognition for his year as the Board President.

The superintendent presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Cappucci on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for her eight years of service on the Mt. Lebanon School Board. This recognition is to thank Mrs. Cappucci for the contributions she has made on behalf of the students and community of Mt. Lebanon, and public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the members of the Mt. Lebanon High School Science Bowl. On November 7, the team took 2nd place at the Robert Morris University Science Bowl where schools competed against each other, answered timed science questions, in a Jeopardy-like setting. The team is coached by biology teacher Pam Harris. Mr. Lebowitz presented Certificates of Achievement to the following students: Amanda Zhu, Namandeep Singh, Jimmy Routh, Jenny Yu, Sam Jayachandran, James Wang, Hannah Ishizaki, Kate McCourt, and Katie Lin. Congratulations to the students and Mrs. Harris on this outstanding achievement.

BOARD REPORTS

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that demolition continues on the old C building. All interior new and renovated spaces, with the exception of the connecting rooms from the old “A” and “C” buildings, are complete with final punch-list items remaining.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that a new aeronautical program at the Community College of Beaver County will be available for the Parkway students. Students will be trained in airplane mechanics and air traffic controlling.

PSBA– Mrs. Birks reported that is has been 166 days without a state budget. School districts across the state have borrowed almost \$900 million since July 1 to fund operations since the state budget impasse began. Many social services agencies that rely on state funding have also been forced to borrow money to keep their doors open. Several school districts have announced that they are considering remaining closed after the holiday break if the state has still not passed a budget by them.

The Senate passed House Bill 530 amending the School Code language making various provisions related to a new state budget. Included are provisions for basic and special education funding, charter school reform, delay in Keystone Exams, reimbursement for school construction and a pilot program for academically struggling schools in Philadelphia. Representative Dan Miller is keeping the District informed of any progress as well as broken deals. He continues to fight for the school districts in his district.

NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act which will “curtail the federal government’s role” in K-12 education and allow states to set their own standards. This action “reversed the administration’s previous course on federal education policy.” The new law has been called “a turnaround from 14 years of federally directed education policy that began with the No Child Left Behind Act.”

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that a legal update and the impact on public schools was presented by a representative from Tucker Arensberg at the last SHASDA meeting. The main topic was how to handle transgender students. The courts are unclear on what to do as are school districts.

REVENUE GENERATION – Mrs. Cappucci reported that Sloane Astorino, Director of Advancement, has been meeting with each committee.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the following items: Monthly treasurer’s report; monthly list of bills; list of tax refunds; sale of unusable equipment; 2016-2017 preliminary budget preparation; monthly personnel report; independent contractor agreement with Margaret Schmidt; health aides license allowance; approval of 2016-2017 school calendar; approval of attendance and expenses for Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops; AIU Joint Purchasing Board agreement; distributed antenna system change order with Vision Technologies; student trips to Orlando, FL and University of Delaware; Farfield settlement agreement; PlanCon K submission; and change orders for the high school project.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated November 30, 2015,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 30 and December 9, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2015, and

d. List of Unusable Equipment for sale dated December 1, 2015.

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 Cappucci that the Board approves preparation of a Preliminary Budget for 2016-2017 for public view in December of 2015 and announces its intent to approve such budget at its January 18, 2016, Board meeting with such revisions as it deems necessary.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded b Remely that the Board approves the December 14, 2015 list of personnel changes. (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 Birks that the Board approves the contract with Margaret M. Schmidt 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 Cappucci that the Board approves an annual license allowance for Health Aides for RN or LPN as per the attached list. (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 Cooper that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 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 the membership in the AIU Joint Purchasing Board for 2016 as per the attached resolution designating Richard Marciniak as the regular member and Jan Klein as the alternate member. (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 Riemer that the Board approves the requested change order to Vision Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$67,511.79 to install Corning Mobile Access HX remotes necessary to connect the fiber optic cable to Hoover Elementary School. (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 Riemer that the following student trips:
a. High School Boys' Basketball Team to Orlando, FL, December 27-31, 2015, and
b. Model UN Team to the University of Delaware, February 26-28, 2016.

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 approves the settlement agreement with Farfield Company 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 Remely that the Board approves submission of PlanCon Part K for the 2015 General Obligation Bonds 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 Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project: (Copy in official minutes)

- a. GC-121-296 to Nello for \$14,168 for building revisions, and
- b. IN-14-16 to Vrabel for \$3,472 for sanitary backup repairs.

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:

- School calendar; some holiday dates could be eliminated
- Change order resolution from November
- Opposes early start date for 2016-2017 calendar
- Farfield agreement
- Inquired if a meat cutting program could be added to the Parkway West curriculum
- Enjoyed high school staff video shown at the HS Holiday Show
- Holiday Percussion Concert

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 Cooper and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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