

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

November 16, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jefferson Elementary 3rd grade students Franco Busalacchi, Marissa Richards, Lily Quisenberry, Charlie Roska, Cara Lotter, David Shields, Maddox Yost, Gavin Wine, Genevieve Palumbo, Annie Casturo, Anabella Phelps, Kate Yang, and Cole Miller. The students reported on the teleconference hosted by Newbury winner Kate DiCamillo to over 260 schools in the United States and Hong Kong, and performed a song they wrote about Ms. DiCamillo's character, Mercy Watson.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mr. Daniel Remely, 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, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Dr. Robert Freil, Ms. Nicole Giehll, Mr. Ronald Kitkso, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Ms. Sarah Shaw, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, and Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on October 7, 2015, Discussion Meeting held on October 12, 2015, and the Regular Meeting held on October 19, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members Emma Chothani and Luke Sachse presented a report on the activities at Jefferson Middle School. There are a total of 77 motivated middle school students on the JMS Student Council with the following committees: Random Acts of Kindness, Birthday Project, School Morale, Wish Week and Advertising/Theme Friday. Each committee is lead by a least on Executive Board Chair and two seventh grade assistant co-chairs. The hope is that by having the seventh grades co-chair, they will be experienced and confident enough to take over as Committee Chairs next year.

JMS students held several fundraisers in the month of September. A Wear a Hat for Cancer day was held to support Children's Hospital in their efforts to fight childhood cancer. Students paid \$1 to wear a hat on Fridays and raised \$248 for Children's Hospital. A former JMS Student attending Penn State reached out to JMS to help with the annual THON campaign to fight pediatric cancer. A jean day was sponsored for teachers to help and \$111 was collected for THON. Student Council sponsored activities centered on Red Ribbon Week—a special week to remind students and the community to stay away from drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Student Council Executive Board had the opportunity to attend the PASC state conference in Harrisburg. Over the course of the weekend, students heard from keynote speakers, participated in student-led workshops, attended a banquet, and also went to a dance with students from student councils all over the state. From this experience, the executive board feels they have better leadership skills and more experience to bring to the JMS council. Many ideas were shared at the conference that they hope to implement in the school. Upcoming events include a Hunger Games to End Hunger drive. Non-perishable food items will be collected for SHIM to replenish the food bank's shelves after Thanksgiving.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co-President reported on the activities at the High School. The hugely successful Pink Out fundraiser came to a conclusion on October 30th. Annie McGonigle, Marigrace Moses, Corinne, Repcheck, Fabi Shipley and Sarah Winters co-chaired the Pink Out by selling pink merchandise throughout the School District and helped Mrs. Smith with the collection of \$750 so that the high school teachers could participate in the Fall Spirit Assembly musical chairs game. An additional collection of \$1,000 from the student body resulted in Mr. McFeeley receiving a pie to his face at the assembly. The money collected will be split between St. Clair Hospital Foundation's Breast Care Center and the Young Women's Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The traditional Halloween door decorating contest was held during the last week of October. The scary door theme winners were Mrs. Silver's freshman homeroom with "Little Shop of Horrors" monster, and Ms. Marnik's junior homeroom's portrayal of "The Ring." Also in October, the Link Crew leaders went into the freshmen homerooms during an extended homeroom period to teach them about the high school's resources and to encourage them to develop a partnership with their classmates and the adults in the school. The Link Crew is planning social and community service events for the upcoming months. The Evening and Technical Theater companies presented "Fantastic Mr. Fox and James and the Giant Peach" last week. It was a fabulous performance and we congratulate the student cast and crew and the faculty members who worked so hard on this production.

Currently, the Class of 2017 is conducting a canned food drive throughout the month of November. This Student Council group has challenged every homeroom to bring in a total of 21 canned goods. All donations will be sent to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Community members can contribute also by dropping off food donations at the B-9 entrance to the high school.

On Wednesday, November 11, students recognized the seven military veterans who work on the high school campus. During Veterans Day, staff members and employees who have family members currently serving in the military wore flag pins and corsages to honor their loved one's service to our country.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz summarized how the current budget discussions in Harrisburg could impact Mt. Lebanon School District. A proposal has been made to help break the stalemate which would require all School Districts in Pennsylvania to place a referendum question on the ballot for any and all property tax increases. This proposal would amend Act 1 of 2006 by eliminating the index and the very limited exceptions for School Boards to raise taxes for, among other things, ongoing pension obligations, special education and school construction. Mr. Lebowitz and Dr. Steinhauer wrote a letter to the Governor and State legislators to let them know how important this issue is and why getting rid of the Act 1 exceptions is a terrible idea that will hurt our District and children for years to come.

The board president congratulated the many district students who have represented Mt. Lebanon so well in the fine arts, performing arts and athletics over the past three months. We have already enjoyed the Fine Arts String Festival, the High School Marching Band Festival, the High School Chorus Concert, the Mt. Lebanon High School Band in Review Concert as well as the Theatre Company Production of "Fantastic Mr. Fox" and "James and the Giant Peach." Upcoming concerts include the High School Band Concert, the High School Orchestra Concert, the High School Holiday Show and finally, the High School Percussion Ensemble.

Our high school sports teams have represented our school and community as well. Boys and girls cross country, football, boys' golf, girls' soccer and girls' tennis had excellent years. The Board congratulates and thanks each and every one of our students, teachers and coaches for a great fall season.

Mr. Lebowitz thanked the two outgoing board members, Ed Kubit and Dale Ostergaard, for their years of dedicated service and hard work on the Board. Mr. Ostergaard returned to the Board earlier in the year to fill a vacancy, and once again contributed his time and many talents to the Board over the past 10 months. Mr. Kubit has completed eight years of exemplary and honorable service to the students and community. He always focused on doing the best for the children of Mt. Lebanon. As a token of the Board's appreciation, Mr. Lebowitz presented gifts to the departing Board members.

The Thanksgiving holiday is an appropriate time to look back on the past year and be thankful for what has been accomplished and the people that enabled us to do so. Mr. Lebowitz thanked his fellow Board members, the administrators, teachers and students for a wonderful year in Mt. Lebanon School District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer congratulated High School swim team members Hannah Bumgarner, Emma Buerger, Maggie Baker, and Taylor Bloch for organizing and managing the second Swim-a-thon held on October 23. Over 80 students took part and swam from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to raise \$11,500 for the Samuel J. Foundation to help pediatric cancer patients. Certificates of Achievement were presented to the students for this outstanding project.

The superintendent announced that Emma Buerger was chosen for the KDKA Extra Effort Award. This award is presented to a student who excels not only in the classroom, but in athletics and in the community. Emma maintains a 4.0 average in her classes and has been a WPIAL qualifier every year. Emma served as Vice President of Student Council in 9th and 11th grades, she is a student council member this year, a Link Leader and teaches swim lessons as well. She also

co-founded a swim-a-thon that raised \$8,000 for ALS last year and was part of the team for this year's event to support childhood cancer.

Mt. Lebanon High School was ranked the # 1 High School in Pennsylvania by StartClass.com, an education research website that provides students, parents, and educators with information to confidently research education options. The top ranking was compiled from 2013-2014 data by the National Center for Educational Statistics. StartClass evaluated 3,291 schools in Pennsylvania on several factors including college entrance exam scores, state assessment scores, and class size to determine a Smart Rating for each. Mt Lebanon Senior High School received a rating of 100, indicating that it is a top public school in Pennsylvania and the only public high school to receive a score of 100. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated High School Principal, Brian McFeeley, for this outstanding achievement.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dr. Ron Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction, and Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction who presented the 2015-2016 Student Outcomes Report. The report shows that by all objective measures of student achievement, Mt. Lebanon students continue to achieve among the best, if not the best, students in the Commonwealth. The report represents the tremendous work that our administrators and teachers do every day. Specifically, the information points to the academic leadership of Dr. Davis and Dr. Irvin and our building principals. All, in their respective roles, have the responsibility operate a high quality educational program that this community has come to expect.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Policy Committee met on November 4th to review policies GBEE, Student Communications; BDA, Board Organizational Meeting; DFE, Athletic and Fine Arts Receipts; and JJJ, Participation in District Activities by Resident Students Enrolled in Other Schools. There were no legal or practical reasons to revise any the policies, and it will noted that the policies were reviewed.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the asbestos contractor will return to begin removing the remaining precast concrete from old C building. Demolition is continuing to remove the debris the site around C building. Masonry work is continuing on the west wall of B building in preparation to install windows.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that Dr. Linda Hippert and Nancy Sullivan from the AIU attended the last Pathfinder Board meeting. Dr. Hippert indicated that there is a budget deficit in the special education and it is costly for the AIU to provide services at Pathfinder, Sunrise and Mon Valley Schools. There are no plans to change the programs at the schools. Dr. Hippert is asking School Boards to help with ideas to fund special education.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that the Parkway Board is looking in grants to help pay for the dual enrolled students at Rosedale and CCBC.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that Representative Dan Miller continues to work on behalf of the District, and he opposes the back end referendum. Mrs. Birks and Mr. Remely are meeting with newly elected Senator Reschenthaler regarding the budget.

Capital Campaign/MLFE – Mr. Ostergaard reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education received 10 grant applications for the fall grant program. Sloane Astorino, the new Director of Advancement, began work on November 9th.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Commissioner Kelly Fraasch to discuss the huge success of the drug drop off box, the search for Municipal Manager, the delay of the rifle range renovation at the municipality, and the F-1 visa program at the high school. He also met with Chief Aaron Lauth. Their talk included topics such as support of the rifle team using the rifle range at the public works, the problem with parents who provide alcohol in a “safe house”, crime prevention programs in the schools, ALICE program, and social profile program presented to 8th graders.

Mrs. Cappucci made a plea for volunteers for the Teen Center program to keep it open and running. It is a valuable asset to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated October 30, 2015, and November 11, 2015, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2015.

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Birks that the Board accepts and approves the Single Audit for the year ending June 30, 2015 as audited by Maher Duessel, CPAs. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the November 9, 2015, list of personnel changes, as revised November 16, 2015. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board does hereby adopt the 2016-2017 graduation requirements, course offerings and course options for Mt. Lebanon High School as presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the agreement with EduLink, Inc. in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the PlanCon Part I submissions in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. High School Marching Band to Myrtle Beach, SC from April 14 to April 17, 2016,
- b. Mellon Middle School 8th grade Social Studies Class to Washington, DC from May 5 to May 6, 2016, and
- c. Jefferson Middle School 8th grade Social Studies Class to Washington, DC from May 5 to May 6, 2016.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely that the Board approves change order GC-120-295 to Nello for sitework for the High School Renovation Project. (Copy in official minutes)

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questioned amount of change order
- Concerned about the repaving of Cochran Road by the State; suggested work be done when school is out
- Commented more adults are using the high school pool

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Kubit to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors