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

May 20, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2013, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hoover Elementary students Anderson Bareford, Talia Garafoli, and Maddie Callandar. The students presented a video on the three words that show how special Hoover is to them.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr.

Edward Kubit, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mrs.

Josephine Posti, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci

Absent: None

<u>ATTENDING</u>: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent

Thomas Peterson, Solicitor

Administrative Staff: Dr. Deborah Allen, Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Carl Salemi, Mr. Stephen

Scheurer, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on April 2, 2013; the Budget Forum held on April 2, 2013; the Discussion Meeting held on April 8, 2013; and the Regular Meeting held on April 15, 2013.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School students Kay Casturo and Alyssa Mule reported on the activities at Jefferson Middle School. Jefferson MS students raised funds to purchase water purifying systems for Mission Kenyon to be delivered by a local Mt. Lebanon organization.

Sixth grade students attended the PASC Leadership conference at Chartiers Valley and five students will be attending the summer conference in Grove City.

High School student body officers, Erin Worden and Natalie Kindler, reported on the high school activities. The new student body officers for the 2013-2014 school year were inducted. Teacher and staff appreciation activities took place the second week of May to recognize what they do each and every day for the students. The Junior class is conducting a collection of necessities for children in Treatment Foster Care. All of the homerooms are contributing bedding, towels, toiletries and tote bags to the Pressley Ridge organization which supervises foster children.

The Model UN team recently won first place at the Westminster College tournament. This achievement adds to the team's earlier first place winnings at tournaments held at the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, and Johns Hopkins University. Five members of the Forensics team will be advancing to the National competition in Birmingham, AL in June. The boys' lacrosse team is playing Peters High School in a semi-final match, and the girls' lacrosse team will be

playing Shady Side Academy in a semi-final match. Thirty-two members of the track teams will be competing in the States track completion this week.

Senior activities include the 53rd Senior Reception on May 22, senior prom on May 28, the Senior Class Picnic on June 4 and Commencement on June 5.

All of the Senior Class officers have appreciated the opportunity to speak at the School Board meeting and are glad the tradition will continue next year.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci announced the four faculty members responsible for this year's fantastic musical, *Suessical*, are the recipients of the Extra Mile Award. The Extra Mile Award is about going above and beyond one's job on behalf of the students. Carol Froehlich, CeCe Kapron, Greg Kuhar and Bob Vogel gave more than what was expected to make sure that each and every student who was involved in the musical learned, grew and had a good experience in the production. Students shared how the teachers modeled hard work and dedication, and transferred those values to our students. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Cappucci thanked Mrs. Froehlich, Mrs. Kapron, Mr, Kuhar and Mr. Vogel for the work they do every day and the extra work they do to enhance our students' education.

The board president spoke about the final budget and the new County assessments. The Board is responsible for the budget and associated tax increases due to the budget, but has no control over assessments and changes in property taxes due to the assessments. Mrs. Cappucci spoke about the confusion about the changing of the millage rate, the millage rate increase that the Board may assess to balance the budget, and the change in property taxes due to the new assessed value. To summarize, this year's tax rate for individual property owners will be influenced by the county assessment and the local school and municipal millage rates. The School District budget, to be acted on at this meeting, includes a 1.9% increase in real estate taxes over last year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized the work and careers of 17 of our finest teachers and staff. This year there are nine teachers and 8 support staff retiring representing 386 years of expertise and experience in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Certificates of Achievement were presented to the following retirees: Jon Batchelor, Janice Billotte, Joyce Buettner, James Garland, Richard Lippert, John Tupta, Leonard Dilling, Mary Watkins, Peg Churton, Cheryl Spelar, Kathy Woodruff, Lois Anderson, Timothy Kintigh, George Korbelic, Brad May, Patricia Shipe, and Karol Stevenson. Dr. Steinhauer thanked each of them for their dedication to Mt. Lebanon students and their service to the District.

The superintendent reported that Mt. Lebanon High School was ranked 11th in the state and 510th nationally in their Best High School rankings of the top high schools for 2013 by *US News and World Report*. The high school is also the 2nd highest ranked high school in Western Pennsylvania. *Newsweek* magazine placed Mt. Lebanon High School on the list of America's Best High Schools in 2013, ranking 346 out of the top 2,000 high schools in the nation. The ranking is based on those high schools that have proven to be the most effective in turning out college-ready graduates. Congratulations to high school principal, Brian McFeeley, the faculty and students of Mt. Lebanon High School.

The Mt. Lebanon Marching Band will perform in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27 starting on Brookline Boulevard in Brookline and ending at the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Class of 2013 commencement ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school stadium. This will be the 99th Mt. Lebanon High School Commencement. The ceremony will be streamed live on our website and broadcast live on Channel 19. The last day of school is set for June 6th.

BOARD REPORTS

<u>Policy Committee</u> – Mrs. Birks reported that the Policy Committee met on May 7 to review policies GBGB/JICI, Possession of Weapons, and KK, Visitors to the Schools. Both policies still hold up, however, with policy GBGB/JICI, the definition of a weapon is as comprehensive as any in Allegheny County at this time. For KK, a point was made to ask the administration if there was appropriate signage in place at all schools as the District proceeds with improved safety measures. The Committee was assured that was the case.

The Committee also reviewed policies, JICFA, Hazing, and JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students. These policies will require another review at the next Policy Committee meeting.

<u>High School Renovation</u> – Mrs. Cappucci reported that the high school renovation project is proceeding as scheduled. The brickwork is being done on the project and the 6^{th} floor renovation is moving forward and will be open the beginning of the upcoming school year.

<u>Board Development</u> – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Board will be involved in a self-assessment provided by PSBA and will be reviewed at a retreat during the summer.

<u>Pathfinder School</u> – Mr. Kubit reported that the graduation ceremony for students from Pathfinder School will be held on May 31 with eight students graduating.

<u>Parkway West Career and Technical School</u> – Mr. Remely reported that the 2013-2014 budget was passed by the 11 participating school districts. The following students from Mt. Lebanon High School were on the honor roll at Parkway: Josh Foster, Katlin Kindler, Torri Panzino, and Frederick Sikes. Mr. Remely reported that 87% of the students at Parkway passed the NOCTI (National Occupational Competence Testing Institute) exam. This is an outstanding result. Marty Davis, from Quaker Valley, placed 1st in the Firefighting Skills USA competition held in April. He will be competing in Kansas City in June against the best in the nation.

Mr. Remely reported that the school is closing in on the CCAC collaborative that is offering courses in several medical programs, electrical and electronics programs, and energy efficiency and energy control programs. The course will be offered between CCAC and Parkway, in school and online. Parkway will be providing coaches to help students succeed. Students can earn a one year certificate toward an Associate Degree at CCAC

<u>PSBA/NSBA</u> – Mrs. Birks reminded the community to vote on Tuesday, May 21. Governor Corbett announced that Ronald Tomalis will leave his post as Secretary of Education on May 31 to become Special Advisor to the Governor on Higher Education. The Governor has nominated Dr. William Harner, superintendent of the Cumberland Valley School District as the new Secretary of Education.

House of Representatives Chairman Bill Adolph reported that the House majority is planning to introduce a budget bill May 28, schedule it for action in the House Appropriations Committee June 3, and have the House floor debate beginning June 10. Chairman Adolph said due to the revenue picture the House budget bill would not increase spending beyond the \$28.4 billion figure proposed by Governor Corbett. Adolph also indicated the House budget bill would not include pension savings because he will not base a budget bill on any revenue calculations from

legislation that has not yet been enacted. The General Assembly and Governor must approve a budget by June 30.

The House of Representative unanimously adopted HR 139 which directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, in consultation with stakeholders, experts and parents of gifted students, to conduct a comprehensive study of the status of special education for gifted students in the Commonwealth. The committee must report its finding to the House Education Committee no later than six months after the adoption of the resolution.

The House State Government Committee approved HB1020 which removes the ability of candidates to cross-file nomination. The bill was amended to clarify that the elimination of cross-filing for school board candidates applies to all elections. The House Health Committee approved HR243 which directs the Joint State Government Commission to study the issue of childhood obesity, to establish an advisory committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the issue, to propose strategies for healthier eating and physical activity for children and to report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved SB34, which amends the Professional Educator Discipline Act, including but not limited to expanding the jurisdiction of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission to include educators holding Private Academic School certification and educators working for independent contractors in public schools. It also expands the bases for discipline to include founded and indicated reports of child abuse as well as "grooming" behaviors such as sending a student sexually explicit text messages; requires an educator arrested or indicted for or convicted of certain enumerated crimes to report the indictment, arrest or conviction to the employing school entity within 72 hours; and eliminates the current statute of limitations for the filing of misconduct complaints. The Senate also approved SB46 which requires an employment history review for all prospective school employees as it relates to any investigation concerning sexual misconduct.

The Senate and House Education Committees held separate hearings to discuss the Common Core academic standards that the State Board of Education adopted in 2010 which are to be finalized under the proposed Chapter 4 regulations that were approved by the State Board in March. The hearings conducted last week focused on the implementation of Common Core standards and included comments from the Department of Education as well as supporters and opponents of the new standards and assessment requirements. Supporters urged continuation of the implementation of the standards that began three years ago.

<u>MLFE</u> – Mr. Ostergaard reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education approved three teacher grants for the coming year: a Green Screen used in making movies at Hoover, Chrome books at Mellon, and robotics kits for the high school technology program. The Foundation submitted an application and received approval to be able to accept EITC funds for the STEAM program at the high school.

<u>Revenue Generation</u> – Mr. Lebowitz reported that candidates for the campaign manager position will be interviewed this week. A candidate will be presented to the Board for final approval in June.

<u>Environmental Sustainability Board</u> – Mr. Goldman thanked all who were involved in organizing the Earth Day celebration. For the past several years, there has been one student representative on the Board. A decision was made to appoint six student representatives to the Environmental Sustainability Board. Additionally, there was a report on the Climate Action Plan and the Commission's "pay as you throw" program.

<u>Municipal Liaison</u> – Mrs. Posti reported that she was able to tag along on a tour the high school renovation project with Chief McDonough, Chief Sohyda, Steve Feller and Keith McGill from the Municipality that Dr. Steinhauer and Mr. Marciniak hosted.

Mrs. Posti gave an update on the Drug Task Force. The committee spent time looking at resources that are available in the community and what the District does in terms of a comprehensive K-12 drug education for students. The group is focusing their efforts on developing a public education campaign on prescription drug abuse. This is an area that was identified as having little awareness among the general public. The Task Force is looking to launch this initiative towards the end of the summer.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

High school project change orders 2013-2014 Budget and millage rates

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves, and attaches to the minutes, the formal Budget Resolution which establishes the Final Budget for the 2013-2014 School Year in the amount of \$83,164,503. The Resolution calls for the continuation of the Real Estate Transfer Tax, the Earned Income Tax, and the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax, all of which are collected by the Municipality, Tax Collection Agency or the County, and a portion of which is allocated to the School District. The real estate millage is set at 22.61 mills, or \$2.261 on each \$100 of assessed valuation. Of this amount, 13.61 mills is allocated to salaries and increments of staff, 3.98 mills is allocated to debt service, and 5.02 mills is allocated to general purposes. A homestead exemption for eligible property owners in the amount of \$8,081 per home is included in this action. The Budget Resolution again permits installment payments, payable as follows: 50% on or before September 30, 25% on or before December 31 and the balance of 25% due on or before February 15. The penalty for late payment continues to be 10%, plus interest thereafter. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Kubit, Lebowitz, Posti, Cappucci

Against: Goldman, Ostergaard, Remely

MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves, ratifies and accepts the following financial reports: (Copies of official minutes.)

a. Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2013,

b. List of Bills dated April 30, 2013, and May 14, 2013,

c. List of Tax Refunds dated April 30, 2013, and

d. Sale of Unusable Equipment dated May 1, 2013.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Birks that the Board appoints John Ferguson as the Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2013-2014 school year at a salary of \$10,000.

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Posti that the Board appoints John Ferguson as the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2013-2014 school year at no remuneration.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board appoints Janice R. Klein as the Treasurer for the 2013-2014 school year at no remuneration.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board exonerates the Real Estate Tax Collector from collecting real estate tax on the list of Real Estate Tax Exonerations dated May 1, 2013. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves bids for supplies and equipment for the 2013-2014 school year to the lowest responsible bidders meeting specification as per the Vendor Name Summary dated May 3, 2013. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Food Service Budget and lunch prices as listed on the Proposed Budget Summary for the 2013-2014 school year at an expense budget amount of \$1,527,555 with a \$.15 increase to the elementary lunch price, Tier 1 and Tier II prices at the middle school and high school, and no increase for Tier III prices or breakfast. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the May 9, 2013, list of personnel changes, as revised May 13, 2013 and May 16, 2013. (Copy in official minutes.)

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely that the Board appoints Cecile D. Bowman as Board Secretary for a term commencing July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves an agreement with The Children's Institute for Extended School Year for the placement of special education students from July 1 to July 31, 2013 at a cost of \$200 per day, not to exceed \$3,600 for no more than two students. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the South Central Area Special Schools (Pathfinder) Budget in the amount of \$224,500 for the 2013-2014 school year. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Remely that for the purpose of providing appropriate educational programs and services for all district children, the Board approves the proposed standardized testing schedule for the 2013-2014 school year:

<u>Date</u>	Grade(s)	<u>Assessment Instrument</u>
September 9 – October 4, 2013	1 - 5	Measures of Academic Progress- Reading and Math
December 2 – 13, 2013	8 - 11 10 - 11 10 - 11	Keystone - Algebra 1 Keystone - Biology Keystone - English Literature
January 2 – February 3, 2014	K- 5	Measures of Academic Progress- Reading and Math
March 17 – 28, 2014	3 - 8	Achievement Test – Reading & Math (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
March 31 – April 4, 2014	5 and 8	Achievement Test - Writing (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
April 28 – May 2, 2014	4 and 8	Achievement Test – Science (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)

May 5 – May 30, 2014	K - 5	Measures of Academic Progress- Reading and Math		
May 12 – 23, 2014	8 - 11 10 - 11 9 - 11	Keystone - Algebra 1 Keystone - Biology Keystone - English Literature		
May, 2014	1	Speech and Language Screening		

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the 2013-2014 Lease Rates in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the 2013-2014 List of Leases dated May 1, 2013. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves an agreement with Harris School Solutions for a web based requisition system at a cost of \$4,930. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves a contract with Mockenhaupt Benefits Groups to perform Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) actuarial calculations as required by accounting regulations at a rate of \$7,500 as per their proposal dated April 16, 2013. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves an agreement with Honeywell for a preventative maintenance agreement for Jefferson and Mellon Middle Schools at a cost of \$3,717. (Copy in official minutes.)

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Posti that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. EL-26-84 to Farfield for \$3,038 to replace LED fixtures on Bldg F 5th floor Lobby,
- b. GC-35-85 to Nello for \$2,857 for closure plate on H-4 stairs,
- c. GC-36-86 to Nello for \$7,039 to remove diagonal bracing in F Building,
- d. GC-37-87 to Nello for \$37,404 to finish stairwells and drywall in F Building on a time and materials basis (April work),
- e. GC-38-88 to Nello for \$6,023 for bent plate modification at G Building where it meets F Building unforeseen condition,
- f. GC-39-89 to Nello for \$7,406 for south parking lot concrete wall height increase,
- g. GC-40-90 to Nello credit for (\$550) for entry mat changes in all buildings,
- h. GC-41-91 to Nello for \$1,749 to change swimming pool bulkhead in seating area,
- i. GC-42-92 to Nello for \$2,003 for removal of steel from roofing,
- j. GC-43-93 to Nello for \$580 for partition wall with recessed shower and plumbing in Buildings J and K,
- k. GC-44-94 to Nello not to exceed \$26,911 for joist modification in the athletic facility on a time and materials basis,
- 1. GC-45-95 to Nello for \$12,563 for temporary grading and asphalt to reopen Horsman Drive related to rework of loading dock,
- m. GC-46-96 to Nello for \$6,676 to shore roof in G Building at F Building for missed steel beam,
- n. GC-47-97 to Nello for \$847 for door and door hardware modifications and addition of four Knox boxes for fire department,
- o. GC-48-98 to Nello for \$16,275 for additional fire extinguishers added by Municipality,
- p. EL-27-99 to Farfield for \$5,318 for concrete around conduit instead of stone,
- q. EL-28-100 to Farfield \$3,231 to re-pull and terminate voice and video feeds in the Little Theatre, and
- r. GC-49-101 to Nello for \$75,000 for winterization costs.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the list of textbooks for the 2013-2014 school year as follows:

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Subject: ENGLISH

Title	Grade	Publisher	Copyright Date	Author
On the Road	12	Penguin	1991	Jack Kerouac
The Road	12	Vintage International	2006	Cormac McCarthy

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Subject: ENGLISH

Title	Grade	Publisher	Copyright Date	Author
Day of Tear: a Novel in	8	Permabound	2007	Julius Lester
Dialogue	co-taught			

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti,

Remely, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Kubit suggested that a report on the Distance Learning Class be presented to the Board.

Mr. Lebowitz suggested an evaluation on how the changes in staffing impacting students.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Four residents spoke before the Board about the following:

2013-2014 Budget

Millage vs. percentage increase; Needs the math explained to him

2013-2014 Budget leads to student success

Design concerns on the high school project

Status of teacher grievance

Questions regarding May 7 Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cappucci announced that an Executive Session was held this evening for the purpose of litigation and negotiation matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary Board of School Directors

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