

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

March 18, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2013, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln 5th grade students Patrick Anderson, Gina Franco, Vaughn Glace, Maria O'Matz, Madeline Reisinger and Molly Smith. The students gave a presentation on the character education attribute of the month, Loyalty.

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

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Gavin Robb, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Dr. Deborah Allen, Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Carl Salemi, Mr. Stephen Scheurer, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Robert Freil, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Dr. Michelle Murray, Dr. James Walsh

MINUTES

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Meeting held on February 5, 2013, the Discussion Meeting held on February 11, 2013, and the Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2013.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School student, Kay Casturo, reported on the activities at Jefferson Middle School. Through various fundraiser, students raised \$3,114.34 to purchase 24 gift cards for 24 families of P.S. 041 in Staten Island, New York to help provide a holiday season for those families who might not otherwise have one. One additional card was sent to a need student in Eastern Pennsylvania. Students also raised \$606 to help with the budget for the first ever Jefferson Middle School musical which was held on March 9th. The current project has been Wish Week to help student look forward to coming to school every day. Wishes ranged from a Pittsburgh Penguin cheer on the announcements to a pineapple dressed in pink to be delivered by Dr. Walsh. Student Council members are looking forward to the PASC District Conference on March 27th hosted by Chartiers Valley. Twenty-six seventh graders are scheduled to attend.

Senior class officers, Evan Brem and Katie Katz, reported on the events at the High School. Activities included the annual Snowball Dance and class breakfasts sponsored by the PTSA. Students, staff and residents are encouraged to nominate a Mt. Lebanon High School alumnus to be recognized for the Great Alumni Award. Applications are due April 15th. The Evening Theatre Company is presenting *A Tale of Two Cities* March 20 through March 23 in the high school auditorium. Upcoming events include "The Dance" on April 13th and the spring spirit assembly on March 28th.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci reported that it is officially budget season and the Board is working through budget issues to present a budget that preserves and strengthens the educational programs in Mt. Lebanon. At the Discussion Meeting on March 11, a base budget was presented that would require \$870,000 in budget cuts and a millage increase of 0.55 mills. The Board will discuss the budget this evening and give the administration further direction as they continue to refine the budget. The Administration will also meet with all staff to hear their ideas for budget reductions, and community input to the Board will also be welcomed.

The Board will be discussing this evening whether or not to hire Pursuant Ketchum as fundraising counsel for a capital campaign. This is an interesting new venture, and the Board will review the risks and benefits of entering into a contract to begin the campaign.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that over 200 Mt. Lebanon students competed in the Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on March 2. Thirty teams of students from Washington, Markham, Jefferson, Hoover, Lincoln Elementary Schools, Mellon and Jefferson Middle Schools and the High School participated in the event. A team from Washington Elementary, two teams from Jefferson Elementary, a team from Jefferson Middle School and two teams from the High School earned the honor of proceeding to the State Finals on April 13th.

Jefferson Middle School was selected to participate in the first ever USDA *International School Meals Day* celebration. JMS was among 24 schools from Scotland and the USA selected to highlight school lunch nutrition and healthy eating habits. An 8th grade class from Jefferson Middle School was paired with a class from Brannock High School in North Lanarkshire, Scotland, and the two classes communicated via Skype to discuss healthy food choices, nutrition, and their favorite lunchtime foods. The superintendent thanked Food Service Director Tazeen Chowdhury for making this experience possible for our students.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced members of the English/Language Arts teacher leaders and administrators to give a brief overview of our K-12 program. The presentation was made by elementary reading facilitator, Dr. Bridget Watson, elementary writing facilitator, Linda Beebe, and English 6-12 department chair, Trish Viale.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Birks reported that the Policy Committee met on March 5 and discussed the following policies: Policy JLF, Reporting Child/Student Abuse and EBAB, Integrated Pest Management. The Committee also discussed the creation of short policies as required by the State Audit in regards to the MOU with the Mt. Lebanon Police and Act 24 and bus drivers.

Concerned parents from the Markham area spoke about the assignment of students to either Jefferson or Mellon Middle Schools. The Committee agreed that the original resolution from March 1997 was sound, but that they also wanted to get further historical information regarding the decisions so that the Policy Committee might address these concerns. As the previous review and affirmation of the study was conducted in 2006, it might be time to convene another review team. Mrs. Birks did affirm to the group that Markham is assigned to Jefferson Middle School and that the Committee would find out the answers to their questions in order to continue the constructive dialogue.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that he recently toured the athletic building. The Board will be taking action this evening on change orders for the project.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that the Pathfinder Board held its annual reorganization meeting. Richard Rose was elected president, Dr. Sharon Wilson was elected vice president, and Ed Kubit was elected secretary/ treasurer. The school expects to graduate six or seven students this year.

Parkway West Career and Technical School – Mr. Remely reported that Dr. Darby Copeland, the interim director at Parkway West CTC, is getting support from district superintendents. The Parkway Board recently passed their budget for the 2013-2014 school year. There was no increase to the rental budget, and due to the elimination of the ACE program, there is a 5.14% reduction to the general budget. Two new courses will be added to the program this year, Veterinary Technician, and Electrical Systems Technology. Dr. Copeland has been working with CCAC on a dual enrollment program for juniors and seniors. Students can earn up to 20 college credits. Forty-eight Parkway students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that Pennsylvania School Boards are invited to submit resolutions and/or legislative items to be considered for the association’s 2014 Legislative Platform. The platform, which is drafted and approved by school directors, serves as PSBA’s official record of positions on legislative issues and is the guide for the association’s advocacy efforts. Mrs. Birks reported that she would be happy to draft a resolution for legislation calling reform of the Commonwealth’s cyber-charter school funding formula for consideration at a future meeting.

On March 4, the Senate Education Committee held its budget hearing with the Department of Education. Secretary of Education Ronald Tomalis was asked if the Corbett administration is still committed to reforming charter and cyber school education. Mr. Tomalis said that the Department of Education is strengthening its review process of cyber charter applications and said that he recently denied the application of eight cyber charter operators and shut down one cyber charter school. Members of the Senate panel inquired about PlanCon and wanted to know whether the Governor plans to extend the moratorium on construction projects. Secretary Tomalis responded that the Administration does plan on extending the moratorium and explained that the 350 projects are in various stages of the PlanCon process. This continues to be of particular interest to Mt. Lebanon.

Mrs. Birks noted that PSBA Legislative reports are posted on the District’s website under School Board.

MLFE – Mr. Ostergaard reported that \$3,300 in grant money is available for Mt. Lebanon teachers. Teachers are encouraged to submit a grant application.

Environmental Sustainability Board – Mr. Goldman reported that members of the Environmental Sustainability Board met with Food Service Director, Tazeen Chowdhury, and Director of Facilities, Carl Salemi, about composting at the high school.

Municipal Liaison – Mrs. Posti reported that she and Mrs. Frassch worked together on the development of Drug Task Force. At the next meeting on March 25, Judge Larotonda will present his view of the drug issue in the Mt. Lebanon community.

The Commission is gathering information from Zamagias on their intentions with the property on Washington Road.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2013,
- b. List of Bills dated February 28, 2013, and March 13, 2013, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated February 28, 2013.

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 Lebowitz that Board approves the March 7, 2013, list of personnel changes, as revised March 14, 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 Posti that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. GC-31-58 to Nello for \$8,419 for 6th floor B Building pitch pockets to fix clearance between roof and ductwork,
- b. GC-32-59 to Nello for \$6,000 for shotblasting in 6th floor B Building for areas of unforeseen asbestos,
- c. EL-14-60 to Farfield for \$11,045 to furnish and install emergency transfer electrical cabinets,
- d. PL-05-62 to Vrabel for \$4,412 to add ball valves to all trap primers that did not have valves indicated,
- e. PL-06-63 to Vrabel for \$3,098 to add piping under physics room in G Building not on drawings,
- f. PL-07-64 to Vrabel for \$2,338 for floor drains, trap primers and piping in the pool storage area,
- g. PL-08-65 to Vrabel for \$1,167 for air gaps as required,
- h. PL-09-66 to Vrabel for \$8,264 for roof drains and associated piping in G Building,
- i. PL-10-67 to Vrabel for \$2,224 for added floor drains in fine arts restrooms,
- j. PL-11-68 to Vrabel for \$1,757 for waste piping to added toilet room in G Building,
- k. PL-12-69 to Vrabel for \$10,544 to furnish and install water feeds to boilers and chillers, and
- l. ME-04-70 to McKamish for \$4,919 for 6th floor B Building changes in patching, ductwork and crawl space demolition.

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

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the following recommendations for Act 80 use which allows for the modification of the student day.

DATE	SCHOOL	GRADE	TIME	ACTIVITY
August 27 and August 28, 2012	All Elementary	Kindergarten	AM & PM	Kindergarten Interviews
October 24, 2012	All Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
November 8, 2012	All Elementary	K	PM	Parent Conferences
November 9, 2012	All Elementary	K-5	AM & PM	Parent Conferences
April 4, 2013	All Elementary	K	AM	Parent Conferences

April 5, 2013	All Elementary	K-5	AM & PM	Parent Conferences
May 14, 2013	Foster Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 15, 2013	Jefferson Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 17, 2013	Markham Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 22, 2013	Lincoln Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 23, 2013	Howe Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 24, 2013	Washington Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 29, 2013	Hoover Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service

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 Remely that the Board appoints Maria Joseph to the Environmental Sustainability Board for a term of three years.

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 Posti that the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Pursuant Ketchum in substantially the form presented, subject to final approval of the Superintendent and the Solicitor. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Ostergaard, Posti, Cappucci
Against: Remely
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Posti that the Board awards Bid #2013/3/13, Field Maintenance Bid, for maintenance of District playing fields to Steel City Landscape at their bid price of \$33,550 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications contingent on execution of agreement acceptable to superintendent and solicitor. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cappucci announced that an Executive Session was held before this evening’s meeting for the purpose of personnel and negotiation matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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