

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

January 21, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mrs. Josephine Posti (by phone), Mr. Daniel Remely, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, 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; Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Mr. Robert Freil, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mrs. Mary Schnirel, Mr. Marc Thornton

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 3, 2012; the Discussion Meeting held on December 10, 2012; and the Regular Meeting held on December 17, 2012.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci announced that the Extra Mile Award recipient for this month was Brad May, the District's Audiovisual Supervisor, who is retiring after 40 years of service to the District. Mr. May is one of the few people in the District who have had the opportunity to work in every building and with staff from all departments. His calm demeanor during any AV crisis, his willingness to help, his expertise at teaching both students and staff, and his ability to adapt to change have made him an asset to the District. The board president congratulated his on his retirement and thanked him for his many, many years of dedicated service.

Mrs. Cappucci reported that Dr. Steinhauer and the administration will have presentations to the Board and public about what is happening within the various departments in our schools at each regular board meeting. This evening's presentation will be from the math department on the math program from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The board president commented on the approval of the preparation of the Preliminary Budget on the agenda for action this evening. Each year the Board must decide whether to present to the public in January a preliminary budget which allows the District to take advantage of exceptions to the Act 1 index or to pass a resolution to not exceed the Index. Since all the information needed is not available, she reported the motion will be for approval of the preparation of a Preliminary Budget for the 2013-

2014 school year. This allows the Board some flexibility to make better decisions as more information becomes available.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that January is School Board Recognition month. Our School Board enables us to have local control of our public schools, meaning that decisions on school programs are made by local, elected representatives who understand the community's unique challenges, values, culture and circumstances. It is a huge responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. Their actions directly affect our children—what they learn, who will teach them and what kinds of facilities house their classrooms. The superintendent presented each Board member with a certificate of appreciation and a small token of thanks for caring about our children.

Each year, the Board recognizes the dedicated service of the PTA who work tirelessly and volunteer thousands of hours each year to make our schools a better place for students. Dr. Steinhauer presented the following PTA presidents with a certificate of appreciation and a pin: Sheryl Cohen, PTA Council, Rachel Meta, Foster Elementary; Julie Smith, Hoover Elementary; Tara Bell, Howe Elementary; Ann Becker, Jefferson Elementary; Debra Cunningham, Lincoln Elementary; Linda Csont, Markham Elementary; Anne Pillion, Washington Elementary; Heather Charron, Jefferson Middle School; Linda Shapiro, Mellon Middle School; and Katie Caste, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, the District began a review of the internal security plan and procedures which included discussions with local law enforcement, building staff and parents to consider any additional steps that could be implemented. The superintendent announced a few of the enhancements that are being made:

1. Random unannounced walkthroughs of our school buildings by uniformed police.
2. Training opportunities for school personnel including our three high school campus managers, secretaries, custodians, and principals.
3. Adding cameras to several key locations throughout the District.
4. Increasing the number and variety of security drills
5. Diligence in adhering to current security procedures and protocol.

Dr. Allen and Dr. Davis introduced elementary math facilitators, Kim Robbins and Kristen Malock, middle school math department chair, Lori Knox, and high school math department chair Jim Willison who presented an overview of the K-12 math curriculum in the District.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Birks reported that at Policy Committee meeting was held on January 8, 2013. The committee reviewed Policy EHBA, School District Electronic Records/Signatures, and discussed a policy on mandatory training addressing child abuse recognition and reporting. The committee reviewed the current policy log to identify policies needing attention, including Policy KK, Visitors to the Schools, and a review of Policy JKF, Non-School Related Drug and Alcohol Violations. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 5, 2013.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the project is moving along. Mr. Remely commented that the Board has approved a list of change orders that were necessary for the project to move forward. After being in operation for a year, the project is 30% completed.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that the Alternative Education Center at Parkway West Career and Technical Center will close at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Executive Director Jack Highfield retired at the end of December, and Dr. Darby Copeland has been appointed interim director.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that she will be attending the PSBA Region 14 spring meeting and legislative meeting at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the opportunity for open, informal discussion between school directors, superintendents, business managers and legislators about public school successes and the critical issues affecting public education today.

The PSBA Board of Directors recently created a new Career and Technical Education Task Force to help direct and focus the associations’ efforts to advance this component of public education and workforce development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Annual PSBA Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 15-18 in Hershey, PA. School entities are encouraged to submit program proposals for high-quality educational sessions that focus on topics of interest to administrators and school board members.

Governor Corbett has plans to make pension reform a large part of his budget this year. We will be paying close attention to those discussions.

Newly elected State Senator, Matt Smith, has been assigned to the following committees: Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure, Finance, Game & Fisheries, State Government-Minority Chair. The election for Senator Smith’s vacant House seat will occur during the primary election on May 21.

President Obama issued 23 executive actions that he said will strengthen school safety and gun violence. He also called on Congress to pass tougher gun-control measures. Following the president’s announcement, Governor Corbett announced that he will recommend a new school initiative on school safety to enable schools to address individual safety needs in protecting students and educators.

MLFE – Mr. Ostergaard reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education approved six educational grants to teachers. Projects included a 8th grade U.S. History artifact project, an elementary artist in residence program, AP environment science kilowatt load meter project, iPads for 7th grade special education class, iPads for secondary physical education teachers, and iPads for an 8th grade science project. MLFE discussed how they could support professional development opportunities for teachers.

Revenue Generating – Mr. Lebowitz reported that interviews were held with two firms who responded to the RFP for capital campaign services. A recommendation will be given to the Board in February.

Environmental Sustainability Board – Mr. Goldman reported that the Environmental Sustainability Board discussed a “pay as you throw” program, and composting at the high school. The Mt. Lebanon School Board will need to appoint a member to the Environmental Sustainability Board in April to replace an outgoing member.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves, ratifies and accepts the following financial reports: (Report pages 5-1 – 5-38)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2012,
- b. List of Bills dated December 28, 2012, and January 15, 2013,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2012, and
- d. Sale of Unusable Equipment dated January 1, 2013.

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the preparation of a Preliminary Budget for the 2013-2014 school year, in the amount of \$84,469,784. Such budget is to be made available for public view and presented for approval at the February 18, 2013, Board meeting. The Board directs the administration to apply for exceptions to the Index limit under Act 1 of 2006 as further refined under Act 25 of 2011 as may be permitted. (Report pages 6-1 – 6-23)

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Cooper that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2013-2014 school year as needed.

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the January 10, 2013, list of personnel changes. (Report pages 6-24 - 6-25)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves an agreement with PACE School to provide special education services to Mt. Lebanon exceptional student(s) for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year at a cost of \$246.38 per day not to exceed \$27,840.94 for no more than three (3) students. (Report page 6-26)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board approves an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Academy to provide special education services to Mt. Lebanon exceptional student(s) for the second semester of the 2012-2013 school year at a cost of \$12,319 per student per semester and a one-time matriculation fee of \$200 not to exceed a cost of \$12,519 per semester for no more than three (3) students. (Report page 6-27)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board approves a contract with Milestone Centers, Inc. to provide Adult Training services to Mt. Lebanon Special Education student(s) from January to May 2013 at a cost of \$243 per attendance day for two days per week for 20 weeks, not to exceed \$9,720 for no more than three (3) students. (Report page 7-1)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board of School Directors of Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes Friends of Mt. Lebanon Percussion as a school booster group that promotes and encourages participation and support for extracurricular activities within Mt. Lebanon School District.

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves a contract with ClearChoice Energy for power curtailment for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 in the form presented. (Report page 7-2)

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project: (Report pages 7-3 – 7-64)

- a. GC-16-29 to Nello for \$4,842 for carpet for the upper Little Theatre Lobby which was not scheduled for replacement,
- b. EL-08-34 to Farfield for \$5,240 to reconnect parking lot lighting due to voltage change,
- c. GC-17-35 to Nello to for (\$7,516) to eliminate dry wall ceiling in G Building and replace with sound proof spray,
- d. EL-09-36 to Farfield for \$7,718 to add power to elevator sump pumps in Buildings H and G,
- e. PL-04-37 to Vrabel for \$6,100 to add sump pumps in elevator shafts in Buildings H and G,
- f. GC-18-38 to Nello for \$4,620 to patch existing walls on 5th floor for safety reasons,
- g. GC-19-39 to Nello for \$5,652 to change provider of spray foam insulation for fire proofing,
- h. AB-03-40 to Precision for (\$5,652) to change provider of spray foam insulation for fire proofing,
- i. GC-20-41 to Nello for \$6,090 to add additional duct supports at G Building roof for flashing on duct rails, and
- j. GC-21-42 to Nello for \$5,750 to add epoxy rebar for reinforcement of loading dock wall.

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Kubit to table the motion on Item d, Change Order EL-09-36 and Item e, Change Order PL-04-37.

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

The Board voted on the original motion minus items d and e.

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Cooper that the Board awards the District-wide dark fiber license agreement to Sunesys LLC in the amount of \$2,000 per month for 10 years, subject to the negotiation and execution of a final contract approved by the Superintendent and the Solicitor. (Report page 8-1)

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

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Kubit suggested that a review on the online linear algebra course be presented to the Board.

Mrs. Posti suggested that there be an inquiry on other local school district and gun clubs using their shooting range for revenue generation.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- K-5 Investigations math program
- Need a balanced program which includes US standard algorithms
- Commented that teachers who don't like the math program can't publicly criticize the program
- Supports the K-5 Investigations math program
- Opposes K-5 Investigations math program

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

/js