

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

April 15, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:33 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2013, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Foster Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students Sam LaSota, Megan Peri, Maddie Ganoë, Colby Sembrat, and Steven Labalme. The students presented a report on “Respect”, the character education attribute of the month, Foster’s Community Week held in February, and showed a video about Foster’s anti-bullying program, “Building Foster Friends.”

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. William Cooper (by phone), 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  
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor  
Administrative Staff: Dr. Deborah Allen, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Carl Salemi, Mr. Stephen Scheurer, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mr. Jeff Zeiders

MINUTES

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School student Maddie Maselko, reported on the activities at Mellon. The senior citizen computer tutoring classes continue to be a success both with teachers and students. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette recognized the program in a front page article in March.

Students raised over \$100 for the American Red Cross through a Penny Wars contest to help replenish funds used during the Hurricane Sandy disaster. Students are currently holding a fundraiser for Children’s Hospital and Jameson’s Army by bringing in snacks and drinks to stock the family waiting rooms at Children’s. On May 9, a student vs. faculty basketball game is scheduled to fundraise for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

High School Executive Class Council representative Nick Honkala reported on the activities at the High School. Mt. Lebanon presentation of *Suessical* will be held May 8-11 in the high school auditorium. Activities included the annual blood drive, a senior class fundraiser at Chick-Fil-a, and an informal dance on April 13 sponsored by the junior class.

The annual Move Up day for middle school students will be held April 17 and 19. Students from Mellon and Jefferson Middle Schools and St. Bernard's will visit the high school to get a feel for the layout of the campus and ask questions about high school life.

The boys and girls sports teams are just beginning their section competitions and everyone appears to be doing well. The members of the Odyssey of the Mind, FBLA, Forensics, Science Club, Academic Games and Model UN are busy with their competitions on the local, regional and national levels.

### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci spoke about all the good our taxes do for our students and community from individualized education for Mt. Lebanon students and award winning fine arts program to interscholastic sports and school clubs and activities. Our federal, state and local taxes pay for many things, but educating our next generation is surely one of the most important uses of our tax dollars and the best investment in the future of this country. The Board will be taking action on the proposed final budget for the next school year. The budget currently includes a .54 millage tax rate increase, but the Board will continue to work to reduce the budget.

The Board will also be taking action on a resolution regarding increased state funding for school construction. The number of current school projects in Pennsylvania pending approval exceeds available state funds, and the State is delaying promised reimbursements to many districts, including Mt. Lebanon. The resolution asks for the State to increase funding so that we and other Districts will no longer be adversely affected by this backlog.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the *Pittsburgh Business Times* recently ranked Mt. Lebanon School District as the #2 academically performing school district in the State. The rankings are based on three years of scores from the PSSA exam with the most recent year given more weight. This recognition validates the exceptional work done each day by our students, teachers, staff and administrators, and the superintendent congratulated them for their efforts. Dr. Steinhauer recognized the School Board parents, and community for their continued support of a quality educational program.

The NAMM Foundation has designated Mt. Lebanon School District as 1 of only 307 school districts in the country as a "Best Community" for music education. This honor acknowledges schools and districts across the United States for their commitment and support of music education as an important part of the core curriculum. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row that Mt. Lebanon has been designated a "Best Community" for music education. This honor acknowledges the work of our excellent music faculty and the continued support of the School Board and our community for our exceptional education programs.

The superintendent reported that Brennen Bruic, a second grade student at Lincoln Elementary, was selected as one of three Title I Distinguished Students in Pennsylvania. He was nominated by his school as a student who has worked very hard on his reading skills and has shown great improvement.

The High School Wind Ensemble under the direction of Jason Cheskawich will be performing at the Pennsylvania Music Educators State Conference in Erie. This invitation was extended following an extensive application process and is a very prestigious honor for our student musicians.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Mt. Lebanon School District by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the District's comprehensive annual financial report for the year ending June 30, 2012. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations to Jan Klein and the Finance Department for this achievement.

The superintendent introduced the consultants from Pursuant Ketchum, Elliott Oshry and Allison Lewis Lodhi, for an update on the planning for our capital campaign.

Continuing the series on the District's academic programs, Dr. Steinhauer introduced Tina Raspanti and Patti McAuley who presented an overview of the Social Studies program. The Mt. Lebanon Social Studies program is led by teacher leaders Tina Raspanti, Department Chair at the secondary level, and Sally Nuckles, the facilitator in our elementary schools.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. Birks reported that the Policy Committee is bringing forward three policies for approval; Policy ADD, Memorandum of Understanding Compliance, Policy GDFAB, Bus Driver Requirements, and Policy JLF, Reporting Child/Student Abuse. The Committee will be looking at policies of safety including GBGB/JICI, Possession of Weapons, which has not been reviewed since 2002; JICA, Hazing, which has not been reviewed since 2004; and Policy KK, Visitors to the Schools, which has not been reviewed since 2007.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the ceremonial top-off of Building G was held on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Parkway West Career and Technical School – Mr. Remely reported that Dr. Darby Copeland has been offered the position of Director of Parkway West CTC. Dr. Copeland has been the interim director since Mr. Highfield retired.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the House and Senate took action on several bills this week. The House of Representatives passed HB 930 which makes extensive changes to the Professional Educator Discipline Act. The Senate Education Committee will meet to consider SB 34, which is identical to HB 930. SB 46 requires an employment history review for all prospective school employees as it relates to any investigation concerning sexual misconduct. Senate Resolution 71 calls upon the President and the Congress of the United States to fully fund all special education mandates imposed by federal laws or regulations upon state, county, municipal or local providers of educational services to students in the Commonwealth. HB 19, which requires school districts to incorporate an age-appropriate child exploitation awareness education program into the existing curriculum for students in grades K-8.

The House State Government Committee will conduct a hearing on pension reform, including discussion of HB 240, which would allow future state and school employees to opt into a defined contribution retirement program in lieu of becoming a member of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) or State Employees' Retirement System's (SERS) or defined benefit program. A representative from PSERS will be giving a presentation at the AIU, and Mrs. Birks encouraged Board members to attend.

The House Education Committee will meet to consider these bills of interest: HB 135, which would re-establish the mandate waiver program for school districts under Act 16 of 2000 that expired in 2010. HB 324, which repeals the Separations Act requirements for school districts. The bill would allow districts to decide how best to bid a construction project, using either multiple prime contracts as is required now or using a single prime contract to do the

needed work. HB 969, which changes the requirement for all professional employees in a school district to be certified. Instead, only 75% of the professional employees would be required to be certified. HB 1097, which extends the current moratorium on mandatory professional development for educators to June 30, 2014 and requires the Department of Education (PDE) to create a plan for targeting professional development to those school entities and buildings with unsatisfactory performance levels as designated under the new School Performance Profiles system.

The House Select Committee for School Safety will conduct a hearing pursuant to House Resolution 53, which establishes the committee and charges it to examine the issue of school safety in public and nonpublic schools, as well as in institutions of higher education. The committee will make recommendations about improving and strengthening school security policies, school safety and security laws, and early detection of potentially violent perpetrators. The committee is also required to examine the school budgetary and governance needs with respect to school safety and security. The resolution requires the Select Committee to provide its recommendations to the House of Representatives by Sept. 30, 2013.

Once the Mt. Lebanon School Board has appropriately modified and adopted a resolution, we are asked to send a copy of the resolution to House and Senate members and the Governor's office. PSBA asks that we send a copy of the resolutions we have adopted to PSBA.

MLFE – Mr. Ostergaard reported that the next meeting of the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education will be held on April 18.

Revenue Generation – Mr. Lebowitz met today with Allison Lewis Lodhi from Pursuant Ketchum to start sketching out preliminaries of the capital campaign and is excited to move forward.

Environmental Sustainability Board – Mr. Goldman reported that the Earth Day celebration sponsored by the Environmental Sustainability Board will be held on Saturday, April 27 in the Main Park. The Commissioners are continuing to look at a “pay as you throw” system in looking at a new contract with Waste Management. Residents would pay for the amount of trash thrown out. The Commission also suggested that a member of the Environmental Board be added to the Environmental Sustainability Board as an ex-officio, non-voting member. Mrs. Cappucci asked for the School Board's approval to add an ex-officio non-voting member from the Environmental Board to the Sustainability Board. The Board agreed unanimously.

Municipal Liaison – Mrs. Posti reported that the first meeting of the Drug Task Force was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> with approximately 40 members in attendance. The committee reviewed data concerning community drug violations, DUI and overdoses and have identified a number of possible focuses including helping the community to remove the stigma that is often associated with addiction and to recognize it instead as a public health issue, help all those represented at meeting to consolidate their efforts to address this health issue, and to focus on community education to provide tools and resources to help prevent drug addiction and intervene early.

All female elected officials in Mt. Lebanon had the opportunity to be a part of a program for middle and high school aged Girl Scouts in a local government day. Mrs. Posti thanked Mrs. Fraasch and Mrs. Linfante from the Commission and Mrs. Cappucci and Mrs. Birks from the School Board for their help in making this day possible.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2013,
- b. List of Bills dated March 28, 2013, and April 10, 2013,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2013, and
- d. List of Budgetary Transfers dated April 3, 2013.

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 a Proposed Final Budget for the 2013-2014 school year in the amount of \$83,249,503 at a millage rate of 27.67 (unadjusted for any change in assessed value) an increase of .54 mills (unadjusted for any change in assessed value) over the 2012-2013 school year.

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the April 4, 2013, list of personnel changes, as revised April 11, 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 adopts Policy ADD, Memorandum of Understanding Compliance, 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 adopts Policy GDFAB, Bus Driver Requirements, 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 adopts Policy JLF, Reporting Child/Student Abuse, 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 Posti and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Budget for 2013-14 in the amount of \$5,763,751 with an

estimated cost to the District of \$227,397, and the Building Rental Budget in the amount of \$556,242 with an estimated cost to the District of \$76,549. (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 Posti and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2013-14 in the amount of \$3,809,028 with an estimated cost to the District of \$83,006.73. (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 Posti and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the agreement with Keystone Oaks School District (Project Succeed) for alternative education services not to exceed \$12,000 per year for no more than 12 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 Posti and seconded by Remely that the Board approves a two-year agreement with Frontline Technologies for the Aesop automated substitute placement and absence management system at an estimated cost of \$8,205 per year plus an implementation fee of \$5,750. (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 Kubit that the Board approves a resolution consenting to the use of electronic signatures for contracts with the Pennsylvania Department of Education 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 Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves a resolution urging increased State funding for school construction and renovation projects 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 Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Forensics Team trip to Birmingham, AL from June 16 to June 21, 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 Posti that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. IN-01-03 for (-\$278,363) credit to Farfield – Reversal of insurance claim for the 5KV line break,
- b. GC-33-71 for (-\$47,231) credit to Nello – Reconciliation of GC-001 for earth materials,
- c. EL-15-72 for \$19,851 to Farfield – Fire alarm modifications based on Municipal review,
- d. EL-16-73 for \$2,336 to Farfield – Vanity lights which were not originally intended to be replaced,
- e. EL-17-74 for \$2,037 to Farfield – Added light fixtures F Bldg 4<sup>th</sup> floor,
- f. EL-18-75 for \$18,484 to Farfield – Lighting changes due to ceiling modifications in B and D Buildings,
- g. EL-19-76 for \$32,269 to Farfield – Fire Alarm changes required by Municipal Fire Department,
- h. EL-20-77 for \$9,467 to Farfield – Crosswalk changes due to change in loading dock for pushbutton lights,
- i. EL-21-78 for \$5,282 to Farfield – Added card readers to elevator in H Building,
- j. EL-22-79 for \$9,797 to Farfield – Added zone box for data circuits in F Building to be within length limits,
- k. EL-23-80 for \$3,930 to Farfield – Power to Swimming Pool Heat Exchanger Pump,
- l. EL-24-81 for \$621 to Farfield – Light fixture change due to unforeseen condition of F Building ceiling,
- m. EL-25-82 for (-\$11,036) credit to Farfield – Upgrade light fixtures in F Building Lobby, and
- n. GC-34-83 for \$23,144 to Nello – Raise floor on third floor G Building due to elevation discrepancy.

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 approve the following revised recommendations for Act 80 use which allows for the modification of the student day.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
June 7, 2013	All Elementary and Secondary	K-12	AM & 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 Birks and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board Awards a five-year contract for natural gas to Equitable Gas at their quoted rate of \$1.00/mcf for the next five years effective October 1, 2013, substantially in the form presented subject to approval by superintendent and solicitor. (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 Posti that the Board approves the Student Adjudication in the form presented.

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

2013-14 Budget

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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