

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

January 20, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:36 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2014, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by State Senator Matt Smith and State Representative Dan Miller.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Daniel Remely (left meeting at 8:30 p.m.), Mr. Michael Riemer, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci  
Absent: Mr. William Cooper

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor  
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Carl Salemi, Mr. Stephen Scheurer, Mr. Christopher Stengel  
Mr. Peter Berg, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Mr. Robert Freil, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mrs. Mary Ann Schnirel, Mrs. Kelly Szessterniak, Mr. Doug Szokoly, Dr. James Walsh, Mr. Christopher Wolfson, Ms. Erin Wright, Mr. Jeffrey Zeiders, Mr. Robert Mallery

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 2, 2013, and the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 9, 2013.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci reported that the Superintendent will be reporting on the District's success in the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile and being awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics. The board president told the administrators, teachers, students and parents gathered for the presentation that the Board was proud of their success. She reported that the Board is committed to ensuring that those who work in this District and those who are educated in this District have the best possible conditions for teaching and learning.

The board president commented on several items on the agenda this evening. First was the 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget. Each year the Board is required to take action in January on a preliminary budget if they would like to be able to maintain the District's ability to consider tax millage increases beyond the Act 1 limits. Preparing a budget this early is difficult because there is so much information which is not yet available that will affect the final budget. The preliminary budget before the Board is based upon the best information available at this time. As the Board goes through the budget process and as more information becomes available, the board will be in a better position to decide what final millage rate will need to be.

At the Board's Discussion meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Board discussed an agenda item regarding translation services for English as a Second Language students and families. A question was asked on how many different languages are spoken by our students. In the current academic year, students entering the District brought with them proficiencies in Cantonese, Nepali, Romanian, Korean, Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Portuguese, French, Uzbeki, Arabic, Turkish, Bulgarian, Italian, Kazakh, German, Spanish, Nogai ( a Russian language) and Malayalam and Telugu (both Indian languages). The number and variety of languages spoken is indicative of the increasing diversity in our schools and certainly speaks to the need for translations services.

Mrs. Cappucci reported that an action item to approve a bid for a trophy case in the new athletic building has been removed agenda. The administration is working on getting additional information regarding securing possible donations for the case through the Capital Campaign or Capital Project Funds.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that January is School Board recognition month across the State of Pennsylvania and that the democratically elected individuals of the Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors volunteer countless hours to guide our community's public schools.

He reported that Mt. Lebanon is fortunate to have nine individuals who thoroughly understand their roles and embrace the mission of providing the best education possible to *each* and *every* student in a fiscally responsible manner. It is with great gratitude that he recognized their outstanding work and presented them with a very small token of appreciation for a job well done.

Governor Corbett and Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumaesq made a special trip to Mt. Lebanon to highlight the remarkable academic performance of our schools. The Governor presented the Governor's Award of Academic Excellence to nine of our school for outstanding performance as indicated on the State's new School Performance Profile (SPP). Schools had to have a score of 90 or better to receive this recognition. All of our schools did particularly well on this newly developed view of school performance, but did not know that Mt. Lebanon would be identified as the top performing school district in the state.

Dr. Steinhauer indicated that there is no mystery to why we are successful. Mt. Lebanon has students who strive for excellence. Mt Lebanon has parents who are involved and supportive. Mt Lebanon has teachers and staff who are committed to doing everything it takes to help all students learn. Mt Lebanon has cafeteria, custodial, and maintenance staff who are competent and diligent supporters of our schools. Mt Lebanon has administrators who provide skillful, purposeful, and inspired leadership. Mt Lebanon has a school board who has maintained a laser-like focus to provide the best public education possible for each and every student. And most importantly – a community who has continued to support quality public education for well over 100 years.

The superintendent recognized the following leadership team who continues to deliver these top results: Assistant Superintendents Dr. Ron Davis and Dr. Deborah Allen; High School Principal, Mr. Brian McFeeley, Dean of Students, Pete Berg; Unit Principals, Erin Wright and Doug Szokoly; Foster Elementary Principal, Mr. Jason Ramsey; Hoover Elementary Principal, Mrs. Mary Ann Schnirel; Howe Elementary Principal, Dr. Michelle Murray; Washington Elementary Principal, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis; Lincoln Elementary Principal, Dr. Marybeth Irvin; Jefferson Middle School Principal, Dr. James Walsh, Jefferson Middle School Dean of Students, Mr. Jeffrey Zeiders; Markham Elementary School Principal, Mr. Rob Freil; Jefferson Elementary School Interim Principal, Mr. Robert Mallery; and the teachers who serve as Department Chairs and Facilitators. These are the people who work diligently every day, in every class, and in every building to accomplish the mission of the Mt. Lebanon School District, the highest performing school district in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced State Representative Dan Miller and State Senator Matt Smith who both presented proclamations to the District in recognition of the Governor's Award.

World Language teachers Peg Meyers, Lynda Battista, Dana Buterbaugh, and Gretchen Brown presented an overview of the K-12 World Languages program in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Topics included the elementary FLES curriculum, technology and real world connections, 5<sup>th</sup> grade FLEX program, the middle school experience, and the high school experience.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy – Mrs. Cappucci reported that a Policy Committee meeting will be held on February 5, 2014.

Board Development – Mrs. Birks reported that she is looking into PSBA webinars for Board participation.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that he was elected president of the Pathfinder Board and that the Board will begin meeting monthly. The first order of business is to look at lease agreements with tenants at Pathfinder.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that there will be a Region Cabinet and County Legislative Meeting on March 6 at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. School Board members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Legislative meeting. It is an election year so we are hoping for good attendance from the legislators. A good turnout of our board members will demonstrate our unity of purpose.

PSBA supports legislation passed this week by the House of Representatives that establishes a bipartisan commission to make recommendations for a new funding formula for basic education. Under House Bill 1738, a commission would examine and identify factors that could be used to determine the distribution of basic education funding among school districts. Charter school reform remains on the agenda as the second half of the 2013-14 legislative resumes, as legislators seek a compromise between House Bill 618 and Senate Bill 1085. A joint letter was sent to the entire General Assembly from PSBA, the PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the PA Association of School Administrators (PASA), and PA Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) urging legislators to focus their efforts on needed charter school reform.

The House of Representatives passed three bills of interest to school officials: HB 1411 requires the Department of Education (PDE) to implement a searchable website to be called SchoolWATCH detailing various expenditures of school districts, area vocational-technical schools, charter and cyber charter schools and comparing them with their student performance, HB 1741 requires school boards to provide at least 48 hours' public notice before voting on a collective bargaining contract or professional educator employment contract for a professional educator who is not a member of an employee organization, and HB 1816 allows educators to receive continuing professional development credit by attending school board-approved site visits to manufacturing locations.

NSBA reported that advocacy efforts were successful this week as Congress passed a final consolidated funding bill for Fiscal Year 2014. The bill is subsequent to the enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act last December, which provides a two-year reprieve from the across-the-board budget cuts to education and other domestic programs imposed by sequestration.

Revenue Generation/Capital Campaign – Mr. Lebowitz reported that committee is moving forward and will meet again in February.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Commissioner Kelly Fraasch regarding the Drug Task Force. The Commissioners are interested in a tour of the new building.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Opposes choice for Financial Advisor
- Preliminary Budget
- Change orders for high school project

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2013,
- b. List of Bills dated December 30, 2013, and January 15, 2014,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2013, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated January 1, 2014.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Kubit that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2014-2015 school year as needed.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$86,945,267 in the form submitted and directs the administration to apply for eligible exceptions. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Birks that the Board approves entering into a Financial Advisory Services Agreement with Janney Capital Markets in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the January 9, 2014, list of personnel changes, as revised January 13, 2014, January 16, 2014, and January 20, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for services provided by TransPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation for non-English speaking students and parents at a cost of \$120 annually plus \$1.69 per minute. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves an agreement with Ebenefits Solutions, LLC to retain the web based employee benefits enrollment and administration system at a cost not to exceed \$36,000. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to the ComDoc copier agreement to separate the Municipal copiers at no additional cost to the District and no change in end date of the agreement in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Lebowitz that that the Board designates Carl Salemi, Director of Facilities, as the agent authorized to execute FEMA documents on behalf of the District. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Birks that the Boards authorizes the District to enter into a participation agreement with Buy Board National Purchasing Cooperative in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

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

- a. GC-92-200 to Nello for \$25,139 for new building renovations and additions,
- b. GC-93-201 to Nello for \$11,105 for Athletic floor covering and elevator changes in F Building,
- c. GC-94-202 to Nello for \$6,401 for fifth floor B Building changes,
- d. GC-95-203 to Nello for \$28,804 for signage changes,
- e. EL-54-204 to Farfield for \$12,817 for power, motor and wiring revisions,
- f. EL-55-205 to Farfield for \$22,884 to maintain power in B Building during phasing,
- g. EL-56-206 to Farfield for \$29,587 to install data and power floor boxes in writing lab,
- h. PL-27-207 to Vlabel for \$13,683 for concrete and plumbing work,
- i. ME-19-208 to McKamish for \$11,896 for vent and elevator room changes,
- j. ME-20-209 to McKamish for \$19,114 for HVAC piping modifications, and
- k. AB-04-210 to Precision for a credit of -\$50,146 to reduce scope of abatement in encapsulated area.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Riemer, Cappucci

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

#### TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mrs. Birks suggested an update on the Balance Scorecard and an update on the Strategic Plan.

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Pool railing at the new pool
- Whirlpool location
- Floors in locker room slick
- Location of scoreboard controls in the pool
- Communication protocols
- Personnel matter
- Public access channel; no continuity
- Executive session matters
- Appointment of Financial Advisor
- TIF

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cappucci announced that a Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting for the purpose of personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors