

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

March 17, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2014, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Howe Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council members Ben Brown, President; Lyndsay Paul, Secretary; Anna Ziegler and Sasha Fuelhart

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci  
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent  
Mr. Gavin Robb, Solicitor's Office  
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. Connie Lewis, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on February 5, 2014; the Discussion Meeting held on February 10, 2014; and the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Student Council student, Maddie Maselko, reported on the activities at the middle school. Mellon students and faculty donated 50 bags of winter coats and gear to "Keep Yinz Warm," students joined the entire District and wore bracelets in support of cancer awareness week, and a cookie sale held on Valentine's Day raised \$400 to purchase furniture for the Mellon library. During PSSA exams, Student Council is planning on chalking the sidewalks with inspirational messages to motivate students to do well on the exams. Mrs. Amenta, the Student Council advisor, has created a blog ([blog.mtlsd.org/MS](http://blog.mtlsd.org/MS)) to get the word out about Student Council and to get more students interested in joining.

Danielle Deiseroth, Co-Secretary, and Julie Niederberger, Co-Treasurer, reported on the activities at the High School. Students have been quick to adapt to the new routes that are taken to get to class. At the end of the school year, the freshman class plans to assist with the collection of unwanted school supplies to be donated to a Pittsburgh public school. The sophomore class collected, sorted and packed canned goods for Pittsburgh area food banks. The junior class council is also planning on filming several public service announcements. The first announcement will focus on encouraging the student body to keep the cafeterias and hallways clean. The junior class will be reading Dr. Seuss books to the children who attend the

Southminster nursery school. Another junior class project is to develop a community wide collection of donated musical instruments which will be given to Carnegie Library who in turn will share the instruments with young children who want to learn to play an instrument. The senior class is busy working on preparing for graduation.

#### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci reported on the 2014-2015 budget and the challenges facing the Board. As previously stated, if the Board does not increase the millage rate, find other revenue sources, or use any money from the fund balance, the budget would be \$2.6 million out of balance. This evening the Board will discuss how we will address this gap by determining what mix of increase in millage, reductions in spending, and use of undesignated funds we will use to balance the budget. The board president is confident that the Board will find a way to continue to provide the educational services that have won the District so many accolades over the past year.

Mrs. Cappucci presented Extra Mile Awards to two outstanding administrators who have served our District with distinction over the course of their careers in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Dr. Deborah Allen, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and Special Education Supervisor Connie Lewis are retiring at the end of the month. Both of these women have done so much to move our school district forward over the years and have between them, a great deal of institutional knowledge that we will miss. As a result of their outstanding careers and devotion to the children in this District, the School Board honored them with the Extra Mile Award.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that Mt. Lebanon School District has launched its own app. The app is available on the App Store and Google Play.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Cooper reported that there are two revised policies on the agenda this evening for Board action. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be on April 2.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that the renovation of the 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of building B is moving along.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center– Mr. Remely reported that a recent study showed that 60% of the graduated students have moved onto higher education. The Parkway Board has prepared a the 2014-2015 budget with no increase to the District. Mt. Lebanon high school student Malachi Owens was named March student of the month and will be inducted into the Technical National Honor Society.

SHASDA – Mr. Riemer reported that he will be attending the next SHASDA meeting on March 21 at Upper St. Clair High School where a student forum will be held.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that Last week the Senate Education Committee approved Senate Bill 1281 that allows school districts to adjust their schedules due to this year's weather emergencies by converting days to hours. Also last week the Senate Aging and Youth Committee approved House Bill 434, which eliminates separate standards for school employees with regard to child abuse investigations and background clearances. The House Children and Youth Committee approved Senate Bill 31, which amends the CPSL to provide for a consistent manner of investigation for every child abuse report, regardless of the perpetrator.

NSBA participated in a meeting of the Mental Health and Substance Use in Schools Coalition, a new coalition formed to address the growing need for better access to mental health services by elementary and secondary public school children. NSBA agrees with the need to improve access to mental health services. However, NSBA continues to express concerns that while school facilities could serve as effective access for such comprehensive services, most school districts do not have the resources or capacity.

MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education is alive and going through a rebirth. Members are receiving an education on marketing and fundraising.

Revenue Generation/Capital Campaign – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Campaign Cabinet is nearly full and the committee is putting together an action plan.

Environmental Sustainability – Mrs. Cappucci reported that she attended the last meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Board and that there were no school district items discussed. The High School Environmental Club is a co-sponsor of the Earth Day Celebration on April 26. High school student, Katherine Manolious, designed this year’s Earth Day poster.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated February 28, 2014,
- b. List of Bills dated February 28, 2014, and March 11, 2014,
- c. List of Tax Refunds February 28, 2014, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated March 1, 2014.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the March 10, 2014, list of personnel changes, as revised March 17, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board awards a mid-year compensation adjustment of \$5,000 to Jason Ramsey, principal at Foster Elementary, effective January 27, 2014 taking his annual salary to \$90,029.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves revisions to Policy IF, Curriculum and Parental Rights, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to Policy JID, Residency/Enrollment, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the revisions to the 2013-2014 School Calendar as presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board approves PlanCon Part H for submission to the State in substantially the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by the Board approves the lease between the Municipality and the School District for lease of the North Meadowcroft property in substantially the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Forensics Team to Susquehanna University to March 27-29, 2014, and
- b. Model UN Team to Washington DC, March 28-29, 2014.

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project: (Copy in official minutes.)

- a. EL-58-217 to Farfield for \$63,576 for power changes, wireless access additions, conduit, work lights and breakers in panels,
- b. ME-22-218 to McKamish for \$3,381 for heater unit,

- c. GC-98-219 to Nello for \$101,054 for drywall, door and window repairs, changes to beams and decking, and roof and joist reinforcements, and
- d. EL-59-220 to Farfield for \$49,246 for Auditorium Sound System piping (from Capital Projects Fund).

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

2014-2015 Budget Discussion – The Board discussed the 2014-2015 Budget and gave the administration the parameters for a proposed budget for discussion in April.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors