

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

February 24, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance led by the 2014 Lincoln Science Fair Winners Kelsey Cadahia-Frankel, Emma Tristano, Lauren Masteller, Emily Shannon-Spector, Molly Doherty, Andrew Leech, Jarah Eger, Sydney Kalafut, and Zachery Shannon-Spector.

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. 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, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Dr. James Walsh

MINUTES

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on January 13, 2014, and the Regular Meeting held on January 20, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council Executive Board members, Ava King and Alyssa Mulé, reported on the activities at Jefferson MS. The Pop Tab Wars held in November raised \$1,937.50 to help a teenager in need of a lung transplant. Students are now raising money for the Alzheimer's Association in memory of a member's father. Thirty-three Student Council members will attend the Spring PASC conference at Quaker Valley. Eighth grade members will hone their leadership skills in preparation for the high school, and seventh grade students will come back ready to take the lead with the JMS Student Council for next year.

Student Body Co-President, Billy Moorhead, and Student Body Co-Vice President, Will Emanuel, reported on the activities at the High School. The annual Snowball Dance, which is the the last dance to take place in Center Court, was attended by 651 students doubling the number of tickets sold in 2013. Nine high school students participated in the Pennsylvania Student Leadership Consortium at Elizabeth Forward High School. Students learned how other high schools in Allegheny County design their dances and assemblies, include technology in their

classrooms and set up school wide initiative. Mt. Lebanon students shared with other student councils how happy they were to be students at Mt. Lebanon High School.

Upcoming events include the Human Rights Club collecting for Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy Health System's project that assists the homeless in greater Pittsburgh. The students in the Technology Education Department designed and manufactured wooden hockey and golf tee board games which were donated to the Salvation Army's after school program. Teacher Ms. Cabalik, Mr. Schultz and Mr. Kuskil supervised this project and students from all grades participated in the volunteer project.

The Link Crew program, a program to mentor freshmen throughout the school year, continues to meet its goals. A very successful program was organized for an evening prior to first semester exams where freshmen were invited to the 6th floor cafeteria where they could student in a relaxing environment and ask for assistance from the upper class students, teachers and staff members in attendance. This program will be repeated in June prior to the second semester final exams.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci responded to several questions regarding the Capital Projects Fund. The Board was asked where the money in the Capital Projects fund comes from. The Board can assign money from the Balance to the Capital Projects Fund each year following Board Policy DFAA, Use of Surplus Funds. Use of the Capital Projects Fund is also guided by Board policy. Projects are usually large in scale, requiring design and contract services, like routine maintenance and repair projects that can be completed by District staff. In addition, the Capital Projects Fund can be used to purchase textbooks since books are capitalized and are part of the inventory on our balance sheets.

A question was raised why some items for the High School are in the Capital Projects Budget and not in the High School Renovation Project Budget. Included in this years' Capital Project list are several high school items, including stage curtains, auditorium sound system, desks and cafeteria tables. The purchase of these items would have occurred regardless of whether or not the building was being renovated. Capital Projects Funds are used for items which are recurring costs as part of general upkeep or changes in operations.

Finally, it was asked how does the District determine which projects should be funded. Each year our Project Engineer and Facilities Manager discuss capital improvements with building principals, department heads, and staff in order to develop a list of potential projects. They also develop a long-range capital improvement plan. All projects are categorized and ranked based on safety, education and general maintenance needs. Once they are ranked, with safety and educational needs coming first, the list is presented to the Board for discussion and approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that today marked another important milestone in the high school construction project as Physics and Geoscience classrooms were opened in the new science wing. It is very exciting to have a section of this new academic space open so students and teachers can begin to experience one of the most innovative areas of this project.

The Mt. Lebanon High School Model UN team is having a notable season winning first place awards in all of the tournaments they have competed in. The team was awarded top honors as

Best Delegation at the Duquesne University Model UN contest, first place at the Penn State Model UN tournament, and first place at the University of Pittsburgh tournament. The Model UN faculty advisors are Mt. Lebanon High School social studies teachers George Savarese, Peter DiNardo, and Adam Lumish.

Dr. James Walsh, Principal of Jefferson Middle School, and his team were awarded a \$15,000 grant by the Alcoa Foundation to support an “Environmental Year” at the school. The grant was awarded to enhance the environmental education curriculum in 7th grade that will include field trips to a L.E.E.D. certified building and a cart with 30 iPads and “apps” pertaining to science and the environment. The 7th grade teams also intend to use the iPads to reduce paper usage. In addition, by June 2014, students and teachers plan to recycle at least 40 lbs of aluminum and 30 pounds of non aluminum. The students will document this progress along with school's other environmentally friendly actions.

Washington Elementary School was awarded a \$2,953 technology grant from the Intermec Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase green screens, camcorders, tripods, and a 5-year subscription to Grolier Online Kids Encyclopedia. This equipment will be used to enhance the technological capacity of our students at Washington. The grant was submitted by Washington librarian Rae Ann Macosko.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that earlier today the food service workers unanimously ratified a two-year agreement which is similar in language to the current collective bargaining agreement. The Board is pleased that an agreement has been reached that will take us through the significant construction phases at the high school which includes a new main kitchen and serving area. The School Board will be voting later in the meeting to approve the new collective bargaining agreement.

The superintendent introduced Dr. Ron Davis and Dr. Deb Allen who gave a brief update on the District’s strategic plan.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Cooper reported that a meeting was held on February 5th to discuss revisions to several policies. Two of those policies are on the agenda this evening for approval by the Board. The next meeting of the Committee will be on March 5.

High School Renovation – Mr. Remely reported that several new rooms were opened and occupied by staff this week. The hole dug in front of the high school building is going to be a “subway” to the kitchen area.

Board Development – Mrs. Birks was asked by PSBA to invite Board members to a meeting at the AIU to discuss the state budget with legislators. Mrs. Birks is pursuing speakers and events to help the Board continue to grow.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that the Pathfinder Board met on February 19. Enrollment at the school is at 86 students. As president of the Pathfinder Board, Mr. Kubit has asked the Board to review the charter of the school.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center– Mr. Remely reported the Joint Operating Committee of Parkway has put together a budget for the 2014-2015 and participating schools will be receiving the information soon. Bids have gone out for the renovation of the culinary program

project. The school is renovating both culinary studios with new equipment. The studios will be ready for the next school year.

Mr. Remely announced that the following Mt. Lebanon students were on the Director's list: Jessica Arnone, Louis DeSomma, Joshua Foster, Malachi Owens, Joseph Roberto, and Patience Sutherin.

SHASDA – Mr. Riemer reported that SHASDA held a meeting on January 26. Mr. Riemer commented that he enjoyed meeting board members from other districts who share similar problems with Mt. Lebanon. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Terry Madonna, Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Franklin and Marshall College.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the Senate and House are adjourned until March 10 as a series of hearings are conducted to discuss the proposed 2014-2015 State budget that was presented by Governor Corbett.

Mrs. Birks attended the Education Policy and Leadership Center's forum on February 13, 2014, where a panel of education advocates and policy makers discussed the budget in detail. The governor proposes no additional funding to school districts though the basic education subsidy; however there is a proposed \$400 million of new funding through the following initiatives: PA Assessment, Ready to Learn Block Grant, Hybrid Learning, Special Education Funding, School Food Services, School Employees Retirement, and Governor's Schools. Some of the line items that would be flat-funded include: Basic Education Funding, Basic Education Funding Enhancements, Teacher Professional Development, Career and Technical Education, Safe Schools Initiative, and Community Education Councils. While the Governor called for meaningful pension reform, he did not submit his own pension reform plan but urged lawmakers to work with him on a proposal that would realize savings by changing benefits for new employees.

This week the House Appropriations Committee met with Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumaresq. The secretary fielded questions on various issues, with areas of interest focusing on levels of state support for schools, pension costs and funding for school construction projects under the PlanCon process.

NSBA is helping promote and circulate two "Dear Colleague" letters in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding Title I funding and special education funding as well as for Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations which will be forwarded to President Obama, requesting increased funding for Title I and IDEA in his FY 2015 budget proposal.

MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education met on January 30th, and welcomed new members, Jack Browen, Dale Ostergaard, high school science teacher Josh Bilac, PTA Council liaison Julie Smith, high school sophomore Marie Erickson, and high school juniors, Robert Adler and Chloe Hoffman. The Board is developing a fundraising and communications subcommittee, and will be reviewing the current by-laws. The next meeting of the MLFE Board will be on March 19.

Revenue Generation/Capital Campaign – Mr. Lebowitz reported that Elliot Oshry has provided general campaign training to the School Board, cabinet members and school administrators. Donor Pro has been populated with 18,000 alumni names. The committee is working hard to fill all the positions on the campaign committee, and all meetings with leaders and School Board members have gone well.

Environmental Sustainability – Mrs. Cappucci reported that she attended the last Environmental Sustainability meeting where most issues discussed were geared toward the Municipality. The ESB will be meeting with Mr. Salemi and Mrs. Chowdhury to discuss a composting pilot at Jefferson Middle School.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported he attended a meeting of the Drug Task Force where the statistics and the demographics of drug use were discussed. The age group affected was between 22-53 years of age crossing over all social standing groups indicating that this is not just a school problem, but an adult problem also. Father Bonner from St. Bernard's is drafting a memo to clergy in the Mt. Lebanon area with the statistics to further educate the community.

The prescription drop off box at the Mt. Lebanon Police station has been a huge success. To date 16 banker boxes have been filled with outdated prescriptions and are waiting for pick up by the DEA. More drugs have been collected in the drop off box than most counties combined.

Mr. Riemer took a tour of the high school project with Mt. Lebanon Commissioners and Steve Feller. They got a firsthand look at the progress of the project.

The Mt. Lebanon Fire Department has received the ISO public protection rating of 1, the highest a fire department could receive. Kudos to Chief Sohyda and the members of the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department. Residents can receive a letter from the fire chief to submit to insurance carriers to possibly receive a reduction in insurance costs.

Mr. Riemer attended the Active Shooter Training held at the Mt. Lebanon High School on February 17. He saw things in a totally different perspective and is proud of the Mt. Lebanon Police Department in raising the awareness of the high school staff. Everyone staff member in the Mt. Lebanon School District has received this training and he is confident they are prepared for an emergency.

Economic Development – Mr. Remely reported that he attended the Economic Development Board meeting in late January. The Board continues to consider thoughts on the TOD and TIF financing. A public stakeholder meeting on the development of the air rights over the T station will be held on March 10. The Board has selected the low density option, meaning fewer people with offices or apartments. Finally, the Spring Hill Suites hotel may open July 2014.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questions regarding Capital Projects
- Cost of High School Project
- Preliminary Budget
- Questions assessed value and collection rate
- Questioned tuition rate for foreign students
- Winterization costs for last year
- Change order details on drilling change orders

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves, ratifies and accepts the following financial reports: (Report pages 9-1 – 9-34)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated January 31, 2014,
- b. List of Bills dated January 31, 2014, and February 18, 2014,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated January 31, 2014,
- d. Budgetary Transfers dated February 3, 2014,
- e. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100 dated February 5, 2014, and
- f. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 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 Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2014-2015 construction season as per the list dated February 5, 2014, in the amount of \$1,614,568. (Report pages 9-35 – 9-36)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Lebowitz, Moorhead,
Riemer, Cappucci
Against: Remely
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Kubit to removed item #40, Trophy Case, from the Capital Projects Fund Budget.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Goldman, Moorhead, Remely
Against: Birks, Kubit, Lebowitz, Riemer, Cappucci
MOTION FAILED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the February 5, 2014, list of personnel changes, as revised February 24, 2014. (Report page 9-37)

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 Kubit that the District approves the new two-year collective bargaining agreement with the Mt. Lebanon Education Support Professionals, PSEA-NEA (Cafeteria) effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, in the form presented, and authorizes the Board President and appropriate administrators to execute such agreement. (Report pages 9-38 – 9-55)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to Policy DEAA, Real Estate Tax Collection, in the form presented. (Report pages 10-1 – 10-4)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves revisions to Policy KG, Community Use and Leasing of School Facilities, in the form presented. (Report pages 10-5 – 10-8)

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 approves a three-year preventative maintenance agreement with Automated Logic for a for Foster and Howe Elementary Schools at a cost of \$30,938. (Report pages 10-9 – 10-12)

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 Cooper that the Board approves the agreement with Consolidated Communications in substantially the form presented, subject to final approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor. (Report pages 10-13 – 10-17)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board authorizes the District to continue its participation in the AIU Western Pennsylvania Electric and Natural Gas Consortiums for the option to purchase electricity and natural gas for up to a three year term. The agreement for electricity will commence after the final meter read date on January 2015 and the agreement for natural gas will commence after the final meter read date in August 2015. (Report pages 10-18 – 10-19)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board appoints Joseph T. Senko as the Real Estate Tax Collector beginning February 1, 2014, until further action by the Board at an annualized rate of \$10,000 per year (\$833.33 per month).

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 Cooper that the Board approves the revision to the dates of the previously approved marching band trip to Orlando, FL from Wednesday, February 12 through Monday, February 17, 2014, to Tuesday, March 11 through Sunday, March 16, 2014.

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 the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project: (Report pages 11-1 – 11-166)

- a. ME-21-210 to McKamish for \$18,991 for ductwork and boiler bypass changes,
- b. PL-28-211 to Vrabel to \$9,206 for water line and hydrant repairs,
- c. FS-01-212 to CAC for \$619 for sink addition,
- d. GC-96-213 to Nello for \$37,244 for drilled pier mobilization adjustments,
- e. GC-97-214 to Nello for \$40,974 for site work and repairs,
- f. EL-57-215 to Farfield for \$19,441 for lighting, controls and power repairs, and
- g. CW-02-216 to Reed for \$575 to raise casework for dishwasher.

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

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Cooper suggested the Board discuss that the Tuition Student Policy opens enrollment to all students not just foreign students.

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