

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

April 15, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:33 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Foster students Megan Cusick, Haleigh Dively, Brady Napoleon, and Nicholas Georgiades. The students presented a video report on the Foster Way.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that Mt. Lebanon School District is the top-ranked school district in western Pennsylvania, according to the 2014 Pittsburgh Business Times' Honor Roll Rank. The annual Honor Roll ranks the 105 school districts in the region based on three years of scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests. This year, the District also ranked second in the statewide list of 495 districts. Mt. Lebanon High School and Jefferson Middle School were also ranked as the top 11th grade and 8th grade in the region. All 10 schools received high rankings that led to the overall top finish for the School District. The superintendent introduced the building principals and congratulated them on this outstanding achievement which is evidence of the great work our teachers, staff, administrators, and School Board do every day to provide the best education possible for each and every student.

Mt. Lebanon School District was among the top ranking school districts in the Nation in the tenth annual Digital School Districts Survey by the Center for Digital Education (CDE) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). The survey showcases exemplary school boards' and districts' use of technology to govern the district, communicate with students, parents and the community, and improve district operations. This year's recognition went to school districts for their expanding use of innovative technologies district-wide as well as in the classroom. Mt. Lebanon was the only school district in PA listed in the mid-sized student population category of 3,000 - 12,000 students.

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: Mr. Kenneth Cross, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Stephen Scheurer, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Peter Berg, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Mr. John Grogan, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Ms. Sarah Shaw, Mrs. Kelly Szeszterniak, Dr. James Walsh, Mr. Chris Wolfson, Ms. Erin Wright, Mr. Jeffrey Zeiders

MINUTES

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 5, 2014; the Discussion Meeting held on March 10, 2014; and the Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Anna Senter and Alyssa Mule from Jefferson Middle School presented an update on the JMS Student Council events. The students have been focusing on two endeavors: fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association and continuing leadership training. Two recent fundraisers profited \$344.19 for the Alzheimer's Association. Twenty-three students attended the PASC District 3 Spring Conference at Quaker Valley School District. Jefferson MS students led workshops on fundraising and communications. Upcoming events include a Chick-Fil-A fundraiser, an ice cream social for students involved in the Pop Tab Wars, and attendance at Student Council Day at PNC Park.

Mt. Lebanon High School seniors, Sam Blehar and Billy Moorhead, reported on the activities at the High School. Sam and Billy congratulated Mrs. Schreiner, Mr. Kuhar and the other staff members, cast, and crew on the Evening Theatre's chilling production of *Sweeney Todd*. The cast and crew of the high school musical *Carousel* are hard at work for next month's production. The final blood drive of the school year was held at the Galleria on April 11-12. High School student volunteers will assist with 8th grade Move-Up Day on April 24. Students from both middle schools and St. Bernard will visit all on one day and will listen to a presentation by administrators, staff members, and selected teachers followed by a panel discussion with current high school students. The high school seniors are looking forward to their final days as Mt. Lebanon high school students. Events include the Senior Reception, Awards Night, the Prom, Senior Picnic in the Park, and cheering on athletic teams.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci opened her report with a moment of silence in honor of the students and staff at Franklin Regional High School.

The board president presented an update on the budget process for 2014-2015. The Board will take action this evening on the proposed final budget set at \$87,924,509 with a millage increase of .54 for a total millage rate of 23.15. This budget includes using \$750,000 from the District's budgetary reserves.

RIFLE RANGE DISCUSSION

The Board discussed whether or not to renovate the current rifle range or find other solutions such as renting space at another school's rifle range or a sportsman's club to keep the rifle program in the high school. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that the majority would like to keep the rifle program and that administration should investigate the cost to renovate the current rifle range.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Nine residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Benefits and values students acquire by being a member of the rifle team
- Supports keeping the rifle program and preserving the team
- Urged the Board to keep the rifle program on campus
- Urged Board to renovate the current rifle range
- A new rifle range could be a revenue source

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Cooper reported that the next meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on May 7.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that 86 students are enrolled in programs at Pathfinder now. Pathfinder is entering into the budgeting season with about \$50,000 worth of capital projects to be done over the summer. The budget will remain the same as last year with no increase to Mt. Lebanon. One major project is repairing or replacing the current elevator because of safety concerns. This will be a major expense for the school. Because of a construction project next to the school, there have been some drainage issues which need to be resolved. The next meeting of the Pathfinder Board will be held on April 16.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that Parkway West CTC received an Occupational Achievement Certificate based on an analysis from the Department of Education for the year 2011-2012 indicating that more than 80% of the students performed at competent or advanced level on the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exams. Parkway also received an Academic Achievement Award for 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 school years. The school met or exceeded the state required increases in reading, math, and occupational achievement. Mt. Lebanon High School student, Malachi Owens, was named Parkway Student of the Month. Malachi is a senior in the digital multimedia program.

SHASDA – Mr. Riemer reported that the annual SHASDA conference will be held on April 25-26 at Southpointe. The keynote speaker for the conference is Nathan Maines, and the student award presentations will be held on Saturday.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that John Callahan from PSBA presented testimony to the House Education Committee on HB 2124 regarding school construction and the PlanCon approval process. . It was also discovered through a newspaper article that charter school lease payments are taken from PlanCon funds. The bill provides a more modern, simplified and financially sustainable process for school construction reimbursement. Mr. Callahan contacted Mt. Lebanon to talk through the challenges we are facing with PlanCon.

PSBA is sending a report to all legislators regarding provisions in law that allow double payments to charter schools from both school districts and the state for the employer share of their employee pension costs. The report emphasizes that the pension double dip means that charters receive reimbursement at the rate of 150% -- a major windfall for them and fundamentally unfair to school districts and taxpayers who ultimately pay the bill. PSBA stated that removing the school district's employer contribution from the charter school funding formula is estimated to save taxpayers \$122 million in the first year and \$1 billion over six years.

PA Department of Education (PDE) acting Secretary Dumaresq announced that they will not be developing any additional Keystone Exams, including tests for English Composition, and Civics and Government. Both Chapter 4 regulations and Act 82 of 2012 subject the availability of these exams to state funding, and the state does not have the resources to move forward at this time.

MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the MLFE Board met to work on by-laws, and the mission statement, and has a new communication/marketing committee as well as a fundraising committee. Both committees are hard at work.

Revenue Generation/Capital Campaign – The Capital Campaign Committee is continuing the recruitment of committee members for each committee. Each committee is developing action on how they will be moving forward with their respective groups. A new marketing brochure has been developed to use as the committee moves forward in the campaign.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer met with Commissioner Kelly Frassch to review the Drug Task Force and will be setting up another meeting to discuss an outreach program to the clergy and physicians in the South Hills area. Mr. Riemer had a follow up conversation with police Chief McDonough about the school safety program, and the Chief indicated that school safety is their number one priority.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Proposed Final Budget
Tax appeals

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2014,
- b. List of Bills dated March 31, 2014, and April 9, 2014,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2014, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated April 1, 2014.

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 a Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$87,924,509, at a millage rate of 23.15 mills, a .54 mill increase from 2013-14, utilizing \$750,000 of the fund balance in the form presented. Furthermore, the Board intends to vote on a Final Budget with such changes as it deems necessary at its May 19, 2014 meeting. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cooper, Kubit, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Remely, Riemer, Cappucci

Against: Goldman

MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the April 7, 2014, list of personnel changes, as revised April 15, 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 cooper and seconded by Kubit that the Board adopts Policy EECAF, Video/Audio Monitors on School Buses, 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 the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,088,563 with an estimated cost to the District of \$81,352. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved Remely and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Budget for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,678,951 with an estimated cost to the District of \$219,911, and the Building Rental Budget in the amount of \$456,192 with an estimated cost to the District of \$78,921. (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 list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. GC-99-221 to Nello for \$42,528 for wall and floor work,
- b. PL-29-222 to Vrael for \$3,964 for water and heater repairs,
- c. EL-60-223 to Farfield for \$12,161 for additional fire alarm horns,
- d. FP-05-224 to SimplexGrinnell for \$91,713 for additional sprinklers above auditorium, and
- e. IN-02-04 to Vrael for \$16,361 for hot water heater repairs to be reimbursed through insurance.

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 Remely that the Board approves the Student Adjudication A in the form presented.

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 Remely that the Board approves the Student Adjudication B in the form presented.

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 an agreement with Wesley Spectrum STEP for the 2013-2014 school year to provide educational services to Mt. Lebanon students at a cost of \$180 per day beginning March 24, 2014 to the end of the school year not to exceed \$10,400 per student for no more than two students. (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 Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Integrated Services for the 2013-2014 school year to provide special education services to a Mt. Lebanon student at a cost of \$75.00 per day beginning March 25, 2014 to the end of the school year not to exceed \$9,120. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Rifle Range; Expand to 10 lanes and offer use to surrounding communities
Final Proposed Budget
Tax appeals

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors