

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

May 19, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mrs. Cappucci called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Markham Elementary Student Council members Maddie Snyder, Grace Kearns, Sam Menk, Ethan Glass, Rachel Donehue, Rebecca Buerger, Zoe Warren, Lucy Rimmel, Olivia Salib, Ruth Bergquist, and Lucie Byrne. The students presented a video showing the highlights and memories of their years at Markham.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci
Absent: Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Edward Kubit
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. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Robert Freil, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Melissa Nelson, Mr. Christopher Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on April 7, 2014; and the Regular Meeting held on April 15, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Kay Casturo from Jefferson Middle School presented a report on the activities at Jefferson Middle School. The fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association has continued with a spirit night at Chick-fil-A adding \$145.12 to the donation. This brings the total to \$489.31 for the school year. As Jefferson MS students clean out their lockers, they will be asked to donate new and gently used school supplies to help supply underprivileged schools in South Dakota, Kenya and Malawi. A Wish Week was held with council members donning wings, spreading cheer and granting wishes. Finally, JMS seventh grader Rebecca Schwartz won a middle level board seat for the 2014-2015 PASC District Board.

Mellon Middle School Student Council member Anna Conway reported on the activities at Mellon. During the PSSA testing, student council braved the cold and decorated the entrances to Mellon with encouraging words for the students and staff. During the month of May, students gave tours to 5th grade elementary students around Mellon in preparation for the coming school year. The Student Council is finishing the year with a drive to help school students in Malawi. Mellon students will be asked to donate school supplies from their lockers as they clean them out at the end of the year.

Julie Niederberger, High School Student Body Co-Treasurer, presented the final report of the year on the activities at the High School. New Student Body Officers will be inducted for the 2014-2015 school year. New officers are Nikola Ranick and Joey Stabile as Co-Presidents, Ryan Caste and Evan Cohen as Co-Vice Presidents, Kevin Caste and Lyvia Hurst as Co-Secretaries and Reed Callan and Joel Kirshner as Co-Treasurers.

The high school production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel" was a huge success. The cast, the crew, and the orchestra pulled off an amazing performance each and every night in the Fine Arts Theatre.

The Sophomore Class has produced a public service announcement regarding the need for all students to clean up their trash in each of the school's cafeteria. It is a humorous and effective way to encourage our student body to be more responsible for their litter. They are also planning a Class of 2016 Field Day at Bird Park on June 9th, after final exams. They are planning to have a variety of fun outdoor games and a bonfire to commemorate the end of their sophomore year in high school.

All of the seniors are looking forward to several events that will recognize the end of our high school career. The Senior Reception will occur this Wednesday, May 22nd, and "Puttin' on the Glitz" is the theme for this year's Prom which will take place at the Omni William Penn Hotel on May 27th. Then on June 10th, the Senior Class Picnic in the Park will be held prior to the Commencement rehearsal. And finally, on Wednesday, June 11th, Commencement will take place.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Cappucci took a moment to talk of all the work the Board does, where all of the decisions lead us, the bigger picture of what is going on in the District, and how the decisions made reflect in the day to day work of the staff and in outcomes for children.

The Board has been discussing the 2014-2015 budget since January, and the administration has been working on it all year. Board members have done their due diligence and have met individually with the District administration and reviewed volumes of financial information. The Board has taken all of the information received into consideration in the development of this budget and will be taking action this evening on the final budget in the amount of \$87,924,509, requiring a millage increase of 0.54 mills, or a total rate of 23.15 mills.

Mrs. Cappucci reported that a ruling on the grievance which the MLEA filed against the District in late 2011 has been clarified by the arbitrator. The award applies only to teachers hired after the fall of 2011 (and prior to 2013, when the District began giving credits for permanent substitute time in the District) so the cost to the District moving only those teachers up on the salary scale will be approximately \$20,000. The Board is relieved to have this issue settled as we prepare to take action on the budget for next year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer highlighted the work and careers of some of the finest administrators, teachers and staff on the occasion of their retirement from the Mt. Lebanon School District. This year there are three administrators, four teachers and five support staff totaling over 243 of expertise and experience in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Certificates of Appreciation and a Mt. Lebanon pin were presented to Dr. Deb Allen, Connie Lewis, Mary Ann Schnirel, Gary Ford, Mary Luxbacher, Marilyn Reinhard, Cynthia Schreiner, Elizabeth Baer, Anthony Biagini, Maureen

Bushman, Marilyn Hesemann, and Myrona Little. Dr. Steinhauer thanked each of them for their dedication to Mt. Lebanon students and their service to the District.

The Mt. Lebanon School District and Director of Business, Ms. Janice Klein, received the Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financing Reporting award for having exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The District was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2013. This is the 29th year the District has been honored with the prestigious award.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that this spring, our students excelled in academic Competitions at the state and national level. The Model UN ended its season by winning the conference at Westminster College completing a perfect season winning all five tournaments this year. Congratulations to the students and their faculty advisors, Peter DiNardo, George Savarese, and Adam Lumish on an outstanding season.

Nineteen students from grades 5-12 competed in Knoxville, TN at the Academic Games National Tournament. Players participated in cube and trivia games against hundreds of other players in the areas of mathematics, set theory, presidents, propaganda techniques, language, current events, and American History. The following Mt. Lebanon students excelled in the competition and won several awards including Leo Matros, a sixth grader from Jefferson Middle School and senior Tom Jasionowski. Congratulations to all of the students who participated and their coaches, high school staff members Amanda Checque, Mike Yazvac, Ben Minett, Brad Kavo, Mike Locke, and Mt. Lebanon graduate Nina Wroniak.

Mt. Lebanon students had an outstanding Odyssey of the Mind season this year with strong performances at the regional and state levels. At the regional competition in March, 28 teams from Mt. Lebanon participated and nine teams advanced to the State Finals. The High School team of Lydia Herman, Eva Morrison, Olivia Pandolfi, Ellie DePastino, Katie Lindefjeld, and Katie Brown were honored with the most prestigious award in Odyssey of the Mind, the Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award. Mt. Lebanon had the most teams of any school district represented at the state competition in April. Teams from Foster, Jefferson Middle, Mellon Middle, Markham, Jefferson Elementary and the High School participated. The High School team won first place in the state finals and were invited to attend the World competition at Iowa State University.

The superintendent reported that Caleb Reynolds was awarded the UPMC Sports Medicine "Comeback Player of the Month" by former Pittsburgh Steeler Hines Ward, Roberto Clemente, Jr., and Nathan Burt from UPMC. Caleb, a lacrosse player, was presented with the award which included a \$1,000 college scholarship from UPMC Sports Medicine.

This week the Mt. Lebanon Percussion will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. There will be a special alumni band performance, and internationally know compose and marimba soloist, Dr. Nathan Daughtrey, was commissioned to write a major work for the percussion ensemble. Congratulations to percussion director, Richard Minnotte, on this milestone celebration.

BOARD REPORTS

Parkway West Career and Technical Center –Mr. Remely reported that the culinary school kitchens are under construction for the new school year. Ninety-four seniors passed with advanced rating in NOCTI exams. In the Skills USA completion, a student from Parkway advanced to the national level. Mt. Lebanon High School student, Malachi Owens, was named to the Parkway West CTC honor roll.

SHASDA – Mr. Riemer reported that the annual SHASDA conference was held April 25-26 at Southpointe. Nathan Mains, PSBA Executive Director, was the keynote speaker for the Friday evening dinner. Saturday morning’s agenda included awards presented to two students from the participating districts who have overcome substantial obstacles. Mt. Lebanon awardees were Daniel Yessler and Abby Lane. The keynote speaker for the breakfast was Father Scott Seethaler.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that PSBA is now inviting all member school boards to submit comment and suggestions for the association’s Legislative Platform for 2015, now until June 30. The Platform Committee has approved an initial draft of a new format for the 2015 platform to make it a more relevant tool for the association's advocacy efforts.

According to a May 13th Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article, two companion bills aiming to reallocate special education funding in Pennsylvania are under fire because of how they would distribute those funds to charter schools. Charter school advocates argue that the bills would decrease funding for their special education students and hinder their ability to provide adequate student care. But supporters of the legislation maintain that charters are dramatically overfunded now compared to traditional public schools.

Representative Dan Miller and Senator Matt Smith have kept the District informed of any and all education legislation. Mrs. Birks thanked both of these gentlemen for their diligence and service to our community and its constituents.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 10, the “Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act,” on Friday, May 9. The legislation would support state efforts to start, expand, and replicate successful charter schools. The bill would also provide support for charter school facilities. Representative Tim Murphy voted “yea” to this legislation. While NSBA supports charter schools that are authorized by the local school boards in the communities where they are located, they voiced opposition to this legislation because it would not address the concerns expressed by the NSBA Delegate Assembly. These concerns included accountability and transparency, the bill’s proposed authorization of funding, and proposed assistance for charter school facilities.

MLFE/Capital Campaign – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the MLFE has become much more active over the past several months partly due to Alyssa DeLuca taking charge of the organization. The Board has been actively working on by-laws, a mission statement and marketing and communications.

A case statement entitled “Century of Excellence” has been prepared with the help of Alyssa DeLuca and will become part of the marketing for the Capital Campaign. Pursuant Ketchum presented an interim report to the Cabinet Committee stating that the campaign is on track and proceeding as planned.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that the Drug and Alcohol Task Force met to discuss future operations. Mr. Riemer and Commissioner Fraasch will speak about the task force and what has been done at a ministerial meeting headed by Father Bonner from St. Bernard. The Task Force is looking to address issues with the young adults in the community.

Mr. Riemer and Commissioner Fraasch held a joint meeting with Senator Smith and Representative Miller to discuss problems about tax assessments in Allegheny County and statewide, the state budget with no significant relief to school district in the future, PSERS, money spent by school districts on cyber and charter schools, and the PlanCon process.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- 2014-2015 Budget
- Tax increase clearly unwarranted
- Overestimating of expenditures creates surplus every year
- Community overtaxed
- Suggested that Board reestablish Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Budget Committee, and Budget Forum
- Consider what the community can bear not just what the School District needs

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves a Final Budget for the 2014-2015 School Year in the amount of \$87,924,509 setting the millage rate at 23.15 mills, a .54 mill increase over the 2013-2014 millage rate, utilizing \$750,000 of the Fund Balance to balance revenues with expenditures and continuing in force all other taxes levied for school purposes as per the formal budget resolution. (Formal Resolution to be amended to the minutes.)

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

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated April 30, 2014,
- b. List of Bills dated April 30, 2014, and May 14, 2014,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated April 30, 2014, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated May 1, 2014.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Birks that the Board appoints Joseph T. Senko as the Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2014-2015 school year at a salary of \$10,000.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board appoints Joseph T. Senko as the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2014-2015 school year at no remuneration.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Remely that the Board appoints Janice R. Klein as the School District Treasurer for the 2014-2015 school year at no remuneration.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board exonerates the Real Estate Tax Collector from collecting taxes on the list of real estate tax exonerations dated May 1, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Remely that the Board approves bids for the supplies and equipment for the 2014-2015 school year to the lowest responsible bidders meeting specification as per the Vendor Name Summary dated April 29, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Birks that the Board authorizes the administration to open a bank account with the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF) for tax purposes at no cost to the District. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer to complete the forms necessary to complete this action.

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the May 12, 2014, list of personnel changes, as revised May 19, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board elects and appoints Dr. Marybeth Irvin to the position of Assistant Superintendent for a three year term beginning July 1, 2014, at such salary and benefits as the Board establishes from time to time.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Goldman, 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 FF, Naming Rights, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Goldman, 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 KGD, Partnerships and Sponsorships, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Goldman, 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 KHB, Advertising, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the following 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>
September 3 and September 4, 2013	All Elementary	Kindergarten	AM & PM	Kindergarten Interview
October 25, 2013	All Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
November 7, 2013	All Elementary	K	PM	Parent Conferences
November 8, 2013	All Elementary	K-5	AM & PM	Parent Conferences
April 10, 2014	All Elementary	K	AM	Parent Conferences
April 11, 2014	All Elementary	K-5	AM & PM	Parent Conferences
May 16, 2014	Markham Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 19, 2014	Washington Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 21, 2014	Hoover Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 22, 2014	Lincoln Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 23, 2014	Foster Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 29, 2014	Howe Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service
May 30, 2014	Jefferson Elementary	1-5	PM	Teacher In-Service

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Moorhead that for the purpose of providing appropriate educational programs and services for all District children, the Board approves the proposed standardized testing schedule for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE(S)</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT</u>
September 8 – October 3, 2014	1 - 5	Measures of Academic Progress Reading and Math
	6 - 11	Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT) – English, Math, Science
December 3 – 17, 2014	8 – 11	Keystone – Algebra 1
	11	Keystone – Biology
	10 - 11	Keystone - English Literature
January 5 – February 6, 2015	K – 5	Measures of Academic Progress- Reading and Math
	6 – 11	Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT) – English, Math, Science
April 13 – 17, 2015	3 - 8	Achievement Test – English Language Arts (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
April 20 – 24, 2015	3 - 8	Achievement Test – Math (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
April 27 – May 1, 2015	4 and 8	Achievement Test – Science (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
May 4 – May 29, 2015	K - 5	Measures of Academic Progress- Reading and Math
	6 - 11	Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT) – English, Math, Science
May 13 – 27, 2015	8 – 11	Keystone - Algebra 1
	10 – 11	Keystone – Biology
	9 - 11	Keystone - English Literature
May, 2015	1	Speech and Language Screening
ROLL CALL: For:	Birks, Goldman, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Remely, Riemer, Cappucci	
Against:	None	
	MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED	

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Remely that the Board approves an agreement with Keystone Oak's Project Succeed Program at a cost of \$15,000 per year for no more than 15 students. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the Lease Schedule for 2014-2015. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the lease agreements with Mt. Lebanon Extended Day for 2014-2015 as per the list dated May 1, 2014. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board awards Project No. 14-1, Jefferson Middle School Roof Replacement, to Slagel Roofing & Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$47,900 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the Mt. Lebanon High School String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Choir trip to New York City, April 11-14, 2015.

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

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

- a. GC-100-225 to Nello for \$74,520 for floor, wall, structure and ceiling work,
- b. PL-30-226 to Vlabel for \$16,793 for drain, water and storm lines and heater repairs,
- c. EL-61-227 to Farfield for \$873 for cable, fire alarm, card reader and gas resets, and
- d. ME-23-228 to McKamish for \$12,291 for diffusers, ducts and coils.

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Remely that in accordance with Section 803 Pennsylvania School Laws, the Board approves the list of textbooks for the 2014-2015 school year as follows:

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Subject: ENGLISH

Course:

Title	Grade	Publisher	Copyright Date	Author
<i>Unbroken</i>	12	Random House	2010	Laura Hillenbrand

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Subject: ENGLISH
Course:

Title	Grade	Publisher	Copyright Date	Author
<i>How They Croaked</i> (used for UA rotation)	6	Walker	2012	Georgia Bragg

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Renovation of Rifle Range
Budget surplus
Addition of 3rd grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary for 2014-2015

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cappucci announced that an 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 9:25 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors