

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

January 19, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:36 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 1, 2014, and the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Board will be taking action this evening on the preliminary budget for 2015-2016. Preparing a budget this early in the process is extremely difficult because there is so much information not yet available which directly impacts the final determination. As more information becomes available, the District will be in a better position to decide the final millage rate. The board president indicated that although the District has rarely used the exceptions above the Act 1 index, they are included in the preliminary budget so as to give the ultimate flexibility to do what is necessary for the District.

Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Board will focus on the issue of the high school rifle range at next month's discussion meeting. The Board has already considered extensive information on all aspects of this issue and will continue to do so over the next month. The Board continues to welcome input from interested residents and look forward to thoughtful consideration of this important topic.

The board president announced that due to his commitment as president, he has stepped down as co-chair of the Capital Campaign. Josephine Posti has agreed to fill this role alongside Carol Walton. Elaine Cappucci has agreed to fill Jo's former role as the co-chairperson of the Alumni Committee.

In last month's board president report, Mr. Lebowitz announced that he would be visiting all ten schools during the upcoming year. His first visit was to his alma mater, Hoover Elementary School. It was a terrific experience filled with visits to several different classes to observe, among other things, the Olweus Bullying Prevention program, MAP testing, a math class working on multiplication, division and factors, a violin lesson for a class of only five or six students, first graders reading beautifully, and fifth graders making a sculpture. Mr. Lebowitz thanked Hoover principal Kelly Szeszterniak, the teachers, and the students for welcoming him.

The board president ended his report with the following quote from Dr. Martin Luther King in honor of the day that he hoped would guide all in the District, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that January is school board recognition month across Pennsylvania. It is a time when we take a brief moment and recognize the significant contributions of the members of our local school board. These nine individuals have been democratically elected to represent the educational interests of our community—for the children, the parents, and the residents. They have been entrusted to make the best possible decisions for educating the community's children. On behalf of the students, faculty, staff and administrators, Dr. Steinhauer presented each Board member with a small token of appreciation and a certificate thanking them for all that they do.

In November, the Board reviewed our student's outstanding academic performance report. The evidence showed that our students achieve at a consistently high level, but scores on standardized tests only tell one portion of the Mt. Lebanon educational experience. A Mt. Lebanon education includes experiences in the fine and performing arts, athletics and student activities. In keeping with the Board's desire to hear reports about our educational programs and how they contribute to achieving the goals of our strategic plan, the Mt. Lebanon music department, led by department chair Jennifer Rodriguez, presented a report on the K-12 music education program and mastery of 21st Century competencies.

BOARD REPORTS

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that the Pathfinder Board will meet on January 21. The one issue facing the Board is that it has become apparent that more space is needed for instruction. The Board is considering ending the lease with Chartiers.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Riemer reported that the recently toured Parkway West and was impressed with the facilities and the engagement with children.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that Tom Wolf will be sworn in as the 47th Governor of Pennsylvania on January 20. The Governor will be presenting his 2015-2016 State budget proposal before a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives on March 3. Following the governor's budget address, the Senate and House Appropriations Committees will convene hearings on specific components of the proposal.

Acting Education Secretary Carolyn Dumaesq gave the State Education Board a summary of the feedback that the Department of Education (PDE) received from its interactive website for the public review of the Eligible Content for the PA Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3 through 8, and in Algebra I and Literature at the secondary level. She reported that 5,189 people visited the site with close to 20,000 unique sessions on the site.

The PSBA's new Leadership Education and Resource Network (LEARN), has recently been launched for board members as a tool to find the exact self-study module needed directly from PSBA's website. There are nearly 20 self-study modules to choose from with more being added all the time. Topics include collective bargaining, board reorganization, minutes and media relations.

The 114th Congress is in full swing and reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is a top priority. The discussion draft proposes:

- Eliminating adequate yearly progress and facilitating annual reporting through statewide accountability systems;
- Eliminating Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provisions;
- Eliminating the current School Improvement Grants program and allowing states to develop their own turnaround models with respective school districts;
- Eliminating the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and seemingly redirecting funding to Title II programs ("High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders"); and,
- Keeping authorizations of funding levels for Title I, Impact Aid and other programs at a fixed amount each year through Fiscal Year 2021.

NSBA advocates for a comprehensive, strategic reauthorization of ESEA that provides school districts the flexibility and resources they need to respond to the educational challenges in their local communities.

Revenue Generation – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Awareness Committee held on an event on December 10 for potential donors. About 40 people, including members of the Cabinet, attended. The Pacesetter Committee met to discuss prospective top donors, identify primary contacts, and decide on strategies. The Campaign Cabinet met to review a revised calendar and continue discussion about recognition opportunities that was started in December.

The MLFE Board is meeting on January 21 to focus on planning for the inaugural *Taste of Lebo* fundraising event planned for April 18.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with PSEA president, Mike Crossey. They discussed the PlanCon process and tuition to charter schools taken from public schools.

Mr. Riemer met with Commissioner Kelly Fraasch. The drug drop off box located at the Mt. Lebanon Police station has been successful. Residents are disposing of unused and expired drugs that could potentially be a serious problem for the community.

The Mt. Lebanon Commissioners would like a tour of the renovated high school, and would like to hold a joint Commission/School Board meeting to discuss the ALICE safety program.

Economic Development – Mr. Goldman reported that the next meeting will be held on January 23.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2014,
- b. List of Bills dated December 30, 2014 and January 14, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2014, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated January 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Goldman, Kubit, Moorhead,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz (abstained from item b.)
Against: None
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Cappucci that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2015-2016 school year as needed.

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the Preliminary General Fund Budget in the form presented in the amount of \$91,880,396 and a millage rate of 23.81 mills and authorizes the administration to apply for exceptions to the Act 1 of 2006 Index as permissible. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the contract with Mockenhaupt Benefits Group for an actuarial valuation of OPEB obligations as required under GASB Statement #45 in the amount of \$7,500. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the January 8, 2015, list of personnel changes, as revised January 15, 2015 and January 19, 2015. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the contract with Margaret M. Schmidt in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with Frontline for the Applitrack system, subject to negotiation of a final agreement acceptable to the Superintendent and the Solicitor. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the contract with the AIU for Translation Services at an annual fee of \$120 plus \$3.29 per minute as needed in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

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

- a. GC-109-262 to Nello for \$60,909 for door, partition, wall, concrete and masonry work,
- b. EL-74-263 to Farfield for \$7,610 for piping, lights and safety revisions,
- c. IN-09-11 to Farfield for \$37,728 for cable repairs,
- d. IN-10-12 to McKamish for \$13,072 for HVAC repairs, and
- e. EL-73-261 to Farfield voided in the amount of \$10,577.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Rifle range update
Cost of living increase
Average increase for teachers

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of litigation and personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors