

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

February 23, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015, in the Jefferson Middle School Library.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Washington Elementary students Ella Winters, Ally Byrom, Greyson Byrom, and James Kline. The students presented a report on the service projects at Washington to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Scott Goldman, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Daniel Remely, 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. Katie Devine, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mr. Doug Szokoly

MINUTES

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on January 12, 2015, and the Regular Meeting held on January 19, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School student council members Luke Giles and Maddie Maselko reported on the activities at Mellon. The first fundraiser of 2015 was Pennies for Patients which raised over \$2,500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society. Student Council sold cookie-grams to students, faculty and parents to show support for one another. Paperback books are being collected for a book drive for incarcerated inmates. Mellon students are once again providing computer tutoring to senior citizens. Help will be given in everything from creating an email account to booking a flight.

Mt. Lebanon High School student body officers Joey Stabile and Evan Cohen reported on the activities at the high school. The student body had a great time at the Snowball dance—the last dance to take place in Center Court. The election process for student government begins this month. Twelve junior class executive student council members interested in creating a positive environment for the high school attended an informational meeting.

Twelve students plan to participate at the Pennsylvania Student Leadership Consortium at Ringgold High School. The students who will be attending this event will learn how other high

schools in Allegheny County design their dances and assemblies, include technology in their classroom, and set up school wide initiatives. The Link Crew program continues to benefit the freshman class. This program allows junior and seniors to mentor the freshmen throughout the academic year. The second annual “Cocoa and Cram” event was held last month on the evening prior to first semester finals.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz thanked Dr. Steinhauer and his team for doing what is necessary to ensure the safety of our students during the recent stretch of frigid temperatures.

The Board will be approving the District’s Capital Projects List at this evening’s meeting. This year the administration projects that a total of \$939,665 is needed for upkeep of the District’s ten buildings. Projects have been categorized and prioritized making sure that those which are most pressing are at the top of the list. The list will be posted on the District’s website.

The board president reported that the Board had an extensive discussion regarding the rifle range at the Discussion meeting held on February 9th. The discussion was extremely productive, and the Board appreciates the excellent input which was received. The Board will continue discussion at this evening’s meeting.

Mr. Lebowitz reported that since the Board passed a preliminary budget in January they have already received and will continue to receive additional and very important information that will ultimately be used for the final budget to be voted on in May.

The board president recognized and thanked the Mt. Lebanon Police Department for its ongoing support. The District has always had an excellent working relationship with the MLPD as we continue to share the exact same focus—ensuring the safety of our children. These efforts are greatly appreciated by the District and the School Board.

Mr. Lebowitz introduced Dale Ostergaard, the current president of the Mt. Lebanon Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to directly enhance student experience in our schools. MLFE achieves this goal by raising money on behalf of the School District for innovative educational programs available to all students. Mr. Ostergaard presented grant awards to Mellon teacher Kevin McCain, Markham teacher Vicki Burkett, and Lincoln teacher Stacy Maehling to enhance the learning experience for children in their classrooms. The Board applauds the efforts of the MLFE for supporting the mission of the District.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that due to cancellation of classes on February 19 and 20 because of extremely cold temperatures and wind chill, make up dates will be held on June 15 and 16.

Eleven Mt. Lebanon students participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences Fair at Duquesne University. Students Julie Raiff, Nancy Lu, Nikolas Mustian, and Varsha Venugopal earned first place awards and an invitation to the state completion at Penn State University in May. In addition to first place awards, Nikolas Mustian won the Duquesne Physics Department Award and Nancy Lu was awarded the Carnegie Mellon Sigma Xi Award and the Duquesne Bayer Award. The superintendent congratulated these students and their faculty advisors, Kyle Tilger and Josh Bilak.

Jefferson Middle School’s Literary magazine *Our Piece of Mind* and Mellon Middle School’s *The Outlook* were both recognized with a rank of Excellent in the 2014 National Council of

Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. The NCTE's literary magazine program encourages all schools to develop literary magazines, seeking excellence in writing and school-wide participation in production. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated Jefferson student editors Serena Ingalls and Samara Steinfeld and faculty advisor Melissa Kelly, and Mellon student editors Emmie D'Amico and Katie McRury and their faculty advisor Nancy Junker on this outstanding accomplishment.

Dr. Steinhauer introduced elementary Health and Physical Education facilitator, Christine Stilley, and secondary Department Chair, Mark DeBernardis, who presented an update on the K-12 Health and Physical Education curriculum program.

BOARD REPORTS

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that she met with the administration and PJ Dick two week ago to review the change orders on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Remely reported that most of the work is occurring in D building, damage to the cafeteria floor which was damaged by rain is being repaired, the District is working on vacating buildings A and C, the kitchen and the cafeteria should be ready for use by the end of March, the trophy case should be completed by the end of this week, and site work on Horsman Drive will continue when the weather breaks.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported that Pathfinder School held their reorganization meeting and welcomed two new members to the Board. Mr. Kubit was elected president of the Pathfinder Board for another year. Mr. Kubit indicated that 84 students are enrolled a Pathfinder. Principal Terry Surace is retiring and Nick Fratto, is appointed Acting Principal. Former Pathfinder Board member Dick Rose has been brought in as unpaid support to help prepare a five-year budget for Pathfinder.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that the college credit program with CCAC has been discontinued. Dr. Copeland is working with other entities/schools to fill the void created by the loss.

NSBA/PSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the amended version of the Student Success Act (H.R. 5) was approved by the House Education and the Workforce Committee on February 11 to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and is slated for consideration this week in the full House of Representatives. The bill would revamp the 13-year-old No Child Left Behind Act, which has imposed unintended consequences on students and schools, rather than advance achievement in a comprehensive manner. The Board has been asked to share a letter with our members of Congress, which will be sent to Congressman Murphy.

In the State House of Representatives, House Bill 210 is the re-introduction of PlanCon reform legislation from the previous session under House Bill 2124. The bill would reform the current approval process through the PA Department of Education (PDE) for state reimbursement for school construction projects under a new five-step process known as the Accountability and Reducing Costs in Construction Process, or ARCCon. The changes under House Bill 210 will address the backlog for current construction projects and future construction projects awaiting reimbursement.

While acknowledging that debate on the issue continues, this week the Senate passed and sent to the House legislation that would allow the General Assembly to determine which properties qualify for tax exempt status.

Mrs. Birks will be meeting with Representative Dan Miller to go over several bills in the House and any other issues brought forward. She expects to schedule a meeting with Senator Matt Smith in March.

Mrs. Birks legislative reports can be found on the District website on the School Board page.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that SHASDA held a meeting on January 22 where Ira Weiss, Pittsburgh School District solicitor, presented a program on evaluating teachers. The next meeting will be the student forum on March 10.

Revenue Generation – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Campaign Cabinet met on February 11 to finalize the recognition opportunities list and discuss what happens when donations are made. The faculty/staff committee continues to make progress with their constituents. Meetings were held at the both middle schools and the high school and with secondary principals. All committee are looking at dates for awareness meetings.

The MLFE Board has been busy planning a fundraising event called the Taste of Lebo: Battle of the Appetizers, scheduled for April 18. The Board is planning to begin recruiting new student representatives in March for the 2015-16 school year.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he met with Commissioner Kristen Linfante to discuss the rifle range issue. Upgrades to the municipal range in the future will benefit the high school. It is a win-win situation. Commissioners would like a tour of the high school project.

Economic Development – Mr. Goldman attended meetings on January 23 and January 30 to establish the agenda for 2015. They have invited several different groups to meet with them where there could be economic development. Invitations have been sent to the Dennis Theatre and Zamiagas.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Questioned if the high school archery club could be included in whatever decision is made for the rifle range

RIFLE RANGE DISCUSSION

The Board held a discussion regarding whether or not to move forward with the renovation of the rifle range at a cost of nearly \$700,000. It was the consensus of the Board to not renovate the rifle range. The District will continue to support the rifle program at the high school.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated January 30, 2015, and February 18, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated January 31, 2015,
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2015, and
- e. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100 dated February 2, 2015.

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 Cooper that the Board approves the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2015-2016 construction season as per the list dated February 2, 2015, in the amount of \$939,665. (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 Remely that the Board approves the February 9, 2015, list of personnel changes, as revised February 23, 2015. (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 Cappucci and seconded Birks that the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill Industries Transition WORKS! program for the 2014-2015 school year for the provision student transition and skill development for a Mt. Lebanon student at a cost of \$3,603 per nine-week session, not to exceed \$7,206. (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 Cappucci and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with PACE School for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year for the provision of special education services for a Mt. Lebanon exceptional student at a cost of \$236.61 per day, not to exceed \$22,242. (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 Cappucci that the Board approves the extension of the agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for Regional Wide Area Network service through June 30, 2016.

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

It was moved by Goldman and seconded by Remely that the Board awards the Dust Control Products and Services Bid to Coyne Textile Services in the amount of \$39,083 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (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 Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves a three-year agreement with Trane Building Services to maintain two new centrifugal chillers, eleven air cooled condensing units and one Pool Pak dehumidification unit at the High School at a cost of \$21,269 for year one, \$22,120 for year two, and \$23,005 for year three. (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 Kubit and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the Forensics Team trip to Harvard University from February 13 to February 16, 2015.

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

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

- a. GC-110-264 to Nello for \$85,723 for stair, door and floor work,
- b. EL-75-265 to Farfield for \$2,810 for outlets and fixtures,
- c. ME-30-266 to McKamish for \$6,376 for dampers,
- d. ME-31-267 to McKamish for \$70,430 for ceiling, duct, piping and insulation changes,
- e. EL-76-268 to Farfield for \$7,928 for security and dampers, and
- f. ME-32-269 to McKamish for \$4,750 for dust collector bypass system.

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:

Thanked the Board for their consideration in regards to the rifle range
Suggested that if a committee is formed for the design of the municipal range the current team coach and District administration be included
Need to make better arrangements for the rifle team with the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon Sportsman's Club
Questioned air exchange system bid for the rifle range
Invited Board to Aqua Club swim meet this weekend

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Kubit and seconded by Remely to adjourn the meeting 9:35 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors