

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

July 20, 2015

A Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz
Absent: Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Michael Riemer

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman; Dr. Ronald Davis; Ms. Katie Devine; Dr. Marybeth Irvin; Ms. Janice Klein; Mr. Rick Marciniak; Mr. Christopher Stengel; Mr. Brian McFeeley

MINUTES

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on June 8, 2015; and the Regular Meeting held on June 15, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that it is six weeks until the beginning of the school year. Administrators and staff have been preparing for the start of school.

The Board president reviewed the accomplishments of the Board for the year. The budget for the 2015-2016 year was successfully passed, a three-year contract extension was negotiated with the teaching staff, and the high school project is closer to completion.

Mr. Lebowitz announced that the Association of School Business Officials International has informed the District that Mt. Lebanon has received ASBO's Certificate of Excellence in Financing Reporting for our 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is the 30th consecutive year to receive the award, a true reflection of the District commitment to fiscal integrity. As the only award program specifically designed for school district financial reporting, ASBO's Certificate of Excellence represents a significant achievement and reflects a high level of commitment to fiscal integrity. To receive the award, the district must satisfy specific guidelines for effective, high-quality financial reporting recognized by school business officials. The Board president congratulated Director of Business, Ms. Janice Klein, and her staff, on this outstanding recognition.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that Board president Lawrence Lebowitz and solicitor Thomas Peterson have both been named Super Lawyers 2015 and Best Lawyers in America 2015. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. The superintendent congratulated Mr. Lebowitz and Mr. Peterson on this exceptional recognition.

Markham Principal Robert Freil successfully defended his dissertation to attain his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh. This is a significant and meaningful personal and professional accomplishment. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated Dr. Freil on this outstanding achievement.

BOARD REPORTS

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that the State Board of Education raised the bar significantly higher for student achievement by approving new, more rigorous cut scores and performance level descriptors for the PSSA in grades 3-8 for English Language Arts and mathematics. The new scores are effective immediately and as applied to the 2015 round of testing recently completed, show large percentages of students reaching only basic and below basic achievement, especially in math. State Board members voiced concerns regarding the consequences, policy implications and perceptions of student achievement surrounding the new scores, and passed an accompanying motion calling for the PA Department of Education (PDE) to “swiftly engage in deliberative communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the revised PSSA, the impact of more rigorous academic standards and the effect on revised cut scores and performance level descriptors.” Following the board’s action, the House Education Committee scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, July 29, to discuss state assessments. PSBA will be presenting testimony at the hearing.

Governor Wolf vetoed the pension reform bill approved by the General Assembly under Senate Bill 1, and urged legislators to resume negotiations on this issue in conjunction with a revised budget plan. The governor signed into law House Bill 1276, now Act 153 of 2015, which makes clarifying changes to the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) that was adopted last session. PSBA worked extensively with both House and Senate members to recommend various clarifications to House Bill 1276 as it made its way through the process. Under Act 153, volunteers must obtain the clearances if they have direct volunteer contact, meaning that they have care, supervision, guidance or control and routine interaction with children.

The U.S. Senate successfully voted on and passed S. 1177, the bipartisan *Every Child Achieves Act*, to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). S. 1177 just passed by a roll call vote of 81-17. NSBA outlined its top priorities in a July 6 letter to the Senate, 1) reaffirming local level decision making in public education and 2) opposing any proposals supporting vouchers or tuition tax credits to nonpublic schools. NSBA accomplished both of these priorities in S. 1177, and applauds the continued momentum on ESEA reauthorization.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that under the leadership of Dr. Copeland, enrollment at Parkway West CTC is up 33%. Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is at 735 students.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the following items: Monthly treasurer’s report; monthly list of bills; ratification of June 30 list of bills; list of District bank accounts; list of unusable equipment; list of tax refunds; publication of list of lien taxes; filing of lien taxes on properties with assessment of \$4,000 or less; real estate tax office audit; local services tax (LST) collections by Jordan Tax Services; monthly list of personnel changes; salary increase for assistant superintendent; intervention specialist provided by Wesley Spectrum Services; AIU educational

services agreement for 2015-2016; DonorPro merchant services integrated donation processing agreement; athletic trainer services proposal; Waterfront Learning services agreement; designation of voting delegates at PSBA Conference; PSBA candidate endorsement for president-elect; high-speed duplicating paper bid; postage meeting lease; utility refund agency contract; PlanCon Part I submission; and change orders for high school renovation project.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated July 15, 2015,
- c. June 30, 2015, List of Bills,
- d. List of District Bank Accounts dated July 13, 2015,
- e. Sale of Unusable Equipment List dated July 1, 2015, and
- f. List of Tax Refunds dated June 30, 2015.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves for public display the list of lien taxes for the 2014 tax year. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Cappucci that the Board ratifies the authorization for the Tax Collector to remove all delinquent properties with assessments of \$4,000 or less from the properties to be lien for the 2014 tax year and approves the filing of liens on all remaining properties.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Ostergaard that the Board accepts for filing the audit by Maher Duessel, Certified Public Accountants of the Real Estate Tax Office for the year ending December 31, 2014. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the contract with Jordan Tax Services to collect Local Services Taxes at 1.8% of the collections plus additional cost to collect delinquencies in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the July 20, 2015, list of personnel changes. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board rates the performance of the Assistant Superintendents as satisfactory and approves the salary of \$139,055 for Dr. Ronald Davis and \$122,127 for Dr. Marybeth Irvin effective July 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Services for an Intervention Specialist to provide specialized support for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in the high school and both middle schools at a cost not to exceed \$72,800 for the 2015-2016 school year. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for special education services for the 2015-2016 school year in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the DonorPro Merchant Services Integrated Donation Processing contract at \$10 per month plus 2.89% of the donation plus \$.20 per credit card transaction for donations towards the Capital Campaign.

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks to table the motion to the August Board meeting for the Board to receive more information.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Remely that the Board accepts the proposal from UPMC Sports Medicine for athletic training services at their five year price of \$179,000 through June 30, 2020. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Ostergaard that the Board approves a contract with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for its Waterfront Learning Services to provide cyber educational program options for Mt. Lebanon students. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board authorizes Mary Birks to be a voting delegate at the Legislative Policy Council meeting on October 13, 2015, at the Annual PSBA Conference in Hershey, PA. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cappucci that the Board supports Mary D. Birks, a member of the Mt. Lebanon School District Board of School Directors, in her candidacy as President-Elect of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board awards bid number 2015-2016, Duplicating Paper to W.B. Mason at their bid price of \$69,058. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the lease with Neopost for a mailing machine at the quoted price of \$431.18 per month for 60 months and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the forms necessary to implement this lease. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the agreement with Utility Refund Agency for a one time review of past utility bills in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves submission of PlanCon Part I in the forms presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

- a. GC-116-285 to Nello for \$37,464 for roof, window, wall and concrete work,
- b. ME-34-286 to McKamish for \$2,235 for panels, and
- c. ME 35-287 to McKamish for \$8,282 for ductwork for a fume hood.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Remely, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Contingency used for change orders
- Soft costs vs. construction costs
- Extra cost for backfill for tennis courts
- Questioned how many more parts are there to the PlanCon
- Supports Mrs. Birks candidacy for PSBA president-elect

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lebowitz announced that an Executive Session was held before 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 8:37 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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