

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

September 21, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 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. Edward Kubit, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz
Absent: Mr. William Cooper

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on August 10, 2015, and the Regular Meeting held on August 17, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that the school year has gotten off to a great start. The students arrived for the first day of school ready to learn, our teachers were excited to welcome their students back to the classroom, and Dr. Steinhauer and our administrators worked diligently over the summer to prepare the groundwork for a successful school year. Mr. Lebowitz announced that he would be completing his visits to the elementary schools with trips to Howe and Markham over the next few weeks.

The board president thanked Dr. Rob Freil, Markham principal, for another wonderful September 11 memorial ceremony. This was a great way to both remember what happened on that infamous day and, at the same time, thank our local police officers, firefighters and first responders for the work that they do to keep us all safe.

On Sunday, October 11, at 2:00 p.m. the District will hold a dedication ceremony and open house for the community to celebrate the completion of the new high school. The dedication will take place at the new main entrance on Horsman Drive with a reception to follow in the new Center Court. The building will be open for self-guided tours while our student musicians and choral groups provide wonderful entertainment.

Mr. Lebowitz announced that on the agenda for this evening is a action item for a \$100,000 “spend” of money that was generously donated to the Campaign by individuals who believe in what we are doing in this District and want to see it continue into the future. The board president thanked not only these donors by everyone who has and will continue to make contributions which will directly impact our students and which would not be available but for their generosity.

In accordance with state law, each year the Board is required to work with the Superintendent to establish goals for the upcoming year. At the same time, the Board looks back to see if goals set in the previous year have been met. Mr. Lebowitz was pleased to report that both tasks have been accomplished. Dr. Steinhauer’s goals for 2015-2016 school year will be posted on the District’s website.

The Board will continue discussion this evening the refinancing of the 2005 Bonds and the \$3.9 million savings and what to do with the money. The Board will be presented with several options.

Mr. Lebowitz reported that Mt. Lebanon High School alumni are invited to a Tailgate Barbecue on September 25 on the Plaza behind the Athletic Building prior to the football game. Tickets can be purchased on the District’s website.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Department of Education released the Spring 2015 PSSA results. Reports will be sent home to parents this week.

The superintendent announced that High School Social Studies teacher Peter DiNardo, was recently honored as a recipient of the 2015 Yale Educator Award. He is one of 51 teachers selected out of 276 nominees. The Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who have supported and inspired their students to achieve at high levels. Congratulations to Mr. DiNardo on this well deserved recognition, made even more special since the nomination came from a former student.

Dr. Steinhauer reported the Great Alumni Award recognition ceremony and luncheon will be held on September 25. The recipients of the Great Alumni Award, a project of the Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council, are selected based on exceptional work in at least one of the following areas: improvement in the lives of others, involvement in community service or achievement in a professional field. This year's recipients are Reverend Father John Chakos, Class of 1959; Jack Daly, Class of 1984; Gregg Gnipp, Class of 1986; Lawrence Lebowitz, Class of 1980; and Josephine Posti, Class of 1986.

BOARD REPORTS

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that landscaping continues around the building. The contractor is continuing to abate the remaining exterior beams and transformer room of building C, and the cut between building C and building B will take place on October 5.

Pathfinder – Mr. Kubit reported that 70 students are enrolled in the Pathfinder school for 2015-2016. The Pathfinder Board is considering increasing the rental rates for the pool and gym and is looking at comparable rates in the area.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Remely reported that enrollment at Parkway is over 750 students, with 43 students from Mt. Lebanon High School. There are several non-jointer students attending Parkway this year netting \$86,000 in tuition fees. Mr. Remely noted that 97% of the Parkway students taking the NOCTII exam last year passed with competent or advance scores.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Birks reported that we are on day 82 of the state budget impasses with no real end in sight. The Republicans are moving forward with a stopgap budget which the Governor intends to veto. This impasse is hurting school district and health services organizations across the state.

Congress returned to Capitol Hill with work ahead to finalize a funding bill for Fiscal Year 2016. The overall concern is averting another round of across-the-board budget cuts from sequestration that could begin at the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. This would mean additional cuts to Title I grants for disadvantaged students, special education and other programs that are already underfunded. The House Appropriations Committee’s underlying bill for education programs would raise the federal investment in special education grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by \$500 million over fiscal year 2015 and would sustain funding for Title 1 grants for disadvantaged students. School Improvement Grants, currently funded at roughly \$505 million, would be eliminated under the House bill.

Capital Campaign – Mr. Lebowitz reported the Campaign Cabinet met with Preston McMurry the honorary co-chair of the campaign on September 14. Mr. McMurry spoke to the volunteers about the campaign and the importance of their efforts. He also met with the chairs of the pacesetter and faculty and staff committees. Mr. Lebowitz announced that interviews were conducted with candidates for the Director of Advancement position.

MLFE - Mr. Ostergaard reported that the Foundation is setting their goals for 2015-2016. The fall grant application process is now in progress, and the Foundation received funding from EITC.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that with the retirement of Steve Feller and Rudy Sukol, activities at the Municipality are on hold.

REFINANCING OF 2005 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – The Board discussed the structure of the Refinancing of the 2005 General Obligation Bond Issue and the options available. The Board will make a decision at the October 19 Board meeting.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Bond refinancing
- Questions about money realized from gambling
- Questioned if other school districts were contacted about voting for Mrs. Birks
- Plant new grass next spring
- Support the recommendation of the administration regarding the bond refinancing

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated August 31, 2015, and September 16, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated August 31, 2015, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated September 1, 2015.

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves a Budget for Capital Campaign initiatives in the amount of \$100,000.

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the contract with Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC for services related to the issuance of bonds to refinance the Series 2005 General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$22,500 which includes the Official Statement printing and distribution. Such fee is contingent upon the closing of the Bond Issue and is to be paid from the proceeds of the sale. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the contract with Houston Harbaugh, P.C. for Bond Counsel services related to the issuance of bonds to refinance the Series 2005 General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$14,000. Such fee is contingent upon the closing of the Bond Issue and is to be paid from the proceeds of the sale. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the September 21, 2015, list of personnel changes revised September 21, 2015. (Copy in official minutes.)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves a contract with The University School to provide special education services for a Mt. Lebanon exceptional student for the 2015-2016 school year at a cost not to exceed \$18,775. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded By Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill Industries Transition WORKS! program for the 2015-2016 to provide student transition and skill development services at a cost not to exceed \$9,804 for no more than three students. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves agreements with the Pittsburgh Public Schools City Connection Program for the 2015-2016 school year to provide life skill services at a cost not to exceed \$43,050 per student for no more than four students. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves an agreement with The Watson Institute Behavior Support Academy for the placement of a special education student for the 2015-2016 school year at a cost not to exceed \$43,886. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded that the Board approves the agreement with Aqua Club for rental and scheduling of the Athletic Pool facility substantially in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the contract with AMCA, Systems LLC for an Affordable Care Act TaxTrack Software License Agreement in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

