

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

October 19, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. Washington Elementary School orchestra students Greyson Byrom, Emory Guenther, Grace Kraemer, Sydney Martin, Bryce Pittler, Olivia Tong Wu, and Danny Zeigler led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students entertained the Board with their performance of “Cripple Creek.”

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

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, Mrs. Mary Kay Davis

MINUTES

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on September 15, 2015, and the Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School students, Collin Volmrich and Lilly Tuck, reported on activities at Mellon. The year began with successful recruiting visits to each classroom to present “how student council works.”

At Mellon’s Open House in early September, students kicked off the service projects recognizing Cancer Awareness Month. The first project was the annual PINK OUT. Student Council sold Mellon PINK OUT shirts, pink shoelaces and pink bandannas to students, faculty, neighbors and parents with all proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Their efforts have raised close to \$1,000. The other fundraiser was hat day which raised \$136 for children undergoing treatment at Children’s Hospital.

For Halloween, Students Council is “booing” the teachers with a little gift of thanks for a great first quarter. This event was fund for the teachers and students. They are also sponsoring a costume contest for each grade level with winners receiving prizes and accolades.

Mellon Student Council is prepping for November's upcoming events and service projects dedicated to those in need. The first project is Mellon's annual stocking blitz for Military Connection which supports our military and families overseas. The second project is a fundraiser for Pittsburgh's Community Food Bank to help provide Thanksgiving meals to the homeless.

Mt. Lebanon High School student body officers Fabi Shipley and Maddy Rice reported on the activities at Mt. Lebanon High School. The Link Crew, comprised of junior and seniors, welcomed the Class of 2019 and new students to the high school. Events such as a tailgate party and occasional breakfast treats in homeroom help the freshman acclimate to the high school environment.

The annual Senior Boat Ride was held on a beautiful September night with seniors dancing and socializing with friends. "The Middle" was selected as the Class of 2016 senior song. September 25<sup>th</sup> was Great Alumni Day in the high school. Five alumni were recognized for their important contributions: Reverend John Chakos, Mr. Jack Daly, Commander Gregg Gnipp, Mr. Larry Lebowitz, and Mrs. Josephine Posti. Homecoming weekend started with the 2016 Homecoming Parade on October 9 and the Homecoming Dance in the newly renovated "Center Court" on October 10. There was plenty of space for 870 students to dance and have a fantastic time. Upcoming October events include the Halloween Door Decorating contest, the Fall Spirit Assembly and the Pink Out Day.

#### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz thanked the administration for organizing the High School dedication celebration on October 11. The ceremony was attended by more than 500 community members and invited guests. Although the District tried to include and thank everyone in remarks made that day, Mr. Lebowitz recognized the PTAs, including PTA Council, the Municipal Administration, in particular, Steve Feller, and the Mt. Lebanon Fire and Police Departments.

At the beginning of every school year, the School Board sets aside time to recognize the many contributions made to our school through the volunteer efforts of the PTA. Mt. Lebanon is fortunate to have ten very active PTA units along with a well-organized PTA Council working in our schools. The board president presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following PTA Presidents: Julie Maselko, PTA Council; Cecelia Morello, Foster; Kristen Bruder, Hoover; Nikki Bovino, Howe; Amy Shannon-Spector, Lincoln; Christine Neavin, Jefferson; Moira Aulbach, Markham; Julie Toussaint, Washington; Colleen Frank, Jefferson Middle School; Bonnie Dougherty, Mellon Middle School; and Lisa Silverman, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz finished up his visits to the elementary schools with a visit to Markham and Howe. The board president mentioned how the Markham faculty effectively integrates technology into the day-to-day learning of their students, and the incredible and inspiring work the teachers do at Howe for our most challenged students. Mr. Lebowitz commented on the beautiful murals and drawings created at both schools by teachers and students, and thanked principals Rob Freil at Markham and Michelle Murray at Howe for making him feel welcomed and providing inspiring morning visits to our schools

Mr. Lebowitz reported that he had the honor of making a presentation with Dr. Steinhauer at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association annual conference in Hershey. They presented on the importance of the relationship between the School Board President and the Superintendent in achieving success for our District as a whole and children in particular. The board president congratulated Mrs. Birks on her excellent showing in the election for President-elect of PSBA. Although she did not win, Mrs. Birks garnered more than 40% of the vote which was truly an

outstanding showing and representative of the contributions that she has made and will continue to make for the public education system in Pennsylvania.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that the officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 61<sup>st</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Ten Mt. Lebanon High School students have been selected as 2016 National Merit Semifinalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered in the spring. Dr. Steinhauer presented Certificates of Achievement to the following Mt. Lebanon National Merit Semifinalists and congratulated them on this outstanding achievement: Ian Harris, Caroline Horrigan, Joshua Kalpos, Francesca Kavalir, Nancy Lu, Ziqi Meng, Stephen Porter, Madelyn Rice, Erik Sargent and Jiawen Zhu.

The superintendent introduced Nicole Jouver, Secondary Science Chair, and George Cogis, Elementary Science Facilitator, who presented an overview of the K-12 Science program at Mt. Lebanon School District.

### BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that a Policy Committee meeting was held on October 7 to review Policy IJOC, School Volunteers, to make minor changes to reflect requirements of the law. The Board will take action on these revisions this evening. The committee also reviewed policies KS, Title I Parental Involvement; BBE, Board Vacancies; and BEHD, Public Participation at Board Meetings. No changes were made to those policies.

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported that C building has been detached from B building and contractors will begin the demolition of C building. Landscaping continues around the building.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that Parkway West CTC is the largest CTC in Allegheny County with an enrollment of 750 students and has the lowest cost per student. The school is developing a partnership with Energy Innovation Center to help students solve real world problems. Mr. Remely invited all Board members to the Parkway Open House on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Capital Campaign/MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reported that Sloane Astorino has been hired as the new Director of Advancement for the Capital Campaign and will begin work on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ostergaard reported that MLFE is accepting applications for the fall grant program. He also welcomed Sloane Astorino as the new MLFE Executive Director.

SHASDA – Mr. Riemer, along with Dr. Steinhauer and Mrs. Birks, attended the SHASDA meeting on September 24 at Upper St. Clair High School. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Terry Madonna, Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs, who presented an overview of state and national politics.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Riemer reported that he had a meeting with Police Chief Aaron Lauth, and a meeting with Commissioner Kelly Fraasch. Chief Lauth will be a speaker at the upcoming PTA Parent Education event.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questioned who were the bidders on the bond refinancing
- Questioned what were was the net interest on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bond bids
- Board meeting not welcoming; residents should be able to speak at the beginning of the meeting

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated September 30, 2015, and October 14, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated September 30, 2015,
- d. Year End Budgetary Transfers dated October 12, 2015, and
- e. List of Unusable Equipment dated October 1, 2015.

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

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the sale of the 2015 General Obligation Bonds to refinance the 2005 General Obligation Bonds and to provide for various capital projects throughout the School District in the amount of \$52,425,000 to Mesirow Financial in the form presented. Such bonds will impart savings to the District in the Net Present Value amount of \$6,814,131.21 over the life of the Bonds. The Board further approves establishment of a Bank Account with the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) to deposit savings beyond reduced future debt service payments. (The Formal Bond Resolution shall be attached to minutes and made a part thereof.).

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the October 12, 2015, list of personnel changes. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Kubit to amend the previous motion to read the October 12, 2015, list of personnel changes, as revised October 19, 2015.

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

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves revisions to Policy IJOC, School Volunteers, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was by Cappucci and seconded by Cooper that, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the following members of the Student Assistance Team are memorialized by the Board of School Directors for the 2015-2016 school year:

**Central Office Representative**, Dr. Ronald Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; **Mellon Middle School Student Assistance Program Team**, Christopher Wolfson, Principal; Melissa Nelson, Assistant Principal; Amy Whealdon, Counselor; Kara Gillespie, Counselor; Do Sabol, School Nurse; Chris Hessler, Teacher; Eve Kollar, Teacher; Cindy Bronen, Teacher; Erica Salvo, Teacher; and Heater Rehrig, School Psychologist; **Jefferson Middle School Student Assistance Program Team**, Kelly Szessterniak, Principal; Jeffrey Zeiders, Dean of Students; Peter Berg, Counselor; Allison Levison, Counselor; Barbara Austin, School Nurse; Susan Anstandig, Teacher; Ashlee Beckett, Teacher; Janice Cherry, Teacher; Kristin Hertzog, Teacher; Gwen Kassep, Teacher; Elizabeth Luptak, Teacher; Ed Petsko, Teacher; Stephanie Ross, Teacher; Krista Wagner, Teacher; Nicole Welsh, Teacher; Molly Wetmore, Teacher; John Young, Teacher, and Erika Vasquez, School Psychologist; **Mt. Lebanon High School Student Assistance Program Team**, Brian McFeeley, Principal; Erin Crimone, Unit Principal; Natasha Dirda, Unit Principal; Joel Thompson, Unit Principal; Joy Rullo, Counselor; Tara Leja, Counselor; Shelly Saba, Counselor; Chad Johnston, Counselor; Dr. John Ambrose, Counselor; Diane Becker, Counselor; Beth Schneider, Counselor; Janet McGeough, School Nurse; Beverly Jones, Teacher; Todd Forsyth, Teacher; Darren McGregor, Teacher; Julianne Slogick, Teacher; Tim Kirsch, Teacher; Elizabeth Tighe, Teacher; Stu Snodgrass, Teacher; Joe Tighe, Teacher; Frank Cremonese, Teacher; Rich Schmitt, Teacher; Erika Vasquez, School Psychologist; Heather Rehrig, School Psychologist; and Janet Carroll, D/A Liaison.

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with Continuum Pediatric Nursing Services for the 2015-2016 school year to provide skilled nursing services for a special needs student including providing services on the bus at a cost of \$40 per hour, not exceed \$60,000 for the school year. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with the Pittsburgh-Mt. Oliver Intermediate Unit to provide remedial reading services to a Mt. Lebanon student in the Title I Reading Program at St. John Bosco Academy at a cost not to exceed \$2,730.77.

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education the Professional Education Component of the Comprehensive Plan. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the Academic Games Team trip to Atlanta, GA from April 22-26, 2016.

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Moorhead that the Board approves the following change order for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. GC-119-294 to Nello for \$3,971 for site modifications.

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Resident comments should be first on the agenda  
Plans for an announcement board in front of the high school  
Curbs high at drop off are in front of new high school entrance  
Interaction between Board members and resident speaking at meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Riemer and seconded by Moorhead to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Directors