

**Michael Riemer**  
**Board President's Report**  
**December 11, 2017**

I just wanted to say a few words from my heart tonight. I'm going to touch on this a couple times tonight- right now I'm going to talk informally, even though I wrote it down. I will also be mentioning this theme formally a little later.

First of all, from my heart, I want to say that I wish to run this board in a respectable and calm manner. There will be times when one of us, and it could be anyone of us, may make a mistake, or say something another board member may disagree with, or misspeak, or even a member may choose to not speak at the moment, and when that happens there is no need for any one of us to raise our voices, or accuse each other of being ignorant or unprepared. I would expect as you would expect and at the community would expect for us all to utilize respectful and proper decorum.

Turning on each other because someone disagrees or misspeaks, is not putting our children or this community first, in my opinion, and I would hope that we all, on this board, at the very least, could agree on that much.

**That's my informal statement. Now I would like to present more of an overview.**

It has been said that **“public schools reflect a community's desires, feelings and dreams.”** And that is certainly true in Mt. Lebanon where our School District has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence. It is one of the pillars upon which our community is built and has ensured both that each generation of graduating students leave as well rounded citizens and often look to return when the time comes to raise and educate their own children.

We have so much to be proud of. We have a community of educators and administrators who are the best in their fields. They are dedicated to our students and provide a value to our community beyond measure. As we look forward, as a Board we know that our role is to support, encourage and, yes, even challenge everyone to meet the high bar that we have established for Mt. Lebanon schools.

Today, we must recommit ourselves to not only ensuring that academic excellence remains the key focus of our schools, but also our duty is to ensure that our students are offered the best education to help them meet the complex and rapidly changing requirements of informed citizenship and participation in a global economy. We know that our students are no longer only competing with other students in the South Hills, Western Pennsylvania or even the state, but are instead competing with students around the globe. To them, we must recommit to providing them with the tools to compete when they set out from our community.

We commit to providing a curriculum with a keen focus on science, technology, engineering and math while never losing sight of the importance of a well-rounded education that the arts, letters and athletics provide.

And we recommit to the community that every voice will have the opportunity to be heard. Because it is our shared value of public education that has made us strong, but we can only remain strong if everyone's contributions are respected. An honest and open dialogue is not

always easy - it can sometimes expose differences of opinion or principle – but it represents the only way that I believe we can fulfill the promise that we have made to our students, faculty, administration and neighbors. Our duty as School Board members is not to agree or even like each other beyond these walls, but to respect each other’s opinions as well as the opinions of those brave enough to share them with us. When we do that, we nurture my fiercely held belief that together we can do the work and make the difficult choices necessary to improve our schools, the administration and even this Board.

In closing I want to add that I wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season and safe travels for those who will be away visiting family, friends or are serving in the military.

Thank you,

### **PMEA Concert Band Recognition**

I would like to congratulate the following high school students who successfully auditioned with students throughout southwestern Pennsylvania and were selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association **Honors Band**. They are:

Isaac Burton-Perez, Grade 11 - Clarinet  
Jordana Kleiner, Grade 11 - Flute  
Anna Sulecki, Grade 11 - Clarinet  
Max Siegert, Grade 11 - Bass Trombone  
Ben Lebowitz, Grade 12 - Euphonium  
Abigail Dellovade, Grade 10 – Percussion

The group performed at a music festival held in late November. PMEA is a statewide nonprofit organization of over 4,500 members, dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. Congratulations also to Mr. Jason Cheskawich our High School Band Director.

### **Washington/Mellon Evacuation Drill**

On November 30<sup>th</sup> the District held a successful evacuation drill of Washington Elementary School and Mellon Middle School to their alternate sites. Over 1,000 students, staff and public safety personnel took part in this important test of the Districts emergency management plan. The students were safely evacuated to and from the local churches designated as alternate site.

The successful planning for a drill like this depends on the focused coordination of our administrators along with the help of our partners in the Mt. Lebanon Police Department, Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Medical Rescue Team South and the churches that serve our alternate sites. Thank you to all involved

### **Posting Superintendent’s Goals**

Last but not least, the Board has finalized Dr. Steinhauer’s goals. They will be posted tomorrow on the District website.