

Mt. Lebanon School District
School Board President Report – August 17, 2015
Lawrence M. Lebowitz

Good evening. The 2015-2016 school year begins two weeks from today and, as you can imagine, things are very busy within the District.

Practice for our various fall sports teams began early this morning, and the marching band has already completed its first week of camp. Inside our buildings, and in addition to our maintenance team getting all ten of them ready, our new teachers began their orientation this morning and returning faculty will begin one week from today. As to this morning's festivities, I had the opportunity to address our new teachers and welcome them to the District. I was so pleased to not only meet our new educators but, even more importantly, to feel their excitement and pride in joining the Mt. Lebanon team. I also want to mention that the very successful Link Leader Orientation Program for incoming ninth-grade students will again take place next week, and I want to thank both our Link crew and teachers/staff for their work in supporting this very important endeavor.

Like any other organization, the success or failure of a School District is directly impacted by its leader. This evening, and as a

way to recognize his efforts, the Board will be announcing a positive evaluation of Dr. Steinhauer and approving his much-deserved pay increase. Nearly every month we talk about the incredible success of our students and all of the wonderful things that we have going on in the District. While everyone most certainly contributes to these efforts (not the least of which is our students), there is no question that Dr. Steinhauer's leadership over these past several years has a direct impact on each and every one of these successes. I want to personally thank him for his efforts and publicly recognize the great work which he does and will most certainly continue to do for our community and our children. As Dr. Steinhauer would be the first to tell you, there is still much work to do and, in that regard, his goals for the 2015-2016 school year will be posted on the District's website as soon as they are finalized.

During last week's discussion meeting, we had presentations regarding both the status of our High School construction project as well as our Capital Campaign. As to the former, I am pleased to report that things continue to proceed as planned and that (while there is still work to do) all of the academic spaces in the High School are ready to go. The Capital Campaign, for its part, is off to a good start, and we continue to be dedicated to this proactive effort to find new revenue sources for our District. We are already in the process of finding a new Campaign Director and, in that regard, I would like to thank Maggie Schmidt for filling this capacity on an

interim basis and all of the good work which she has done on our behalf.

Back to the High School (which, if you couldn't tell, is one of my favorite subjects!), later this evening we will approve the naming of our new High School Library after a very distinguished alumni of Mt. Lebanon High School, Richard J. Madden (Class of 1952). This action is in recognition of Mr. Madden's substantial and ongoing financial support of the students of Mt. Lebanon High School. More specifically, and since 2001, Mr. Madden has donated over \$700,000 in scholarships to Mt. Lebanon students. Due to his generosity and devotion to his High School alma mater, significant academic and personal opportunities have been made available to our students. Due to these efforts, along with his outstanding accomplishments both professional and philanthropic, Mr. Madden was named a Mt. Lebanon Great Alumni in 2004. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Madden back to the High School and, perhaps, having the opportunity to personally thank him at an upcoming School Board Meeting.

We also want to take the opportunity to invite each and every member of the community to see our beautiful new High School. In that regard, and is certainly appropriate, the entire community is invited to the dedication of our high school on Sunday, October 11, at 2 p.m. This building was made possible due to the continued support and commitment of this community to provide an excellent

education for our children. After the dedication ceremony, there will be a reception and open house for all to tour the beautiful new spaces. This celebration marks the culmination of years of planning and community input that resulted in a shared vision which created 21st century academic, fine arts and athletic spaces that will serve Mt. Lebanon for years to come. Additional information regarding the dedication will be available on our website, and we all look forward to seeing you there.

We hope that all of our staff, students and families enjoy the last part of their summer break, and we look forward to serving all of you as we begin another exciting and productive school year. Thank you and good evening.

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