

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

September 16, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hoover Elementary students Sophia Chiappetta, Rinzen Sherpa, Harshini Sivakumar, and Liam Streitmatter. The student presented a report on how Hoover is such a diverse, welcoming, kind and brave school.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Michael Riemer
Absent: Ms. Sarah Olbrich

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Fred Wolfe, Solicitor's Office
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on August 12, 2019, and the Regular Meeting held on August 19, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer reported that Dr. Steinhauer's goals have been established for the 2019-2020 school year. This year there are five areas of focus:

1. Learning for the Future - The Superintendent will implement curriculum, instruction, and programs that equip students with future oriented competencies.
2. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) - The Superintendent will lead the learning of social and emotional competencies as critical components for each child's educational program, using the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) model.
3. Safety and Security - The Superintendent will prioritize safety and security for students and adults in our school and facilities.
4. Community Outreach and Partnerships - The Superintendent will strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to advance the District's mission and vision.
5. District Program Performance - The Superintendent will benchmark district performance against best-in-class standards.

The first Extra Mile Award for this school year is presented to High School Campus Manager Mrs. Donna Rizzo. Mrs. Rizzo was nominated by High School Unit Principals Joel Thompson, Katelyn Deet and Carlie McGinty. Mrs. Rizzo works tirelessly to create a caring and safe environment for all of the students in the high school. She is one of the first staff members on

campus each morning as she greets the 45 plus students who catch the 7:00 a.m. bust to Parkway West Career and Technology Center. She has created a genuine rapport with our Parkway students over the past few years that last June the graduating seniors asked that she read their names at commencement. Mrs. Rizzo and our other campus managers do an excellent job of promoting a positive school climate while helping ensure our students are safe. Mr. Riemer presented Mrs. Rizzo with a certificate and pin in recognition as an Extra Mile Award winner.

The board president reported on his visit to Howe Elementary on September 13 where he observed a 3rd grade Spanish class, a 3rd grade class exploring the library, students in a music class, the life skills/autistic support classroom, the afternoon kindergarten class, a 4th grade science class and students studying abstract art. Mr. Riemer thanked Dr. Michelle Murray and the teachers at Howe who graciously welcomed him into their classrooms.

Mr. Riemer invited the community to attend the Mt. Lebanon High School Marching Band Festival on Saturday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend to hear some outstanding performances by the high school band and other local high school bands.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the District will receive the prestigious "Safe Schools Champion Award" they the Center for Safe Schools. This award will be presented to the District at the Safe Schools Conference on October 3rd in Harrisburg. Dr. Steinhauer and Dr. Irvin will be attending the conference to receive the award. The notification stated that Mt. Lebanon has been selected for their exemplary commitment, dedication, and outstanding work in youth violence prevention and the support of safe learning environments, and positive you development in Pennsylvania. This recognition is due to work completed with Highmark Grants written by Dr. Irvin, building principals, and staff in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to support a safe and welcoming school environment through an update of the Olweus/Tuesday Talks training (year 1) and adding additional lessons and resources including those supporting social and emotional learning (year 2).

A School Community Conversation on School Safety Forum will be held on October 10 in the Fine Arts Theatre. Dr. Steinhauer and Chief Aaron Lauth will continue this series of community conversations about school safety. Topics to be discussed include infrastructure changes to the schools, prevention programs, and mental health and well-being initiatives.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education, and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network commended Dr. Heather Doyle for completing the 2018-2019 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders. The purpose of this prestigious program is to build the knowledge and skills of special education leaders to lead special education services and supports to ensure success for all students with IEPs. The superintendent congratulated Dr. Doyle on this accomplishment.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that a new website was launched for the District and all ten schools. The website has the same navigation as the previous site but now there is a fresh new design. A permanent "emergency alerts" button which parents can access 24/7, 365 days a year for any emergency information pertaining to all of our school has been added to the site. The superintendent thanked Rob Smiley and Cissy Bowman for their work on the new website.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that a Policy Committee meeting will be held in early October.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Riemer reported that the annual in-service for staff included a school safety program. A new student orientation was held on August 15 with over 400 students attending. The enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is 912 students, the highest ever.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that long time Pathfinder board member, Cynthia Buckley, passed away. Building improvements for the school year are the completion of the new roof project; six security cameras installed with additional cameras being planned, and lead testing completed. The enrollment at Pathfinder is 80 students with 12 enrolled in the PRIDE program, a transition program for 18-21 year-olds.

Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education – Dr. Diamond reported that an MLFE meeting will be held on September 18.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that he met with the Municipal Manger, Keith McGill. The Municipality is looking for substitute crossing guards. Mr. Frioni thanked Mr. McGill for the safety training to our schools by Chief Aaron Lauth.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports: (Copies in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated August 31, 2019,
- b. List of Bills dated August 30, 2019, and September 11, 2019,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated August 31, 2019, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated September 1, 2019.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the September 5, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised September 12, 2019, and September 16, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board accepts the 2019 State Performance Audit Report in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the District’s application to the Department of Education for Flexible Instructional Days in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Frioni that the Board approves a deduct change order from Tremco in the amount of \$3,516.34 for unused man hours.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Beal that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. PASCH-German-Triathlon Team to Estes Park, CO, September 27-29, 2019, and
- b. Academic Games to Atlanta, GA, April 17-20, 2020.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Cooper that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary to vote for the following PSBA Officers:

President Elect: Art Levinowitz
Vice President David Hein
PSBA Insurance Trust Kathy Swope
Mark Miller

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern PA for the 2019-2020 school year to provide student transition and skill development in their Transition Works! program at a cost not to exceed \$15,300 per student for no more than three students. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz,
Strotmeyer, Riemer
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

3rd Day Enrollment

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Beal and seconded by Frioni to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

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