

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

October 28, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Ms. Olbrich called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Markham Elementary students Darcy Stohner, Cora Galeone, Wyatt Holliday, and JP Girod. The students reported on the “amazing things at Markham” and spoke about all the SEL activities offered such as the mindful minute, quiet areas/corners, breathing techniques, a mindful space and the mindfulness strategies they learned.

ROLL CALL:

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

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on September 9, 2019, and the Regular Meeting held on September 16, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members Maddie McDonald, Alexa Arnold, and Brooke Murawaski reported on the activities at Mellon. Student Council has been recruiting 6th graders to be members of student council. These “newbies” will establish the foundation for student councils to come. The 8th grade executive board has been formed to be in charge of the four core committees: fundraising, school spirit, advertising and Lebo Spirit, and chose *Won't You Be Our Neighbor* as this year's school council theme.

September and October's kickoff fundraiser was a cookie sale followed by a cookie eating contest. During the two weeks of the sales, student council hid a stuff marshmallow named Milo and a little Cookie Monster stuffed figure. Hints were provided as to where they could be found. After two rounds of “all-student” competitions, two winners competed against assistant principal, Mr. Canan. Seventh grade student Andrew Martin was victorious and took home the prize. The last activity for October is the annual costume contest for students and staff. Winners will receive prizes and accolades

The first service project of the year for the fundraising committee is National Kindness Day on November 13 coinciding with the theme, *Won't You Be Our Neighbor*. On that day, students will

participate in the spirit day, *Cardigan Day*, in support of WQED's initiative to create and spread kindness. During the month of November, student council will provide a daily quote from Mr. Roger over the morning announcements, and will challenge students to complete a suggested act of kindness each day. For the end of November, student council plans to support a local food bank located on Brookline Blvd. or the local Salvation Army, both wonderful groups that support *neighbors* in need.

Mt. Lebanon High School Co Presidents, Madison Jones and Kyle Bloch, reported on the activities at the High School. In August, the Link Crew program welcomed the Class of 2023 and new students to Mt. Lebanon High School. Link Crew has continued to socialize with these students by hosting a tailgate party, by stopping in their homerooms, and delivering a scripted program during extended homerooms conveying messages such as building a strong work ethic, developing character, and acting responsibly.

The seniors began the school year with the annual Senior Boat Ride on September 15. It was a beautiful evening to cruise the three rivers, dance with classmates, and chat with friends.

The Great Alumni luncheon was held on September 27 honoring distinguished alumni. The 2019 honorees are Mr. Brian Drew, Mr. Thomas Finke, Mr. Harold Langstaff (deceased), and Mr. Doug Satterfield. It was a great experience to learn firsthand about these wonderful people and their impact on our world.

September 27 was also the Homecoming Parade. This year's Homecoming Court are Patrick Anderson, Danny Bui, Eva Dorr, Jonathan Izzo, Madison Jones, Sein Lee, and Zeke Usner. The Homecoming Queen is Riley Egal and the King is CJ Petrucelli. The Homecoming Court was introduced at the Homecoming Dance on October 5 where 1,212 students attended the event.

The first blood drive of the school year took place on October 15. The students invited the school board members to attend the next drive on February 7 if they are able to donate.

The Halloween Door Decorating contest took place on October 24, and the Fall Spirit Week took place the week of October 21. During the month of October, the high school raises money to support the St. Clair Hospital Cancer Caring Center and the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation. The October 25th football game was the school's annual PINK OUT game.#

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Olbrich reported on her attendance at the annual PSBA Leadership Conference in Hershey with Dr. Steinhauer and Dr. Davis. Dr. Steinhauer and Ms. Olbrich delivered a presentation on peace, purpose and power in leadership. The focus of the presentation was on learning to be the calm in the midst of the storm using mindfulness as a tool. Dr. Steinhauer, Dr. Davis and Ms. Olbrich led a discussion on the CASEL framework that the district uses to incorporate the concept of Social and Emotional Learning into the classroom. Mt Lebanon has become a leader in SEL and it is becoming apparent that SEL is important to our community. As a school board, the team of 10 has supported SEL as a district goal for several years. Dr. Steinhauer led the board and those in attendance through a brief SEL breathing exercise.

This month's first Extra Mile Award recipient is Food Service Director Nolen Fetchko who was nominated by Athletic Director John Grogan. Mr. Grogan recommended Mr. Fetchko for the outstanding job he had done to develop the Game Day Meals program at the high school to improve and educate student athletes on sports nutrition. Through his partnership with the University of Pittsburgh and the Game Day Meals program, students enjoy the lunches and the healthy choices provided.

Sue Miller, building secretary at Markham Elementary School was nominated by Markham principal Natasha Dirda. Mrs. Miller was nominated for her commitment and service to the Markham Community. She continually goes above and beyond her duties as the building secretary to ensure that everyone feels safe, secure, and accepted, and she reminds staff and students at Markham that together they can accomplish wonderful things. Congratulations to both of the Extra Mile Awardees for the month of October.

Ms. Olbrich announced that Noelle and Dave Conover have generously agreed to partner with the District to establish Matt's Maker Spaces in both Mellon and Jefferson middle schools with a \$25,000 donation. The District will match this amount using grant funds so that each middle school will have the same resources as the elementary schools. Thanks to the Conover's support, the valuable STEAM experiences that our students have come to know and love as a result of their gracious donation of \$175,000 to establish Matt's Maker Spaces at all seven elementary schools will continue as student's transition from elementary to middle school.

The Mt. Lebanon School District has a strong tradition of parent involvement in our schools thanks in large part to our PTAs. Ms. Olbrich introduced the following 2019-2020 PTA Presidents and PTA Council Officers, and thanked them for their tireless work and volunteer hours to make our schools a better place for students and staff: Cara Wetzel, Foster; Jamie Freeman, Hoover; Wendy Liberty, Howe; Kristin Archbold, Jefferson; Amanda Babst, Lincoln; Rachel French, Markham; Kara Monocello, Washington; Jean Thomas, Jefferson MS; Moria Aulbach, Mellon; Colleen Frank, Mt. Lebanon High School; Bonnie Dougherty, PTA Council; Cristina Battaglia, PTA Council; Mary Ellen Donato, PTA Council; Rebecca Matheus, PTA Council; Rich Messimer, PTA Council; and Melissa Harman, PTA Council.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer was pleased to recognize the nine Mt. Lebanon High School seniors who have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are among the highest scoring entrants in Pennsylvania. Congratulations to the following students: Reed Christner, William Ganoe, Danile Huber, Amrit Kaluri, Eddie Kubit, Sein Lee, Zoe Phares, Ella Siefken, and Zoe Thorpe.

The superintendent announced that Mt. Lebanon High School's School Counseling program was recognized by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools as a *Program of Distinction*. The high school was one of only two schools in the nation recognized in the category of school counselling. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated and commended the High School Counseling Department, Principal McFeeley, Dr. Davis and the entire high school leadership team for striving for continuous improvement of their department which directly benefits our students. Representing the Department at the meeting were: Tara Leja, department chair; Diana Becker, Casey Bowles, Shelly Saba, and Joy Rullo.

School Digger ranked Mt. Lebanon School District at #2 out of 605 school systems (both public and private) identified throughout the Commonwealth. Schooldigger.com is another site that ranks districts and schools based on their formula of school metrics. According to their methodology, the District performed better than 99.7% of the districts in the State. This is another testament to the good work of our school board, administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents.

In early October, The Center for Safe Schools and Center for Schools and Communities recognized the Mt. Lebanon School District as a *Safe Schools Champion*. According to the Center for Safe Schools, "The Mt. Lebanon School District has supported a district-wide approach to bullying prevention and positive school climate. Their persistence and creativity in helping the kids at Mt. Lebanon School District stay safe is inspiring." They specifically noted

the School Board's significant financial commitment and the pooling of other funds from sources such as Highmark Foundation grants and state safety grants.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that Mt. Lebanon teachers, administration and students created a video to honor the victims of the Tree of Life shooting as a commitment to join with others to challenge hate. Bruno Sartorio, 2014 Lebo grad, coordinated the video editing, visuals and soundtrack and Mr. Pete DiNardo, Mr. Casey Bowles, and Ms. Michelle Kramer coordinated the filming. The video was shown at the end of the superintendent's report.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that a Policy Committee meeting was held on October 7, 2019. The Committee reviewed three policies related to federal programs, CGD, Federal Fiscal Compliance; GGDA, Conflict of Interest-Federal Programs; and CGDB, Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs. It was determined that no revisions were needed. The Committee also reviewed Policy GDFAB, Bus Requirements and revisions to that policy are on the agenda this evening for approval.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that sometime in November he would like to discuss with the outgoing Board members their experiences on the Board and what they could share with the new incoming members. Dr. Strotmeyer reminded the Board that there are online courses on the PSBA website free for Board members.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the Pathfinder Board twice since the last School Board meeting. Pathfinder received a grant for security cameras and a new entry system. The roof project is complete with a 30-year guarantee with no costs for additional repairs to the roof. Pathfinder is receiving a refund on the project for over estimates. The recently retired head custodian will be hired as a consultant at \$2,000 per month. The enrollment at Pathfinder is at 84 students-35 autistic, 26 life skill, 12 medical and 11 in the PRIDE program.

SHASDA – Mr. Cooper reported that the last SHASDA meeting was a legislative meeting. Topic included Act 55, which indicates that professional employees can be furlough for economic cases, the alternative meals proposal for students who owe more than \$50 in lunch fees, a change compulsory attendance age at 6 years to 18 years of age, no storm water management fees for school districts, and school board training requirements.

Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education – Dr. Diamond reported that there are two new members on the MLFE Board, Cara Wetzel and Lorraine May, and two new student members. Notecards with teacher artwork are on sale, along with stadium blankets. Teacher fall grants are due November 8.

Municipal Liaison – Mr. Frioni reported that the Commission asked for a meeting with Dr. Steinhauer and Mr. Grogan to discuss an online field use program to be able to view who is using what field instead of using a paper form.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2019,
- b. List of Bills dated September 30, 2019, and October 23, 2019,
- c. Ratification of June 30, 2019, Budgetary Transfers,
- d. List of Tax Refunds dated September 30, 2019, and
- e. List of Unusable Equipment dated October 1, 2019.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves opening a bank account with the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF) for Capital Reserve Bank Account, and authorizes the Superintendent to complete all forms necessary to implement this action.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board accepts and approves the Single Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2019 as audited by Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the October 3, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised October 24, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the list of additional bus drivers for 2019-2020 as listed. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the revisions to Policy GDFAB, Reporting Arrests and Convictions (formally Bus Driver Requirements) in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Lebowitz that as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the following members of the Student Assistance Teams are memorialized by the Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 school year:

Central Office Representative: Dr. Ronald Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

Allegheny Children's Initiative Liaisons: Jeaneen Nicki DeWitt, Allyson Schwartzmiller

Mellon Middle School Student Assistance Program Team: Chris Wolfson, Principal; Ben Canan, Assistant Principal; Do Sabol, Nurse; Heather Rehrig, Psychologist; Kara Gillespie, Counselor; Amy Whealdon, Counselor; Ann Brenneman, Teacher; Erica Harrington, Teacher; Eve Kollar, Teacher.

Jefferson Middle School Student Assistance Program Team: Dr. Sarah Shaw, Principal; Jeff Zeiders, Assistant Principal; Lauren Suess, Nurse; Erika Vasquez, Psychologist; Ashlee Beckett, Counselor; Pete Berg, Counselor; Janice Cherry, Teacher; Kristin Hertzog, Teacher; Gwen Kassop, Teacher; Allison Levison, Teacher; Beth Luptak, Teacher; Ed Petsko, Teacher; Stephanie Ross, Teacher; Molly Wetmore, Teacher; John Young, Teacher.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Assistance Program Team: Brian McFeeley, Principal; Carlie McGinty, Unit Principal; Katelyn Deet, Unit Principal; Joel Thompson, Unit Principal; Diana Becker, Counselor; Casey Bowles, Counselor; Chad Johnston, Counselor; Tara Leja, Counselor; Joy Rullo, Counselor; Shelly Saba, Counselor; Beth Schneider, Counselor; Jan Billotte, Teacher; Amanda Checque, Teacher; Frank Cremonese, Teacher; Todd Forsyth, Teacher; Tim Kirsch, Teacher; Darren McGregor, Teacher; Mike Melynk, Teacher; Heather Pessy, Teacher; Ann Sartorio, Teacher; Rich Schmitt, Teacher; Kajsa Siewczak, Teacher; Stu Snodgrass, Teacher; Joe Tighe, Teacher, Elizabeth Tighe, Teacher.

Foster Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Jason Ramsey, Principal; Hilarie Bauer, Nurse; Sara Campos, Counselor; Shaina Vasbinder, Psychologist; Crystal Hinton, Teacher; Sharon Phillips, Teacher; Sara Talarico, Teacher.

Hoover Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Nicci Giehl, Principal; Hilarie Bauer, Nurse; Kim Gamble, Counselor; Shaina Vasbinder, Psychologist; Katie Cornell, Teacher; Stephanie Hull, Teacher.

Howe Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Dr. Michelle Murray, Principal; Karli Gerhart, Nurse; Han Karbowski, Counselor; Sheila Carr, Psychologist; Margie DiDiorno, Teacher; Laurie Watkins, Teacher.

Jefferson Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Brett Bielewicz, Principal; Lauren Suess, Nurse; Shira Akamatsu, School Counselor; Erika Vasquez, Psychologist; Kim Salvador, Teacher; Gary Hutsler, Teacher; Katie Switzer, Teacher; Bridget Watson, Teacher.

Lincoln Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Ron Kitsko, Principal; Deanna Hess, Nurse; Cathy McClain, School Counselor; Sheila Carr, Psychologist; Teacher; Lisa Locke, Teacher; Katie Seiferth, Teacher.

Markham Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Natasha Dirda, Principal; Hilarie Bauer, Nurse; Christie Ketterman, Counselor; Shaina Vasbinder, Psychologist; Kelsey Barringer, Teacher; Paula Cherian, Teacher; Frank Gigler, Teacher.

Washington Elementary Student Assistance Program Team: Dr. Melissa Nelson, Principal; Do Sabol, Nurse; Lori Morin, Counselor; Heather Rehrig, Psychologist; Kim Scheuble, Teacher; Matt Antis, Teacher.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves a contract with Great Minds LLC for training the English Language Arts pilot teachers at a cost of \$2,996 to be paid for with grant funding. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Lebowitz that the following student trips:

- a. Model UN Team to the American University, Washington DC, January 31-February 2, 2020,
- b. Model UN Team to the University of Delaware, Newark, DE, March 6-8, 2020.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the Stipulated Adjudication for Student AB as presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Cooper, Diamond, Frioni, Lebowitz, Strotmeyer, Olbrich
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Student Outcomes Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

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