

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

November 18, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Riemer called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led Washington Elementary students Clare Mooney, Greta Stern, Elle Carvellas, and John Monocello. The students presented a report in their own words about being a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and leaders at Washington school. They spoke about mindfulness, helping others, being kind, kindergarten buddies, being role models, respecting others and the lessons they have learned for life.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Mr. Al Frioni, Ms. Sarah Olbrich Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Michael Riemer  
Absent: None

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, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on October 7, 2019, the Discussion Meeting held on October 7, 2019, and the Regular Meeting held on October 28, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members presented a report on the activities at JMS. In order to encourage participation by all, it will be a requirement for all members to participate in at least one committee. This will help the members to bond and provide a more worthwhile experience for all. The six committees are Random Acts of Kindness, Talent Show, Wish Week, Birthday, Teacher Helpers, and Candygrams/Pop Tab Wars.

The Executive Board attended the PASC State Leadership Conference in Johnstown, PA in early November. It was an incredible leadership experience with three national know motivational speakers and student-led leadership workshops. These experiences afforded the students the opportunity to not only hone their leadership skills and develop a vision for their own council, but it allowed them to meet and exchange ideas with student council members from all over the state.

The Birthday Committee has taken over recognizing student birthdays with announcements and small surprises. The Random Acts of Kindness Committee began the year with new ways to engage the student population and make them smile. In October, the Committee began "Booing" student lockers by putting a funny Boo sign on a random student's locker along with a treat and

instructions for those students to see the advisors for supplies to buy other students of their choice. In September, students donated a dollar to wear a hat on a Friday to benefit Kyle Nguyen who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The event raised \$614. To add to this collection, orange Team Kyle bracelets were sold during the lunch periods which added \$125 to the donation. The donation was given to the Nguyen family to hopefully give them some cheer during the holidays. The sale of pink bandanas from St. Clair Hospital raised \$76 to benefit high school teacher Ms. Quintero. Students donated \$2 so they could come to school in costume on Halloween. This event generated \$411.50 which was given to the McFeeley Strong organization.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co Treasurer presented the report for the High School. Throughout the month of October, the high school students, faculty, and staff supported the annual PINK OUT fundraiser for St. Clair Hospital's Cancer Caring Center, the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation, and Cure for Quintero. The success of the fundraising resulted in \$1,000 of donations. This fundraiser was also supported by the School District's elementary and middle schools.

Link Crew Leaders went into the freshmen homeroom during an extended homeroom period to teach an interactive lesson about adjusting to high school. They also lead a discussion about the obstacles that the freshmen had faced thus far and shared suggestions on how to overcome them. Link Crew will visit the freshmen homerooms again in December, and they are planning social and community service events for the upcoming months.

The Holiday Show auditions judges comprised of seniors and staff members selected twenty-one acts for the annual talent show. The annual Holiday Show will be held on Wednesday, December 11. It will be a fun night of singing, dancing, and comedy performances.

The Class of 2022 collected leftover Halloween candy for Treats for Troops after making a connection with a military support group that is willing to mail the candy to our soldiers overseas. The two week drive resulted in 420.2 pounds of candy being collected which filled 19 copier paper boxes. This donation will fill 12,000 Christmas stockings that will be mailed to the children of the soldiers.

The Class of 2021 is conducting a canned food drive that will end on November 26. Many of the homerooms have filled one box with food items and they are working on filling their second box. All donations will be sent to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Since the food bank will run out of food after Thanksgiving, the drive was purposely planned to help with this problem.

In early November, 13 students from all four grades attended the Pennsylvania Student Council State conference at Westmont Hilltop High School in Johnstown, PA. The experience has inspired the students to recruit more of their classmates to become actively involved with Student Council and has given them several new ideas for volunteer activities and fundraising projects. The Student Councils are developing plans to submit a bid for the 2021 PASC State Conference that could be held at Mt. Lebanon High School.

On November 11, Student Council recognized Veterans Day by publicly thanking the six veterans who work on the high school campus along with the family members of one student and ten high school employees.

Throughout this school year, all of the student body officers will be working closely with Mr. Stengel to develop ideas for integrating technology into the high school community.

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Riemer recognized the three outgoing board members. Larry Lebowitz has served on the board for nine years with two as the vice president and two years as board president. As a highly regarded immigration lawyer, his legal expertise, forward thinking attitude and sound decision making have been invaluable during some of the high stakes issues he dealt with during his tenure, such as the high school renovation, negotiating two teacher contracts, superintendent contracts and numerous important policy questions. Larry presented educational sessions at both the state and national level regarding the critical relationship between the Board and Superintendent. Larry is a consensus builder. He always seeks to find common ground with his colleagues to come to the best resolution to benefit the students and community.

Bill Cooper has served on the board for eight years. He brought to the board a valuable perspective of a former public school teacher and administrator. Bill approached his role as a school board member with one thing in mind - how do the decisions we make improve the education, safety and well-being of our students. He is a passionate advocate for students and does not abandon his beliefs even when he may be in the minority. Bill has led with integrity and the Board is fortunate to have served with him.

Al Frioni has served for two years having been appointed to the school board. Even before this, Al has shown to be a true public servant having also served on municipal boards and authorities in Mt. Lebanon. The District has benefited from this public servant perspective.

Mr. Riemer thanked all three for their service to this community and the school district, and presented each gentleman with a token of appreciation.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Dr. Ronald Davis and Dr. Marybeth Irvin who presented the annual Student Academic Outcomes Report. The report can be found on the District's website.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Policy Committee met on November 11 to review policies GBEB, Staff Internal Communications; GCBDD, Leaves of Absence for Professional Development and Sabbatical Leaves for Restoration of Health; and KFAA, Use on School Property of Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Blades and other Devices. Revisions to policies GCBDD and KFAA are this evening's agenda for approval.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the Board held a workshop on November 11 to gather reflections from the three outgoing board members to share with the incoming members.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Riemer reported that Cabot Oil and Gas presented PWCTC with a scholarship check totaling \$15,000 to financially support students with the purchase of uniforms, certifications, and student organization memberships.

The Directors List Reception is held in order to recognize students who do exemplary work at Parkway. To be placed on the Director's List, students must earn an "A" in their Career & Technology Program of Study, earn at least a "B" in any academic subject they are enrolled in at Parkway, and receive their teacher's recommendation. Fourteen Mt. Lebanon High School students made the Director's List for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Congratulations to these hardworking students.

PSBA – Mrs. Cappucci reported that PSBA is asking that all board members reach out to their state representative to oppose HB1800. This is basically a school voucher experiment which allows for tuition grants for students in the Harrisburg School District to attend charter or private schools. Half the money will come from local taxes the other half from school subsidies. Another bill to watch is HB1897 which was introduced in the House to require all school districts in the Commonwealth to offer full-time cyber education programs.

Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education – Dr. Diamond reported that the MLFE Board will meet on November 20 to review the fall teacher grant applications.

Dr. Diamond took the opportunity to report on conference she attended entitled, “Antisemitism, Hate, and Social Responsibility” hosted by Classroom Without Borders.

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

- Graduation requirement changes
- Justification for stadium turf replacement

#### NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2019,
- b. List of Bills dated October 31, 2019, and November 13, 2019,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2019,
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated November 1, 2019, and
- e. List of Budgetary Transfers dated November 13, 2019.

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

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with Industrial Appraisals to conduct an on-site inspection and appraisal of the buildings, site improvements, fixed equipment and moveable equipment to create a property and accounting cost record at a cost of \$15,000. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the November 7, 2019, list of personnel changes, as revised November 14, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy GCBDD, Leaves of Absence for Professional Development and Sabbatical Leaves for Restoration of Health in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves Policy KFAA, Use on School Property of Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Blades and Other Devices in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Frioni and seconded by Cooper that the Board does hereby adopt the 2020-2021 graduation requirements, course offerings, and course options for Mt. Lebanon High School as presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny Children's Institute to facilitate the expenditure of funds secured through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency grant in substantially the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves participation in the proposal process of the Western Pennsylvania Electric Consortium.

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

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the updated terms of the agreement with First Student in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the District enters into an agreement with J. T. Sauer for the design and related services for the replacement of the track and field at the stadium, in a form approved by the Superintendent and Solicitor and consistent with the proposal presented to the Board.

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the following student trips:

- a. Jefferson Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC, April 6-7, 2020,
- b. Mellon Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC, May 14-15, 2020.

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

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Commended the leadership of the outgoing board members  
Student Academic Outcomes Report  
Math scores at the middle and elementary schools

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Olbrich to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Director

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