

**Mount Lebanon City Council of PTA's  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Howe Elementary School  
January 8, 2020 - 9:00 am**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:**

Bonnie Dougherty, Council President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

The group said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bonnie thanked Dr. Murray, Howe's Principal and Wendy Liberty, Howe's PTA President for hosting today's meeting.

November 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

**Executive Board Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Rich Messimer. The following budget information was shared via email to members. Georgia Pogue Scholarship fund Budget to Actual, Georgia Pogue Scholarship Fund Finances, and the Council Budget to actual report. The current council balance is \$7,262.90 and the current Georgia Pogue balance is \$20,889.47.

- Rich reminded PTA Presidents to submit their Council dues asap. He will send a reminder via email. Two separate checks should be submitted. 1) Council Dues and 2) Georgia Pogue Dues. Contact Rich if you need assistance.

**Council PTA President Bonnie Dougherty:**

Bonnie shared the following updates:

- Bonnie suggested that Unit PTA Presidents reach out to their building Principals and ask them to send a blast email to all parents to join the PTA. This should come from the Principal as they will have access to the entire data base. Try and catch anyone new to the district and build membership!
- Bonnie thanked the district for their support in the Relay for Life Luminary fundraiser.
- Unit PTA Presidents should begin electing their Nomination Committees.
- The PTA/MLEA annual meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2020, in Room D205 at the high school. An email will be sent with a reminder and a request to submit

questions to be discussed at that meeting. As a follow up from that meeting, the PTA and School Board will meet either March 23<sup>rd</sup> or March 30<sup>th</sup> as possible dates.

- Unit PTA Presidents should remind PTA volunteers that they must have their driver's license identification on them to enter school buildings.
- Bonnie thanked Ann Bozick for her wonderful job chairing Reflections this school year.
- Unit PTA Presidents should check to see when their Bylaws renew. Contact Mary Ellen Donato for questions.
- Bonnie asked Mary Ellen Donato to follow up on the Council Community Service project to be held in the Spring.
- Bonnie reminded all about posting outside organization events in newsletters. It is acceptable if the event is school related, however, a central location might be a better option so that people can find them easier.

**Mount Lebanon School District Superintendent Dr. Tim Steinhauer:**

Dr. Steinhauer discussed and shared the following:

It is hard to believe but the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is quickly approaching! Here is what is on the radar:

- Lebo Parent University will be held on January 27, 2020, from 7-9:15 pm at the high school. It offers a variety of 9 classes total you can sign up for. Each class will be approx. 40 min long. You can sign up for 1-3 classes. Classes are free and open to adults only. Some examples of classes are: "HS Academic Record for Successful College Entrance", "Childhood Stress and Anxiety", "Current Trends in Drug and Alcohol Use", "Elementary Math for Parents". Classes will be taught by school administrators, Outreach, or Police, etc. To register and to review the 9 class descriptions visit the website at: <https://www.mtisd.org/family/lebo-parent-university>
- The district is committed to being a good steward using press paper composted tray/plates in the elementary currently one day a week. Would like to expand to middle schools. Goal would be to eliminate styrofoam. Reduce/Reuse/Recycle. There is a cost difference.
- There is an uptick of international students enrolled in the district and an International Student Group was created by parents. They will hold a pot-luck dinner this Saturday and Dr. Steinhauer will be attending. He is pleased to see this initiative.

- Three new board members Ms. Valerie Fleisher, Dr. Justin Hackett, and Mr. Jacob Wyland were elected in December. They began their service in December along with four veteran members. Our School Board is critical to our districts success and we appreciate their service. Dr. S. is pleased and excited to be working with the new board.
- Flexible Instruction Days (FID). Only 72 schools in PA out of 500 (14%) applied and were approved for FID. Dr. Irvin and Dr. Davis were responsible in submitting the application.

Dr. Irvin spoke at the meeting regarding FID:

- FID is an option for the district not a requirement.
- Pay attention to announcements via media. Delay, cancellation (no FID), or FID.
- Teachers will send an email to students on FID with assignment by 10 am.
- Teachers will be available by phone or email.
- This is an alternative to adding on more days to end of year, however, the district must abide by the laws of PA and must still implement built-in snow days.
- An example of FID would be extreme cold weather. Staff would report, students FID.
- She stated a reminder will be sent out to parents about February 17th. In the event of bad weather between today and then, there would be a cancellation and February 17th will be used as a snow day. It is built in and must be used as a cancellation day not a FID.
- The district recognizes there will be glitches as FID rolls out.

- Dr. Steinhauer. asked all present at the meeting to engage in a moment of Mindful Self Compassion. May I be happy. May I be peaceful. May I be healthy.
- Moira Aulbach shared with Dr. Steinhauer. that the Advisory Time at Mellon gained fantastic feedback. Dr. Steinhauer. will share with Mr. Wolfson. This time is used to build relationships between a mix of grades 6-8 along with teachers. Advisory Time will continue throughout the remainder of the year.

### **Old Business: Bonnie Dougherty**

Nomination Committee for Council was appointed, voted on and passed.

- Rebecca Matheus, Chair
- Danika Lagorio, Foster

- Colleen Frank, High School
- Wendy Liberty, Howe
- Moira Aulbach, Mellon

**New Business: Bonnie Dougherty**

None

**Unit President Announcements:**

None

**Community Representatives:**

**Mount Lebanon School Board:**

Sarah Olbrich was in attendance, however, felt that Dr. S. covered everything well. A question was raised if the district had any plans for construction projects. At this time, there are none planned, however, the school board does realize the dirt fields are problematic at elementary and middle schools.

**Mount Lebanon Municipality: Laura Lilley (presented by Bonnie)**

- The Municipality completed the Public Communication study. 3,484 surveys were received. Residents are pleased with communication options.
- 3 new commissions were sworn in.

**Outreach: Jenica Schoolcraft**

- Teen Screen will start in January 2020.
- Vaping 101 will be offered as a Choices Program. The Choices Program, a drug and alcohol education program is currently available. Sessions run the third Saturday of every month.
- Outreach is researching a program for coaches and/or athletic directors on dealing with stress, anxiety in athletes.
- There will be an article in Mount Lebanon Magazine on procrastination.
- Outreach programming information is available at <https://outreachteen.org/>

**Mount Lebanon Police Department: Jeff Kite**

- The police will participate in Lebo University on January 27<sup>th</sup> and will present the ALICE class. They will touch on how ALICE is presented to 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, they will participate in the current drug trends session.
- The police will be presenting a vaping class to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders at the middle schools.

**Mount Lebanon Fire Department:** Kris Siegert

The fire department is adding a position. It is a daylight position where the individual will focus on inspections. This will free up Kris to focus on education. Over 200 classes have been presented so far this school year.

- The fire department left a flyer on recruiting volunteers. See hand out.
- The fire department, along with JMS and the Family Consumer Science class, put a video together on cooking fires.
- EMS received over 2,000 calls in 2019 - most were weather related.
- The department reminds residents:
  - Call 911 if you see wires down.
  - It is time to discard your real Christmas tree.

**Mount Lebanon Library:** Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer touched on the following upcoming events:

- On January 20 (no school this day), the library will host an event with Matt's Maker Space.
- The library will be hosting a Kindergarten readiness program suggested for ages 3-5.
- The library will be hosting a Spanish Story Time for ages under 6.
- The library will be hosting Tinker Time - opportunity to build with boxes and trains, etc.
- There is a book club available for all ages at the library including adults (see adult programs)
- Monday nights the library offers a popular YOGA class.
- Please check the flyer or visit the library website for information on programs:  
<http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/>

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am

Submitted by:

Mary Ellen Donato, Council PTA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

January 8, 2020