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

December 9, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Ms. Olbrich called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln Elementary Students Teddy Beldyk, Aria Cornacchione, Amanda King, Lila Thomas, Marti Weisberg. The students, in their own words, each talked about how special Lincoln Elementary School is. The friends, teachers, activities, getting your picture taken with Awesome Abe, kindergarten buddies, and the library were just some of the characteristics of Lincoln that make it a special and welcoming place for them.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Ms.

Valerie Fleisher, Dr. Justin Hackett (by phone), Mr. Michael Riemer,

Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Jacob Wyland, Ms. Sarah Olbrich

Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent

Thomas Peterson, Solicitor

Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Katie Devine, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard

Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee held on November 11, 2019; the Discussion Meeting held on November 11, 2019; and the Regular Meeting held on November 11, 2019.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council 8th grade members Maddie McDonald and Brooke Murawski reported on the activities at Mellon. The first service project for the Fundraising Committee coincided with their theme, *Won't You Be Our Neighbor*. The student body participated in a "Cardigan Day" spirit day in support of WQED's initiative to create and spread kindness. Students were challenged to complete a daily suggested act of kindness. Student Council also planned a service project to help "neighbors" who couldn't afford to feed themselves during the Thanksgiving season. Feathers were sold for a dollar, and each purchased feather was on displayed on turkeys in the lobby at Mellon to create a visual of support for the food kitchen on Brookline Blvd. Their efforts raised \$668 for their neighbors.

In December, the Mellon Elf is back hiding around Mellon for students to find. Prizes will be awarded each day to the lucky Mellon student who finds Elf Andy. There will also be a 12 Holly-Days of Mellon spirit days. The spirit days include Mistle-Toes Day, Favorite Holiday Character Day, Frozen Friday and Winter Sports Day. Student Council Elves will hand out candy cane prizes. Students and staff always get in the spirit and participate on this endeavor.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council members Caroline Kenney and MacKenzie Ridge reported on the activities at the High School. Throughout the month of November, the Class of 2021 collected non-perishable food items from students, administrators, faculty and staff members. Nine hundred thirty-two (932) canned goods were donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank along with \$138. This donation will help feed a lot of hungry people who live in our community and surrounding townships.

December is the month for concerts to consider attending. The orchestra and band held their winter concerts last week, and the percussion concerts are this weekend.

The National Honor Society members are organizing the annual gift drive. Each homeroom plans on purchasing the gift requests of teenagers and young adults who are in treatment with or being supervised by the FamilyLinks organization. Student Council expects that all 83 homerooms will participate and close to 225 gifts will be purchased for the FamilyLinks clients.

The 41st Holiday Show will be held on December 11 with performances from all four grades participating. The senior class will continue the tradition of donating the proceeds from the show to the following charities: The Four Diamonds Mini THON, the Georgia Pogue Personal Achievement awards, and the Mt. Lebanon High School Principal's awards.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Olbrich introduced the three new members on the Board. Ms. Valerie Fleischer is the Chief Operating Officer at Riverlife in downtown Pittsburgh, and has two children at Howe. Mr. Jacob Wyland is a defense attorney with the Wyland Law Group, and he has two children at Hoover. Dr. Justin Hacket is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the California University of Pennsylvania. He has one child at Mellon and two at Howe.

One of the action items on this evening's agenda may seem a bit early, but budgeting timelines change for school districts in presidential election years. We will be discussing and voting on a resolution not to exceed the ACT 1 index. This means the maximum tax increase the school district can have is 0.64 mils. We know the administration will work hard to keep the tax increase well below this threshold, as they have done in previous years, while still maintaining the quality education the community expects.

Ms. Olbrich announced the Board committee assignments for 2020: Policy, Dr. Aviva Diamond (chair) and Mr. Jacob Wyland; Board Development, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer; Environment Sustainability, Mr. Hugh Beal; MLFE, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci; Municipal Liaison, Dr. Justin Hackett; Parkway West CTC, Mr. Michael Riemer and Mr. Hugh Beal (alternate); Pathfinder, Ms. Valerie Fleisher and Mr. Hugh Beal (alternate); PSBA, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer; and SHASDA, Ms. Sarah Olbrich. The board president thanked everyone in advance for the work they will undertake on their committees for the new year.

Ms. Olbrich wished the entire community a very happy holiday season and a healthy and happy new year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized past president, Michael Riemer, for his leadership for the past two years, and highlighted the accomplishments of the Board during that time.

- No Place for Hate designation
- Niche 2020 Best School #1 ranking (two years in a row)
- Center for Safe Schools 2019 Safe Schools Champion recognition

- ASBA Meritorious Budget Award
- Five-year teachers' contract
- District-wide infrastructure improvements

The superintendent reported an orientation was held to give each new school board member and opportunity to meet with Central Office administrators.

Dr. Steinhauer wished the community Happy Holidays.

BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Cappucci reported that a Hall of Champions event was held in October which raised \$5,000 for the upkeep of the Hall of Champions. Nominations are now open for a Hall of Champion recognition.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The following items were discussed: Monthly treasurer's report, list of bills, list of tax refunds, accelerated budget opt out resolution, donor designated gifts, monthly personnel report, 2020-2021 district calendar, attendance and expenses for board members at national, state, and local conferences, AIU Joint Purchasing Board, ESL translation service agreement, and high school band trip to Washington DC to march in St. Patrick's Day Parade.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves; ratifies; and accepts the following financial reports; (Copies in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2019,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 27 and December 4, 2019, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2019.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board of School Directors of the Mt. Lebanon School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

- 1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the next fiscal year (2020-2021) based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index applicable to the school district as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
- 2. The applicable index for the next fiscal year is 2.6%, and the School Board will not for the next fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index.
- 3. The School Board has to date and in the future will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
- 4. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves disbursements for Donor Designated Gifts in the amount of \$23,722.88. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the December 5, 2019, list of personnel changes as revised December 9, 2019. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented by the administration. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Riemer that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 2020.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves the membership in the AIU Joint Purchasing Board for 2020 as per the attached resolution designating Richard Marciniak as the regular member and Robert Geletko as the alternate member. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves an agreement with the AIU for Translation Services provided by TransPerfect Remote Interpreting to provide telephone voice interpretation and document translation for non-English speaking students and parents in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Wyland and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the High School Marching Band Trip to Washington, DC, March 13-15, 2020.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Hackett, Riemer,

Strotmeyer, Wyland, Olbrich

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following;

Welcomed new board members Would like to hear the pros and cons of replacing the high school stadium turf

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board; it was moved by Riemer and seconded by Strotmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman; Secretary Board of School Directors

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