

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 Hackett 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 mills. 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

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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