

School Board President's Report
September 21, 2020
Sarah Olbrich

These are not easy times to be a parent. Across the country, school districts like ours are grappling with the same difficult decisions of how education will be conducted during this once in a 100 year pandemic. Parents, in turn, are again faced with important decisions about their children's education, and most importantly, their children's health and safety. We are all part of this unwanted but very necessary conversation.

I know this process has been extremely stressful for parents. I've read your emails. I heard your exhaustion, frustration, anxiety, and at times anger, no matter what mode of instruction you were advocating for. We are all bound by a common desire to do what's best for our children as we make these difficult decisions. Reading through your emails, I was moved by this quote from one of our parents. She wrote: "I hope our community finds common ground to unite together in support of the schools in whatever teaching mode we may be in at any given time." We have a 107 year tradition in our school community of looking out for one another. We need to draw on that sense of community now more than ever.

As we learn more about the instructional options from the administration, I hope you have the information you need to make the best decision for your family. I know that we all want and need a small space of calm and peace. Hopefully we will have that after these decisions are made.

Earlier today I received Mr Michael Riemer's resignation from the board. It is unfortunate that the use of a derogatory term has ended his long service to the Mt Lebanon School District. But let me be clear - the word that Mr Riemer used last monday is one that should NEVER be uttered. It is derogatory and demeaning to women of all ages. The Mt Lebanon school district strives to be inclusive and welcoming. We know we have work to do and we hope that our District DEI task force can provide guidance for moving forward. The word choices of Mr Riemer last week are unequivocally denounced by everyone in the Mt Lebanon School District.