

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

December 14, 2020

A Discussion/Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020, via a Zoom web meeting.

Mr. Wyland called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Ms. Valerie Fleisher, Mr. Andrew Freeman, Dr. Justin Hackett, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Jacob Wyland,  
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent  
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor  
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Ms. Tenecia Ross, 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 9, 2020; the Discussion Meeting held on November 9, 2020; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2020, the Regular Meeting held on November 16, 2020; and the Special Meeting held on November 23, 2020.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett, Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland began by thanking his fellow board members and Dr. Steinhauer for their work in preparing for the important decisions that will be discussed at the meeting. He knows that the community is very concerned and anxious about the path forward. The Board is concerned also. They take the responsibility of effectively education the students in a way that is safe very seriously.

The discussion for the meeting included the following:

- A discussion of a plan to remain in remote instruction while planning a staggered return to hybrid instruction beginning with elementary education following the winter break on January 4, 2021.
- A COVID update from the Dr. Steinhauer that included a review of the Health and Safety Plan and Reopening Education Plan.
- Review of the updated guidance from Governor Wolf, and the PA Departments of Health & Education

- The discussion of athletics in light of the Governor's recent order to pause athletics across the state.

The Board will discuss and debate the guidance recommendations presented and develop resolutions for action by the Board. Mr. Wyland then asked the Board for a motion to continue the meeting to Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. to take action on those resolutions.

Mr. Wyland congratulated Business Director Rob Geletko and his staff for being recognized by the Association of School Business Officials International with the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2020-2021 budget year. The award acknowledges the Mt. Lebanon School District for excellence in budget presentation. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the District has been recognized with this award.

In closing, the board president stated that the best gift we can give is to take care of each other during this difficult time. Please remember to mask up at all times, keep a safe distance from others, wash your hands regularly and follow the advice of public experts regarding travel and gatherings. It's up to all of us to keep our community safe.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools recently recognized Mt. Lebanon High School's Visual Arts as a "Program of Distinction." The Middle States Programs of Distinction initiative provides external validation of an accredited school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise. The superintendent congratulated Fine Arts Department Chair and high school art teacher, Jennifer Rodriquez, and high school art teacher Greg Kuhar for their creative and visionary teaching. They have inspired our students to reach beyond the ordinary, and if you have every attended the spring Student Art Show, the displayed student work exemplifies artistic excellence. The arts have always been an integral part of a Mt. Lebanon Education and a vital contribution to a vibrant society. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated Jennifer and Greg for this outstanding recognition.

High School English Teacher Patricia Shine was named the 2020 Recipient of the Henry G. Cram Accreditation Leadership Award. According to the Middle States Association website: "The award honors unsung heroes of the accreditation process who devote countless hours and energy to obtain and maintain accreditation of their schools. Recipients are chosen because they have a strong belief in, and deep understanding, of the Middle States accreditation process and a track record of creating and maintaining a school culture focused on continuous school improvement." Trish has been a leader in our high school's accreditation process and our 2nd programs of distinction award. She has expertly shepherded the process by her keen attention to detail and thoroughness reflected in each of the applications we submit. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated Patricia for this outstanding achievement.

Each December, over 20 leading high schools from across Pennsylvania compete at the Model European Union sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. For the 7th consecutive year, Mt. Lebanon students won the 1st place Team Award at the Model EU tournament and captured the most number of individual student honors. Winning 1st place honors were Jack Horrigan and Sam Bailey representing Germany; Jack Silverman and Nora Kulze representing The Netherlands; and Raafay Khan and Ben Ash representing Finland. Taking 2nd place were seniors Ben Brown and Peter Swindal representing the nation of Ireland. This year's tournament was conducted online, and featured the topics of "Europe's Response to Covid-19" and "The Impact of Migration on the EU." It was the first online version of Model UN held in Western Pennsylvania. Congratulations to our students and their coaches, George Savarese and Adam Lumish.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Dr. Diamond reported that the Policy Committee will meeting on January 11, 2021.

Municipal Liaison – Dr. Hackett reported that the Municipality passed a budget with no millage increase.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Dr. Hackett reported that the DEI Task Force will be meeting on January 6, 2021.

Environmental Sustainability – Mr. Beal reported that the Environmental Sustainability Board met on December 10, 2020. The Board discussed a climate action plan, clean electricity and the School District’s continuation of the composting and recycling program.

Parkway West CTC – Mr. Beal reported that the education mode at Parkway is 100% online. The staff is doing their very best to provide the best education possible.

PSBA/NSBA - Dr. Strotmeyer reported the PSBA will be presenting a free seminar on January 14, 2021 entitled, “New Congress, New Dynamics.” Board members are encouraged to register on the PSBA website. Dr. Strotmeyer also indicated that it’s time to review the Board Code of Conduct policy.

Pathfinder – Ms. Fleisher reported that Pathfinder moved three special education classes to full remote from December 14, 2020 to January 4, 2021.

## BOARD DISCUSSION

The following items were discussed: Monthly treasurer’s report, list of bills, list of tax refunds, monthly personnel report, 2021-2022 district school calendar, attendance and expenses for School Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops in 2021, and COVID-19 update.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated November 30, 2020,
- b. Monthly List of Bills dated November 25 and December 9, 2020, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2020.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett, Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Hackett and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the December 10, 2020, as revised December 17, 2020. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett, Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented by the administration. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett,  
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Cappucci that authorization be given for attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at national, state, and local conferences and workshops for 2021.

ROLL CALL; For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett,  
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

#### COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Nine (9) residents spoke before the Board about the following;

Two board members are in violation of the Sunshine Act and should recuse themselves

Conflict of interest and Board should investigate

Behavior of the Board during the meeting

Look at surround Districts to see how they are handling instruction

Academic achievement disintegrating

Revisit start of hybrid plan on January 4

Have confidence of plan being presented

Accept decision of Board if it is in good faith

Does not feel the Board is dealing in good faith

Questioned when will live streaming occur for elementary students

Record student lessons

Restarting athletics can be done safely

No transmission of the virus in swimming

Thanked the Board for their work

No understanding of Health & Safety Plan or COVID Dashboard

Nervous about contact tracing and the public not following guidelines

Question about placing a child in Cyber Academy

Thanked the Board for their work

Have multiple resolutions for Wednesday meeting

Embarrassed by behavior of Board Members

Wants his child in school

Hockey follows guidelines of school and hockey association and state

If the governor hold January 4 as return date, so should the District

Meeting was not an efficient use of time

Supports recommendation of the Superintendent

Get kids back in school

#### CONTINUATION OF MEETING

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Hackett to continue the meeting to Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman; Secretary  
Board of School Directors