

**Mt Lebanon City Council of PTA's
Council Meeting Minutes (Virtual Meeting)
January 6th, 2021 – 9AM**

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

- Bonnie Dougherty, Council President, called the meeting to order at 9:02AM. The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was taken by Bonnie Dougherty.
- A moment of silence was observed for the passing of a Howe elementary student due to cancer & an alumni High School father due to COVID-19.

II. Approval of Minutes – November 18,2020

- November 2020 meeting minutes as submitted by Priya Sukumaran were approved. Amendment needs to be made to the Nominating Committee updates paragraph, to reflect 'Jefferson Middle School'(done 01/16/2021)

III. Treasurer's Report

IV. Executive Board Reports

A. President's Report - Bonnie Dougherty

- **PAPTA** – Another reminder to all PTA units that portion of dues need to be submitted in order to be in good standing for Reflections. If the state doesn't have the dues, students will not move on to the next level of Reflections.
- **Annual MLEA meeting date TBD**
 - Trying to compile questions that will help provide necessary resources to help students and families better. Bonnie will send out a copy of the type of questions that were covered last year, as a reference. This will help compile that list.
 - PTA Presidents – please start formulating questions and send them directly to Bonnie (bonnie_dougherty@hotmail.com).
 - MLEA and the School Board will meet March 22, 2021 (similar questions will be posted). The deadline for questions for the MLEA is TBD (pending confirmation of the meeting date). The deadline for questions for the MTLSD School Board is March 19th, 2021 (meeting date confirmed for March 22nd, 2021)
 - Membership - need a good solid membership base. If needed ask your principal to send out an email to everybody to try and get as many people involved as possible.
- **DEI Committee/Task Force** - the committee is meeting tonight (Jan 6th). They last met on December 9th. It was decided that the task force will meet twice a month. The last meeting outlined the specific roles of participants and the timeline of events. Stakeholders had break out groups. They also reviewed the notes from November's meeting.
 - On December 11th, Dr.Irvin and the elementary presidents discussed the school newsletters. (Thank you to Cissy for setting up a new page on the district website to help out with this). Bonnie intends to collect all the school newsletters and convert them into PDF format and compile them on the website. This way it will always be accessible to families. We want to make it more accessible to everybody but especially so for non-English speaking families. We will attempt to convert or translate the PDF files to various languages (will get in touch with ESL

teachers to help with this) so it will be helpful to these families. In the coming weeks, resources will be made available so that parents will be able to translate these newsletters into other languages as needed. Also, this will help in families receiving too many newsletters if they happen to have a child cyber academy and also in an elementary school. This way they will have access to one site where everything can be located.

- **Newsletter Chairs:** make sure to add Bonnie to the distribution list so that when she receives the newsletter she can convert it to a PDF file and post it to the district site.
- **Presidents** – if your PTA is not sending a regular newsletter, and all communications are going through the principals, let Bonnie know so that can be reflected on the website.
- Dr.Irvin & Dr.Davis: please ask the principals to make sure that the link for Council Newsletter Page is included in their Principal’s Newsletters going forward. It would also be good to know who the best contact for the ESL department would be so that when the “Google Translate” instructions have been finalized, it can be distributed to the appropriate families.
- The link for the PTA Council Newsletter Page :
<https://www.mtlsd.org/family/pta/pta-newsletter>
- The link for the DEI page which includes videos of past meetings and agenda information: <https://www.mtlsd.org/district/school-board> - click on the ‘Diversity and Inclusion’ tab.
- **Lunchtime Volunteers:** Thank you to all those who have and still do volunteer for lunch distribution. Bonnie just set up the volunteer site (sign up) for 3rd quarter, on the PTA Council website and PTA Council Facebook page.
- **By laws Update:** Bonnie is taking care of PTA Council bylaws. Mellon, Howe and Washington still need to update bylaws. Take note: bylaws were established to accommodate virtual PTA meetings and this amendment needs to be added onto the new (updated) bylaws in the respective unit.
- **Nominating Season** – looking for all positions for Council (president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, treasurer, secretary, historian). The Nominating Committee was elected the last time. Bonnie will amend or adjust the description of these positions as some of their roles have changed over the year(s).

B. Superintendent’s Report (Dr.Timothy Steinhauer)

- Mr.Wyland has been elected as the new board president. Valerie Fleisher is the new vice-president. Mr.Wyland introduced himself and thanked Council & the board. He is looking forward to working with them. He mentioned a short list of most recent action items (that they will be or have started working on) which included budgeting process for next year and the transition back to hybrid model (Jan 11th for elementary; Jan 21st for secondary)
- Dr.Steinhauer mentioned that they are prepared to welcome the return of students (elementary – January 11th; secondary (January 21st). Athletics returned on January 4th (evening) - strictly following all the safety and health requirements/guidelines as stated in the Safety & Health plan(we are also monitoring their practices, etc).Report from the High School Athletics is that they are thrilled to be back on track.

- **COVID Reporting Update** : The Mt. Lebanon COVID dashboard has some new additional information to better understand/reflect the current situation in the district and as required by PDE to track cases over a 14 day period. It states what the critical number of cases must be for us to take certain action(s) as recommended by the Department of Education). This will also take into account the building cleansing process, contact tracing and so forth. Next to all that information there is an ‘*’ that provides some specific information pertaining to the cases and/or safety procedures. For example, if the building deep cleaning and contract tracing is completed in less time than is required (and all recommended procedures are followed) the building can re-open in a day or two as compared to the stated 4-5 day closure. We are trying to reduce the interruptions to the student’s education. Same holds true for Athletics – if we have to close a building or suspend practices/games for a team, we will follow all the guidelines and requirements.

- Contact tracing will be thoroughly conducted. All the nurses have been trained. Dr. Irvin, Dr. Davis and Dr. Steinhauer have also been trained for contact tracing. They are doing all we can to make both experience successful.

- **Student Outcome Reports** - will be presented at the next school board meeting (Monday, January 11th). It is also posted on the district website. In general, the report indicates that the students and the teachers continue to perform on high levels.

- C. First Vice President (Cristina Battaglia) - nothing to report
- D. Second Vice President (Denis Skorkiy) – nothing to report
- E. Secretary (Priya Sukumaran) – nothing to report

V. Committee Reports

- A. Reflections (Bonnie Dougherty) – 18 entries have moved on to the next level. For the 1st time there were 3 entries for music composition from the middle school. Normally the visual arts is the main focus, so it is indeed nice to see entries for music composition.

VI. Old Business – There is still an open position for Council Historian. Pre-requisite is that you must have served on a board in the district at some point.

VII. Unit President’s Announcements – nothing to report

VIII. Community reports – it was emailed out last night. Since we are currently meeting virtually we are continuing with this mode distribution of the community reports.

- A. Outreach – is planning to help with educating the kids on drugs and alcohol. Mrs. Olbrich did mention she had some questions and would like to have further information in regards to this.

Lastly, Hoover PTA President expressed her gratitude and thanks for the condolence card/wishes on the passing of her father.

IX. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 9:32AM

Submitted by:

Priya Sukumaran, Council PTA Secretary

January 6th, 2021