

**Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTA's  
Council Meeting Agenda  
February 3, 2021 - 9AM**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
  - Bonnie Dougherty, Council President, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.
  - This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken by Bonnie and Jeanine.
2. Approval of Minutes - January 6, 2021
  - January 2020 meeting minutes as submitted by Priya Sukumaran were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report(Allison Carey) :
  - Nothing to report.
  - Membership is down across the board. However we have no expenses or income, so nothing has really changed.
  - Let Allison know if your unit has a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of membership dues and submit the council dues on that deposit.
  - We have enough in our account to cover Georgia Pogue Scholarship this year.
4. Executive Board Reports
  - A. President(Bonnie Dougherty)
    - i. Annual PTA/MLEA Meeting - End of February - Val Brown (President of the MLEA will be finalizing the date). A list of questions is compiled before the meeting and is presented at the meeting. Please talk to your board and finalize these questions. Send the questions to Bonnie so she can consolidate them to avoid any repeated questions or topics.
    - ii. Annual PTA/MTLSD School Board Meeting - Scheduled for 3/22/2021 - format TBA. List of questions will also be distributed to the presidents.
    - iii. The Georgia Pogue Scholarship Committee
      1. Without interruption, Mt. Lebanon Council PTA has awarded an annual scholarship to a deserving senior since our inception. Each of the seven recipients receives \$500 toward college expenses. In 1997 Council changed the name of the scholarship in honor of a guidance counselor at Mt. Lebanon High School, Georgia Pogue. Upon her untimely death, her family bequeathed \$25,000 to the PTA Scholarship fund and the PTA renamed the fund the Georgia Pogue Personal Achievement Award in her memory. The Scholarship Committee consists of six members. If any of the PTA representatives on the committee has a senior, he/she must designate a substitute for the committee.
        - a. Council PTA President - Bonnie Dougherty
        - b. PTA Council member-at-large - Cristina Battaglia
        - c. PTA Council Past President - Moira Aulbach
        - d. High School PTSA president - Colleen Frank
        - e. High school guidance counselor - Jared Smith
        - f. High school principal or his/her designee – It could be Mr.Thompson or he will designate somebody. In the past he has sent Carlie McGinty.

application. For example, it is not necessary that the financial award be used for post-secondary education (such as college, university) but can also be used for other post-High School plans such as getting a realtor's license, vocational school, etc. The application (and requirements) has been re-written to include all options.

- iv. Membership
  - 1. If you have not yet submitted your membership dues to Allison, please do so ASAP. Please remember to submit dues to the state and council dues to the Allison.
  - 2. It is really important that we send out another round of membership drive emails- especially since "nominating season" is upon us.
    - a. Please make sure that all of your current board members and committee members are registered and paid members.
    - b. In order for someone to be nominated and elected to a position for next year, they **MUST BE A PTA MEMBER**. This is critical - and our membership numbers are down.
    - c. Reach out to your principal to send out emails seeking new members. That is the only way for us to reach people who aren't already PTA members.
  - 3. Make sure that you are current with PAPTA in terms of membership and with Council regarding the Georgia Pogue scholarship as well.
- v. DEI - Meeting tonight - no changes to report since last month. The focus will be on data and achievement gaps.
- vi. Newsletter - New website is set up and should be added to all PTA newsletters going forward. Google Translate instructions are available on the website, and those instructions have been forwarded to Ms. Katelyn Deet (JMS Assistant Principal) who works with all of our ELA teachers. Newsletters will be converted to pdf format and will have an added document on how to translate to another language.
- vii. Bonnie met with Dr. Steinhauer and MLEA President Val Brown on 1/20/2021
  - Discussed the overview of what a vaccine rollout might look like for staff.
- viii. Bonnie met with Dr. Davis and Secondary Presidents on 1/25/2021. Issues that were discussed:
  - 1. Curriculum Night – it will look different this year. The high school teachers are making videos so the kids could view them to help with the course selection process.
  - 2. Cyber Academy 2021-2022 - Setting up a focus group to discuss how to move forward. This is just to find out how parents may feel about the possibility of maintaining the academy (moving forward).
  - 3. Feedback on the "Recovery Day" – A day that is set aside for students to meet with teachers to get extra help or support. There was a good discussion on what did and did not work.
- ix. Bonnie also met with Dr. Irvin and Elementary Presidents on 1/8/2021. Issues that were discussed:
  - 1. Live-streaming in the classroom – how this is being done.
  - 2. Reviewed New Dashboard

3. Staffing challenges at Elementary level
- x. Lunchtime Volunteers - Started on January 21. This should be appearing in all newsletters and has been posted to the PTA Council Facebook Page. Secondary parents are also more than welcome to sign up and volunteer. Bonnie has also been sending out thank you notes to those that help and it does encourage people to come out.
- xi. Bylaws – below are the schools/units that bylaws submissions are due this year.
  1. Council
  2. Mellon
  3. Washington
  4. Howe
  - Bonnie attached a draft of the bylaws (council) to the email that was sent out with the meeting details and reports. It has also been sent to the state for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of review.
  - Addendum to the bylaws regarding virtual meetings - this needs to be added to the current bylaws and filed and posted/updated on the website.

#### B. Superintendent

- Dr.Steinbauer introduced Valerie Fleisher – the new Vice President of the school board.
- Valerie introduced herself. She mentioned how the board is working on the budget (since it is budget season). At the last meeting, it was determined that they would not exceed the budget and that there will be no raise to the mileage above what is allocated by the state.
  - Facilities Director – will be at the next discussion meeting (February 8<sup>th</sup>). He will be presenting his recommendations for capital projects and items in operations budget. He will present a 5 year plan for maintenance at the school buildings.
  - Dr.Steinbauer has been giving the board continuous COVID updates and how things are since we are back into hybrid mode. The nurses are vaccinated and mini vaccination clinic has been set up for those who qualify the criteria under phase 1A.
  - The Board’s regular meeting will be held February 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by the DEI meeting.

#### Dr.Steinbauer’s Report:

- Vaccinations are rolling out based on demand and supply. We take whatever is given out to us. It was announced yesterday, that the Federal government will be supplying directly to the pharmacies in hopes of speeding up the process.
- February 5<sup>th</sup> will be our 1<sup>st</sup> mini vaccination clinic for personnel that fit the criteria in Phase 1A as defined by federal and state health department. This includes staff and teachers who have direct contact/services with students such as school nurses, speech therapist, life skills classroom teachers, etc. About 100 employees will be vaccinated by Friday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>.
- We are anxious to expand that to include those who have at risk conditions (ages 16-64) with another mini clinic in the near future.

- We are at the mercy of the supply.
- Dr.Steinbauer is optimistic about the process moving forward. The district has given their name to 6-7 providers of the vaccination. The district is also prepared to move quickly and organize vaccination clinics in a drop of a hat, if needed.
- Majority of the district employees are in Phase 1B.
- The infrastructure is in place, teams are ready and the whole process is ready to go in a drop of a hat.
- The federal government is pushing hard in order to get schools open as early as possible – the hopes is to do so with the availability and distribution of vaccination, following safe mitigation strategies and the slowing down of community spread. It depends on us, the district and the community, to follow certain mitigations safely - masking, social distancing, no large group gatherings, etc.
- We are in line just like everybody else. As of now, only vaccinating people who are permissible in that group.
- On a different note, Mount Lebanon has made the news in regards to teaching staff. Dr.Steinbauer reiterated that they will continue to provide the best for the kids, teachers and staff in a safely manner, to uphold the Mount Lebo quality of education.
- The board talks about COVID every month. There is lots of misinformation out there. To be clear, no decision has been made by the board to change the mode of instruction.
- It is not perfect in other districts either. Dr.Steinbauer meets up with superintendents from other districts. Every superintendent gets blasted because they are compared to another school district's plan. They all have their challenges.
- Parent University: usually in the spring. It will be in a virtual format.
- Black History Month: all schools have presented the authentic experiences of people of color. Many activities across the schools are occurring. It is an important topic to address not only just during Black history month, but every day.
- Dr.Steinbauer ended on a note of how important it is to care of oneself, especially parents who have to juggle everything (kids, school, and work).

**Questions:** (Sarah Olbrich): In regards to self-care and mindfulness – are those resources on the website for the parents to access? (Answer: yes, it's on our YouTube channel. Most of the videos are geared towards kids but there are some for adults. It is one more tool of coping. There are other resources available for kids and parents.)

**Response** (Cissy Bowman): the Post-Gazette will also feature an article on mindfulness (Dr.Steinbauer will be featured in that article). Also, she thanked Laura Lilley for featuring an article in the Mt.Lebanon Magazine on Jocelyn Artinger and black history month. The article is available online.

b. First Vice President - Cristina Battaglia - nothing to report

- c. Second Vice President - Denis Skorskiy - nothing to report
- d. Secretary - Priya Sukumaran - nothing to report

5. Committee Reports

- a. Bonnie is working with Mary Ellen Donato to try and see if we can organize the Annual Service Project in safe manner. SHIM is still in need of donations, more so now, more than ever.

6. Report of the Nominating Committee – Jean Thomas presented the report.

See report below:

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee was made up of: Amanda Babst, Jean Thomas, Kara Monocello, Rachel French and Priya Sukumaran. The nominating committee advertised for nominations in all of our PTA newsletters and on PTA Council Facebook page. We also approached individuals we knew who have held board positions in other schools that were eligible and may be interested.

For the office of President: we do not have a nominee at this time

For the office of 1st VP - we do not have a nominee at this time

For the office of 2nd VP -Denis Skorskiy

For the office of Treasurer - Allison Carey

For the office of Historian - Kelly Latona

For the office of Secretary - Priya Sukumaran

**Nominating Committee Remarks/Feedback:** It wasn't easy looking for possible candidates to fill these positions. Under normal circumstances this process is already difficult (due to lack of interest, etc) but the added component of this pandemic has made it even harder. We also think there was some struggle in finding individuals that were eligible to run for those positions. We are thankful that for all the positions (except for Historian), the current serving individuals agreed to serve another year. *In accordance with our bylaws, if we are unable to fill a position for which the current board member has already served two years, the board member who currently fills that position will continue to do so until a nominee is found.*

The hardest position to fill is the President. Bonnie has done a phenomenal job this year leading Council and school units, especially under the most difficult circumstances imaginable - the uncertainty of the school year and dealing with the divisiveness of our Mt.Lebo community. We feel she would be the best person to continue doing the job moving forward since she has experienced all the ups and downs this year and will be invaluable to the 'building up' of some of the struggling unit PTAs. We also hope that next year (with the hopes of returning to a normal school year) will bring more interested individuals who may step up and be more willing to fill these positions.

On a personal note, Priya Sukumaran would also like to recommend that we try to continue to provide some sort of virtual meeting (all unit PTAs and Council) option even if we return to in-person meetings. This would open up more involvement from working parents especially those who can't attend the day meetings. We may even entice more interest in participation & take up board positions thus providing a wider pool of potential candidates to fulfill PTA positions (across the board).

- At this time, Bonnie opened the floor to nominations for the Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTAs for the 2021-2022 school year.

- The nominating committee did not have a nomination for **President**. There were no nominations from the floor. As there are no nominations for the office of President, Bonnie Dougherty will continue to serve as President for up to, and not in excess of one year.
  - The nominating committee did not have a nomination for **First Vice President**. There were no nominations from the floor. As there are no nominations for the office of First Vice President, Cristina Battaglia will continue to serve as President for up to, and not in excess of one year.
  - For the office of **Second Vice President**, Denis Skorskiy is nominated by the nominating committee. There are no further nominations for the office of Second Vice President. Without objections, the nominations for Second Vice President are closed.
  - For the office of **Treasurer**, Allison Carey is nominated by the nominating committee. There are no further nominations for the office of Treasurer. Without objections, the nominations for Treasurer are closed.
  - For the office of **Secretary**, Priya Sukamaran is nominated by the nominating committee. There are no further nominations for the office of Secretary. Without objections, the nominations for Secretary are closed.
  - For the office of **Historian**, Kelly Latona is nominated by the nominating committee. There are no further nominations for the office of Historian. Without objections, the nominations for Historian are closed.
  - As there were no additional nominations, the final slate is as follows:
    - For the office of President - Bonnie Dougherty
    - For the office of First Vice President - Cristina Battaglia
    - For the office of Second Vice President - Dennis Skorskiy
    - For the office of Treasurer - Allison Carey
    - For the office of Historian - Kelly Latona
    - For the office of Secretary - Priya Sukumaran
    - The office of 3rd Vice President is filled by the District Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, and is not an elected position.
  - An uncontested election will be held at the March PTA meeting since there is only one candidate per office. At the March meeting you can proceed with a voice vote.
7. Bylaws – submitted to the State with additional changes( it will be presented at the March meeting and will sit for 30 days before it is voted on at the April meeting)
  8. Old Business - none
  9. New Business - none
  10. Unit President’s Announcements – none
  11. Questions for Community Representatives - for the purposes of a more brief, concise yet informative (future) virtual meetings, a report will be submitted (instead of actual verbal report presentation). This report will detail what is currently happening in our community.
    - A. Mt. Lebanon School Board
    - B. Reports
      1. Mt. Lebanon Fire Department – shout out to Lt.Siegert for conducting safety seminar for special needs individuals. People for all over the country tuned in. He has done so much for the community.

2. Mt. Lebanon Municipality – Mt. Lebo Resident Academy starts soon. There are 31 participants and it will be held virtually.
  3. Outreach
  4. Mt. Lebanon Police Department
  5. Mt. Lebanon Public Library
- Before the meeting adjourned, Bonnie mentioned a High School communication from Mrs. Kolko – senior citizens that need their walkway shoveled can contact the students’ activities board. She has a shoveling crew set up. Contact number: 412-344-2105. If you know of anyone who may need that help, please put them on that list.

II. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 9:47am

Submitted by:

Priya Sukumaran, Council PTA Secretary

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021