

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

January 19, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:31 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in the Mt. Lebanon High School Auditorium. In person public attendance in the High School was limited to less than 100. Public participation was available through Zoom.

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  
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor  
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Ms. Tenecia Ross, Mr. Christopher Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 7, 2020, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting held on December 14, 2020, the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 14, 2020, and the Continued Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 16, 2020.

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

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland welcomed everyone in attendance in the auditorium and online. He reported that the Board took a positive step was taken of returning students to in school instruction this month, and their effort in that regard is not complete. Dr. Steinhauer will be presenting a report tonight detailing how to build on that progress.

The board president recognized Ms. Allison Landau, a Hoover Elementary personal care assistant, as this month's Extra Mile Awardee. Ms. Landau was nominated by her colleagues Jill Calkins, Emmy Lou Nelson, Paula Hogenmiller, Kait Lear, Kelly Richards, and Mike Hansberry. In their nomination letter they stated that Allison is an exemplary employee, often arriving to work more than an hour early for her shift every day. She is willing to help and regularly puts others before herself. Allison goes above and beyond to support all students and staff at Hoover, not just the children she works with directly. She has an innate ability to recognize when children need help, and how to best deliver the needed assistance. On behalf of the school board and his daughters who are watching at home, he congratulated and thanked Ms. Landau for being the wonderful, dedicated person that she is.

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that January is school board recognition month across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is a time when the entire school community takes a brief moment to recognize the significant contributions of our locally elected school board members.

The Mt. Lebanon School Board, consisting of nine individuals, acts as a legislative body to govern the Mt. Lebanon School District within the framework of federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Pennsylvania Public School Code conferred the powers and duties of the Board. On behalf of the students, faculty, administrators, and staff, he thanked the Board for volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community and in the process, providing a world-class education to the children of Mt. Lebanon.

In continuing the theme of appreciation, Dr. Steinhauer recognized and thanked the contributions Sarah Olbrich made as School Board president. Little did we anticipate back in December 2019 what was in store for us in 2020. But Sarah helped lead us through a challenging year that was filled with accomplishments and challenges.

During Sarah’s tenure the District initiated the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board Committee, and the District DEI Task Force, passed a zero mill budget, refinanced a major bond, saving the District millions of dollars in debt service, undertook extensive planning for the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah was also involved in the District recovery team and attended every subcommittee meeting. This work informed the development of the Health and Safety Plan and the reopening school plan. In recognition of her service, diligence, and dedication, the superintendent presented her with the President’s Gavel with thanks and gratitude on behalf of the students, staff, and parents of the Mt. Lebanon School District.

Dr. Steinhauer announced that the District was recognized by Encova Insurance for our safety accomplishments. The Mt. Lebanon School District was honored for work in critical safety areas during a three-year period. We showed excellent improvement in loss ratio and accident reduction in the frequency of indemnity claims. Some of the recognition areas included a decrease in slips, trips, and falls, timely reporting of claims, communication, and targeted training of staff.

The superintendent congratulated the Human Resources Office led by Tenicia Ross and her staff, especially the work of Maria Olivio and our District Safety Committee, for their commitment to creating a safe work environment for our staff.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Dr. Diamond reported that the Policy Committee met on January 11 discussed the adoption of Policy JCIL, Students Convicted of Adjudicated Sexual Assault. The Committee recommended moving the policy forward for Board approval on January 19.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Dr. Hackett reported the DEI met this evening at 6:00 p.m. to hear an update on the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force. The Committee supports the hiring of a DEI facilitator.

Municipal Liaison – Dr. Hackett reported that the Commission held their reorganization meeting and Mindy Ranney was elected President and Andrew Flynn was elected Vice President for 2021. The Commission discussed the overnight parking ordinance and the new uptown vibrant project.

Parkway West – Mr. Beal reported that the enrollment at Parkway is approximately 1,000 students. Students returned to a hybrid mode on January 11 with 850 students returning to hybrid learning. The focus now is getting students their industry credentials. Due to the pandemic students from the class of 2020 are invited to get the industry credentials. The NOCTII exams are in questions for this school year. The annual open house will be held the first week of April.

Pathfinder School – Ms. Fleisher reported that the next Pathfinder Board meeting is on January 20.

PSBA/NSBA – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the Governor release his budget for 2021. PSBA is holding a free virtual budget seminar for board members on February 3. All board members are encouraged to sign up.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One (1) resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Instruction during this school year  
No planning by school board; no communication

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports: (Copies in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2020,
- b. List of Bills dated December 30, 2020, and January 12, 2021, and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated December 31, 2020.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett,  
Olbrich, Strotmeyer (items a and c), Wyland  
Against: None  
Abstained: Strotmeyer (item b)  
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Diamond and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2021-2022 school year.

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 Fleisher that the Board of School Directors of the Mt. Lebanon School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district’s various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the next fiscal year (2021-2022) based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index applicable to the school district as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the next fiscal year is 3.5%, and the School Board will not for the next fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index.

3. The School Board has to date and in the future will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
4. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.

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 Beal that the Board approves the January 7, 2021, list of personnel changes, as revised January 14, 2021, and January 18, 2021. (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 Strotmeyer that the Board adopts Policy JCIL, Students Convicted of Adjudicated Sexual Assault, in the form presented. (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 Freeman and seconded by Cappucci that the Board awards Bid #2021 to W. B. Mason Co. in the amount of \$67,182 for High Speed Duplicating Paper and \$6,358 for Cover Stock Paper as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (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 Cappucci and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student AB in the form presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Olbrich,  
Strotmeyer, Wyland  
Against: Beal, Hackett  
MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Twenty-two (22) residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Please let students return to school  
Disappointed in how Mt. Lebanon is handling pandemic  
School Board has done a disservice to the community

Questioned projected timeline to get students back to school  
No reason why there isn't face to face instruction  
Questioned what the plan is to get students back to school  
Lack of communication from the Board  
Advocates for full return of students to school  
Educational modes  
Board not acting in the best interest of the students  
Where is the plan to get students back to school?  
Please answer questions from residents  
Call a special meeting to vote to get students back to school  
Will there be a plan with clear dates for a return to school on February 8  
What road blocks are there to get the plan through?  
Pandering has to stop  
USC is back to school  
There is no plan to return students to school  
A special meeting needs to be called  
Do what's right for our students  
Call USC and ask them what they are doing  
Confidence in the Board is waning; lack of planning  
Mt. Lebanon no longer ahead of the curve  
Form a task force to offer a senior prom  
People move here for the schools  
Students are losing in education  
It's unnecessary to cancel games if visiting teams don't wear a mask  
Let the students have their activities back  
People are moving out of Mt. Lebanon  
Thanked the Board for their hard work  
Staff should be commended for their work  
Needs to be order from the audience during meeting  
Stress and isolation affects students  
Children are struggling  
We are in a pandemic  
Follow the guidelines

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Hackett to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Director

/js