

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

February 15, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021, via Zoom webinar. 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 Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 11, 2021; the Discussion Meeting held on January 11, 2021; the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting held on January 19, 2021; and the Regular Board Meeting held on January 19, 2021.

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

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland noted that due to weather conditions, it was necessary for everyone's safety to move the meeting to the Zoom webinar.

February is Black History Month which is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. This year the elementary schools partnered with the high school group, Lebo Students for Curriculum Diversity, where older student will read stories to the younger students from Black authors and about Black history. The District strives to celebrate and teach history in a way that affirms the Black community. It is important to examine black literature, art, innovations and customs that have helped shape the culture of the United States and the world.

Mr. Wyland reported that Ms. Jackie Fulton, Markham Elementary librarian, was chosen to be a member of the Leadership Institute for School Librarians. The grant for this year focused on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and provides professional development, training and strategic planning in EDI. Ms. Fulton was recognized for her work and commitment to providing equitable, diverse and inclusive school library programs for her students. Mr. Wyland congratulated Ms. Fulton on this professional recognition.

## BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Dr. Diamond reported that Policy Committee met on February 8, 2021, to discuss the adoption of one policy EFA, Food Services/Purchasing, and revisions to policies DIA, Federal Fiscal Compliance, DIAA, Conflict of Interest-Federal Programs, DIAB, Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs, DJA, Purchasing Authority, and DJAA, Construction Contracts, Bidding and Awards. The Committee recommended moving the policies forward for Board approval.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Dr. Hackett reported that the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee met before this evening’s Regular Meeting and reviewed the DEI Task Force meeting held on February 3, 2021.

Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education – Mrs. Cappucci reported that MLFE held a meeting on January 27, and they are looking at 2021 grants for teachers. Due to COVID, there was no fundraising last year or this year.

Municipal Liaison – Dr. Hackett reported that the new parking ordinance will be discussed at the next Commissioner’s meeting. The bids for the Vibrant Uptown Project have gone out for bid.

Parkway West – Mr. Beal reported the Parkway West Career and Technology Center board met on February 2. The power motor sports program was presented to the education committee, and could start in the 2022-2023 school year. There is a need for small engine repair technicians.

There are currently 850 students in the hybrid mode, with 150 learning remotely. The school intends to start 4 days a week learning soon. The cosmetology space is being renovation. There are 100 students placed in that program.

Parkway will not be able to administer the NOCTII exams this year. Career completion exams will be held and recent graduates will be invited back to take the exams.

Pathfinder School – Ms. Fleisher reported that the Pathfinder Board met on January 20 where they held their reorganization meeting. Eric Kramer from Chartiers Valley was elected president, George Honchar from Carlyton was elected vice president, and Valerie Fleisher from Mt. Lebanon was elected secretary/treasurer. The board is developing a budget for next year, and the PRIDE program has been able to continue. The enrollment is 81 students from 26 districts.

PSBA/NSBA – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that the PSBA Advocacy Day will be a virtual event on March 22 and encouraged board members to register to attend. The annual NSBA conference will be held virtually April 8-10, 2021. Governor Wolf released his budget showing charter school reform and audits for charter schools.

## COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Thirty-six (36) residents and/or taxpayers spoke before the Board about the following:

Board not following CDC  
Pressured to do what other school districts are doing  
Vote no on resolutions  
Vote yes for resolutions to open schools  
Keep hybrid until end of school  
Table vote  
Vote no on resolutions or table until PDE recommendation  
Survey teachers

Stop following other districts  
 School Board has not prioritized education  
 Put kids first  
 Questioned if safety protocols enforced re: masks  
 Concerned school will open without safety measures in place  
 Inappropriate to change plan  
 Trust of the Board is eroded  
 Mental health of health of student families  
 Follow CDC recommendation at stop pandering to some groups  
 Thanked board, staff, teachers, principals  
 Offer full vaccination to staff  
 Lack of leadership, Passing the buck  
 Put kids back in school  
 Keep learning mode as it is  
 Mitigate what you can  
 Follow up with families who are struggling  
 What metrics are being used—old CDC or new CDC  
 Will they change with PDE recommendation  
 No firm basis to vote on resolutions tonight  
 Teachers in other school district teaching safely  
 Elementary hybrid not working  
 Choose Dr. Steinhauer’s recommendation  
 Tired of fighting and defending the school district  
 Do something for kindergarten students  
 Trust the superintendent and the administration  
 Parents deserve a choice to stay home or return-Supports resolutions  
 Board has lost objectivity  
 Students are struggling  
 Student Council has reached out to students  
 Students value safety of administration and teachers  
 Some students are not attending school while some are thriving at home  
 School is an unconnected experience  
 Vote to allow 4 days a week of in person instruction  
 Board culpable for division in community  
 Promotes safety  
 Make March 29 the date to return students  
 MLEA will continue to work to be responsive and provide the best education for students  
 Supports staying in hybrid  
 Valid points on both sides  
 When students return full time they will have less than the recommended social distance

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated January 31, 2021,
- b. List of Bills dated January 29, 2021, and February 10, 2021,
- c. List of Unusable Equipment dated February 1, 2021, and
- d. List of Contracts in Excess of \$100.

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 Olbrich that the Board approves the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2021-2022 construction season as per the list dated February 8, 2021 in the amount of \$490,755. (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 Hackett and seconded by Beal that the Board approves the February 4, 2021, list of personnel changes, as revised February 11, 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 Hackett and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves the February list of additional bus drivers for 2020-2021 as revised February 11, 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 Beal that the Board adopts Policy EFA, Food Services/Purchasing, 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 Diamond and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy DIA (formerly CGD), Federal Fiscal Compliance, 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 Diamond and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves revisions to Policy DIAA (formerly CGDA), Conflict of Interest-Federal Programs, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves revisions to Policy DIAB (formerly CGDB), Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves revisions to Policy DJA, Purchasing Authority, 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 Olbrich and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves revisions to Policy DJAA (formerly FEG), Construction Contracts, Bidding and Awards, 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 Beal and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the Parkway West Career and Technology Center General Operating Budget for 2021-2022 in the amount of \$7,156,298 with an estimated cost to the District of \$271,363.51, and the Jointure Budget in the amount of \$728,707 with Mt. Lebanon's share being \$123,258.43. (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 Diamond that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2021-2022 in the amount of \$2,161,057 with an estimated cost to the District of \$81,067. (Copy in official minutes)

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

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

At this time in the meeting, Dr. Steinhauer along with Dr. Davis and Dr. Irvin, presented an update on the CDC recommendations for returning to school and the updated Mt. Lebanon School District reopening plan.

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Revised Reopening Education Plan dated February 15, 2021 is approved in substantially the form presented, subject to modifications deemed necessary by the Superintendent. (Copy in official minutes)

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

It was moved by Hackett and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Administration is authorized to implement the revised Secondary Education plan as recommended by the Superintendent, on March 1 or thereafter, so that students in grades 6-12 will have the option to remain in the original two day per week Secondary Instruction Schedule, to move to the four day per week Secondary (Enhanced) Instruction Schedule, or to elect available remote options, described in the Revised Reopening Education Plan adopted February 15, 2021, provided that the following conditions are verified prior to implementation:

- a. Allegheny County has announced community transmission rates that are in the Moderate or Low Range as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for two consecutive weeks.
- b. Student desks will be placed to provide at least six feet of separation among students and staff to the maximum extent feasible, but in no event less than three feet, and barriers will be afforded to all students.
- c. Students will be spaced at least six feet apart while eating lunch.
- d. All teacher workstations/teaching spaces will have a distance of at least six feet from any student desk.
- e. The District will continue to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Updated Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings, and the Recommendations for Pre-K-12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19.
- f. The District will continue to comply with all mitigation measures described in the Health and Safety Plan.

Prior findings and approvals by the Board are only rescinded to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Resolution. The Superintendent continues to be authorized to alter the educational mode for any building, buildings or programs based on his determination that such change is warranted, including consideration of such factors as community spread, positive cases within the District, staffing, new directives and guidances, and other considerations, with prompt notification to the Board.

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

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Wyland that the Administration is authorized to implement the revised Elementary Education plan as recommended by the Superintendent, on March 1 or thereafter, so that students in Grades K-5 move to five day in-person instruction, or elect available remote options, as described in the Revised Reopening Education Plan adopted February 15, 2021, provided that the following conditions are verified prior to implementation:

- a. Allegheny County has announced community transmission rates that are in the Moderate or Low Range as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for two consecutive weeks.
- b. Student desks will be placed to provide at least six feet of separation among students and staff to the maximum extent feasible, but in no event less than three feet, and barriers will be afforded to all students.
- c. Students will be spaced at least six feet apart while eating lunch.
- d. All teacher workstations/teaching spaces will have a distance of at least six feet from any student desk.

- e. The District will continue to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Updated Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings, and the Recommendations for Pre-K-12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19.
- f. The District will continue to comply with all mitigation measures described in the Health and Safety Plan.

Prior findings and approvals by the Board are only rescinded to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Resolution. The Superintendent continues to be authorized to alter the educational mode for any building, buildings or programs based on his determination that such change is warranted, including consideration of such factors as community spread, positive cases within the District, staffing, new directives and guidances, and other considerations, with prompt notification to the Board.

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Freeman to table the previous motion until the March 8, 2021, Discussion Meeting.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three (3) residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Confused about tabling the resolution for elementary opening
- This is not a referendum situation
- Need clarity around recommendations
- Mt. Lebanon has two out of eight CDC recommendations
- Need more transparency moving forward
- Questioned if you have to be a resident to speak at the meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Diamond and seconded by Strotmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary  
Board of School Director

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