

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

April 19, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Mt. Lebanon High North Gymnasium. 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 Beal and seconded by Hackett that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 8, 2021; the Discussion Meeting held on March 8, 2021; the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting held on March 15, 2021; and the Regular Board Meeting held on March 15, 2021.

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

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland began his report with the announcement that Jason Ramsey has been recognized as a Pittsburgh Penguins Most Valuable Principal (MVP). This program highlights outstanding work over this past year, recognizes principals who demonstrate an innovative approach to learning, a continuous strive for excellence and a passion for their school and students. The board president thanked Jason for the support you provide the students in the Foster community.

The Penguins reviewed over 1,350 individual nominations, representing over 135 principals, and his dedication to his students stood out among the rest. He was among just 15 other principals in Allegheny County. As a MVP, Jason will receive a Penguins "Prize Pack" including a customized penguins jersey along with a \$1,000 donation for a school project of his choice.

Mr. Wyland presented Mr. Ramsey with a certificate of achievement for this outstanding accomplishment.

This month's Extra Mile Award recipient is Mrs. Jodi Dunlap, a special education teacher at the high school and the Department Chair for Special Education for the award. Mrs. Dunlap was

nominated by Mrs. Patricia Shine, Writing Clinician at the high school. Mrs. Shine wrote, “Mrs. Dunlap is top-notch. Whenever there is a task to do, she does it with professionalism, attention to detail, and a smile. Just this morning, she went to the Activities Office to make posters to cheer on the Unified Bocce Team in their championship competition. No one asked her to do this. She did it to support our students. No one asked her to set up a makeshift classroom during the school shutdown at the onset of the pandemic, yet she did. I have witnessed her working directly with juniors requiring IEPs, and her combination of grace and firmness produces results for the student. She gives every ounce of energy she has to whatever individual is in front of her. I am proud to work with her, and I know her colleagues would agree that she is worthy of the Extra Mile Award. She is, in a word, exceptional.”

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Wyland presented Mrs. Dunlap with a certificate of appreciation for going above and beyond for the students in Mt. Lebanon School District.

The National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life. This year's theme of "I Matter Because" inspired students to use their imaginations to consider their role in and contributions to their world. Students submitted works of art in the following categories: Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

We would like to congratulate the following students for being recognized by the Pennsylvania State PTA for their submissions: Melanie Rayl, Mt. Lebanon High School-Award of Merit; Molly Bozick, Mellon Middle School-Award of Merit; John Monocello, Mellon Middle School-Award of Merit; Elora Tighe, Mellon Middle School-Award of Merit. Congratulations to our students and our PTA volunteers for facilitating this awards program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer announced that for the 13th consecutive year, Mt. Lebanon School District has been designated as a *Best Communities for Music Education* from The NAMM Foundation for its commitment to a comprehensive and high-quality music education program. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to school districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement and provide access and high-quality music education to all students.

In Mt. Lebanon, both instrumental and vocal music education is foundational. Our students thrive when music is part of their school day. We are incredibly proud to offer such a strong music education program to our community. Our success results from an exceptionally dedicated music faculty, talented students, and a community that has supported the arts as an integral part of a Mt. Lebanon education for over a hundred years.

The superintendent introduced the administrators and faculty that represent our music program to receive a certificate from the School Board: Principal Chris Wolfson; Jen Rodriguez, Fine Arts Department Chair; Gina Ketter, Department Facilitator, Instrumental Music; Principal Ron Kitsko; Amanda Cheskawich, Department Facilitator, Vocal Music; Principal Nicci Giehl.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that high school Social Studies teacher Tina Raspanti has been selected by LG Electronics USA and Inner Explorer as one of our nation's 50 Superhero Teachers. This award recognizes teachers for their dedication to bringing happiness to classrooms (and homes) through the Experience Happiness program and the six sustainable happiness skills: including Mindfulness, Gratitude, Generosity, Purpose, Human Connection, and Positive Outlook.

Ms. Raspanti was selected as one of 50 Superhero Teachers across the United States that personify these “Super Skills.” She will be inducted into The Happiness League and honored by LG and its Experience Happiness partners – Be Strong, CASEL, Discovery Education, Inner

Explorer, and The Greater Good Science Center. Tina was awarded an LG UltraWide computer monitor and a commemorative superhero cape highlighting her super skill.

Tina has been a driving force in developing and implementing our positive psychology courses and our mindfulness program-- including helping to guide the opening of the high school MinDen. She has certainly earned recognition as a Superhero Teacher. The superintendent presented Ms. Raspanti with a certificate appreciation for this accomplishment.

Dr. Steinhauer announced that on April 12 the District launched Lebo Parent University 2.0, a series of virtual presentations for parents and families. The programs are designed to provide relevant, timely, and interested information and resources to support our families and contribute to our students' academic and social-emotional well-being. The courses can be accessed, on-demand at Lebo Parent University 2.0 on our website under the "Family" tab on the homepage. All sessions are presented by knowledgeable Mt. Lebanon administrators. The superintendent invited families to select the topics that interest them and watch the videos at their convenience.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Dr. Diamond reported that the Policy Committee met on April 12 to discuss the adoption of policy IJNDD, Social Media, and asked Mr. Peterson present the main points of the policy. The Board will take action this evening to adopt this policy.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Dr. Hackett reported that the DEI Board Committee met earlier this evening. Dr. Hackett presented an overview of the Task Force meeting held on March 24 and April 7. A Community Forum will be held on May 12 in the High School Auditorium to present a review and action steps of the draft goals of the committee. Public participation will also be available via Zoom.

Municipal Liaison – Dr. Hackett reported that the Municipality has completed the five-year update of the hazard mitigation plan. They are currently finalizing the road reconstruction schedule for the year and having a discussion about saving some of the brick. Turning lanes will be added at Bower Hill and Segar and closer to Washington Road. The sanitary and sewer lining project has been awarded. Residents who live on the affected streets will be notified.

Parkway West – Mr. Beal reported that there are approximately 1,000 students focusing on 12 separate majors attending Parkway West Career and Technical School with 50 students attending from Mt. Lebanon. Currently the school is in a four day in-person learning mode with the fifth day being virtual. One hundred and eighty 8th grade students have registered for the summer career camp. This is a one day recruitment opportunity for interested students. The school is aggressively attempting to ensure that all eligible students receive their industry certifications for their individual focus areas or majors before they graduate. The school received a \$10,000 donation from Cabot Oil for the graphic arts program and was awarded \$74,700 in supplemental equipment money from PDE. This brings their total equipment grant funding to record breaking \$122,000 for this year.

Pathfinder School – Ms. Fleisher reported that a meeting of the Pathfinder board was held on March 17 where the main discussion was the 2021-22 Administrative Budget. The Mt. Lebanon Board will be voting on that budget this evening. There are 87 students currently enrolled at Pathfinder with 14 graduating this year. The PRIDE transition program for 18-21 year olds is back with students experiencing learning out in the community. The AIU is providing a one week camp before the extended year programs to help students. The next meeting of the Board will be on April 21.

PSBA/NSBA – Dr. Strotmeyer has been accelerating their digital content over the past few months and encouraged board members to download the My PSBA app to be able access the content available. PSBA has launched the Keystone Center for Charter Change which advocates for fiscal and regulatory reform.

Environmental Sustainability Board – Dr. Strotmeyer will be attending the first meeting in May.

SHASDA – Ms. Olbrich reported that SHASDA has not met but will be releasing a video prepared by the surrounding districts on learning during the pandemic.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three (3) residents and/or taxpayer spoke before the Board about the following:

- Budget deficit
- Learning loss
- Asked Board to not pass the budget
- Financial situation of the District
- Do not move forward with the budget
- Budget process

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2021,
- b. List of Bills dated March 31, 2021, and April 14, 2021,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2021, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated April 1, 2021.

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 the 2021-2022 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$108,170,171 setting the millage rate at 25.59 mills, a .80 increase, in the form presented. The Board directs that the budget be placed on the District’s website and be made available to the public upon request to jszalinski@mtltd.net until final approval with such changes as may be directed on May 24, 2021.

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

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the April 8, 2021, list of personnel changes, as revised April 15, 2021, and April 19, 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 Fleisher and seconded by Diamond that the Board approves the adoption of Policy IJNDD, Social Media, 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 approve the 2021-2022 South Central Area Special School Jointure Budget of \$172,250 with no cost to the District. (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 an agreement with Allegheny Children's Initiative to provide Student Assistance Program services to the District for the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the District. (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 Cappucci that the Board awards the 2021-2022 Transportation of Exceptional Children Bid to W.L. Roenigk, Inc. in the amount of \$827,908 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 Hackett and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves the Permit and Use Fee Schedule for 2021-2022 as presented effective July 1, 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 Strotmeyer and seconded by Freeman that the Board approves the lease agreements with Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program per the 2021-2022 list of leases as presented effective July 1, 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 Strotmeyer and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Addendum to the Meadowcroft Park Lease 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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Six (6) residents and/or taxpayers spoke before the Board about the following:

Budget
Need a candid discussion regarding budget projections
Comment on order of agenda regarding speaking on action items
Budget
Board not taking enough fiduciary responsibility
Budget
Budget
Fund Balance
Unfinished learning
Budget concerns
Cost of summer learning center
Disingenuous of the speakers running for school board positions to not identify themselves as candidates
Shouldn't have a platform at the board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wyland reported that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of negotiation matters.

There being no further business, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Strotmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Director

/js