

Safety and Security Community Conversation

Last Wednesday, I had the pleasure to introduce and attend the third **Safety and Security Community Conversation** held in the Fine Arts Theatre. There was a great presentation and discussion amongst those in attendance. I would like to thank Dr. Steinhauer and Mt. Lebanon Police Chief, Aaron Lauth for their participation and willingness to spend their evening highlighting and assuring our community of the safety and security measures we have in place. We appreciate our partnership with our police department and look forward to hosting another community conversation in the future.

Extra Mile Award - Amy Whealdon

I would like to recognize Amy Whealdon as our first Extra Mile award winner this school year. In the nomination we received from a parent, Amy was described as “going above and beyond,” and “going the extra mile metaphorically and literally” by making trips on her own time to be a familiar face and to calm her child’s concerns. Also, during the height of the pandemic in 2020, Amy “took time out of her day, once a week, to drive to a family member’s home and sit on the back porch getting to know her student.

Ms. Whealdon, on behalf of the Board, I extend our thanks and great appreciation for your dedication to the students and staff at the Mellon Middle School.

Thank you for your service to the Community

We have come to the section of my report where I have the honor to recognize several standout citizens in our community. School board members volunteer countless hours of their time while juggling obligations like everyone else. The tireless dedication to our community and students specifically does not go unnoticed. Tonight we recognize five board members at their last board meeting as a Director. I’d like to thank you for your service to the students, faculty, staff, and administration of our school district.

Mrs. Elaine Cappucci

Elaine has served on our Board of Directors for 15 years. During her long tenure, Elaine served as both the Vice President and President of the Board. In addition, she served by being a co-chair of the Board’s High School Project Committee, Revenue Generation Committee, Audit and Finance Committee, was a PSBA/NSBA Liaison, MLFE Representative, and a member of the Community/District Task Force on Safety, Security, and Mental Well Being. Elaine graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School and she is very proud of her three sons who also graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School.

Dr. Aviva Diamond

Aviva has served on our Board of Directors for 4 years. She was the Chair of the Policy Committee and a representative for both MLFE and Pathfinder.

Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer

Unfortunately, Stephen is not able to be with us this evening. He is presenting some of his latest research at a conference. Dr. Strotmeyer has served on our Board of Directors for 5 years. He has served our board on the Board Development Committee, Environmental Sustainability Committee, PSBA/NSBA Liaison, and Community/District Task Force on Safety, Security, and Mental Well Being.

Mr. William Cooper and Mr. Larry Lebowitz both served for 8 years and returned when called upon to fill in for short term vacancies. Both Bill and Larry brought an extensive history of service on the Board and they both contributed important perspectives during this short time. We appreciate your dedication to the students of the Mt. Lebanon School District.

At last week's Discussion Meeting, the Board discussed the discovery of a swastika at Jefferson Middle School. The Administration outlined the comprehensive plan to address it, and Board members weighed in with questions, words of support, and affirmations of our resolve to stand in opposition to hate, racism, and bigotry in our schools. Following the meeting, the Board received a few emails with questions concerning a comment made by Mr. Cooper. I have spoken with Mr. Cooper and he shared with me that he wishes to address the community concerning his comment.

Finally - and I do not want to steal Dr. Steinhauer's thunder on this; I attended the vaccine clinic this past Friday with my wife and two daughters. I could not have been more impressed with the entire operation. Thank you Dr's Steinhauer, Irvin and Davis; thank you Mrs. Hess; I am pretty sure I saw every member of the Administration there, in super hero regalia. Thank you to your entire team. Job extremely well done for the kids and the community.