

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

JANUARY 24, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on Monday, January 24, 2022.

Mr. Jacob Wyland called the meeting to order.

ATTENDING

Board Members: Mr. Todd Ellwein, Ms. Valerie Fleisher, Mr. Andrew Freeman, Mrs. Erin Gentzel, Ms. Claire Guth, Dr. Justin Hackett, Ms. Annamaria Johnson, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Mr. Jacob Wyland

Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Solicitor Thomas Peterson, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Kristen James, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Ms. Tenecia Ross

MINUTES

It was moved by Wyland and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held on December 6, 2021; and the Joint Discussion/Regular Meeting held on December 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson, Olbrich, Wyland

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School student Kathryn Moore spoke on behalf of Mellon's Executive Council. Mellon students held fundraisers to support the St. Claire Health Foundation and were able to donate just under \$1500.00. They held an annual Halloween costume contest in October and students attended the PASC State Conference held at Mt. Lebanon High School in November. Spirit Week was celebrated in November and "Holly-Day" spirit was celebrated in December with theme days all during the week. Student Council's Giving Tree project supplied treats, food, toys, and gift cards to needy animals at the Bridge to Home Animal Rescue.

Mt. Lebanon High School students Kenzie Hughes and Tori Pecarchik spoke before the Board about high school events that occurred in November and December. The Class of 2023 collected non-perishable food items and money that were donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and an annual gift drive provided gifts for teenagers and young adults through the Familylinks organization. Students performed in the annual Holiday Show and proceeds were donated to various charities. Link Crew held their annual "Cocoa and Cram" event and the Girls Varsity basketball team remains undefeated as they head into the second half of the season. A blood drive is scheduled for Friday, February 18 and District employees, parents, and students are invited to donate at this critical time.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Coach Bob Palko and the high school Varsity Football team were recognized for their state championship win. Cheerleaders, marching band, and color guard were also recognized. The team was presented with a proclamation by Allegheny County Council member Tom Duerr.

District administration, faculty, and staff were recognized for their ongoing hard work during another Covid surge. They were thanked for their continued dedication and increased communication.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer recognized Mellon Middle School for their rededication as a “School to Watch.” January is School Board Recognition Month and Board members were presented with certificates and were also recognized in remarks made by PTA Council president, Mrs. Bonnie Dougherty. PTA Council donated books to the Black Student Union’s book drive on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Steinhauer then presented the first of several goal updates that will occur monthly. This month’s presentation covered governance and District operations.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Development - Mr. Wyland noted that new Board members met with the administrative team and will be participating in PSBA new Board member training. Committee assignments have been made and it was decided that a budget and finance committee would not be formed, as these matters should be discussed by the entire Board and not a subset of members.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center - Ms. Johnson attended the January Parkway meeting. The budget will be presented for Board approval and a power motor sports career major has been added. A competitive equipment grant was awarded to Parkway by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be utilized for capital equipment purchases for several programs.

Pathfinder School - Mr. Ellwein reported that a new president and vice president were elected to the Board and new members were welcomed. Grants were received for the purpose of purchasing sensory playground equipment and for facility safety upgrades. A school tour and explanation of services was offered to new members. There are currently 99 students enrolled.

SHASDA - Ms. Olbrich reported that a Title IX presentation was made and that Mt. Lebanon Title IX policies are up to date. The Powerpoint presentation will be shared with the Board.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Mr. Freeman reported that the DEI committee reviewed it’s goals and outcomes. Speaker Ali Michael will be joining the District in collaboration with the municipality to present a workshop to teachers and to speak at a community event. He also noted that the Black Student Union is holding a book drive to collect books for District elementary buildings.

PSBA/NSBA - Mr. Ellwein reported that the PSBA is working on a senate bill to keep homeless students and students in the foster care system on track to graduate. State science standards are being proposed. Governor Wolf will release the 2022-2023 state budget on February 8, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Ellwein and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports:

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2021
- b. List of Bills dated December 23, 2021 and January 19, 2022
- c. List of Tax Refunds for December 2021
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated January 1, 2022

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Wyland that the Board authorizes the administration to solicit bids for supplies and equipment for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Freeman and seconded by Olbrich 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 (2022-2023) 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 3.4%, 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: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Hackett that the Board approves the January 6, 2022 list of personnel changes, as revised January 20, 2022 and January 24, 2022.

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Hackett and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves a contract with Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc for the Spring semester of the 2021-2022 school year in substantially the form presented, subject to final approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor. The purpose of the contract is for Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. to provide a psychologist as a long-term permanent substitute during the Spring semester. The cost of the service is \$105 per hour and will not exceed \$75,600 for the Spring semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Gentzel and seconded by Wyland that the Board approves the Stipulated Adjudication for student A in the form presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Ellwein, Fleisher, Freeman, Gentzel, Guth, Hackett, Johnson,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two (2) residents spoke before the Board in support of recent masking efforts, leadership, communication and DEI work being done in the District. A resident also appreciated that the football team attended a girl's basketball game and inquired about the number of school psychologists on staff and any increased need for services post Covid.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wyland announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting for the purpose of negotiations and student discipline.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Hackett to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Kimberly Walters, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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