

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

April 19, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 in the Mt. Lebanon High School Fine Arts Theatre and via Zoom.

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 Mr. Thomas Peterson, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Ms. Kristen James, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Ms. Tenecia Ross, Mr. Chris Stengel

MINUTES

It was moved by Wyland and seconded by Freeman that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 14, 2022; the Discussion Meeting held on March 14, 2022; the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting held on March 21, 2022; and the Regular Meeting held on March 21, 2022.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School student Kathryn Moore reported on recent happenings at MMS. Random Acts of Kindness Spirit Week was held in an effort of unity. Students wrote letters to deployed soldiers, contributed to a scholarship foundation, and held a scavenger hunt to promote positive messages. The week of kindness activities ended with thanking MMS staff members. Shamrocks were decorated and displayed for every MMS student. Positive signs were posted to encourage students during state assessments. Flower pots were painted, filled with seed packets, and sold to raise money with Mellon Unites for efforts in Ukraine. Over \$3000 has been raised for this cause. Students are preparing for Teacher Appreciation week.

High School students Lauren Ghil and Jordan Nyisztor spoke before the Board about a school-wide clap out that was held in honor of the girls varsity basketball team as they traveled to state finals. Spirit Week was celebrated with theme days, class breakfasts took place and FBLA held a fundraiser to benefit a soup kitchen and to offset the group's conference travel expenses. A spirit assembly was held with games and competitions. National Honor Society members were inducted. Student council election season is underway and the general election will be held. The third blood drive of the year will take place and a day of silence will be held by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club. Homerooms are building backpacks for refugees. Spring performances and the Art Show are upcoming, as are Spring Fling, commencement activities, and prom.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland welcomed and recognized the WPIAL champion girls basketball team and Coach Dori Oldaker. A group of Hoover Elementary students, along with Principal Dr. Nicole Giehll and counselor Mrs. Kim Gamble, were recognized for their participation in creating a mural of kindness with the Mikayla's Voice organization. Students sang, led by elementary vocal music teacher Mrs. Carol Froehlich. Mrs. Kimberly Resh, founder of Mikayla's Voice, introduced and presented a slideshow of Hoover student artwork and the process of creating the mural. She spoke about the importance of inclusion in her daughter's life. Mr. Wyland concluded by reading the District's mission statement and reiterated that all students have value and that the District will continue to strive for inclusion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer began his report by presenting awards. The Association of School Business Officials International awarded the District the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 37th consecutive year. Congratulations were extended to Director of Business Mr. Robert Geletko and the entire business office staff. The Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools has selected the high school's athletic program as a Program of Distinction. This is the first year that any athletic program has been recognized. Athletic Director Mr. John Grogan and high school Principal Dr. Joel Thompson were recognized for this distinction. Finally, for the 13th consecutive year, Mt. Lebanon was named among the Best 100 Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. The music faculty was thanked and several music teachers were acknowledged, including, Mrs. Carol Froehlich, Ms. Louise Marino, Mr. Doug Reichenfeld, Ms. Jill Gummo, and Ms. Ellizabeth Lahm.

Dr. Steinhauer presented a superintendent goal update. The presentation focused on Standard 2: Critical Competencies. Critical competencies are a set of complementary skills that are essential to prepare students for the future. The LIGHT Education Initiative was implemented at the high school and is designed to inspire, prepare and empower student leaders in discussions about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights education and advocacy. The LIGHT program gathered at a student summit held at Woodland Hills High School to discuss social issues in our communities. Technology leaders within the District have been identified and professional development opportunities have been provided to improve online practices. A new learning management system is being implemented for grades K-12 and a 1:1 technology program is being piloted at the secondary level with plans to implement the program at elementary schools.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee - Ms. Olbrich reported that policies BBA, IHAMA, and KH were reviewed at the last Policy Committee meeting. Minor revisions to policy IHAMA are being brought before the Board this evening.

Board Development - Mr. Wyland reported that the Board completed a self assessment survey that was conducted by the PSBA.

PSBA/NSBA - Mr. Ellwein updated the Board on the release of the 2022 State of Education Report. This annual report reviews public school performance across the state. It shows that there is a wide-spread shortage of substitute teachers and that 75% of districts anticipate staffing shortages for the upcoming school year. PSBA Spring Advocacy Day is upcoming. Also, the PSBA along with 21 state school board associations signed a resolution to officially form the Consortium of State School Boards Association as a non-partisan national alliance in response to PSBA's unanimous vote to leave the NSBA.

Environmental Sustainability - Mr. Freeman emphasized a previously made point about what we can do personally to work with the school related to environmental sustainability and to reactivate past work now that schools are back in session.

Municipal Liaison - Mr. Hackett reported that the 100th anniversary of Pinecone Park was recently celebrated by the municipality with new plantings. A climate resolution was passed and the municipality is moving toward adoption of a climate action plan to address broader climate issues, the municipality's own energy use, and development. Brick street maintenance and restoration will be discussed and data from the amended parking ordinance will be analyzed. The municipality will also be updating its website.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center - Ms. Johnson reported that enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is up. PWCTC reports a student testing passing rate of 97% with all Mt. Lebanon seniors passing to the advanced level. A ceremony for seniors will be held on May 18 at Montour High School.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Mr. Freeman reported that the DEI committee met prior to tonight's regular Board meeting. The focus was on long term planning and integrating DEI goals and objectives into the framework of the District's strategic plan.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS CONCERNING ACTION ITEMS

Eleven residents and/or tax payers spoke before the Board about the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jennifer Cooney	88 Roycroft Avenue	Supports maintaining PCA positions slated for elimination in the proposed budget
Allison Landau	429 Bower Hill Road	Spoke on the importance of PCAs and opposes elimination of positions
Julie Adair	545 Clemson Drive	ABA classrooms are understaffed. PCA positions should not be eliminated
Amy Peeler	491 Marietta Place	PCAs provide a valuable service and positions should not be eliminated. The District is legally mandated to provide support
Alicia Schisler	95 Seneca Drive	Support for PCAs

Michelle Ritchey	310 Morrison Drive	PCAs have made a positive impact with her son and with students in her classroom
Alexis Smith	357 Hazel Drive	Support for PCAs. Concerned that her child's needs won't be met if PCA positions are eliminated
Keary McFeeley	Mt. Lebanon High School Learning Support Teacher	Support for PCAs. Positions should not be eliminated
Dani Lewis	Mt. Lebanon First Grade Teacher	PCAs are an important investment. They play the most important role
Kari King	431 Parker Drive	In support of maintaining PCA positions
Heather Pessy	Mt. Lebanon High School Teacher	MLEA membership supports maintaining PCA positions. How can the District reduce turnover and fill unfilled positions?

NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. Treasurer's Report dated March, 2022
- b. List of Bills dated March 17, 2022, and March 31, 2022
- c. List of Bills dated April 13, 2022
- d. List of Tax Refunds for March, 2022
- e. List of Unusable Equipment dated April 1, 2022

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 Olbrich that the Board approves the contract with Mockenhaupt Benefits Group for an actuarial valuation of the District's post employment benefits for financial statement presentation.

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 Wyland that the Board approves the 2022-2023 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$108,475,177, setting the millage rate at 26.39, a .80, increase, in the form presented.

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

It was moved by Guth and seconded by Hackett that the Board approves the April 7, 2022 list of personnel changes, as revised April 13, 2022 and April 19, 2022.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Freeman that the Board approves the AIU Transition Memorandum of Understanding in the form presented.

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 approves the Building Permit and Stadium Use fee Schedules in the form presented.

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 Olbrich that the Board approves the lease fees with Extended Day in the form presented.

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

It was moved by Ellwein and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Mt. Lebanon High School Ski Club trip to Jay Peak Resort, Vermont, on January 13-16, 2023.

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

It was moved by Wyland and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy IHAMA, Drug Tobacco and Alcohol Curriculum and Program.

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

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Fourteen residents spoke before the Board about the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Lindsey Cashman	820 Ella Street	Spoke in support of the District DEI Committee and is concerned about violence and suicide among the LGBTQ+ community.
Kelsey Rousey	1177 Firwood Drive	Would like to know the number transgender students in the District.
Sara Irwin	240 Woodhaven Drive	Every person has inherent dignity. We should support everyone for who they are.
Asta Kill	255 Lindenwood Avenue	Spoke in support of the transgender community.
Jenny Lee	1012 Connor Road	Spoke about her experience with transgender and non-binary friends and families.
Matt Smith	844 Valleyview Road	There is a failure of leadership.
Hilary Lohr	7 Hemlock Street	Questioned whether or not the Board has a true understanding the budget.
Joanna Wallander	1168 Lakemont	Shared a Primary Expressions Classroom success story.

Andy Millford	462 Summit Drive	Glad that the Primary Expressions classroom was eliminated from the budget and encourages the Board to visit the class.
Kim Mauro	308 Twin Hills Drive	Supports PCAs. Feels that voices have been silenced in relation to a book that was read at JES. Read excerpts from books that she feels should not be in District libraries.
Mireille Mobley	554 Pat Haven Drive	Disappointed in anti trans comments. Moved to the District because of the well-educated community.
Christy Masco	248 Beverly Road	Thank you to the Board DEI Committee and Dr. Irvin. Conformity and disunity are being taught.
Pat King	106 Longuevue Drive	
Tess Silva	Ward 1	Be educated regarding the transgender community. upset that PCA positions are being proposed for elimination.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wyland announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this evening’s meeting for the purpose of personnel, litigation and negotiations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Hackett to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 p.m.

Kimberly Walters, Secretary
Board of School Directors

/kw