

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

May 23, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2022 in Mt. Lebanon High School Room D205 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 Ellwein and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on April 11, 2022; the Discussion Meeting held on April 11, 2022; the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2022; and the Regular Meeting held on April, 2022.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Jefferson Middle School students Olivia Meyer and Jacquelyn Tang updated the Board on the final totals from their week-long Pop Tab War. The student body raised \$1,530.55 to donate to the USA for the United Nations High Commissioners Association, which will benefit Ukrainian refugees.

Wish Week also took place. The Wish Week Committee was able to grant 262 wishes, including opportunities to teach a class, receive candy and fruit, become royalty for a day, and follow the schedule of a best friend.

Student Council members were rewarded with a trip to a Pirate's Game at PNC Park and a spirit week was held.

Ms. Tang also thanked JMS student council committee chairs for their hard work and commended student council members for accomplishing their goals this school year.

High School students Tori Pecarchik and Swap Rana spoke before the Board about end of year activities. Executive Council members for the 2022-2023 were sworn in, the art show, Spring Fling, Senior Reception, and spring performances have all been successful. Awards presentations, Keystone testing, and appreciation days have been keeping students busy. Boys baseball is competing in WPIAL quarter finals, boys and girls lacrosse are also competing in WPIAL semi finals. Mt. Lebanon Track and Field will be represented by Caroline Adams and Megan Cain at state finals. Senior Prom will be held on Thursday, May 26. Commencement will be held on Wednesday, June 1.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wyland began by recognizing Dr. Marybeth Irvin, who was named the 2022 recipient of The Women's Caucus - Margaret Smith Award by The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Women's Caucus. The Margaret Smith Leadership Award is given to a female administrator who has demonstrated proven leadership in education.

Two Mellon Middle School Students were recognized as Promising Young Writers by the National Council of English Teachers. Caroline King and Anna Bailey were presented with certificates of recognition by the Board.

Mr. Wyland concluded by thanking Mr. Geletko and the business office staff for their hard work and dedication in creation of the 2022-2023 budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer presented certificates of appreciation to District retirees. Each of the 31 retirees was individually acknowledged and thanked for their years of service to the District.

As part of the Superintendent goals, a special education program review was conducted. Dr. Heather Doyle presented highlights of the review.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee - Ms. Olbrich reported that policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings, was reviewed at the last Policy Committee meeting. The committee concluded that more information is necessary before moving the policy forward to the rest of the Board.

PSBA/NSBA - Mr. Ellwein noted that legislation regarding the accuracy of charter school payment is being introduced by Senator Gene Yaw.

MLFE - Mrs. Gentzel reported that a successful pickleball tournament fundraiser was held and the foundation met to discuss how to improve the tournament for next year as well as ideas for additional fundraisers.

Municipal Liaison - Dr. Hackett reported that a climate resolution was passed with a pledge to be off of fossil fuels by 2050 and to move toward the use of electric vehicles. Mt. Lebanon Police Department Chief Aaron Lauth has retired. The process to identify Chief Lauth's replacement has begun. The Community Relations Board has been modified and new DEI members have been added to the Board.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center - Ms. Johnson reported a graduation ceremony was held on May 18. It was a very impressive event.

Pathfinder School - Ms. Fleisher reported that the Pathfinder Board met on May 18. The administrative budget will be discussed and voted on at this evening's meeting.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Mr. Freeman reported that the DEI committee met prior to tonight's regular Board meeting. Progress toward goals and objectives continue to be reviewed with special focus on the DEI implementation plan. Two forums were held on May 19 to explore changes to District communications from a DEI perspective.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Guth and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the 2022-2023 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$108,703,941, setting the millage rate at 26.39, a .80 increase, in the form presented.

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

It was moved by Guth and seconded by Fleisher that the Board approves and authorizes for the 2022-2023 fiscal year a maximum homestead exclusion amount of \$9,087.59 for each eligible homestead, and a maximum real estate tax reduction of \$239.82 for each eligible homestead.

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 Fleisher that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2022
- b. List of Bills dated April 29, 2022, and May 18, 2022
- c. List of Tax Refunds for April, 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 Oblrich that the Board appoints Joseph T. Senko as the Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$10,000.

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 Fleisher that the Board appoints Joseph T. Senko as the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2022-2023 School year at no remuneration.

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 Freeman that the Board exonerates the Real Estate Tax Collector from collecting taxes on the list of properties dated May 1, 2022.

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 Freeman that the Board accepts the audit of the Municipal Real Estate Tax Office for the 2021 calendar year.

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

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the bids for school 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 Fleisher and seconded by Hackett that the Board approves UPMC Work Partners as this year's low bid for Worker's Compensation at their bid price of \$189,812.

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

It was moved by Fleisher and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the 2022-2023 South Central Area Special School Jointure Budget of \$210,012 with no cost to the District.

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

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Freeman that the Board approves the May 5, 2022 list of personnel changes, as revised May 19, 2022.

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 Fleisher that the Board approves the Act 80 days for 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 Freeman and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the standardized testing schedule for the next 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 Fleisher that the Board approves the use of Keystone Oak's Project Succeed Program as an alternative educational option for our students for the 2022-2023 school year at a cost is \$18,000 per year, allowing the District to send up to 15 students to their site.

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 Hackett that the Board approves the lowest bid meeting the specifications for refuse removal and recycling, submitted by Republic Services, who is our current provider, with a low bid of \$78,519.87 for year one, \$84,016.26 for year two and \$89,897.40 for year three.

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 Freeman that in accordance with Section 803 Pennsylvania School Laws, the Board approves the list of textbooks for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

As required by school code, the District's special education plan is available for public inspection and comment for 28 days beginning on May 23, 2022. Every three years, each District in Pennsylvania must develop and submit and have approved a special education plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Three residents spoke before the Board regarding social and emotional learning needs, representation of students receiving gifted support in the Special Education Review, and frustration with elementary school administrators regarding special education services.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Kimberly Walters, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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