LEBANON R-3 SCHOOLS

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School Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the School Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.
You can view all Board meeting agendas and minutes here.

RECOGNITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Southwest District MASC Administrator of the Year
Dr. Kati O'Quinn, Principal of Lebanon High School, was awarded the Southwest Missouri Association of Student Councils (MASC) Administrator of the Year award! Dr. O'Quinn was nominated by the students of Lebanon High School and surprised with this well-deserved recognition. MASC's mission is to "provide programs and resources that develop positive student leaders and advisors who will promote a quality school and community environment," and we are proud to say that under Dr. O'Quinn's leadership, our students are becoming stronger leaders and taking ownership of their futures. Lebanon Schools is proud of Dr. O'Quinn for her exceptional leadership and the meaningful relationships she builds with students.

LMS Cross Country
Lebanon Middle School cross country teams had an impressive season this year. The girls cross country team placed second as a team, earning an All-State honor in a race of 221 total runners. Rae Shelton (4th), Nary Degand (6th), and Braylee Breedlove (18th) all received individual All-State honors. Owen Smith won 7th place as a 6th grade runner, earning an All-State honor, as well.



Difference Maker Spotlight

The Board recognized Dr. Dave Schmitz as an LR3 Difference Maker. A lifelong educator, Dr. Schmitz is unwavering in his commitment to inspiring students and advocating for opportunities that pave the way for their success. His genuine care for others and dedication to shaping a brighter future makes him an invaluable part of Lebanon Schools.

You can watch Dr. Schmitz's Difference Maker Spotlight video **here**.



Lebanon Education Association (LEA) Update

Maplecrest Elementary LEA representatives , Amanda Frazier and Stacy Floyd, addressed the Board with students from Maplecrest Elementary to share events and celebrations from Maplecrest.

- Maplecrest counselor, Abbey Schmidt, introduced Liberty, our new licensed therapy dog.
- Teachers and staff are awaiting the completion of the new addition to the Maplecrest building. Employees have been flexible and are settling into their new normal during the construction phase.
- Maplecrest's October community service project was "Socktober" in which students brought over 800 new socks to donate to the Cope House and the Fostering Hope Closet.
    - The next service project will be a toy drive in December.
- Goal setting has been a priority for Maplecrest. Teachers have helped students learn how to set goals as a class and as individuals. Classrooms have used data walls and student goal binders to display, monitor, and celebrate as goals are achieved. Proficiency scales have been developed for the priority standards and students are learning how to track their learning progressions, make action plans, and discuss ways to meet their learning goals.





CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting: October 15, 2024.
- Minutes of Special Board of Directors Meeting: October 17, 2024.
- Minutes of Special Board Meeting: November 7, 2024
- Monthly Financial Report
- Teen Mental Health First Aid MOU
- MOU with Missouri Empowerment Project
- Post Retirement Health Reimbursement Account Plan
- MSBA Policy 2024C Update
- Declaration of Surplus Property

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board voted unanimously to approve the **personnel report**.

ACTION

MSBA Belcher Scholarship

Mrs. Heidi Conti, LHS counselor, presented the name of the student chosen by the high school to compete for the MSBA Belcher scholarship. The MSBA Belcher Scholarship was established by MSBA Future Builders in memory of John T. Belcher, who was instrumental in developing innovative financing programs for Missouri school districts. A $1000 annual scholarship will be awarded to a student in each of MSBA's 17 regions. Applicants will be judged on the basis of academic performance, extracurricular activities and the quality of an essay. A statewide winner will be selected from this group of regional winners and awarded an additional $1500.

The recommendation to approve Corisa Tapp as the District's nomination for the MSBA Belcher Scholarship was approved by the Board in a 7-0 vote.

Bond Underwriter Services Agreement

Mr. Dameron presented a recommendation on bond underwriting services. The timeline for the bond underwriter selection went as follows:

- September 26, 2024 - Requested for qualifications (RFQ) emailed to known underwriters and placed on the District's website
- October 11, 2024 - Qualifications due
- October 21, 2024 - Interviews with each of the three firms that submitted qualifications
-

The request for qualifications (RFQ) was sent to underwriters, along with questions covered during the interview process, and the RFQ responses from each of the three firms.

The interview committee was made up of two Board members, two building leaders, and the executive leadership team. The committee unanimously selected Piper Sander to underwrite the District's bond sales moving forward.

The motion to approve Piper Sandler as the District's bond underwriter was approved in a unanimous vote.

INFORMATIVE/REPORT ITEMS

Real World Learning and Innovative Learning Environments Update
Dr. Wilkerson, Dr. O'Quinn, Mr. Dameron, and Dr. Schrage shared about real-world learning opportunities and the development of innovative learning environments across the District. This fall, the District opened a new business academy for grades 10-12, and plans are in the works to open a medical academy in the fall of 2025. As previously discussed on August 28th, the overarching vision is to create specialized spaces for students. An initial design sketch was showcased to illustrate the possibilities, providing stakeholders with a layout of the educational spaces.

Mr. Dameron also provided a review of the total funding available for all related projects at the Robert W. Plaster Center for Student Success. The presentation provided information on a phased approach for implementing these innovative learning environments across the District.

Through Dr. Wilkerson's diligent efforts, Lebanon secured a one-million-dollar matching grant, which will further accelerate progress in capital projects and innovative learning for generations to come! These funds will help the District to move forward with the vision of providing high-quality, career-focused education in customized learning environments. The team aims to work closely with SAPP Design Architects to secure more detailed and refined architectural drawings for the project, ensuring the final designs align closely with educational goals and demands to create future-ready graduates. With significant contributions from recent state legislature allocations, utilizing grant funds is central to achieving these goals.

Lebanon Schools will proceed with the design/development of spaces to support innovative learning spaces for the culinary arts, business, and medical career areas. Designs will be reviewed by the Board in the near future, with the pursuit of construction bids in early 2025.

Secondary Schools (6-12) Beginning of Year Student Achievement Data and Improvement Plans
Dr. Schrage and secondary administrators presented beginning-of-year student achievement data for reading, language, and math. Students in grades 6-8 completed i-Ready and students in grades 9-11 completed NWEA assessments in reading, math, and science during the month of September. Secondary leaders also presented an overview of their building improvement plans. Each building principal works with their staff to establish a shared building goal in the areas of: literacy, numeracy, and future focus.

Overall, the beginning-of-the-year data was 3% higher in reading and 3% higher in Mathematics compared to the 2023-2024 school year beginning-of-the-year data in K-8. Cohort data was also shared to highlight grade levels performing well and cohorts needing additional focus throughout the year. The data presented was in the "end of year view." This means scores could have appeared lower than their grade level at the beginning of the year as compared to the end of the year as students haven't yet been exposed to all the year's standards; this allows teachers to tailor instruction to their individual needs and track progress as they learn throughout the year. Growth-related data was unavailable during the first assessment but will be shared during the middle-of-the-year data review.

Embedded Coaching Curriculum Update
Mrs. Evans and the Professional Development Committee leaders shared an update on embedded coaching across the District.

Embedded coaching was designed to provide ongoing support for sustained implementation of professional learning over time. Coaching sessions are tailored to the needs of those being coached. Coaching sessions provide opportunities for educators to deepen their understanding of new learning, address problems associated with practice, and resolve challenges related to

the integration of professional learning.

Gift of Life Organ Donation

Mrs. Evans presented a short five-minute video from LearnLifeSavers. The District must comply with MO Law 170.311, adopted in 2018, which mandates education on organ donation for young drivers. LearnLifeSavers is an online 30-minute lesson plan for high school teachers that also includes a student lesson-learning component. It provides information about organ, eye, and tissue donation so students can make an informed decision. The District will work with health teachers to identify appropriate resources to support and comply with requirements around education on organ donation.

CSIP 3.1.2 - Long Range Planning

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Nelson presented on CSIP 3.1.2: Long Range Planning. The report addressed strategic efforts to engage in long-range planning for efficiency and sustainability.

Finance and Operations Update

Mr. Dameron provided an overview of the District's current revenue and expenditure data.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Facilities and Maintenance Program

A great deal of progress has occurred over the last few years in the area of facilities maintenance with the use of Proposition Lebanon Schools funds. Jeff Morgan, Director of Facilities, presented the annual facilities and maintenance program evaluation report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Board Member Candidate Filing
    - The Laclede County Clerk's office published guidelines and dates for the 2024 election cycle. The Board of Education will have two 3-year seats involved in the election as the terms of Scott McCowan and Amy Waterman will expire in April 2025. Candidate filing for those seats will be December 10, 2024 through December 31, 2024 at 5:00. District offices will be closed for Christmas Break December 23, 2024, through January 3, 2025; however Central office will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2024 to accept filings. Public notice will be made per state statute. Candidates wishing to file must do so with the Board Secretary, Robin Gower.
- Review Board Training Requirements
- General Updates on District Operations

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