

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

December 21, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2009, in the Mt. Lebanon High School Library.

President Kubit called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mellon Middle School Students Ellie DePastin, Lorenza Schwartzmiller, and Emily Englert. The students presented a report on “love”, the character education attribute of the month.

ROLL CALL

Present: Birks, Cappucci, Fraasch, Ostergaard, Posti, Remely, Rose, Stipanovich, Kubit  
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

Superintendent Steinhauer, Solicitor Peterson  
Administrative Staff: Allen, Bowman, Ingram, Klein, Scheurer, Stengel, Marciniak, Davis

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on November 9, 2009; and the Regular Meeting held on November 16, 2009, were approved as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer introduced Mrs. Helen Fallon, professor of journalism at Point Park University and a board member of the Pennsylvania Scholastic Press Association. Mrs. Fallon presented members of the *Devil’s Advocate* with the Keystone-Allstate Award. The Keystone-Allstate award is given to the top two or three high school newspapers out of those ranked Gold in the Pennsylvania School Press Association’s annual critiques. In addition, the newspaper also earned a Gold Medalist ranking from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. High School seniors, Alyssa Fishman and Janalynn Pugh, are the first *Devil’s Advocate* editors to win a national journalism award. The Columbia Scholastic Press announced that the two students won second place for a center spread article that ran in the *Devil’s Advocate* last February. The superintendent congratulated the students and their advisor, Casey Henry, for this outstanding accomplishment.

The superintendent reported on the *US News and World Report* list of top high schools in the nation and the reason why Mt. Lebanon was not included on the list. Peter Berg, Mt. Lebanon’s Supervisor of Guidance, followed up with representatives of Standard and Poor’s who calculates the rankings. There is an apparent underreporting of the percentage of economically disadvantaged students, as reported by the National School Lunch Program, served by Mt. Lebanon High School during the 2007-2008 school year. Initial review by Standard and Poor’s indicated that without this reporting error, Mt. Lebanon High school would have clearly qualified for a Silver Medal. The District has shared this official documentation of our economically disadvantaged student percentages with Standard and Poor’s and requested that they rerun calculations with more accurate, updated percentages.

Dr. Steinhauer congratulated the High School Model United Nations team and their sponsors for their outstanding performance at a conference hosted by the College of William and Mary.

Competing against over 1,000 students, 12 Mt. Lebanon students earned individual recognition. Nick Osborne won outstanding delegate in the committee simulating the Northern Ireland Peace Talks and Andrea Cornona was honored with the top award, Best Delegate, as the representative from Ghana on the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The team was also honored with the Michael Charles Coon Award for Diplomacy, the highest honor given by the William and Mary Model UN Conference. The Model UN team's faculty sponsors are Pete DiNardo, George Savarese, and Adam Lumish.

Last April, the Mt. Lebanon High School and community came together in a Walk for Water to raise funds to build a well in the Sudan. As a result of their hard work, over \$6,000 was raised and donated to Water for Sudan. The District was recently notified in a letter from Salva Dut, Preident of Water for Sudan, that a well will be dug in Sudan and named "Lebo H2HOPE" in honor of the Mt. Lebanon High School. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated everyone involved in the project.

In November, the superintendent, created a task force to provide recommendations about the District's current role in alerting, educating and supporting parents, students and community members regarding the consequences of student drug and alcohol use. Dr. Steinhauer introduced Peter Berg, Supervisor of Guidance and chair of the task force, who presented a report on the recommendations of the task force. Mr. Kubit, Board president, asked Dr. Steinhauer to investigate the recommendations of the task force.

#### BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. Kubit reported that the CAC recommendations will be discussed during the unfinished business portion of the meeting. In a change of protocol, the board president will allow one-half hour of public comments before Board discussion of the recommendations.

#### STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Jefferson Middle School Student Council members, Patrick Quirk and Rachel Reibach, reported on activities at Jefferson Middle School. Patrick gave an update on the leadership component of the Student Council. Students attended the PASC State Conference in the eastern part of the state where JMS student, Katelyn Walsh, received the Dale Hawley Award for student leadership. Rachel reported that JMS students gathered donations and bought supplies to make 30 gift bags for current and future patients residing at Family Hospice. Student Council sold Colleen's Angels t-shirts to benefit the family of Coleen Pasquale, a JMS teacher.

Mt. Lebanon Student Council co-presidents, Sakib Huq and Nick Osborne, reported on activities and events at the High School. Student participation in charitable events has been outstanding. Students collected 1,111 cans of food in the Food Drive to help families in the region over the holiday season, donated 114 pints of blood at the Blood Drive, collected dog and cat food for Animal Friends, collected toys for "Toys for Tots", and collected gifts for young mothers with children at FamilyLinks. The annual Holiday Show was held on December 17 with ticket sale proceeds going to the Invisible Children, Make-A-Wish, the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation and the Class of 2010 activities.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Audit & Finance – Mr. Kubit announced that Mr. Fraasch will now chair the Audit & Finance Committee. Mr. Fraasch reported that a meeting of the Committee was held on December 3 where the topics were the budget timeline; the CAFR for the year ending June 30, 2010; year end financial estimate; and review of the capital projects.

Facilities & High School Renovation – Mr. Kubit announced that Mrs. Cappucci and Mr. Remely will continue to chair the Facilities and High School Renovation Committee.

Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education – Mrs. Posti reported that the MLFE awarded two grants in December to Mt. Lebanon teachers Michelle Kramer to purchase Adobe production software for the TV studio and to Kathleen Konechny for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade English project to work with author Julie Zickefoose. Mr. Kubit announced that Mr. Ostergaard would be the Board representative on the MLFE Board.

Policy – Ms. Stipanovich reported that the Policy Committee met on December 1 to discuss a second review of Policy JRC, Student Records and Release of Information, a records management policy, and continued discussion on a code of conduct policy. Mr. Kubit announced the Ms. Stipanovich would continue to chair the Policy Committee.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Fraasch reported the enrollment at the Pathfinder School is up to 80 students. Mr. Kubit announced that Mrs. Birks would be the Mt. Lebanon representative on the Pathfinder Board.

SHASDA – Mrs. Rose reported that Dr. Linda Hippert from IU#3 and Mr. Charles Mahoney from IU#1 were present at the last SHASDA meeting to discuss the roles and services of intermediate units.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION OR ACTION

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely to take the Board Meeting Schedule off table for action.

#### MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

The Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors adopts the following Monday dates for regular monthly meetings in 2010 to be held in the Mt. Lebanon High School Library: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 24, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.. Other open meetings of the Board will be held on the following Monday dates in 2010 in the Mt. Lebanon High School Library: January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 17, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 6 (Reorganization Meeting), and December 13.

#### MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

Mr. Tom Celli, from Celli Flynn Brennan, presented a report on the architect process and the process of the Master Design Team in developing the current design for the high school project.

Mr. Kubit opened up public comment prior to the discussion of the CAC Report.

Thirteen residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Replacement of stadium turf

Urged Board members to not let the community be polarized by the recommendations

Board cannot let project get highjacked; the project should move forward

CAC recommendations goes against committee original charge

Priorities should be the facilities and how it affects the students not how pretty the building should be

Hopes that the Board will continue to tap into the talent of the CAC

Find a way to keep the high school project within budget

Questioned if the Board will take action on the CAC recommendations at this evening's meeting  
 Questioned if the new leadership will respond to emails  
 CAC overreached their charge; overstepped boundaries that they were appointed to do  
 Keeping building C solves problems that do not exist  
 Urged Board to move forward with project as currently envisioned  
 Questioned where he could find the DeJong Study on the website  
 Concerns about the recommendations of the CAC  
 CAC trying to return the project to a renovation only project  
 Urged Board to not take the project back to the beginning  
 Thanked those involved in the involved with the current design  
 Asked that Board use the front door on Cochran Road recommendation from the CAC  
 Questioned cost to date to develop the current plan  
 Formation of the CAC ill advised; overstepped their charge  
 The high school project has moved past the point were CAC recommendations are workable  
 Use Building B entrance if there is to be a front door on Cochran Road  
 Supports current design plan for new identity for school  
 Remove Building C  
 Change is overdue to the high school  
 Building should have a recognizable front entrance  
 Stop and look at what has been done and make sure design fits the needs of the students and community  
 Gap between time architect given charge for schematic design and presentation to the Board  
 The CAC was designed to proofread the schematic design  
 Believes CAC did not overstep charge and stayed within criteria

After Board discussion of the CAC report recommendations and the Design Development Plan, Mr. Kubit called for a motion.

It was moved by Rose and seconded by Remely, the Board approves the Design Development Plan and authorizes the Construction Drawings with continued review of the following items: Loading dock placement; Cochran Road entrance; continued attainment of LEED certification points; a review of internal congestion points; tennis court placement; and traffic circulation on Horsman Drive.

It was moved by Fraasch to amend the motion to include costing of the renovation of Building C.

**MOTION FAILED DUE TO A LACK OF SECOND**

Mr. Kubit called for a roll call vote on the original motion.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Ostergaard, Posti, Remely, Rose, Stipanovich, Kubit  
 Against: Fraasch  
**MOTION APPROVED**

The Board then discussed the Act 34 Hearing process and timeline.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Fraasch and seconded by Stipanovich that the Board approves, ratifies and accepts the following financial reports: (Copies in official minutes.)

- a. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2009,
- b. List of Bills dated November 25, 2009, and December 15, 2009,

- c. Tax Refunds dated November 30, 2009, and
- d. Budgetary Transfers dated December 3, 2009.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the December 10, 2009, list of personnel changes, as revised December 17, 2009. (Copy in official minutes.)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Stipanovich and seconded by Posti that the Board approves a contract with McGuire Memorial Employment Option Center for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year for the provision of special education services to a Mt. Lebanon exceptional student at a cost of \$155.60 per day, not to exceed \$8,000 for the school year. (Copy in official minutes.)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Stipanovich that the Board approves a contract with Wesley Spectrum Integrated Services (STEP) for the 2009-2010 school year for the provision of special education services to a Mt. Lebanon Exceptional student at an educational cost of \$3,135 per student, per month not to exceed \$25,080 for the school year. (Copy in official minutes.)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Cappucci and seconded by Posti that authorization be given for the attendance and appropriate expenditures of Board members at the annual NSBA Annual Conference, April 10-13, 2010 in Chicago, IL.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves submission of PDE Form 3074(a) for the High School Chiller Reconditioning. (Copy in official minutes.)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board awards Project 09-09, High School Chiller Reconditioning, to Tobey Karg Service, at a cost of \$19,680 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes.)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Rose that the Board approves the agreement for consulting services with Professional Sports Field Services, LLC to write the specifications and provide installation inspection and monitoring for the turf replacement. The fee for such services shall be \$7,100 inclusive of travel expenses. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Fraasch, Ostergaard, Posti, Remely, Rose, Stipanovich, Kubit  
Against: None  
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the following student trips:  
a. Girls' Basketball Team to Phoenix, AZ, December 17-23, 2009 and  
b. Girls' Varsity Softball Team to Orlando, FL, March 29-30, 2010.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mrs. Cappucci suggested that the Board discuss and investigate paperless board meetings. The item will be placed on the January Discussion Meeting agenda.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

- Questioned where the money is coming from to replace the turf
- Questioned why the money wasn't used to reduce the cost of the high school project
- Thanked the Board for voting on the CAC recommendations

ADJOURMENT

Mr. Kubit announced that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of personnel, negotiation and litigation matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Janice R. Klein, Secretary  
Board of School Directors

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