

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

November 20, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2006, in the Mt. Lebanon High School Library.

President Rodella called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton, Rodella
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Superintendent Wilson, Solicitor Peterson
Administrative Staff: Addy, Allen, Bowman, Ingram, Klein, Pulkowski, Stengel,
Fox

MINUTES

The minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on October 5, 2006; the Discussion Meeting held on October 9, 2006; and the Regular Meeting held on October 16, 2006, were approved as presented.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rodella the District has not heard from the Auditor General's office concerning the audit of the construction projects.

The Local Study Tax Commission held a public hearing on November 20, 2006, and continues to prepare for a public report to the Board on December 11.

Mr. Rodella reported that the Educational Specification Team met November 14 and 15 with Dr. DeJong to discuss the future of the high school. During the meeting, the committee assessed the current state of the high school facility, the current high school program, future program needs, the space required to accommodate those needs, and some ideas on how to utilize the space on the current site. No decision has been made to move in one direction or the other. The Board president thanked all who are involved in the process. A public meeting will be held on January 4 with Dr. DeJong to report to the Board on the information collected from the committee.

The board president noted that an action item to open Dr. Pamela Pulkowski's position to other candidates is on the agenda this evening. Mr. Rodella indicated that this action was being taken now in accordance with School Code and this action does not affect Dr. Pulkowski's current term of office which will continue through June 30, 2007. After it was determined that this item would be put on the agenda, the District was notified that Dr. Pulkowski has initiated litigation against the District. Since the District does not discuss litigation matters in public, the Board will not be commenting further on Dr. Pulkowski's position.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Wilson began his report by recognizing the following women and men in the District who served in the armed forces: Bill Addy, Bill Bridges, Rolf Briegel, Gary Ford, Rich Hagerty, Gerald Ingram, Tom Jackson, Paul LaQuatra, Anthony Marcucci, Thad Merriman, Joe Robertson, Bob Schultz, Dale Smail, Chuck Stevenson, Ron Carso, Dean Keffer, Chuck Mirt, Bob Reider, John Tupta, Gary Ball, John Fortney, Matt Mikesell, Larry Snyder, Suzanne Williams, and Jim Zelinsky.

The superintendent presented certificates of achievement to the 13 high school students who were recognized at National Merit Semifinalists. The following high school seniors are: Louis Argentieri, Scott Baxter, Alexander Bloom, Justine Emili, Rachel Fabi, Jonathan Katz, Ilya Kelner, Kelsey Kordella, Josef Kuhn, Julia Malik, Annika Matta, Anna Premo, and Jiakun Zhang. Dr. Wilson congratulated the students on this outstanding honor.

Dr. Wilson announced that the administration will be soliciting staff and parental feedback on the school calendar for next year. Dr. Deborah Allen has created four calendar options, and beginning November 21, an on-line poll will be available for staff and parents to choose the calendar they prefer. The administration will share the feedback on the website and a proposed calendar will be offered at the December discussion meeting.

Recently, Mt. Lebanon High School was the site for two unique visits. Seven Fulbright scholars from India, who are connected with Carnegie Mellon University, visited our economics and international studies classes. They were interested in observing first hand the dynamics of the American education system, and our students were given the chance to learn more about the education system in India and the expectations for students in India.

Mr. Joe Butera, interim high school principal, invited 1978 Mt. Lebanon Graduate, Lt. Colonel Jay Kopelman to speak to our high school students. Lt. Kopelman served in Iraq as a liaison officer and entered Fallujah to battle insurgents for control of the City. He has written a book entitled, "A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava." Lt. Kopelman talked to our students about his experiences in Iraq as well as the writing process.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council representatives, Kayleigh Ramaley and Rosie Olmsted, reported on activities at Mellon. On October 3, students and sponsors attended the kick-off lunch for the Caring Place. In their first fundraiser of the year, students raised \$500 for the Caring Place and a food drive was held the week of November 13 for the Southminster Church Food Bank. As a service project, students raked leaves in the community.

Mt. Lebanon Senior High School Student Council co-president, Meghan Goff, reported on activities at the high school. Activities included the Homecoming Dance, a blood drive for the Central Blood Bank, and a Thanksgiving food drive. On Veteran's Day, Student Council honored veterans who work in the high school building, and a fundraiser is being held throughout the month of November to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

BOARD REPORTS

Program – Dr. Allen introduced Steve Bullick, Supervisor of Social Studies, who along with Markham elementary teacher, Matt Mikesell discussed the new social studies implementation and Mike's project using funds from the Mt. Lebanon Academy of Research and Development. Mariann Fox presented an update on the high school physical education discussion.

Policy – Mrs. Rose reported that the Policy Committee met on November 2 to discuss policies on purchasing authority, contracting authority, advertising in schools, athletic facilities advertising, student lockers, and philosophy goals of the District. The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Parkway West – Mr. Remely reported that 685 students are enrolled at Parkway, which is 46 students more than last year. Parkway West began the strategic planning process facilitated by Dr. Glenn Smartschan. A 1980 LaFrance fire truck was donated to the school by Martins Ferry Fire Department

to be used in the public safety program at Parkway. Mt. Lebanon students Keith Ewing and Ruslan Islamov are on the Parkway list of honor students.

Pathfinder – Mr. Campbell reported that 66 students are enrolled at Pathfinder with four more students expected to be enrolled by the second semester.

SHASDA – Mrs. Walton reported that last month’s SHASDA meeting was the annual round table discussion with high school students from the SHASDA districts. Mt. Lebanon senior Flynn Finney represented Mt. Lebanon High School.

AIU – Mrs. Walton reported that contract negotiations with the AIU’s largest teacher union will begin in January. In October, a mid-term visit from the Middle States evaluator was held.

Joint Steering Committee - Mr. Rodella reported that a Joint Steering meeting is scheduled for November 29 with the leaders of the Municipality. The committee will discuss ways to be a unified voice on county tax issues.

Legislative – Mr. Remely reported that HB2055, the Superintendent’s Bill, is probably dead. The Senate met only to elect new leadership. Mr. Remely will attempt to schedule a meeting with our new state representative, Matt Smith, and thanked Tom Stevenson for his service to the community.

Tax Study Commission – The Tax Study Commission held a public hearing on November 20 for public input on Act 1. The committee met after the hearing to prepare their report and recommendation to the Board. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on December 4, 2006, at 6:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Seven residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Associate Superintendent position

Mr. Rodella left the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mrs. Garson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Walton and seconded by Rose that the Board approves and accepts the following financial reports: (Copies in official minutes.)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2006,
- b. List of Bills dated October 31 and November 14, 2006,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated October 31, 2006,
- d. List of Budgetary Transfers dated November 1, 2006, and
- e. Sale of Unusable Equipment List dated November 20, 2006.

ROLL CALL For: Campbell (abstained on item c.), Garson, Hart, Posti (abstained on item c.), Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
 Against: None
 MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Silhol and seconded by Walton that the Board approves the November 20, 2006, list of personnel changes. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Silhol and seconded by Walton that pursuant to the School Code requirement of notification at least 150 days prior to the expiration of the term of office of an assistant or associate superintendent, the Board hereby notifies Associate Superintendent Pulkowski that the Board intends to consider other candidates for this office held by her expiring June 30, 2007, which position also may be revised and/or abolished as of the end of her term.

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Campbell to table the previous motion until the December Regular Meeting.

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Walton
Against: Silhol
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Rose and seconded by Walton that the Board approves revisions to Policy GBECA, Employee Drug and Alcohol Offenses, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Rose and seconded by Campbell that the Board approves revisions to Policy JICH, Student Drug and Alcohol Offenses, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Walton and seconded by Campbell that the Board approves an agreement with Goodwill Industries for the 2006-2007 school year for the provision of special education services to Mt. Lebanon exceptional students at an educational cost not to exceed \$8,000. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Walton and seconded by Campbell that the Board approves an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide remedial reading services to students in the amount of \$4,635 to fulfill the District's responsibility for nonpublic participation in IASA Title I for the 2006-2007 school year. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Campbell and seconded by Walton that the Board awards the high speed duplicating paper bid #paper0607 to Office Depot at their bid price of \$84,453.40 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Campbell and seconded by Walton that the Board awards the Ice Melt bid # 07-003 to Christman Chemical Co. at their bid price of \$5.79 per bag as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Campbell that the Board awards the Custodial/Maintenance Uniform bid #07-00A to Concept Uniform Company at their bid price of \$7,762.80 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications.

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Walton that the Board approves a contract with Approved Information Destruction, Inc. for document destruction at their quoted price of \$150 per month for monthly pickups of 10 containers and \$12 for each additional container. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Hart and seconded by Walton that the Board approves the district's participation in the AIU Joint Purchasing Board and appoints Jan Klein as its regular member and Gerald Ingram as its alternate member essentially in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Campbell that the Administration is authorized to enter into (1) Amendment # 16 to the Xerox lease to allow for two printers to be provided to the Municipality, and (2) a Second Amendment to the Agreement with the Municipality allowing the use by the Municipality of those printers, and providing that the Municipality assume all costs and obligations associated with those printers, both essentially in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes.)

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Posti and seconded by Walton that the board approves the High School Marching Band's travel to Atlanta, GA on April 26, 2007, to April 29, 2007, for competition and performance.

ROLL CALL For: Campbell, Garson, Hart, Posti, Remely, Rose, Silhol, Walton
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mrs. Posti suggested that the Board discuss the inconsistencies in weekend use of facilities. Mrs. Posti also suggested an update on Dashboard.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Five residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Safeguarding district assets policy

Conflict of interest policy

National Merit Semi-Finalists

High school renovation

Educational Specifications meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Garson reported that an Executive Sessions were held on November 13, 2006, for negotiation, litigation, student, and personnel matters; and on November 20, 2006, for litigation and personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Janice R. Klein, Secretary
Board of School Directors

/js