

**Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTA's
Council Meeting
Lincoln Elementary School
October 4, 2017 at 9 a .m.
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.
The group said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moira Aulbach thanked Lincoln Elementary and Lincoln PTA for hosting the meeting.

Community Representatives Reports

Outreach

Dr. Tracy Scanlon gave the report for Outreach. The fall parenting series is up and running. The topics include: homework battles, taming tempers and stress management. Outreach is looking for parent input in starting a parenting positively series. It would be a weekly series. There is a nominal fee to participate. The series provides psycho-education for parents in a supportive manner.

Outreach also offers Teen screen as a preventive tool. It is completed by master's level clinicians to target mood issues and anxiety in teens and preteens. Teen suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among teens. This is imperative to target issues early and this tool is effective.

Outreach also has drug and alcohol counselors available to consult with parents and teens.

Next month Outreach will announce the new, highly qualified niche practice clinicians it is bringing on board in October.

Outreach is also looking forward to its collaboration with the MTLPD in creating "Hidden in Plain Sight" room, which is an installation of a typical teen room with drugs hidden in plain sight. The MTLPD is converting the 911-call center in the municipal building for this project installation. Look for news about its opening next month.

Mt. Lebanon Municipality

Susan Morgans gave the report for the municipality.

Susan shared good news that Mt Lebanon will be recommended for designation as a "Safe Community". Community members from MTLPD, MTLFD, St. Clair Hospital, MTLSD, Outreach and others have been working for over a year to put together a

450-page application package for Mt. Lebanon to be designated a “Safe Community”. The process requires that a community evaluate what they have done to date to prevent injury and harm in community. The committee of outside evaluators observed the recent high school evacuation drill and was impressed with our high school student’s preparation and cooperation during the drill. They also observed ALICE training in the community. The evaluation committee noted that they are planning on recommending our community as a “Safe Community”.

As many may recall there were questions about adopting a “pay as you throw” trash collection policy in our next contract. The municipality decided not to pursue it. The new garbage contract negotiations will not include a “pay as a you throw” initiative but will continue to encourage education on recycling.

Mt. Lebanon continues to promote unity and diversity in our community. There are new columns and book reviews in the MtL magazine about diverse members of our community. There also is a unity committee put together by Dan Miller a year ago but is not going forward with meetings unless needed.

The Mt. Lebanon Commission recently proposed an ordinance that duplicates Allegheny County civil rights in the workplace policy include LGBTQ as a protected class. There are some issues with the policy as proposed. The proposed policy creates a community board that would decide violations and administer fines. This policy was not drafted in response to any complaint but rather as a step towards unity. There will be a second public hearing on October 10. The Ordinance can be found on the Mt. Lebanon website as part of the agenda from the September commissioners meeting.

Keep a watch out for a list of streets that will not be permitted to have block parties in the future because the street is considered an essential thruway and/or connects to another community.

Look for and please sign up for the 710 e-newsletter from Mt. Lebanon Magazine website. The 710 Newsletter is published every 2 weeks.

Library

Robyn Vittek gave the report.

Look for the October kids calendars at the library and on the website.

Robyn reported that the library exceeded their fundraising goal of \$10,000 during September Love your library month. The library received over \$11,000 in donations. The library will receive some matching funds from the Jack Buncher Foundation. Thank you to all PTAs that made their donation during the month of September.

This Saturday global beats series features China and is paid for by last year’s donation from the Buncher foundation. Next month’s global beat topic is India.

Mark your calendars for the annual Fright Night on October 27 @ 6:30 p.m.

The Conover Foundation made a donation to the library to create a Matt's Maker Space in the public library. January 26 will be the Matt's Maker space kick off reception.

School Board Report

Mary Birks gave the report for the School Board.

The newly installed air conditioning was much appreciated with the recent September summer we have experienced. Teachers report their satisfaction with the air conditioning creating a better teaching environment on hot days.

This month's Board calendar includes discussions about what to do with the rock pile/field at the high school. Rock pile options/costs to be reported to the Board by District Facilities Director are grass only, extend the rock pile field to be regulation size playing field and use artificial turf on the field. Please email school board members about the issue if you have a comment or preference.

The Century of Excellence campaign to date raised nearly \$1M and dispersed over \$300K for use. The campaign funded items that would not be possible without donor directed and general funds donated. These include among others the maker spaces, sound systems in the fine arts and technology education.

The School Board supported the proposed Mt. Lebanon Ordinance extending civil rights protections to include LGBTQ. The Board wants all students to feel welcome and secure in the District.

Ms. Birks reported that the State budget continues to be at a stalemate. If it passes, the legislature will be using tobacco settlement funds to fund the budget. The budget impasse has caused PA to be downgraded several times by Moody's. 75% of the state budget is education, health and human services. It will continue to be an issue.

MTLSD Century of Excellence Campaign and MLFE

Sloan Astorino reported that the Campaign has raised funds just shy of \$1M. To date \$310K has gone back to the schools. Last month the Board approved disbursements for new recording and video equipment for the middle school auditoriums. At the Elementary level, the Matt's Maker spaces are up and running. Now that the spaces are done, the campaign will get parent committees at each school to develop a strategy to engage parents in the maker spaces. The students and faculty can't get enough of them! The middle school tech ed teachers also received a grant of donor directed funds to attend training to expand tech ed during after school hours.

MLFE have plenty of Mt. Lebanon stadium blankets available for \$65. Please consider purchasing one for those late season games and holiday gifts.

The Mt. Lebanon Blue Devil Club will host a Hall of Champions event on November 25, 2017 at the Circuit Center on the South Side. All proceeds will go to the athletic department.

District Administration Reports

Dr. Tim Steinhauer, Superintendent

MTLSD is using Twitter accounts to share good news about daily programs, Curriculum-related news and student activities. It's a quick way to get good news out and an easy way to keep up with what is going on in the District. Look for #leboproud. And coming soon #thankyouthursday.

Many students follow Dr. Steinhauer to get the first news of school delays and closings. MTLSD has both local and broader coverage with twitter followers. For example, Senior Nina Routh won the KDKA extra effort award and twitter was exploding with news and photos.

This weekend is the Great Alumni luncheon to recognize 5 great alumni. School Board member Mike Reimer is being recognized as a great alumni this year. Great alumni tailgate is this Friday, October 6 at 6 p.m. on the patio behind the athletic building at the stadium. Tickets are available in advance on MTLSD.org or at the door.

Alumni reunion tours of the high school have been given every weekend thus far this school year. The alumni have positive response to the new building and the offerings at the high school.

The women's tennis team is crushing it now that they are playing on the new home courts. Mt. Lebanon tennis has been hosting regional events at the new facility.

October 16-18 is the Pennsylvania School Board Association conference. Mary Birks, Dr. Steinhauer and Chrissa Sullivan (JMS teacher) are presenting "Thriving in compassionate schools and communities". The presentation focuses on how do we teach self-discipline and self-control to promote greater student success. Cissy Bowman also will be presenting on "How to survive a crisis while keeping your District's reputation intact". The Mt. Lebanon High School Orchestra also is playing at the PSBA.

PTA Council Business

The September 6, 2017 Minutes were shared with all Council members and stand as written.

The Treasurer's reports for the Council and Georgia Pogue accounts were shared with all Council members. No objections were noted.

President Report

Moira Aulbach announced that the Council Executive Board appointed Bonnie Dougherty to serve the remainder of the 2017-2018 term as 1st Vice President and Rich Messimer to serve the remaining 2017-2018 term as Treasurer.

Old Business

Some council committee positions remain open. Moira Aulbach will circulate the list to the council Presidents to seek members to fill the open positions. One position is the Community Service Chair. Lisa Silverman agreed to work on the SHIM community service project as was done last year but we need an elementary and middle school volunteer. We also need to locate a Reflections chair.

New Business

Lisa Silverman inquired whether Council would like to see if we could obtain a date to hold a school board candidate forum prior to the election. There are 7 candidates running for 4 seats. It makes sense to have an opportunity to meet and hear all of the candidates respond to questions in one forum. It was agreed among council members that we will contact the League of Women Voters to determine if they are able to partner with us to run the forum. We will work on the space and publicity if all comes together.

Unit Presidents' Announcements

Julie Maselko, MTLHS announced that the hockey, cheerleading and wrestling teams are hosting a fundraiser on Sunday October 8 from 9-1 pm at the High School parking lot. For each person who comes to test-drive a vehicle, the team designated by the driver receives a \$20 donation.

Mary Ellen Donato, FES, announced that Foster is sponsoring "Operation Sweet". This is an event to take all unwanted Halloween candy (except chips) and donate it to the military. All candy can be delivered to Foster on Election Day when the PTA hosts a bake sale.

Christina Battaglia, Hoover, thanked the High School Band for hosting 5th grade students in the stands at the September 29 football game. The 5th graders from Hoover were completely engaged and had a great time thanks to the High School students.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Submitted By:

Lisa G. Silverman
PTA Council Secretary
October 4, 2017