

- 1) I do not presently see any material “gaps or weaknesses” in our District. Improvements can always be pursued and we should never become satisfied with our achievements. The results of our current educational efforts are represented by our test scores at all levels and our present SAT average of well over 1700. Our graduates have often reported that they entered college with a one to two year advantage over many of their classmates.
- 2) The number one strength of our District, in my opinion, is parental involvement which enables every aspect of student learning to be more effective. Other strengths include the excellence of our teaching and administrative staff, an advanced level of educational collaboration, STEM and STEAM programs, the fine arts and music opportunities, and superior technological support to advance learning in every field.
- 3) The Strategic Plan states that we will provide the best education possible for each and every child in a financially responsible manner. Ultimately, a member of the board must find a balance between providing that level of educational effort and the ability, willingness and thoughts of the community. I do not consider myself to be an exclusive representative of one view over another. Rather, I try to carefully consider and understand the needs and thoughts of all sides on a specific issue or concern before making a determination.
- 4) What is always most important are issues that affect the needs and success of every student regardless of their individual abilities. Thereafter, the facilities, and the staff necessary to provide for our students’ needs and the financial support required to afford the appropriate programs.
- 5) Our community is very engaged in our schools. To involve them further we must remain transparent in our efforts, intently listen to their opinions and ideas, and publically acknowledge that the community is mutually responsible for all of our student and District achievements. We should also actively seek their involvement in our classrooms whenever possible. Their personal experiences and perspectives, often not available in textbooks, can afford our students an understanding of where we have been as well as introducing them to possible future careers and fields of study.
- 6) I have been a Mt. Lebanon School Director for twelve years. During my tenure I have been actively involved in the high school improvement project from its earliest meetings to completion, and in the curriculum expansion and operations of Parkway West Career and Technology Center. In addition to my school board experience my background includes over twenty-five years in the organization, financing, budgeting, operations and management of over a dozen business entities.
- 7) The Mt. Lebanon School District does not have any underperforming schools! In our region our high school received the second highest ranking, our two middle

schools are ranked third and fifth respectively, and all seven elementary schools are in the top twenty-five. We have received several “Blue Ribbon School” awards, the District has been nationally recognized as one of the finest for arts and music education, and we were recently acknowledged as the number one Digital School District of all mid-sized school districts in the country. Underperforming? No. But we should never rest on our laurels or become satisfied with our awards and achievements. Rather, we must continue to advance wherever and whenever the opportunity arises.

8) Maintaining and improving the level of success and achievement by our students and the District, and the efficient use and operation of our facilities to support our students and our community.

9) Board Responsibilities:

- Hire a Superintendant
- Establish goals for the Superintendant
- Establish policy
- Set and control the budget

Superintendent/Administration Responsibilities:

- Operate and manage the District
- Hire teachers and staff
- Oversee curriculum
- Enforce Board policies
- Achieve the Board’s goals
- Protect the District’s culture
- Superintendent is the “face of the District”

10) A school board can communicate with constituent groups through a current and updated website, open board meetings, and a responsive email program. Specific announcements and budget information should also be available on the website or through specific publications as necessary. Board members can meet with community groups to discuss current issues, thoughts and concerns, however, only the Board President can represent the Board.

11) Throughout my budgeting efforts I do my best to provide for the needs of our students and the District balanced with the ability and willingness of the community to financially provide for those needs. Generally, the students educational needs will be the priority. The high school project is a good example. There was concern in the community over the initial project proposal for a totally new facility at a cost in excess of \$200 million, and a reduced second design at a cost of nearly \$160 million was no better received. A third proposal to save and renovate some of the existing, combined with new construction for science, technology, arts and athletics was proposed by Mr. Silhol (former board member) and myself. The result was an outstanding educational facility for student

learning at about one-half of the cost of the original proposal. It was a favorable balance for all involved.

12) My vision is to continue to enhance our educational system in a liberal arts fashion. Providing our students with a solid foundation in the basics, while introducing them to new disciplines and opportunities, will provide them with an exceptional education and the ability to pursue careers and studies in any field that appeals to their interest. We do not know what new careers we are preparing our students to pursue. With the volume of knowledge doubling every minute, we need to afford our students with the tools and abilities to discover every opportunity.