

Mount Lebanon City Council of PTA's
Council Meeting Minutes
Lincoln Elementary School
January 3, 2019- 9am

Katie Caste, Council President, called the meeting to order at 9:04am. The group said the Pledge of Allegiance.

November 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rich Messimer updated us on current financials. The current council book balance is \$7,585.02 and the current Georgia Pogue balance is \$20,706.32. The downward trend in PTA membership continues. We currently have 2907 members down from 3057 last year.

Executive Board Reports

Council PTA President Katie Caste:

- Katie thanked Lincoln Elementary PTA President, Traci Adams and Mr. Ron Kitsko, Lincoln's Principal for hosting today's meeting.
- March 6th is the annual PTA Council and MLEA meeting. PTA questions will be submitted to the teachers prior to the meeting.
- The annual School Board/PTA meeting is currently being scheduled.
- Tuesday January 22 the PTA will host a social with all School Board members at 7pm.
- The next Council PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 6, 2019, 9am, at Markham Elementary School.
- Please remind PTA members and families that the snow make-up days are June 11-14th. Currently our last day of school is June 10, 2019 but that can change if we have snow days.

Mount Lebanon School District Superintendent Dr. Tim Steinhauer:

Dr. Steinhauer discussed and shared the following:

- Dr. Steinhauer welcomed everyone and wished us all a Happy New Year.
- Dr. Steinhauer introduced the districts new Director of Business Rob Geletko.
- Congratulations to Mellon Middle School and Principal Wolfson. Mellon has been awarded the Pa "Schools to Watch" award. This recognition highlights the good work that Mellon is doing. The district is very proud of Mellon for the work they have accomplished to receive this award.
- The School Board approved the 2019/2020 school calendar. The first day of school will be August 26, 2019 and the last day is June 9, 2020. There is one built in snow day in the calendar February 17, Presidents day will be a school day if needed as a make-up snow day.
- All Mount Lebanon School district buildings have received the Anti-Defamation Leagues' "No Place for Hate" designation. Activities have started at Jefferson. You may have seen the No place for Hate posters students have made. This program is the gold standard to educate students on diversity.
- The completion of the high school Turf Field is behind schedule due to the weather.

- The community and security task force continue to look at individual buildings to make the best decisions they can for safety and security updates. To date approximately \$200 thousand dollars have been spent on upgrades to security. Examples of items purchased include 50 additional security cameras, 100 additional walkie talkies, and laminated film to cover windows.
- Three new student support teams are in place for students and parents. The following is an example of how the student assist teams will help: If a teacher notices a drop-in a student's grades this concern is sent to the team who can contact the parents/student to help id the problem. This group can also help set up therapy if needed but the group does not provide therapy.
- In light of changes from the Pa State office of Attorney General, Mount Lebanon school district is no longer able to use our current reporting app. Effective January 14, 2019 we will start using the new "Safe to Say" app from the state. Reports will go directly to the state where a team will determine the urgency and respond as necessary. The state team is a group of professionals trained in crisis management. The state app is based on recommendations that came out of the Sandy Hook Promise. The state is mandating student training on the use of the app for students in 5th-12th grade. Those trainings will be starting next week. If you are currently using our app, you will receive a notice sending you to the link to download the new state reporting app.

Old Business: Katie Caste

- Katie thanked Bonnie Dougherty for all of her help with the Reflections program.
- Bonnie Dougherty reminded Foster and Markham to pick up all of their Reflections items.

New Business: Katie Caste

- As a reminder- the nominating committee will be presenting the new slate of nominated officers at the February meeting.

Unit President Announcements:

- Julie Maselko, Mt. Lebanon High School PTA, shared that tickets for the high school Cabaret Chorus Concert are now on sale.

Community Representatives:

Mt. Lebanon Municipality: Susan Morgans was unable to attend today's meeting but shared the following e-mail:

Mt. Lebanon's trash and recycling contractor changed to Waste Management on January 1. There are only a very few changes to the current routes and schedules. You should have received or will receive a flier from Waste Management detailing everything important about recycling, and you also can check the draft schedule on the homepage under Trending Now at www.mtlebanon.org.

What is changing—and this is important—is what you cannot recycle. You cannot recycle glass of any kind because it shatters and contaminates the entire load. We are looking into options where residents might be able to drop off glass for a reasonable fee, but we have nothing firm yet. Also, you can only recycle plastics 1 & 2, because there is not a current market for the plastics. . Numbers 1 & 2 are bottles, containers and jugs—the harder plastics. Anything that is easy to squeeze or to wrap around your hand is NOT recyclable. The identifying numbers should be imprinted on the bottoms of containers. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE SOMETHING IS RECYCLABLE, IT IS BETTER TO PUT IT IN WITH THE REGULAR TRASH.

2019 is an educational year. Not immediately, but some time in the first half of the year, Waste Management will begin leaving warning stickers on recycle bins it is obvious that you have not prepared your recycling correctly. Repeat offenders may have their recyclables left behind along with information about how to prepare recycling correctly. It is important we all learn to recycle right, because in 2020 penalties kick in and all the SHACOG municipalities affected by the contract will be fined \$150 per contaminated load. This could amount to several hundred thousand dollars a year to Mt. Lebanon taxpayers.

A little further explanation for those who might not know how municipal contract are issued, municipalities are required by law to solicit bids for services and accept the lowest reasonable bid. In this case SHACOG requested a joint bid for all the South Hills Municipalities. Three waster haulers submitted bids, and non of the three was willing to take glass or plastics 3-7. So Mt. Lebanon really had not choice in the matter.

Everyone feels sorry that we can't recycle as much as we used to, and we will continue to look for other options, but in the meantime, thank you for your understanding and for trying to get it right. If you have questions, please check www.mtlebanon.org, and if you still have questions, call the Public Works Department at 412-343-3403.

Mount Lebanon Library: Connie Matthews, Children's Librarian, shared the following:

- The teen librarian is now a full-time position at the library.
- Three parents from Washington Elementary are starting a new parent group at the library that focuses on providing support and networking for parents and families who recently moved to the US from other countries. Please check the library calendar for upcoming meeting dates.
- The Library Green team has been fielding a lot of resident questions concerning the changes in recycling. The team is putting together a list of drop off sites and information for residents who want to continue to recycle glass and other items.
- Matt's Maker Space at the library is in its second year of funding, help us celebrate by attending the upcoming Matt's Maker Space Party Tuesday January 22, 1-3pm.
- For additional information on library activities check out their events calendar at: <https://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org>

Mount Lebanon Fire Department: Kevin Abott, shared the following:

- K-5th Grade programing continues to include basic first aid, fire safety and prevention, and smoke detector education. Weather Emergencies and Flood Water Safety was added to the 5th grade curriculum.
- The department is expanding community and parent education programs, hosting open houses and health and safety events. Please let them know if you have any ideas.
- The fire department fundraising campaign to raise funds to make improvements on the fire simulation trailer is underway.
- The department reminded us all to check our carbon monoxide detectors annually as well as smoke detectors.
- The department will look into working with Drivers Education to add weather safety to the curriculum if it isn't already there.

Mount Lebanon Police Department: Jeff Kite

- The Mount Lebanon Residents Academy is now accepting applications online. The Residents Academy will start March 13, 2019.

Heather Doyle, Director of Special Education: provided an update on Lebo PRIDE. About 25 people attended the first meeting which was held November 13th at 7pm in room D205 at the high school. The next meeting scheduled for February 12th at 7pm will focus on transitioning post high school and offices of college support services.

Jenn Rick- Mount Lebanon Nature Conservatory:

- Elementary parents are needed to train as parent instructors for the upcoming School in the Park field trip days in May.
- 35-40 volunteers are needed. The conservatory is hoping to have 2 parent volunteers per school to train as parent instructors. Please watch your newsletters for additional information.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am

Submitted by:

Rebecca Matheus, Council PTA Secretary

January 4, 2019

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