

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

April 13, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mr. Lebowitz called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Foster Elementary students Hunter and Jacob Napoleon, Gia Routh, Molly Schwertfuehrer and Ruby Siefken.. The students presented a report on all the interesting and exciting events that occur at Foster Elementary throughout the school year, and finished with the Foster school song.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Mary Birks, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Edward Kubit, Mr. William Moorhead, Mr. Dale Ostergaard, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Mr. Larry Lebowitz
Absent: None

ATTENDING: Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Mr. Jason Ramsey, Mr. Chris Wolfson

MINUTES

It was moved by Ostergaard and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on March 9, 2015, and the Regular Meeting held on March 16, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members Luke Giles and Maddie Maselko reported on the activities at Mellon. Their Senior Citizen computer tutoring was very successful with 15 senior citizens signed up to receive help with computer skills they may want to know. Ten students volunteered to help the “seniors” with basic PC skills, how to maneuver through the internet and how to understand Microsoft programs.

Student Council members spear-headed school spirit for the PSSAs. Words of encouragement were written on the sidewalks with chalk and snacks were provided for the students. Council members are also helping to create teams for Mt. Lebanon’s Relay For Life. Besides support for the Relay, Mellon students are creating a team for the Walk for a Healthy Community on May 16 with donations going to the Lending Hearts Organization. Lending Hearts provides emotional and social support to children and young adults and their families who suffer with cancer.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Body Co Secretaries Kevin Caste and Lyvia Hurst reported on the High School events and activities. The third Central Blood Bank blood drive for the year will be held on April 21 at the Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church. Students, teachers, and staff members have consistently supported this important cause.

The cast and crew members involved with the high school musical “Annie Get Your Gun” are hard at work for the production which will be held May 6-9 in the new renovated auditorium.

High school student volunteers will assist with the 8th grade Move Up Day on April 30. Both middle schools and St. Bernard will visit the high school on one day and will listen to a presentation by administrators, staff members, and selected teachers. They will be given a guided tour through the building by 9th through 12th graders and interact with a panel discussion of current high school students.

The juniors are moving along in the election process for the 2015-2016 senior class officers. A “Meeting the Candidates Day” was held on the Skywalk where all 9th, 10th and 11th grades students were invited to talk with the candidates during each of the lunch periods. The general election will be held on April 24th.

On May 1, students will participate in a Lip Dub video that will showcase the new areas of the high school as the song, “Shut Up and Dance” is lip synched by many upperclassmen. The halls, skywalk, pool and gym will be lined with students representing their club or sport affiliation. The film will end in a controlled riotous atmosphere in the main gym.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Lebowitz presented the Extra Mile Award to the Mt. Lebanon faculty members who were awarded a \$13,500 grant for their project, “The Water Design Challenge.” The project was meant to take students through the process of designing and creating solutions for real world, local and global water crises. The teachers successfully staged the two-day Water Design Challenge at the University of Pittsburgh on March 11 and 12 with 55 students from four high schools. In addition, the team developed partnerships with the University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center, the World Affairs Council, the Heinz History Center and many others that significantly raised the profile of our District and community. The teachers created a unique learning experience for our students that went far beyond the classroom and have clearly demonstrated exceptional service to our students. The board president presented certificates and Extra Mile Award pins to Tina Raspanti, Social Studies Department Chair; Erin Crimone, High School Unit Principal; Jeff Holliday, Mellon Middle School Social Studies teacher; Sue Quintero, High School World Languages teacher; and Julianne Slogick, High School Social Studies teacher.

The Board will take action this evening on approving a proposed final budget in the amount of \$90,893,749 reflecting a millage increase of .42 mills, or a total rate of 23.57 mills. Assuming that the preliminary budget will be passed this evening, it will be available for public review and comment. The Board will vote on the final budget on May 18, 2015.

Mr. Lebowitz reminded the community to support the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education by attending the first annual *Taste of Mt. Lebanon* fundraiser on Saturday, April 18, in uptown Mt. Lebanon. Local Mt. Lebanon restaurants will be offering special appetizers for participants to enjoy. Tickets can be purchased through the MLFE website.

Hoover Elementary will be holding a 50th reunion celebration on Saturday, May 9. Hoover alumni, current and former teachers, administrators and community members are all invited to attend this event.

The board president visited Washington Elementary in March as part of his Mt. Lebanon schools visits. He met students, some of the teachers and the principal, Mary Kay Davis, for a wonderful tour. The highlight of his visit was the District’s elementary life skills and autism support

classrooms. The program was developed over many years, but for the last two years has been fortunate to participate in the Autism Initiative through PaTTAN, and Mrs. Davis received a \$10,000 grant to expand the Sensory room at Washington. Many of the students who participate in these exceptional classrooms have sensory needs that require interventions to assist in the success of their education.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer presented a certificate of achievement to Mellon Middle School 8th grade student, Vladyslav Makarenko, as the winner of the 4th Annual Luminari Award. Vladyslav will receive a \$1,200 scholarship to attend the summer camp: *I Want to be an Ambassador!* The award also includes a \$500 educational grant for Mellon Middle School. Vladyslav is from the Ukraine and was the first English Language Learner to win the Luminari Award. Vlad had to submit an essay in which he wrote about how the unrest in the Ukraine was impacting on his family. Vlad was nominated by his ESL teacher, Ms. Charlene Boyd.

Mt. Lebanon School District was named an outstanding Digital School District by the Center for Digital Education and the National School Boards Association. The designation recognizes exemplary school boards’ and districts’ use of technology to govern their district, communicate with students, parents and community and improve the learning environment and district operations. This is the second year in a row that the District has been awarded the designation of Digital School District.

The superintendent reported on two staff awards. Janice Cherry, Jefferson Middle School Student Council Advisor and Strive teacher, was selected as Middle School Advisor of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. This weekend, Mt. Lebanon High School Girls’ Basketball Coach Dori Oldaker was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame’s Western Chapter. Since she joined the District in 2003 her teams have compiled a 239-30 record including three PIAA Championships and three WPIAL Championships. Dr. Steinhauer congratulated both staff members for their outstanding achievements.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania announced the winners of its inaugural high school student video contest “Get in the Game (Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport),” geared toward encouraging citizen participation in the democratic process. Alexis Galvis, a Mt. Lebanon senior, received \$1,000 for her video “Vote? Vote.” The video will be posted on the District’s website.

Dr. Steinhauer reported that he had the very gratifying experience of watching our high school orchestra, band and chorus perform on the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City. He couldn’t have been more proud of the performance of the Mt. Lebanon students and directors. Watching the students perform on stage at Carnegie Hall made him realize how special a place Mt. Lebanon is—a place where the community supports a comprehensive and quality education, where faculty, staff, and administrators commit to improving the life of every student, every day and a place where a school board courageously leads.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Committee met on April 2 to discuss revisions to Policy IH, Home Education, and the adoption of Policy IJOC, School Volunteers. Both policies are on the agenda this evening for action by the Board.

High School Renovation – Mrs. Cappucci reported on how everyone is learning to use the new spaces in new and different ways, such as the “meet the candidates” on the skywalk. Mr. Remely

reported that new and renovated are now spaces in the building are fully occupied. The front sidewalk between the South parking lot and A-2 in complete, the contractor is constructing a retaining wall in the south courtyard, painting outside the library is complete, and the abatement contractor has closed off buildings A and C and has begun constructing the isolation containments. Mr. Remely noted that Allegheny County is the most regulated county in the state when it comes to asbestos abatement and he has no fear for the safety of our students. Also, the contractor is working to grade the driveway from Cochran Road to the South lot. Mrs. Cappucci added that Mr. McFeeley is doing a great job of informing parents of the changes for drop offs and parking.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Kubit reported on the March Pathfinder meeting. New principal Nick Fredo’s first week was the week of the Board meeting and he was doing a fantastic job in his first week. Mr. Fredo will be including the Pathfinder Board members in the monthly newsletters to keep them up to date with the activities at Pathfinder. Two fundraisers are being held to support the activities at the school. The first is a TGIF event on April 23 where 20% of a check goes toward Pathfinder programs, and someone has graciously donated their beach house for two weeks. Raffle tickets are being sold for the event. Finally, Richard Rose has put together a proposed budget for Pathfinder that the Board will vote on at their next meeting.

NSBA/PSBA – Mrs. Birks met on April 6 with Congressman Tim Murphy and thanked him for his support of HR 5. They discussed the misinformation that has followed HR 5, Student Success Act. The bill does not include anything regarding Common Core; it does, however, use Congressman Murphy’s language regarding any state testing being reliable and valid and requiring states to report on those tests. She asked about any changes to funding distribution, and his staff will be looking into that for her.

We also discussed his Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. Congressman Murphy has been working tirelessly on this bill which would address some major issues for some of the most vulnerable citizens and their families.

The National School Boards Association signed on to a coalition letter supporting an increased federal investment in special education grants to states.

PSBA Region 14 will be hosting a legislative forum at the AIU this week for School Board Directors, Superintendents, School Administrators, Union Reps, Teachers and PTA/PTO Officers. This meeting has traditionally been well-attended and been an opportunity for lively debate.

Mrs. Birks met with Senator Matt Smith on April 9. She thanked him for his continued service to our community and we discussed the budget process going on now in Harrisburg. There is bi-partisan support for the education component of the budget, and pre-K is a priority. He suggested we talk again in mid-May, which would give us a better snapshot of where we are going.

Representative Miller keeps us informed each week on information from Harrisburg and we thank him for his continued work on our behalf, especially his efforts to get us our PlanCon reimbursement.

Revenue Generation – Mr. Lebowitz reported that the Campaign Committee met on April 8 to discuss committee activities and dates for upcoming awareness events and tours of the high school. All five committees, Faculty/Staff, Awareness, Parents, Pacesetter and Alumni co-chairs, are actively engaged in creating activities gearing up for the overall efforts to raise awareness for the Capital Campaign.

MLFE – Mr. Ostergaard reminded the Board again of the Taste of Lebo event this weekend. He is looking for as many people as possible to attend this fun endeavor. The MLFE is offering a spring grant opportunities to teachers. Grants will be accepted through April. The MLFE Board is also looking to elect new officers.

Economic Development – Mr. Moorhead reported that there was a meeting on March 27. The only item pertaining to the District was construction work on Beverly Road. The Municipality will make sure it will impact Lincoln school students as little as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves, ratifies, and accepts the following financial reports: (Copy in official minutes)

- a. Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2015,
- b. List of Bills dated March 31, 2015, and April 8, 2015,
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2015, and
- d. List of Unusable Equipment dated April 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard, Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Birks that the Board approves Maher Duessel, CPAs as the fiscal auditors for the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 years at their quoted prices of \$23,550 in year one, \$24,150 in year two and \$24,750 in year three. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Moorhead, Ostergaard, Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: Kubit
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Kubit that the Board approves the Proposed Final Budget in the form presented in the amount of \$91,643,749 at a millage rate of 23.57 mills, a .42 mill increase. The Board approves making this Budget available for public view until the meeting on May 18, 2015 when a Final Budget will be approved with any changes the Board deems necessary. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard, Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the April 7, 2015, list of personnel changes as revised April 13, 2015. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard, Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Birks that the Board approves revisions to Policy IH, Home Education, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved Kubit and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the adoption of Policy IJOC, School Volunteers, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Kubit and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the response to the State Audit for the years ending June 30, 2007 through June 30, 2010 in the form presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the AIU Program of Services Budget for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$4,005,898 with an estimated cost to the District of \$81,668.25 for the administrative services and \$9,102 for media services. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Birks and seconded by Remely that the Board approves the District's 2015-2018 Special Education Plan submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Birks that the Board approves an agreement with Keystone Oaks Project Succeed Program at a cost of \$15,000 per year for no more than 15 students. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Cappucci that the Board approves the amendment with Aramark reducing the total cost of the contract for 2014-15 from \$326,195.26 to \$259,346.51 reflecting the reduction of one manager substantially in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was move d by Cappucci and seconded by Birks that the Board approves the following list of change orders for the High School Renovation Project:

- a. GC-113-275 to Nello for \$14,742 for a courtyard wall,
- b. EL-79-276 to Farfield for \$19,864 for wiring, lights, elevator changes, gas shut off and smoke dampers,
- c. PL-36-277 to Vrael for \$12,750 for sump pumps, drains and sewer lines,
- d. EL-80-278 to Farfield for \$4,184 for cabling, and
- e. EL-81-279 to Farfield for \$7,067 for power to fume hoods.

ROLL CALL: For: Birks, Cappucci, Cooper, Kubit, Moorhead, Ostergaard,
Remely, Riemer, Lebowitz
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lebowitz reported that an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting for the purpose of negotiation matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Remely and seconded by Kubit to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors