

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

April 18, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:33 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, in Room D205, Mt. Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Birks called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln Elementary kindergarten/5th grade student buddies Lila Thomas, Andie Hall, Scarlett Pryor, Casey Gorman, Sutter Smith, Michael Ferreira, and Julia Descalzi.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mr. William Cooper, Mr. Lawrence Lebowitz, Mr. William Moorhead, Ms. Sara Olbrich, Mr. Daniel Remely, Mr. Michael Riemer, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mrs. Mary Birks
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, School Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Mrs. Sloane Astorino, Ms. Cissy Bowman, Mr. Kenneth Cross, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Kathryn Devine, Ms. Janice Klein, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Mr. Christopher Stengel, Dr. Michelle Murray, Mr. Ronald Kitsko, Mr. Jason Ramsey

MINUTES

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves the minutes of the Discussion Meeting held on March 13, 2017, and the Regular Meeting held on March 20, 2017.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Mellon Middle School Student Council members, Miguel Bracco and Trey Reichenfeld, presented a report on the events at Mellon. In February, Student Council voted on commissioners for committee chairs for the Spirit, Service, Social, and Spread the Word committees. Each student was voted into the committees based on each person's personal strengths and positive qualities.

At the beginning of March the First Friday event was Tie Dye Friday, a day to sport your old tie dye shirt made at camp or had lying around in the closet. Students listened to easy listening music to get everyone excited for spring. This motivated Mellon for the week of St. Patrick's Day. Student Council held a Shamrock Hunt in the schools. The halls were dotted with shamrocks with students' names and the task was to find individual shamrocks. Lebo spirits were inserted in some lockers and a few lucky Mellon students were awarded special prizes.

Student Council held the Pennies for Patients fundraiser to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Western PA. Students raised \$7,482.11, well above their goal of \$5,000.

During PSSAs, Student Council hosted a series of FUN Days to pump up some spirit. On Tuesdays, we have held our Blue and Gold Day, where you show your Lebo Pride and sport your

Lebo Gear. Earlier in the month we had Pump It “Up” Day, Batter “Up” Day, and Mix It “Up” Day, Wake “Up” Day and Surf’s “Up” Day.

Mt. Lebanon High School Student Council member Mattie Schmidt, reported on the activities at the high school. The third and final Central Blood Bank blood drive for the school year was held on April 7. One hundred and sixty-six (166) people participated in the blood drives during the school year. Student Council thanks the students, teachers, staff members, and members of the community who have consistently supported this cause.

Student Council officer elections will be held on April 21. A “meet the candidates day” was held in Center Court where all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students were invited to talk with candidates during each of the lunch periods. The 13 candidates were then filmed delivering their campaign speeches which were shown in Social Studies classes during Campaign Week.

The high school strongly supported the Sack Hunger, Pack Hope campaign to stock the shelves of SHIM’s three food pantries. The high school was asked to collect personal care items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and shampoo. At the high school, 1, 298 items were collected and donated to the South Hills Interfaith Movement.

The cast and crew members, in the upcoming school musical, are hard at work learning their lines and the songs for “The Pajama Game.” Performances will be held May 3-6 in the high school auditorium. Tickets can be purchased on the District’s website.

As of tonight, there are only 36 school days left for the student body. The seniors are looking forward to packing in a lot of good memories during these last weeks of school. The events we will be attending include the musical, cheering on our athletic teams, the Senior Reception, Awards Night, the Prom, Senior Picnic in the Park, and of course, Commencement.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Birks announced that Mrs. Cindy Murray, a classroom aide at Foster Elementary School, is this month’s Extra Mile Award recipient. Mrs. Murray was nominated by Foster principal, Jason Ramsey. In his nomination, Mr. Ramsey stated that Mrs. Murray is a true hero to our students and staff. She has been with the District and Foster for over 13 years and has worked in almost every classroom. She is a very humble person who quietly goes above and beyond her duties every day. Cindy is a model for all staff and students as she is dedicated, hard-working and always willing to lend a hand. Mrs. Murray lives the Foster motto, “We are Kind, Courteous and Respectful,” every day. Mrs. Birks presented a certificate and an Extra Mile Award pin in recognition of this honor.

The board president announced that head football coach and high school social studies teacher, Mike Melnyk, was awarded the US Marine Corps Semper Fi Coach Award. The award recognizes a high school coach who exemplifies the Marine Corps motto “Semper Fidelis-Always Faithful,” and who models the Marine Corps leadership values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. On behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Birks congratulated Mr. Melynck for this outstanding accomplishment.

This year was especially successful season for our girls’ swim team. Mrs. Birks presented certificates of achievement to the following team members: In the 100 fly, Trinity Ward won both the WPIAL and PIAA championships. In the 400 free relay, the WPIAL champions are Kathryn Nicholson, Sopia Donati, Emma Graham and Trinity Ward. In the 200 medley relay, the WPIAL champions are Trinity Ward, Maddie Dorish, Sophia Donati, and Emma Graham. This team coach is Tom Donati.

Mrs. Birks congratulated the members of the High School Forensics team on their outstanding performance at the State tournament this year. Seniors Julie Raiff and Varshan Venugopal finished 3rd and 5th in the State in the Persuasive Speaking event. Their coach is Betsy Teti.

The High School Art Show will be held on April 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the high school C20 entrance lobby. A unique gallery crawl is planned to showcase student art throughout the building. The Art Show has a long standing tradition of excellence that showcases the most significant pieces of art created by the Advanced Placement Studio Art students.

The 3rd Annual MLFE Taste of Lebo: Battle of the Appetizers is set for Saturday, April 22 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in Clearview Commons. Student musical groups will perform throughout the afternoon and attendees can spend the afternoon sampling the best of Uptown restaurants while supporting the Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steinhauer reported that the Mt. Lebanon High School's Model UN team finished the season with an outstanding performance at Ohio State University's Model UN Tournament on April 2nd. The team won the "Outstanding Delegation" team award and nine students won individual awards. Seniors Ajay Wadhvani and Alex Thorpe, junior Max King and freshman Antonio Carapella won 1st Place in their individual committees. Seniors Isaac Kalapos, Eion Wilson-Manion and Jacob Dale claimed 2nd Place in their committees, and seniors Neil Mingh and Ben Ohrman were recognized as 3rd Place in committee.

The Mt. Lebanon Model UN team's victory capped off a great year of competition that featured victories at tournaments held at Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Delaware and now Ohio State. Simulations were held covering current and historical topics that included the Suez Canal Crisis of 1956, the US Civil War and the Iranian Crisis of 1953.

The team's coaches are Adam Lumish, Peter DiNardo and George Savarese. They are extremely proud of their students for all of their diligence and determination as well as their passion for excellence. Congratulations to all on another successful season. We have representatives of the team with us tonight so please come forward when I call your name to receive a certificate of achievement: Ben Akhtar, Grace Brown, Antonio Carapella, Jake Dale, Elizabeth DePastino, Ezra Gershanok, Max Huber, Isaac Kalapos, Max King, Neil Ming, Aya Obeid, Ben Ohrman, Alex Thorpe, Ajay Wadhvani, and Eoin Wilson-Manion.

The Mt. Lebanon School District was recently honored with the 2017 Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. This is the ninth consecutive year the District has been recognized for our K-12 music education program as one of the best in the nation.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in providing music access and education to all students. The awards program recognizes exceptional efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who support music education as an important part of the school curriculum. Representing our music teachers from elementary and secondary this evening are Carol Froelich, Doug Reichenfeld, and Ethan LaPlaca. Congratulations to the Mt. Lebanon School District music staff.

BOARD REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mr. Moorhead reported that the Committee met on April 3 to review policies ICA, School Calendar; BEA, Regular Board Meetings; BEB, Special Board Meetings; BEDA,

Notification of Board Meetings. Revisions to Policies ICA, BEA and BEDA are recommended for approval at this evening's meeting.

Board Development – Dr. Strotmeyer reported that he is working with PSBA for a workshop for the Board.

Facilities – Mr. Riemer reported that the North parking lot is now open for Central Administration staff and visitors. The landscape contractor continues to install trees and topsoil in designated areas. The Brick paving contractor is continuing to install the pavers in the sidewalk along Horsman Drive and at the bottom of the steps at door C-25. The asphalt contractor intends to return the 3rd week of April weather depending to begin the tennis courts.

Parkway West Career and Technical Center – Mr. Remely reported that six Mt. Lebanon students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. A summer work camp will be held for 6th, 7th & 8th graders to learn about different career opportunities through hands on experiences.

Pathfinder School – Mr. Cooper reported that the next Pathfinder board meeting will be held on April 19, and reminded the Board of the annual Pathfinder Fair on April 29 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Beal reported on activities in the State legislature. Efforts to approve a 2017-18 state budget are underway as the House of Representatives passed a new spending plan crafted by Republican leadership. House Bill 218 was approved with a vote of 114 -84. While it is not the final budget, it sets the stage for debate with Republicans and Democrats in House and Senate chambers, and negotiation with the administration. PSBA issued a legislative alert regarding HB 97, Charter School reforms that was rushed through the House Education Committee and debated on the House floor.

Revenue Generation/MLFE – Mr. Lebowitz reminded everyone of the Taste of Lebo event on Saturday, April 29.

Relay for Life Presentation - Mt. Lebanon High School teacher, Heather Pessy, and two high school students presented an update on the 2017 Relay for Life to be held on June 9-10, 2017 at the Mt. Lebanon High School stadium.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

One resident spoke before the Board about the following:

Bond Refinancing

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Lebowitz 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, 2017,
- b. List of Bills dated March 31, 2017, and April 11, 2017; and
- c. List of Tax Refunds dated March 31, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks

Against: None

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by the Board authorizes the issuance of its \$57,955,000 principal amount General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2017 to refinance in full its General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2009 and awards the Bonds to Bank of America Merrill Lynch at a purchase price of \$57,832,795.16, plus net original issue premium of \$6,662,793.05, providing net present value savings to the District of \$7,381,302.56, as per the attached formal Resolution. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$96,566,075 with a millage rate of 23.93 mills, a zero mill increase in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the March 30, 2017, list of personnel changes as revised April 12, 2017. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Riemer that the Board approves revisions to Policy ICA, School Calendar, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Moorhead and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves revisions to Policy BEA, Regular Board Meeting, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves revisions to Policy BEDA, Notification of Board Meetings, in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves an agreement with Keystone Oaks Project Succeed Program at a cost of \$17,000 per year for no more than 15 students. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the 2017-2018 South Central Area Special Schools Jointure Budget of \$123,540 with no cost to the District. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Remely and seconded by Lebowitz that the Board approves the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for special education services for the 2017-2018 school year in the form presented. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Riemer and seconded by Cooper that the Board approves the Girls' Lacrosse team trip to Annandale VA, March 24-25, 2017.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student A in the form presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Beal and seconded by Olbrich that the Board approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student B in the form presented.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cooper, Lebowitz, Moorhead, Olbrich, Remely,
Riemer, Strotmeyer, Birks
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Two residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Parking lots at the high school
Utilizing parking spaces for students next school year
Capital Projects fund balance
Questioned whose idea it was to refinance the bonds; had his doubts in the beginning
Appreciates the work of the staff with children who have IEPs
Consider students in future budgets; do not cut important programs

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Birks announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting for the purpose of personnel matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Lebowitz and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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