

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

- (1) The Board of School Directors of the Lebanon School District met as a committee-of-the-whole on Monday, January 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the board conference room of the senior high school as advertised in the Daily News on December 5, 2012.
- (2) President Anne Dall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- (3) On roll call, the following board members were present: Mrs. Debra L. Bowman, Dr. Anne V. Dall, Ms. Vanessa A. Fischer, Mrs. Rose Marie R. Kotay, Mr. Michael J. Kuhn, Mr. Peter N. Pyles, Jr., Mr. Thomas L. Schaffer, Mr. Paul Topping and Mr. Cornell Wilson. Also present were Dr. Marianne T. Bartley, superintendent; Mrs. Mary A. Harrell, secretary; Mr. Curt Richards, business manager and treasurer.
- (4) Also present were Mr. Chris Danz, assistant to the superintendent for HR and pupil services; Mr. Mike Murphy assistant to the superintendent for assessment and accountability; Mr. Fred Shattls, director of ESL; Mr. Josh Coatsworth, director of special education; Mr. Mike Reager, Principal, Harding Elementary School; Mr. Neil Young, Principal, Northwest Elementary School; Mr. Craig Coletti, Principal, Southwest Elementary School; Mrs. Mary Garrett-Giovino, Principal, Lebanon Middle School; Mr. Bill Giovino, Principal, Lebanon High School; Mr. Ted Graeff, chief information officer; Mr. Brian Hartman, assistant director of buildings and grounds; Mr. Brad Rhen and Mr. Paul Lundeen; Mr. George Horn, school district resident; and the following media representative: Mr. John Latimer of the Lebanon Daily News and Ms. Laura LeBeau of WLBR.
- (5) January is "School Director Recognition Month." The meeting began by recognizing and thanking the members of our Board of Directors for volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community.
- (6) Each principal presented his or her school's board buddy with at least one book which will be donated to the school library in his or her honor.
- (7) Dr. Bartley read a proclamation in an effort to bring visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth. The proclamation was provided by PSBA.
- (8) President Anne Dall, on behalf of the entire school board, thanked principals and Dr. Bartley for the books donated to the libraries on their behalf.

- (9) Dr. Bartley distributed “building profiles” showcasing all the good things happening in our buildings. The district profile is a “draft”. The state will be coming out with profiles that will show us having low scores. We wanted to put out the positive work being done. Each school worked hard putting together the profiles.
- (10) According to a recent parent involvement survey, 99% of our families are satisfied with our schools. A request of our PTA was to distribute the survey two times each year. We received 1,322 completed surveys back which is about half of our families.
- (11) Mr. Bill Giovino and Mr. Mike Reager recently visited China through the Hanban Program. China paid for the trip. They shared information and pictures. This is the same program that Dr. Bartley and Dr. Heckard were a part of a couple of years ago. Dr. Bartley stated that our Chinese teacher, Miss Y, is a real gem; Hanban pays a good part of her salary.
- (12) In updating the board about Northwest, Dr. Bartley shared that the 2nd ad hoc committee met on January 3 with the following members present:

Dr. Bartley	Attorney Bill Reed	Mayor Sherry Capello
Mr. Robert Hoffman	Mr. Steve Sherk	Mr. Curt Richards
Mr. Brian Hartman	Mr. Neil Young	Mrs. Debra Bowman
Attorney George Christianson		

Dr. Bartley reported that RSR Appraisers inspected Northwest Elementary School on December 18, 2012 and they have appraised the property at \$2.3 million. There are no firm plans to sell the building but it was necessary to learn its value as we decide whether to renovate the building or build a new facility.

Based on student population, the Pennsylvania Department of Education would require a new school occupy about ten to twelve acres, roughly the same area of Southeast and Southwest Elementary Schools. Dr. Bartley shared that no decisions have been made, but we have explored the possibility of purchasing and building a new school on the Aspens property. Mr. Christianson owns this property.

Arsenic was found in the soil when it was recently tested, but the Department of Education determined the land could be used without concern. We would put a layer of topsoil down. Zoning on the Aspen land would need to be changed to accommodate a school.

Building a new school would not necessarily mean selling Northwest. One possibility discussed would be using the building as an alternative-education school modeled on the Polaris school. Polaris educated students whose behavior was disruptive to students in regular classrooms. But, paying for the operation of an alternative school would present challenges.

- (13) In accordance with Policy 903, Public Participation in Board Meetings, Mr. George Horn had applied to speak to the board. Mr. Horn commented on the Northwest Elementary School situation. He shared the following points:
- He feels we need to build a new school.
 - He feels we should have never built a school in Northwest's present location.
 - He feels that doing any renovations to the existing building would be a waste.
 - He feels we owe it to the children to build a new school.
- (14) Mr. Brad Remig and Mr. Paul Lundeen explained the refinancing of a 2007 bond at an average annual interest rate of 1.97 percent. According to Mr. Remig, the bidding was held via the Internet on Monday afternoon. First Tennessee National was the lowest bidder. The \$3.055 million bond will be paid off in 2024, the same as the original bond, which was issued at an average interest rate of about 4.2 percent. The lower interest rate will save the district about \$290,000. The targeted savings had been \$175,000 when the board approved the refinancing in November, and Remig said he anticipated interest rates over 2 percent. So these are fantastic results.
- (15) The preliminary budget was introduced at \$60.1 million for 2013-2014, which includes a nearly 6 percent tax increase. Mr. Richards emphasized that this is a preliminary budget. The big unknown is what amount of funding the district will receive from the state. To be safe, the preliminary budget assumes flat-line funding identical to this year.
- The numbers will begin to take shape when Governor Corbett introduces his budget in February and will become more defined as the legislative budget process continues through the spring.
- Dr. Bartley has scheduled budget workshop meetings for the board on March 4 and April 22, 2013. The meetings will be open to the public and are in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings held those months. Dr. Bartley wishes to spend time talking about the budget process to make sure everyone understands how we are putting the budget together, and if we are facing a scenario where we have to make decisions we will have plenty of time to make those decisions.
- (16) In updating the board about our high school renovations, Dr. Bartley shared that the lighting in the Library fell – no one was hurt. The fixtures were re-checked and re-fastened and the Library will be re-open tomorrow. Mr. Fairchild will be here next Monday night to report on the progress being made.

(17) A draft of the 2013-2014 school calendar is presented tonight. Students will be starting on August 26, 2013.

(18) The Open Records Committee met on December 18, 2012. Members consist of Dr. Bartley, Attorney Reed and Mrs. Harrell. This committee meets once a year to review Right to Know requests received throughout the year.

(19) Mrs. Kotay announced that board members would find in their packet hearing reports for the following recently conducted disciplinary hearings:

- Case 2012/2013 - #16
- Case 2012/2013 - #17
- Case 2012/2013 - #18
- Case 2012/2013 - #19
- Case 2012/2013 - #20
- Case 2012/2013 - #21
- Case 2012/2013 - #22
- Case 2012/2013 - #23
- Case 2012/2013 - #24
- Case 2012/2013 - #25
- Case 2012/2013 - #26
- Case 2012/2013 - #27
- Case 2012/2013 - #28
- Case 2012/2013 - #29
- Case 2012/2013 - #30

(20) Mrs. Kotay, chairperson of the Board Committee on Suspension and Expulsion of Students, stated a recommendation is included from the committee on suspension and expulsion of students on the hearing reports. Committee members present were Tom Schaffer, Peter Pyles, Vanessa Fischer and Deb Bowman. A copy of the hearing reports are included with these minutes.

(21) RESOLUTION #14861 - It was moved by Mrs. Kotay and seconded by Mr. Topping to accept the committee's recommendations as set forth in the hearing reports. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

(22) RESOLUTION #14862 - It was moved by Mr. Schaffer and seconded by Mrs. Kotay to grant approval to adopt a resolution to authorize the issuance, sale and delivery of a series of general obligation bonds, the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2013, for the purpose of refunding the outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2007, such resolution to be in the form presented to the Board at this meeting by bond counsel and the solicitor. The following vote was recorded:

Mrs. Bowman - Yes	Dr. Dall - Yes	Ms. Fischer - Yes
Mrs. Kotay - Yes	Mr. Kuhn - Yes	Mr. Pyles - Yes

Mr. Schaffer – Yes Mr. Topping – Yes Mr. Wilson – Yes

The motion passed.

- (23) Dr. Bartley and the board members discussed the remaining items on the agenda, but no official action was taken.
- (24) The president requested that board members remain for an executive session to discuss personnel matters, a litigation matter and information sharing following the meeting.
- (25) With no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Topping and seconded by Mrs. Kotay that the meeting adjourn. All members voiced consent and President Dall declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Harrell
Secretary of the Board