

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

- (1) The Board of School Directors of the Lebanon School District met in regular session on Monday, March 12, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the board conference room of the senior high school as advertised in the Daily News on December 15, 2011.
- (2) President Thomas L. Schaffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- (3) On roll call by the secretary, the following board members were present: Mrs. Debra L. Bowman, Dr. Anne V. Dall, Mrs. Rose Marie R. Kotay, Mr. Michael J. Kuhn, Mr. Richard Mase, Sr., Mr. Thomas L. Schaffer, Mr. John P. Shott and Mr. Cornell Wilson. Corbett Blouch has resigned from the Lebanon School District Board of School Directors effective February 20, 2012, because of personal obligations and work schedule. Also present were Dr. Marianne T. Bartley, superintendent of schools, Mrs. Mary A. Harrell, secretary; Mr. Curtis O. Richards, business manager and treasurer; and Mr. Harry W. Reed, solicitor.
- (4) Also present were Mr. Tom Jordan, assistant to the superintendent for HR; Mr. Craig Boltz, director of buildings and grounds; Dr. Barbara Heckard, assistant superintendent for assessment and accountability; Mr. Ted Graeff, chief information officer; Mr. Fred Shattls, director of ESOL; Mr. Brian Hartman, assistant director of buildings and grounds; Ms. Terry Johnston, athletic director; Mr. Charles Fairchild, Fairchild Services; Mr. Rick Martzall, Maine Drilling and Blasting; Mr. George Horn and Mr. Charles Hildebrand, community members; Ms. Laura LeBeau, WLBR and Mr. John Latimer of the Lebanon Daily News.
- (5) Mr. Charlie Fairchild, project manager introduced Mr. Rick Martzall, Maine Drilling and Blasting. Mr. Martzall explained the blasting process and used the white board to illustrate how contractors will use explosives to clear a rock formation between the auditorium building and the gymnasium building.

Using a series of underground explosions to crack the stone will make it quicker and cheaper to remove compared to using a jackhammer. The work will be done by Maine Drilling and Blasting and would cost about \$283,000 compared to the \$436,000 cost of mechanically removing the rock. The latter would have added about a month to the construction schedule.

Mr. Boltz explained that because the explosions will be underground, it is not expected to be disruptive but would be a very low-key kind of rumbling.
- (6) The following applicants were interviewed for the current vacancy existing on the Board of School Directors due to the resignation of Corbett Blouch who resigned effective February 20, 2012 because of personal obligations and work schedule.

Mr. Douglas J. Bartal	928 East Lehman Street
Mr. Wayne D. Carey	53 E. Cumberland Street
Ms. Vanessa Fischer	511 Cumberland Street

Mrs. Willa Freer	201 Hathaway Park
Mrs. Abigail Jarboe	416 Maple Street
Mr. Carl J. Jarboe	416 Maple Street
Mr. Michael R. Petry, CPA	1020 Colebrook Road
Ms. Eveira Prados, M.Ed	2311 Church Street
Mr. Paul Topping	309 S. 3 rd Avenue
Mr. John Zatorski	371 Oaklyn Road

- (7) President Schaffer announced that interviews of applicants to fill the current board vacancy would be conducted this evening. Mr. Schaffer thanked the applicants for coming out and showing interest in the vacancy on the board. He went on to say that according to the School Laws of Pennsylvania, the vacancy must be filled within thirty days of the resignation of the former board member. The new board member will be appointed at the board's business meeting planned for Monday evening, March 19, 2012, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Corbett Blouch, and will serve until the first Monday of December, 2013. The new board member cannot serve past the next municipal election in November 2013.
- (8) President Schaffer explained that applicants would be given an opportunity to introduce themselves and then a set of questions will be directed to all applicants. At the end of the questions, individual board members will be able to ask follow-up or additional questions. If additional questions are asked, each applicant must be given an opportunity to respond. The board secretary will be taking the minutes of the meeting, but will not be recording each applicant's answer to the questions presented.
- (9) Each applicant gave a one-minute introduction.
- (10) President Schaffer asked the first question: Why do you want to be a member of the Board of School Directors? Each applicant answered the question.
- (11) President Schaffer asked the second question: What do you believe are the major challenges to be faced by our public schools over the next five years? Each applicant answered the question.
- (12) President Schaffer asked the third question: What do you think are the primary responsibilities of a school board member? Each applicant answered the question.
- (13) President Schaffer asked the fourth question: What are the greatest personal strengths and/or skills you would bring to the Board? Each applicant answered the question.
- (14) President Schaffer asked the fifth question: If you were faced with a tough issue as a board member, such as raising taxes or cutting programs, what kind of data would you need to help you make your decision? Each applicant answered the question.
- (15) President Schaffer asked if any other board members had questions for the applicants. He thanked the candidates for coming forward and stated all are good candidates, but only one can be chosen to be the new board member.

- (16) Mrs. Kotay asked about the candidates' long-term commitment and time commitment to the board. All said they were willing.
- (17) Each applicant was given an opportunity to make a closing statement.
- (18) President Schaffer, on behalf of the entire Board, expressed thanks to the applicants and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting.
- (19) The meeting recessed at 8:46 p.m. and reconvened at 8:51 p.m.
- (20) President Schaffer stated that in accordance with Revised Policy 903, Public Participation in Meetings, the following resident applied to speak to the board:
- Mrs. Abigail Jarboe, 416 Maple Street. Mrs. Jarboe stated the following about *Beauty and the Beast*:
- She feels there were some inappropriate things in the musical.
 - She feels girls should be appropriately dressed.
- (21) Mrs. Kotay announced that board members would find in their packet hearing reports for the following recently conducted disciplinary hearings:
- Case 2011/2012 - #33
 - Case 2011/2012 - #34
 - Case 2011/2012 - #36
 - Case 2011/2012 - #38
 - Case 2011/2012 - #39
 - Case 2011/2012 - #40
 - Case 2011/2012 - #43
- (22) 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 each hearing report. A copy of the hearing reports are included with these minutes.
- (23) RESOLUTION #14648 – It was moved by Mrs. Kotay and seconded by Mr. Kuhn to accept the committee's recommendations as set forth in the hearing reports. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- (24) In updating the board about the budget, Dr. Bartley shared that the governor's proposed budget does not include the Accountability Block Grant money. For us this means a loss of more than \$400,000.
- (25) Dr. Bartley, Rose Marie Kotay, Deb Bowman, Richard Mase and Cornell Wilson attended the IU13 Legislative Breakfast this morning. Mrs. Kotay stated that the things seemed a little more optimistic this morning; state revenues are up. Mr. Mase said that

the June revenues are important. There is still a possibility that the governor would restore the ABG much like what happened last year.

- (26) Dr. Bartley shared that we would likely be reducing a high school administration position. We have our German teacher retiring and we know that heritage is great, however, her retirement would allow us not to furlough; we would just not fill the position.
- (27) Dr. Bartley has been selected as a recipient of the Lucile Cornetet Professional Development Award. The amount of the award is \$1800. Dr. Bartley applied for this professional development award to participate in the National Superintendent's Roundtable study mission to Europe. This is a unique opportunity for superintendents from across the United States to visit schools and have discussions with educational officials from Finland, France and England. This grant was provided through Delta Kappa Gamma of which Dr. Bartley is a member.
- (28) Dr. Bartley reported that the Communities That Care Initiatives Board approved a \$2,500 grant to fund our restorative justice training in May.
- (29) Dr. Bartley shared that next year we will be offering the Hybrid Learning Initiative to selected freshmen and sophomores to personalize the learning of their core subjects. By better integrating digital resources into the classroom, we feel we can achieve our goal to unleash student learning potential and provide access to a world-class 21st century education.

Students in the hybrid-learning environment will come to school every day and learn in a normal classroom environment. Students who take part in this pilot should be prepared to work well both in teams, and by themselves. They will be completing more assignments online than they have in the past while having a much more rigorous and personalized interaction with their teachers. Students who are part of the original pilot will still be taking all required courses for graduation, and, their curriculum will align with state standards and college-preparatory assessments.

Informational parent meetings were held last Monday at the middle school and Willow Street Academy. Interested students will need to fill out applications to be part of this pilot.

- (30) Recently the Board received a bid of \$279,000 to construct a road, parking lot and walking path that will connect to the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail. About \$102,000 of the money is coming through a grant from the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with the Cedar Foundation contributing the remaining money. The level of funding is not enough to pave the parking area. It will need to be covered with stones unless the board decides to use some of the capital project funding. Building curbing and paving the parking lot with a base coat would add \$45,000 to the project and adding a more permanent and protective layer of paving would cost an additional \$49,000. Additional money needed would be \$70,000.

- (31) In discussing the Vanguard modular classrooms at the middle school, it makes more sense to purchase them instead of leasing them. Purchasing them could get us through the next five years.
- (32) Mrs. Terri Johnston explained that we tweaked the Interscholastic Athletic Policy. The changes we made will benefit our students and put us in line with being similar to our neighboring schools. We would be a little more strict than the PIAA eligibility guidelines. We will bring the Co-Curricular Policy to the board next month.
- (33) A reminder that the Volunteer Breakfast is on Saturday, April 14 at 8 AM in the High School Cafeteria. All volunteers are encouraged to attend.
- (34) The Save our Steinway project is underway. The music department has received \$812 so far. We need to look at ways to keep this project alive. The Cedar Foundation is going to explore ways to keep the momentum going.
- (35) Dr. Bartley expressed thanks to the cast of *Beauty and the Beast*. The show was wonderful.
- (36) Mr. Richards introduced the intern from Lebanon Valley College that has been working in the business office.
- (37) Dr. Bartley and the board members discussed the remaining items on the agenda, but no official action was taken.
- (38) The president requested that board members remain for an executive session to discuss personnel matters following the meeting.
- (39) With no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Shott and seconded by Mrs. Kotay that the meeting adjourn. All members voiced consent and President Schaffer declared the meeting adjourned at 9:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Harrell
Secretary of the Board