

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

- (1) The Board of School Directors of the Lebanon School District met in a budget work session on Monday, April 22, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the board conference room of the senior high school as advertised in the Daily News on March 14, 2013.
- (2) President Anne Dall 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, Ms. Vanessa 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 of schools, Mrs. Mary A. Harrell, secretary; and Mr. Curtis O. 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. Ted Graeff, chief information officer; Mr. Craig Boltz, director of buildings and grounds; Mr. Josh Coatsworth, director of special education; Mr. George Horn, community member; and the following media representative: Mr. John Latimer of the Lebanon Daily News.
- (5) Dr. Bartley shared with the board a portion of the Chapter 4 Mandates from the Pennsylvania School Code (Title 22). Portions of the mandates that pertain to tonight's discussion are included with these minutes.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of cutting teacher aide positions because the Title I federal funding that pays their salaries is being cut as part of the automatic federal funding cuts resulting from Congress' inability to come to a budget compromise.

Mr. Richards stated that sequestration was not on his radar when he prepared the "worst-case scenario" preliminary budget for the district. The preliminary budget factored in rising fixed costs but kept state and federal funding flat.

Last month the district was preparing a \$58.5 million budget requiring a nearly 5 percent tax increase of 6.1 mills, the maximum permitted. But even 6.1 mills will not cover the shortfall created by sequestration, so the district is left with the uncomfortable choice of having to cut positions. Dr. Bartley shared that it was the same situation in which the district found itself in 2011, when 22 positions were eliminated.

Other possible cost-saving options include cutting extracurricular programs in art, music and sports. Dr. Bartley said that she feels it would hurt the district in the long run by removing the support system provided by

coaches and other mentors. Dr. Bartley does not recommend getting rid of our sports programs. We know our students who are involved in extra-curricular activities and sports benefit tremendously and it also helps them academically.

Dual enrollment, which allows high-school students to earn college credits, costs the district \$30,000, and is also not required but having those programs keeps us competitive.

We are trying to get money through the Cedar Foundation. Each year we submit letters to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting approval for various programs. Businesses can donate to the approved programs and receive a substantial tax break. We currently have six approved programs that help our students.

- (31) With no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Schaffer and seconded by Mrs. Kotay that the meeting adjourn. All members voiced consent and President Dall declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Harrell
Secretary of the Board