

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

- (1) The Board of School Directors of the Lebanon School District met as a committee-of-the-whole on Monday, September 9, 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. The meeting began in the high school auditorium as numerous students, parents and staff members were present. Students and staff members having perfect attendance during the 2012-2013 school year were being recognized.
- (2) President Anne V. Dall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- (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, Ms. Vanessa Fischer, 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.
- (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 & accountability; Mr. Brian Hartman, director of buildings and grounds; Mr. Ted Graeff, chief information officer; Mr. Fred Shattls, director of ESOL; Mr. Adam Steckbeck, head custodian; Mr. George Horn, Mr. Colin Mentzer, and Mrs. Julie Mentzer, district residents; Mr. John Latimer of the Lebanon Daily News and Ms. Laura LeBeau of WLBR.
- (5) Dr. Bartley welcomed the students, parents, and friends present to acknowledge perfect attendance. Dr. Bartley began by recognizing staff members for achieving perfect attendance during the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Mike Reager recognized students from Harding having perfect attendance; Mr. Pedro Cruz recognized students from the Lebanon Middle School; Mr. Mike Habecker recognized students at Southeast; Mr. Greg Danz, Northwest; Mr. Coletti recognized students from Southwest; Mrs. Dawn Connelly, Henry Houck; and Mr. Bill Giovino recognized Lebanon High School students. Staff members and students received perfect attendance certificates and pins, and students also received a district event pass. A total of 179 elementary, middle school, and high school students and 72 staff members received awards. President Dall extended congratulations to all the students and staff members for their perfect attendance during the 2012-2013 school year.
- (6) The meeting recessed at 7:23 p.m. for the guests present to enjoy refreshments in the atrium area.
- (7) The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m. in the boardroom.

- (8) Dr. Bartley shared that she felt the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year went extremely well. She said she had the opportunity to visit each building on the first day. In sharing enrollment data, it was noted that we currently have three hundred nineteen K4 children enrolled; three hundred eighty four K5; and four hundred four 1st Graders. The high elementary numbers added to middle school and high school gives us a current total enrollment of 4,890.
- (9) Next, Dr. Bartley shared a revised 2013-2014 calendar. She stated that we had to revise the calendar because of a technicality. Our K4 Program is funded through Headstart and Pre K Counts and they require our K4 students to be in school 180 days. Our calendar only provided for 173 days. We had to make the adjustment in order to receive the funds.
- (10) Dr. Bartley reminded everyone about the Lebanon High School Open House and Rededication on Sunday, September 22, from 1 to 4 PM. Students will be available to answer questions while visitors are on self-guided tours of the building. We are planning a ribbon cutting.
- (11) Dr. Bartley and the Board continued discussing revisions to the Use of School Facilities Policy #707. Final changes will be brought forth by December or January.

In speaking with some community people, Dr. Bartley feels that the community supports the idea of renting the atrium but suggested a higher rental fee was in order. One of the reasons a higher price was suggested was so we are not in competition with other vendors. Because our atrium is such a unique facility people would not mind paying a higher price to use it.

Discussion continued and the following views were shared:

Deb Bowman stated that she is not in favor of allowing anyone to use alcohol on our campus.

Peter Pyles shared that he is not only against alcohol being served in the atrium but he is not in favor of renting the facility at all. He feels that we are not in the business of renting banquet facilities but we are in the business of education.

Tom Schaffer feels that morally and ethically we should not allow alcohol on our campus. He feels that we have a beautiful facility for our students and he does not want to see it ruined.

Mike Kuhn feels that renting the facility could generate some revenue. He stated that we have a beautiful facility and he would like to showcase it for our community.

Anne Dall feels that we could strengthen our community involvement by allowing our facility to be rented.

Vanessa Fischer shared Mike and Anne's view about renting the facility. However, she feels that there is a standard set in Lebanon County. Even though Lebanon Catholic allows alcohol at some events, they are a private school and that creates a different set of circumstances than a public school.

Cornell Wilson was not sure how he felt about allowing alcohol on the premises. He feels that there is a lot that goes along with having alcohol but he is in favor of renting the facility to outside groups.

Paul Topping is not in favor of allowing alcohol in the building. He feels that we have a showcase facility and that we would have more wear and tear on the building if alcohol were allowed.

Rose Marie Kotay did not share an opinion at this time.

Dr. Bartley told the board she was pleased with the discussion and that it helps her as she moves forward to determine what policy changes she brings to the board.

- (12) Next, Dr. Bartley shared that she is asking permission to apply for the Race to the Top grant. Rose Marie Kotay asked if they are looking for criteria. Dr. Bartley explained that because our enrollment is economically low, we would be an attractive district for this grant. We applied last year but did not receive it. Hopefully we will this year.
- (13) Dr. Bartley shared that the State Performance Profiles will be out around September 30. Each school will have a score. She feels the scores will not be favorable for us.
- (14) We are asking the Board's permission to administer the voluntary Pennsylvania Youth Survey to youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. This survey is used to assess behaviors, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and violence, and is at no cost to the district. Parents have the right to review the survey. Parent passive permission forms will be sent home. This is in conjunction with the Community Health Council for Lebanon County. Last year the Community Health Council helped us by giving us money for our Restorative Practice training.
- (15) Next week we will share information about the Social Norms Survey.
- (16) The Pennsylvania School Boards Association is asking Boards to publicly vote for the PSBA Officers. This vote will take place at next week's meeting. Everyone has received a handout listing all the candidates.

- (17) Dr. Bartley reminded everyone about the Patriot Day Concert on Wednesday, September 11 and the Lebanon Community Concert on Sunday, September 15.
- (18) The president requested that board members remain for an executive session to discuss personnel matters following the meeting.
- (19) With no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Schaffer and seconded by Mr. Topping that the meeting adjourn. All members voiced consent and President Dall declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Harrell
Secretary of the Board