

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

- (1) The Board of School Directors of the Lebanon School District met as a committee-of-the-whole on Monday, October 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 by the secretary, the following board members were present: Mrs. Debra L. Bowman, Dr. Anne V. Dall, Mrs. Rose Marie R. Kotay, Mr. Peter N. Pyles, Jr., Mr. Thomas L. Schaffer, Mr. Paul Topping and Mr. Cornell Wilson. Mr. Michael J. Kuhn arrived at 7:15 p.m. 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 & accountability; Mr. Joshua Coatsworth, director of special education; Mr. Brian Hartman, director of buildings and grounds; Mr. Adam Steckbeck, head custodian; Mr. Ted Graeff, chief information officer; Mr. Fred Shattls, director of ESOL; Mr. George Horn, district resident; and Mrs. Laura LeBeau from WLBR.
- (5) Mrs. Kotay announced that board members would find at their seat, hearing reports for the following recently conducted disciplinary hearings:
 - Case 2013-2014 – 01
 - Case 2013-2014 – 02
 - Case 2013-2014 – 03
 - Case 2013-2014 – 04
 - Case 2013-2014 – 05
 - Case 2013-2014 – 06
- (6) 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. Copies of the hearing reports are included with these minutes.
- (7) RESOLUTION #15048 – It was moved by Mrs. Kotay and seconded by Mr. Schaffer to accept the committee's recommendation as set forth in the hearing reports. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- (8) In updating the board about special education costs, Mr. Josh Coatsworth shared an expense report, which showed four special needs students whose combined costs exceed \$446,000. Students with severe disabilities place the biggest burden on the district. They can arrive at any time, and the district has no choice but to pay their education expenses, which can include placement in facilities specifically designed for students with extreme developmental problems. Josh explained that some expenses, such as for physical therapy, are reimbursed to the district through the state's Medical Access program but the money is often not reimbursed promptly. Special education is a cost area that has not had an increase from the state or federal government in six years -- it has been flat-funded. Our special education costs continue to escalate while government funding remains flat.
- (9) Next, Mr. Richards shared that the district's taxing index for the 2014-15 school year is 3.3 percent, which caps the millage increase at .5956 mills -- bringing the tax rate to 18.65 mills. To go above that millage rate, the district will have to receive an exemption from the state or put it on the ballot for voters to decide.
- (10) Dr. Bartley announced the district's enrollment numbers. As of Oct. 1, 2013, 5,016 students were enrolled in the district. They include 1,207 students at Lebanon High School; 979 at Lebanon Middle School and 2,591 at the five elementary schools. The remaining 223 students are enrolled in alternative academic programs, including 33 who are home schooled and 97 cyber school students. Our economically disadvantaged is at 82%. There is quite a correlation between scores and economically disadvantaged. Dr. Bartley said the enrollment numbers are comparable to last year's enrollment numbers, when 5,036 were enrolled.
- (11) We continue to see great things happening in our classrooms. Our Cyber program is doing well. It is helping us avoid some increases we would otherwise be paying.
- (12) Dr. Bartley shared the following athletic department report:
- The Cross Country Team is enjoying a banner year. Two of our girls placed 10th and 17th respectively in the Lebanon County Meet and have qualified for the District III Meet. Five boys have qualified for the District III Meet and it will be the first time the Cedars will be able to pick up a team score at Districts since 2003.
 - Girls Tennis is having one of its best seasons in recent memory. We will have 4 girls' tennis players performing in the league tournament. There is a possibility one of our girls could for the first time in recent history qualify for the District III Tournament.

- The Boys Soccer Team is having their best year in school history thus far. They have a .500 record at this point in the season for the first time ever at 7-7. We will be sending for first time in school history a District III application for a chance to qualify for the District III Tournament. We have 4 games left and must win our remaining games for a chance to qualify.
- The football team has rebounded very well from last years 0-10 record. They have an opportunity with a few more wins to qualify for the District III Tournament. Mark Pyles was the WGAL TV Player of the Week recently and twice was named the L-L the Player of the Week. Jeremy DeLa Cruz was also recently named L-L Player of the Week.
- The exciting fall athletic season has really caught on with the girl's volleyball team. Since this is their first season playing in the high school gym, we have had record attendance from fans. It is great to see a nice steady increase of students attending the games. They also for the first time ever defeated Lancaster Mennonite earlier in the season.
- The girl's field hockey and girl's soccer teams have handled some tough losses with class. Their intensity out on the field is great. They are representing the spirit of competition with enthusiasm.
- This is the odd year when we have to report our enrollment to the PIAA as of October 1. The October 1 enrollment numbers determines our classification in all of our sports for the next cycle, 2014-2016.
- Finally, our cheerleaders have been working hard to create school spirit. They have represented us with class. They are always enthusiastic and interactive with the fans.

(13) Mr. Mike Murphy reported that the district's Comprehensive Plan is posted on the PDE website. Special Education is included in the plan. The Comprehensive Plan was derived from the Strategic Plan. The plan needs to be approved by the end of November. Mr. Murphy shared that should the rules under Chapter 4 be signed, we may not need to do the plan. However, we will do it anyway but admittedly would be nice to do without the watchful eye of PDE

(14) Dr. Bartley announced that Pennsylvania Department of Education Secretary Carolyn Dumesq is scheduled to visit our high school to see firsthand our hybrid-learning education program. Our blended learning program mixes traditional classroom teaching with supervised online instruction that can be customized for each student. The program was implemented last year with 300 ninth and tenth graders enrolled. This year the program was expanded to include all high school grades. Secretary Dumesq will be visiting classrooms and announcing that early test results of students in blended-learning programs are promising.

(15) Dr. Bartley and the board discussed Graduation Policy #217. In April we brought forth the policy with the following changes for a first reading:

1. Graduation would require student to be successful on the Keystone Exam or other approved alternative assessment, beginning with the Class of 2017.
2. Students in their junior or senior year may participate in an internship for ½ credit. This can be done during any trimester or over the summer.
3. Every student is required to have a transition plan, effective 2018.

High school administration, counselors and staff have been made aware of the revisions and they came back with comments.

Some revisions are because of state requirements and others are board requirements. The career college readiness is really critical.

Mr. Topping asked questions about the graph on page 4, which shows the accumulation of the number of credits. Dr. Bartley said the trimester has chunked the time differently. She is going to ask Mr. Giovino to attend next weeks meeting. Ted commented that we are going from 32 to 30 credits in the new trimester.

Dr. Bartley said that this is not on the agenda for final approval. She asked board members to read it and ask questions before we approve. We want everyone to understand what we are proposing.

Rose Marie asked if we have any concerns about legal liabilities? Dr. Bartley commented on the internship. She gave an example of a student coming in late --- we will respond the way the workforce would. The student would graduate but would not receive an Employment Readiness Certificate. Internships are pass/fail --- not graded. If a student already has a job, he/she could submit for a grade but it must be tailored to what the student's courses are.

(16) Dr. Bartley mentioned the Future Business Leaders of America trip that is on for approval. Students will be going to Penn State on Sunday and Monday, November 10 and 11. They would be missing one day and they would be with their teacher.

(17) Dr. Bartley and Dr. Dall will be at the PSBA Conference on Monday to do a presentation with Beers and Hoffman about renovation.

- (18) Mr. Topping and Dr. Dall will be at the PSBA Conference on Tuesday for the Student Delegate Program.
- (19) Dr. Bartley and the board members discussed the remaining items on the agenda, but no official action was taken.
- (20) President Dall stated that an executive session is needed to discuss personnel matters and a litigation update.
- (21) 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 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Harrell
Secretary of the Board