



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

May 21, 2018, Business Meeting

For a complete agenda, visit the [BoardDocs section](#) of the District website.

PRESENTATIONS

Students from Penn Wynne Elementary School and their teachers gave a presentation about the “Kids With Heart” program at their school, which brings special needs students together with their peers, so that both groups of students become more comfortable interacting and participating with each other. The students work on student-developed projects and engage in adaptive physical education and recreational activities together.

The Board and guests held a moment of silence in memory of the students shot and killed by an armed classmate at Santa Fe High School, along with all of the other children who have been the victims of school shooting incidents this year. Board President Gilbert called on state and federal lawmakers to take action to prevent future incidents and noted that the District’s School Safety Task Force is continuing its work on how to best protect our students.

The Board and Superintendent honored and congratulated the following employees who joined the District’s “25 Year Club,” having worked here for that period of time:

Robert Elias: BCMS chorus teacher
Daniel Fulginiti: Senior plumber
Debra Kauffman: WVMS science teacher
Susan O’Bannon: LMHS biology teacher
Louise Pierce: LMHS art teacher
Alexandra Seherlis: Home/School Visitor and Student Services social worker
Wayne Troop: HVAC maintenance technician
Dolores (Dee) Venafra: Transportation dispatcher

The Board accepted with gratitude the ISC’s mini-grants for a total amount of \$12,800. The money will be used by teachers on items such as LEGO STEM kits, a hose to water plants in a butterfly garden, additional curriculum items to encourage social and emotional well-being, musical instruments and CDs, sensory and relaxation tools, a 3D printer, costumes to support understanding of Shakespeare and more. The full list of grants is available on [Board Docs](#).

Superintendent Copeland gave an update on facilities. The presentation is available on [Board Docs](#). He reviewed the District's challenges with enrollment growth and explained the concept of Neighborhood Stabilization and its associated costs. He reviewed the list of 10 different sites that have been considered for a possible new middle school and/or athletic fields. He explained that while in January Township officials assured the Administration that a Class One Historic designation for the mansion at 1860 Montgomery was on the back burner, that is now under consideration. He also shared a comparison between what the District would be able to provide on the 1860 site and the new middle school that Radnor School District has recently built, explaining that he would like to see a school built for the future, not the past. Finally, he explained that if the mansion at 1860 was not given a Class One designation and if the Township would allow the District to use some field space at Ashbridge park for athletics, the District would have some flexibility and possibly not have to consider other properties.

The superintendent's presentation was followed by public comment from 48 speakers, including four students. One student expressed support for the work of the School Board. Two students spoke in favor of a later start time for high school students. One student asked that more students be allowed to speak at the high school graduation ceremonies. Most of the speakers -- including representatives of the Natural Lands Trust, the Haas Family and the Lower Merion Conservancy -- shared their opposition to the District's proposal to condemn part or all of the Stoneleigh Estate, citing the importance of gardens, open space, native plants, the landscape architecture, age of the trees and pollinating insects. Others were concerned about the costs of a new middle school, traffic congestion in the area and the fact that some families rent apartments in the District just so their children can attend LMSD schools. (The superintendent pointed out that the District educates all children who live in the District, regardless of whether they live in owned, single-family homes or in rented apartments in multi-family developments). Additional speakers urged the Board to get more data and have more experts on real estate and architecture weigh in on the question of a new middle school.

As the hour was getting late, the Board President moved to a consent agenda for the remainder of the items. The following items were approved by consent:

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2017-2018 school year.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. The Board approved the following overnight trips for Lower Merion High School Students to the Science Olympiad, a Boys Tennis tournament and an Ultimate Frisbee tournament.
2. The Board approved the purchase of new textbooks for Elementary Math, College Prep Physics, Honors Physics, AP Physics 1, AP Physics C, College Prep Statistics, Ancient Civilizations, AP American Governemnt and AP Human Geography.

3. The Board approved software renewals for Questar, ProQuest, BrainPop, Learning without Tears and Atomic Learning.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services, independent contracts and the Special Education Service Cost Plan for the 2018-2019 school year. The District intends to use Section 611 IDEA funds to pay for the cost of the 2018-2019 MCIU Cost Plan.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the April 2018 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted with gratitude the donation of sewing machines and material valued at \$1600 from The Quadrangle and an Eastern Redbud tree from Girl Scout Troop 7567 valued at \$260 to be planted at Merion Elementary School.

The Board approved the Board secretary's salary for 2018-2019 and appointed Victor J. Orlando as Assistant Secretary of the Board, if the Board Secretary is absent or disabled.

The Board elected Christopher Stoffere as Treasurer for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and approved a bond amount for the Treasurer.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

- Contract awarded for trash disposal and recycling
- Contract awarded for two pianos
- Contract awarded for a front-mount mower and snow-blower attachment
- Contract awarded to prep and re-coat gym floors District-wide
- Contract awarded for IT offices
- Contract awarded to reconstruct the masonry parapet at Bala Cynwyd Middle School
- Contract awarded to replace boilers at Belmont Hills, Cynwyd and Merion elementaries.
- Parking License agreement approved with Presentation BVM Church
- Addendum approved to add 20 hours to the contract of Independent Consultant
- WORKNET Drug and Alcohol Services agreement approved
- BusBoss software agreement approved
- Quote approved for professional services from ImageTech Systems, Inc.
- Change Order approved for campus signage at Harriton High School

OLD BUSINESS

There were second readings of the policies on gifts, staff access to networked information and the fund balance.

NEW BUSINESS

There were first readings of the policies on outside employment/employee business interests, English language development program, instrumental music and board meetings.

The Board approved the Board meeting dates from September through December, 2018.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings:

Monday June 11 – Regular Business Board Meeting

Committee Meetings:

Wednesday, May 23 – Communications Committee 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 7 – Facilities/Purchasing 8:30 a.m.

Friday, June 8 – Policy 8:30 a.m.

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