



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Oct. 15, 2018, Business Meeting

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Copeland, Dr. Gilbert, Mr. Weinstein and Mr. Hughes recognized the District's 31 National Merit Semifinalists and 44 Commended Students.

The Harriton High School Semifinalists are:

Danielle Benstock
Sophie Brown
Helena Cahn von Seelen
Francis Chalisery
Matthew Groeneveld
Chang-Chao Huang
Kate Kucharczuk
David Parr

Michelle Qin
Guillermo Ribero-Vecino
Sophia Sassoli
Ashwini Shende
Noah Stern
Max Wang
Samuel Weissman
Sarah Xi

The Lower Merion High School Semifinalists are:

Sidharth Annapragada
Anna Barnett
Andres Bermudez
Molly Cutler
Marion Donoghue
Lily Elman
Grace Ge

Aydan Gooneratne
Asa Kosto
Christina Peng
Ethan Spingarn
Katherine Wang
Edward Zhang
Ziwen Zhou

The Harriton High School Commended Students are:

Benjamin Abt
Duncan Attig
Connor Block
Mason Coburn-Weigan
Siobhan Daley-Gibson
Emma Deutsch
Julia Ermi
Kayla Finn
Duncan Glew
Richard Haslam
Lauren Levy
Greta Luo
Anna Manning

Garciela McDonogh-Wong
Ethan McKeever
Roshni Parikh
Matthew Pearl
Steven Ross
Reilly Short
Matthew Stein
Niels Terwiesch
Valeria Varlashova
Sean Yoon
Kevin Zhai

The Lower Merion Commended Students are:

Henry Chen
Sarah Costantino
Madison Dillon
Russell Dougherty
Ethan Frank
Hannah Heller
Abraham Hollis
Dylan Hurok
Brandon Kedson
Sofia Lake

Jasper Lim-Goyette
Nikolas Mihailidis
Adam Shah
Spencer Shah
Madeleine Shalaby
Danielle Snyder
David Sommer
Grace Wei
Kathy Wei
Amy Xi

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

A freshman from Harriton High School spoke on his need for more sleep and his hope that start times will be made later.

A Wynnewood resident asked the District to consider geo-thermal energy for the new middle school, asked the District to investigate whether grant money is available to pay students who babysit younger siblings and stated that she had difficulty finding committee reports on BoardDocs.

A Wynnewood resident said that grandparents should get some credit for the success of the National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students who were recognized and noted that no African American students were included. Finally, she stated that Stoneleigh should not be used for playing fields.

Mr. Copeland stated that a report on Sleep and Start Times will be forthcoming at the November meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Board. He further mentioned that committee chairs give

detailed reports at Board meetings. Finally, he stated that closing the achievement gap for students of color is a District priority.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2018-2019 school year.

Among these was the retirement of bus driver John Beswick, who began working for the District in 1990. The Board wishes him well and thanks him for his years of service.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Vann Lynch reported on the October 2, 2018, Curriculum Committee Meeting, where the committee looked at new course proposals in languages, social studies and consumer sciences, as well as a change to an integrated math curriculum and an agreement with the University of the Sciences for a dual enrollment program for high school students to take college courses.

The Board approved the following:

- Three-year agreement with Hanover Research
- Three-year contract with IXL Learning
- Agreement with the University of the Sciences for a Dual Enrollment Program beginning in 2019-2020
- The purchase of textbooks for courses in Baking and Confections and Middle School Health
- An overnight trip for the Lower Merion High School baseball team to Austin, Texas, in April 2019

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the October 11, 2018, Facilities/Purchasing Committee Meeting reviewing the items that were recommended for tonight's agenda.

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

The Board accepted with gratitude these donations:

- \$1260 from the Gladwyne HSA to Gladwyne Elementary School to purchase an HP DesignJet e-Printer
- Synthetic "ice" and ice hockey equipment valued at \$5450 from the Lower Merion Ice Hockey Club to Lower Merion High School
- Spring bulbs and stepping stones valued at \$150 from Brownie Troop 71869 and Daisy Troop 71199 to Penn Wynne Elementary School.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

- The Board approved contracts to purchase four new maintenance vehicles, an auditorium emergency transfer switch for Harriton High School, underground high voltage power lines at Harriton High School and a Powerfoil fan for Welsh Valley Middle School
- The Board approved agreements with Combustion Service and Equipment Company for engineering designs at Lower Merion and Harriton high schools
- The Board approved a work order with Element Environmental Solutions to perform environmental sampling and lab testing at 1860 Montgomery Ave.
- The Board approved a work order with David Blackmore and Assoc. to provide and exploratory geotechnical report for 1860 Montgomery Ave.
- The Board approved a change order for repairs to the Harriton storm water basin and the flume at 65 Rock Hill Rd.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson gave a report on the Oct. 5, 2018, Policy Committee Meeting, where the policies below were discussed.

The Board heard second readings on:

- Policy 007 Board Meetings
- Policies 332, 432, 532 and 832 Reporting Waste and Wrongdoing in District Operations
- Policy 718 Service Animals

NEW BUSINESS

The Board heard first readings on:

- Policy 135 Overnight Student Trips
- Policy 702 Gifts, Grants and Donations

The Board approved a donation request for 6 iPads for the Saints Scholars Program at the Saints Memorial Baptist Church in Bryn Mawr.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Finger reported on the Sept. 26, 2018, [Communications Committee Meeting](#) and noted that the October 17, 2018, meeting is canceled.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

A Wynnewood resident who had spoken earlier in the meeting stated she was disappointed to see a widening achievement gap in the PSSA's and reiterated that she finds it difficult to locate content on BoardDocs.

Dr. Gilbert reiterated that all agenda action items are included on BoardDocs and that Committee reports at Business Board meetings (which are shared on cable TV and online) are an additional effort to share information from those meetings with the public.

Mr. Copeland commented on the ongoing work of the Achievement Imperative Task Force, including restorative practices, hiring more teachers of color, jump-start programs, on ramps (especially in mathematics, including the upcoming integrated math curriculum) along with Summer academies. The work of the CARE committee is ongoing, along with one-to-one tutoring and work to identify more Gifted students of color. In addition, each building learning plan includes efforts to identify and support students who may be having difficulty learning.

SUNSHINE ACT

Mr. Roos, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, reported when the Board of School Directors met in Executive Sessions and the topics discussed.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings: (at 8:00 p.m. in the Administration Board Room)

Monday, Nov. 12 – Education Committee and Supplemental Regular Board Meeting

Monday, Nov. 24 – Regular Business Board Meeting

Committee Meetings: (at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room, unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – Curriculum Committee

Friday, Nov. 9 – Policy Committee

Thursday, Nov. 15 – Facilities/Purchasing

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – Communications/Legislative

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