



# Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

[www.lmsd.org](http://www.lmsd.org)

## **LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights**

June 11, 2018, Business Meeting

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

### **SOLICITOR STATEMENTS**

LMSD Solicitor Kenneth Roos read a statement about a meeting among representatives of the District, Township, Main Line Health, St. Charles Seminary and the Archdiocese. The Seminary representatives informed the attendees, at the meeting, they plan to utilize their entire site for the next five years. All were in agreement that with this information, the site could no longer be considered as a location for a new middle school.

Mr. Roos also announced that the District had reached an agreement of sale with the owners of the property at 1860 Montgomery Ave. (Islamic Center). Purchase would be contingent on 1) the buildings on the site retaining their Class Two historic designation 2) the District's ability to acquire additional field space and 3) the District obtaining sufficient zoning relief to construct a middle school on the site. Superintendent Copeland explained that if the sale of the Islamic Center site goes through, there wouldn't be a need for the District to exercise eminent domain over the entire Stoneleigh property. He encouraged residents to contact their Township Commissioners not to support a re-classification of the buildings on the site to Class One.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

State Rep. Timothy Briggs presented certificates to the 10 Lower Merion School District students who were finalists in his "There Oughta Be A Law" essay contest.

The Welsh Valley VEX Robotics team explained their competition and demonstrated their award-winning robot. The team has already begun work on a robot for next year's competition.

Superintendent Copeland recognized the LMSD teams that placed first in state championship competitions during the school year. These include the Lower Merion High School Girls' Crew Team, TSA Team, Science Olympiad Team and Anna Kalandadze on the Swim Team. Harriton High School State Champions include the TSA Team, Future Business Leaders of America and Science Olympiad Team. Congratulations to all the students and their Coaches/Sponsors.

Mr. Copeland gave a presentation on the final budget, which is substantially the same as the proposed final budget, though it would move \$15 million from the fund balance into budget to cover costs associated with property acquisition.

Mr. Copeland's presentation was followed by public comment. As an introduction to the Public Comment, Board President Dr. Melissa Gilbert explained that the District has been working on meeting the challenges of enrollment growth for a long time, but that many of the options the District has pursued have not worked out. She, too, encouraged residents to contact their commissioners and ask them not to re-classify the buildings on the Islamic Center site.

During public comment, two students spoke in favor of LMSD teachers and expressed their hope that a new contract would be agreed upon, as did a Bryn Mawr resident. Five residents spoke out in favor of purchasing the 1860/Islamic Center site, though several said they still opposed any use of the Stoneleigh property for fields. One Villanova resident expressed opposition to pay raises for the teachers and opposition to the hiring of an eminent domain attorney. A Narberth resident offered a "Report Card" for the Board. Molly Morrison of Natural Lands reiterated that none of Stoneleigh should be considered for District use and Stoneleigh's chief gardener extolled its educational programs. A Wynnewood resident urged the District to eliminate the need for additional space by getting rid of sports such as football and building multi-level parking structures. A Villanova resident implored the District to start building at the 1860 site as soon as possible, while a Bryn Mawr resident who said she sent her children to private boarding schools spoke out against the condemnation of Stoneleigh.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Prior to the consideration of HR resolutions, Dr. Gilbert thanked Director of Operations Pat Guinnane, who is retiring, for his years of service to the District. She also offered gratitude to Belmont Hills Principal Dr. Pamula Hart for her years of service and wished her well in the new District she will be joining at the end of this school year.

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2017-2018 school year. James Lill thanked the Board for his appointment as the District's new Director of Operations. The Board wishes the following employees well in their upcoming retirements: WVMS Instructional Aide Suzanne Burns, who joined the District in 2011; Bus Aide Thomas Byrd, who joined the District in 1987; HHS Instructional Aide Carol Neville, who joined the District in 2005; LMHS Campus Aide Pellegrino Salomone, who joined the District in 2004; GES Instructional Aide Kathleen Yeager, who joined the District in 1991 and Bus Driver Kathryn Zadroga, who joined the District in 2017.

The Board approved a per diem contract for Mr. Guinnane on an as-needed basis not to exceed 10 days during the month of July, 2018.

The Board also approved the recommendation of the non-binding arbitrator for a new contract with the LMEA.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Dr. Vann Lynch shared a report on the May 29, 2018, Curriculum Committee Meeting, which included updates on an evaluation that will be underway of the Gifted Education program, the Challenge Success survey, Sleep and School Start Time research and an evaluation of academic support programs.

The Board approved the renewal of a contract with the College Board for PSAT/NMSQT EPP tests for the 2018-2019 school year.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services, independent contracts and several Independent Contracts.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the June 7, 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 April 2018 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted with gratitude the donation of a library maker space, valued at \$4,104.40, from the Belmont Hills Elementary School HSA as a fifth grade gift and a bleed control kit, valued at \$350, from Narberth Ambulance.

The Board appointed Kenneth A. Roos of Wisler Pearlstine, LLP, as Solicitor for the School District for the 2018-2019 school year and Drew K. Kapur and the firm of Duane Morris for professional services related to the District's plan to build a new middle school and pre-litigation counseling and litigation service in connection with that project.

The Board approved a list of financial institutions and investment trusts for District funds for the upcoming year. And the Board adopted the 2018-2019 budget along with its accompanying resolutions, transfers and segregation of specific funds.

The Board voted to maintain the same Nutritional Service prices for the upcoming year.

The Board approved a quote from Kronos Inc. and a contract renewal with Delta Dental.

## **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

- Authorized an Agreement of Sale for the property owned by the Foundation for Islamic Education
- Contract approved for heating oil, gasoline and bio-diesel fuel
- Contract approved for restroom modifications at BCMS

- Contract approved for the replacement of CNG fuel dispenser at LMHS
- Contract approved for sealcoating the parking lots at HHS and LMHS
- Contract approved for the inspection, testing and certification of fire/pipe systems
- Contract approved to repair the dry sprinkler at MES
- Contract approved for District-wide upgrades for safety and security
- Contract approved to install “Stormguard” ball net system at HHS
- Contracts approved with various bus companies for the upcoming school year
- License agreement approved with Main Light School Night
- Facilities Lease approved for the Hines Rowing Center for LMHS Crew
- Proposal approved from Reynolds Construction Management to repair the stormwater basin at HHS
- Master Agreement approved with Chester Valley Engineers
- Master Agreement approved with Gilbert Architects
- Individual Work Order approved for Gilbert Architects to provide feasibility studies
- Renewal approved for the Lutron Technology Support Plan for three years
- Software upgrade approved for Metasys server
- Quote approved for SourceFire code upgrade from Presidio Networked Systems
- Quote approved from Springhouse Education and Consulting Services to upgrade SharePoint
- Quote approved from Tools4ever for support renewal
- Change order approved for auditorium dimmer rack and storm basin repairs at HHS

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There were second readings of the policies on Outside Employment/Employee Business Interests, English Language Development Program, Instrumental Music and Board Meetings.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board approved revised Board meeting dates for 2018.

The Board approved the appointment of Subha Robinson, Virginia Pollard and Melissa Gilbert as PSBA Voting Delegates to the 2018 Delegate Assembly.

### **SUNSHINE ACT**

Mr. Roos, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, reported that the Board of School Directors met twice for Executive Sessions.

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Board Meetings:  
Monday July 16 – Regular Business Board Meeting

Committee Meetings:

Thursday, July 12 -- Facilities/Purchasing 8:30 a.m.

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