



# 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**

Sept. 24, 2018, Business Meeting

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

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Copeland shared the following highlights:

LMSD welcomed approximately 8700 students to our schools earlier this month. You can find great photos from the first day [on our website](#).

Lower Merion High School social studies teacher John Grace was recently named a recipient of the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award, which is given to educators across the country as a result of a written nomination from a student.

Lower Merion High School computer science teacher Tom Swope was recently named the Philadelphia region's recipient of The Aspirations in Computing Educator Award, which celebrates teachers who promote gender equity in computing and encourage young women to explore their interest in technology.

Lower Merion High School recently played host to a unique afternoon of service as some 300 students, parents and community members gathered in the cafeteria with the goal of breaking the world record for "most backpacks filled with school supplies in one hour." The backpacks were donated to a number of Philadelphia Schools. Thanks to LMHS alumnus Nahjee Grant for organizing the effort.

Our District was well-represented in the winner's circle of the 2018 Philadelphia Young Playwrights (PYP) Festival as ten secondary students were recently honored for their submissions to this year's contest.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

The Board notes with sadness the passing of John Osipowicz, who was a teacher in the District from 1970 until his retirement in June 2004.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The following items were approved by the Board:

The inter-agency agreements between LMSD and the MCIU for Title I Services for the upcoming school year.

Upcoming field trips:

- BCMS VOC trip to Gettysburg
- BCMS Communique trip to Williamsburg
- BCMS and WVMS Student Council trip to Cedar Crest High School
- WVMS Waterbound trip to Dingman's Ferry, Pa.
- HHS Science Olympiad trip to MIT
- HHS IB Juniors trip to Horsham, Pa.
- HHS/LMHS National Society of Black Engineers trips to Bethesda, Md. and Detroit

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services and independent contracts, the contract with Maxim Healthcare Services for the 2018-2019 school year and the PDCS agreement for one year.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the September 6 and September 20, 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 August 2018 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted with gratitude the donation of \$5,000 to a special education classroom at Penn Wynne Elementary School from an anonymous donor and daffodil bulbs valued at approximately \$100 from Andrew Livingston to be planted on the PWES ground.

## **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

- The Board awarded a contract to make cell signal improvements at Merion and Penn Wynne Elementary Schools
- The Board approved a contract with Spiezle Architect Group for architectural and engineering services related to the construction of a new middle school
- The Board approved a lease agreement with M.A. Brightbill Body Works, Inc. for school bus for the 2018-2019 school year

- The Board approved a program agreement for HLM Squash with the Cynwyd Club
- The Board approved an amendment to the agreement with Reynolds Construction for repairs of the HHS storm water basin
- The Board approved an amendment to the agreement with Gilmore & Associated for repairs of the HHS storm water basin
- The Board approved a proposal from F. Tavani & Associates for traffic engineering services at 1860 Montgomery Ave.
- The Board approved a proposal from Montgomery County Planning Commission for an enrollment projection update
- The Board approved a proposal from Sundance Associates for enrollment projection update
- The Board approved a change order for repairs to the storm water basin at HHS

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Robinson provided an update on the Sept. 14, 2018, Policy Committee Meeting

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board approved the slate of officers for the Pa. School Board election

The Board approve a revision to the 2018-2019 calendar, adding a half-day of professional development on Oct. 31, 2018.

The Board heard first readings on Policy 007 Board Meetings, Policy 718 Service Animals and Policies 332, 432, 532 and 832 Reporting Waste and Wrongdoing in the District.

### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

A parent from Penn Valley discussed the importance of sleep for high school students and urged the Administration to move more quickly on the issue sleep and start time, adding that the community wants to help move this issue along.

A Harriton High School senior described that he and his brother, who is a freshman, are stressed and find it difficult to focus in school due to a lack of sleep and asked why the District is on a schedule that goes against teens' biology.

A resident from Ardmore stated that teens need more sleep and lamented what she perceived as a lack of transparency in the selection process for an architect for the new middle school.

A resident from Wynnewood asked if the special facilities meeting from Sept. 6, 2018, where the architects made their presentations, was available for viewing. (It can be seen here: <http://www.lmsd.org/board/view-meetings>)

A resident from Penn Wynne thanked the Administration and Board for their work in moving ahead with plans for a new middle school and said the Penn Wynne Civic Association is happy to help in working with the Township for the necessary exceptions.

At the conclusion of the public comments, Mr. Copeland explained that Dr. Paul will be giving a full presentation on research into the sleep and school start time issue at the November Curriculum Committee Meeting and that the District Transportation Department is doing a transportation study related to the issue.

Mr. Copeland added that the Sept. 6, 2018, Facilities Committee meeting was very widely publicized through emails, the District website and social media. Numerous members of the public commented on the architects' presentations that evening and later through Community Comments once the video and presentations were shared online and on LMSD-TV.

#### **SUNSHINE ACT**

Ms. Brooks, 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, Oct. 8 – Education Committee and Supplemental Regular Board Meeting

Monday, Oct. 15 – Regular Business Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, Sept. 26 – Communications Committee

Tuesday, Oct. 2 – Curriculum Committee

Friday, Oct. 5 – Policy Committee

Thursday, Oct. 11 – Facilities/Purchasing

Wednesday, Oct. 17 – Communications/Legislative

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