



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

May 20, 2019, Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

Lindsay Sayer, a Harriton High School Senior, discussed her senior project and presented her idea for a middle school social justice conference called the “Genius” conference, inspired by the high school WOKE conference. The Genius conference would teach middle schoolers to be proud of who they are, encourage others, and be nurturing, understanding and accepting of diversity and difference.

Mr. Copeland recognized Ms. Anne Heffron, who is retiring as Merion Elementary School principal after 23 years in the District. The Board was then pleased to recognize and thank the following LMSD employees who have served the District for 25 years. Prior to the meeting, they had been invited to a dessert reception and each received a small gift as a token of appreciation:

William Braunsberg
Debra Foreman Cohen
Mariane Domeika
Edward Gach
Barbara Humes
Darlene Mandarino
Pamela McGlone
Lori McNeill
Michael W. Moeller

Tim Mohan
Anna Mary O’Hora
Lynne P. Partridge
Beth A. Pavletich
James M. Perri Jr.
Richard Petrondi
Jayne Rauen Zahn
Sue Rodgers
Chris Santa Maria

Chrisdon L. Schreiner
Diane M. Shannon
Suzanne Spiegelman
Michael Stettner
Wynne Stovall-Johnson
David Willis, Ed.D.
Sandra Yozviak

The Board was pleased to accept 39 mini-grants for a total of \$13,800 from the InterSchool Council (ISC) for a wide variety of projects and resources throughout the District’s 10 schools. The mini-grants will support initiatives in the areas of mindfulness, maker spaces, music, community service, diverse literature, gardening and nature, videography, culinary arts, health, art, STEM, and more.

Glen Williard, Managing Director of PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, presented their financial analysis of planning to fund the new middle school project. He explained that interest rates are currently low, making this a good time to borrow. He explained a wraparound bond issue is under consideration, so that repayments for new bonds will increase as existing payments go down. He also showed the schedule of how much money will be needed throughout the middle school construction project and how a series of bonds can be issued over the timeline of the project to fund it. Having a series of bond

issuances will allow the District to be more accurate in predicting how much money will be needed and to borrow more or less at a particular time, considering interest rates.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION ON ACTION ITEMS

There was no public comment on action items

SUPERINTENDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the 25th anniversary recognition, the Superintendent did not present highlights this evening.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

The Board approved the contracts of Megan Shafer as Assistant to the Superintendent for District Administration and Victor Orlando as Business Manager, for July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Vann Lynch reported on the May 7, 2019, Curriculum Committee Meeting, where Mr. Cote presented information on the Discovering Life Skills textbook resources; Dr. Eveslage and Ms. Klaiber shared a presentation on the new K-2 report cards, which are becoming more narrative to tell the learner's journey; and Dr. Pratt, Ms. Davis and Ms. Mellet shared a presentation on the One Book One LMSD initiative based on the "The Little Book of Lykke," which will include a variety of projects and interactions for grades K-12.

The Board approved the following upcoming overnight trips for students:

- HHS Latin Club to Penn State University main campus, May 24-26
- HHS Science Olympiad Team to Ithaca, NY, May 30-June 2
- LMHS Crew Team to Nashport, OH, May 23-25

The Board approved the purchase of textbooks and digital resources from:

- Questar
- BrainPop
- Open Up Resources
- McGraw Hill, AP Economic
- Pearson, envision Math
- ProQuest
- Newsela
- Seesaw

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services, and the following:

- Independent Consulting Contracts with psychologist Ellen Madof, physical therapist Chris Costello, and occupational therapists Lisa Ellis, Sharon Ezersky and Karen Penzarella.

- Service Agreement with the Lincoln Center for Family and Youth for two school-based counselors for next year.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

Ms. DiBonaventura gave reports on the May 9 and May 15, 2019, Finance Committee meetings. At the May 9 meeting, the committee heard the financial analysis that was presented this evening and reviewed a resolution to issue bonds to fund the middle school project, appoint PFM Financial Management as financial advisor for the project, and Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, as legal counsel for the project. The resolution further gives these organizations and the District business manager the authority to discuss and make arrangements necessary to bring bond issues before the Board. The Committee also saw a presentation on refinancing some existing bonds, extending a letter of credit and reviewed commitments of the general and reserve funds. She explained that the capital reserve fund will be spent down on current and planned projects, such as buses and buildings.

At the May 15 meeting, the committee saw a presentation on the Curriculum and Instruction Budget. Next year, additional full-time employees will be added in the areas of elementary music, middle and high school world language and middle school English language development. The District provides summer programs to more than 700 students, provides more than 700 field trips per year, fields 121 high school athletic teams and more than 100 clubs and afterschool activities. The zero-based budget encompasses textbooks and digital resources, professional development and continued work on realizing the strategic plan.

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the April 25, 2019, Facilities/Purchasing Committee Meeting reviewing the items that were recommended for tonight's agenda.

The Board approved the List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the April 2019 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted with gratitude the donation of an Acu-spike Team Trainer Space, valued at \$2650, to the LMHS Volleyball team from the LM Volleyball boosters; a drone, camera and controllers, valued at \$499 to WVMS, from Tim Brockman; 20 iPads, a cart, charging tray and cases, valued at \$10,300 to GES from the Gladwyne HSA; and four tables and 24 chairs, valued at \$6348 to GES from the Gladwyne HSA.

The Board approved:

- A resolution to preliminarily proceed with issuing general obligation bonds for refunding purposes and terminate related qualified interest rate management agreement.
- A resolution to preliminarily proceed with issuing one or more series of general obligation bonds for capital projects.
- A long-term disability policy with National Insurance Services.
- The salary of Board Secretary Denise LaPera for the 2019-2020 year.
- The appointment of Victor Orlando as Assistant Board Secretary for the 2019-2020 year.
- The election of Christopher Stoffere as Board Treasurer for the 2019-2020 year.
- Set the bond for the Treasurer of the Board in the amount of \$100,000.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved the following items:

- Contracts to replace auto-scrubbers, storm basin cleaning at LMHS, space modifications at CES, painting projects at HHS, kitchen system inspections, fire alarm monitoring and sprinkler inspections, maker space at GES and alla breve sound shells at LMHS.
- Agreement with Rothman Orthopaedic for athletic trainer services at high schools and middle schools.
- License agreement with Main Line School Night.
- Transportation Carrier Agreements for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Software support agreement with Orbit Software for BusBoss.
- Second, third and fourth amendments to professional services agreements with Spiegle Architectural Group.
- Proposal and first amendment to professional services agreement with Reynolds Construction LLC.
- Individual work order for professional service agreements with Traffic Planning and Design Group:
 - Mr. Driscoll commented that although he plans to vote in favor of this, he wanted to point out that the Township is requiring an expensive study of sidewalks a half-mile from the the new middle school there are no plans for the next five years that would connect this sidewalk to any others.
- Notification to extend lease agreement with Mobilease Modular Space Inc. for 24 months at BCMS.
- Agreement with HudsonAnalytix for security assessment.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson gave a report on the May 10, 2019, Policy Committee Meeting, where the policies below were discussed and some administrative regulations.

The Board heard Second Readings on:

- Policy 246 Harassment, Bullying and Hazing
- Policy 705 Safety and Security
- Policy 214 International Exchange Students
- Policy 249 Bullying (for repeal)
- Policy 261 Anti-hazing (for repeal)
- Policy 709 Building Security (for repeal)
- Policy 710 Key Control (for repeal)
- Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness (for repeal)
- Policy 819 Police-School Procedures (for repeal)

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

There was no audience comment

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, June 10 – Regular Business Board Meeting

Committee Meetings: (at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room, unless otherwise noted)
Thursday, June 6 -- Facilities/Purchasing Committee

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