



## 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 10, 2019, Business Meeting

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

State Rep. Tim Briggs presented the LMSD winners and finalists of his “There Oughta be a Law” competition. Fifth grade students wrote essays about laws in support of environmentalism that they think should be on the books.

Supt. Copeland gave a presentation on the Final Budget for 2019-2020. The presentation, along with the various departmental budget presentations that have been given since January, are available on Board Docs. The total budget is \$280,076,847. The tax increase will be 2.3%, which is within the Act 1 index. It comes out to about \$166 per year for the average LM homeowner. Many of the increased expenses are related to the District’s growing enrollment.

#### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION ON ACTION ITEMS**

There was no public comment

#### **SUPERINTENDENT’S HIGHLIGHTS**

Superintendent Copeland noted that last Tuesday night, 369 Lower Merion High School students received their diplomas. The following night, 328 Harriton seniors received theirs. He added that later this week, our fifth graders and eighth graders will take part in promotion ceremonies, as they prepare to enter new schools in the upcoming year.

He also congratulated the Harriton High School girls’ lacrosse team, which won the Pennsylvania 3A state championship over the weekend by a score of 12-6 and Harriton’s Science Olympiad team, which took third place in Nationals – their 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive Top Ten finish.

Finally, he noted that our elementary school students have been busy as well. Penn Wynne Elementary hosted a pep rally the day before the Original Alex’s Lemonade Stand was held there. Hundreds of families turned out to support cancer research. And at Cynwyd Elementary, Principal Dr. Dan Martino allowed himself to be slimed after his students raised more than \$8000 in honor of a classmate with a rare disease called “A-T.”

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires, relocations and reclassifications for the 2018-2019 school year, the summer of 2019 and the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. Among these, Dr. Toby J. Albanese was approved as the new principal for Merion

Elementary School, upon Ms. Anne Heffron's retirement at the end of this month. Ms. Christine Fleming-Hirshka was named assistant principal for Bala Cynwyd Middle School and Ms. Kristy Fruit was named assistant principal for Welsh Valley Middle School.

The Board noted the passing of Ms. Betty Demko, Health and Physical Education Teacher at Bala Cynwyd Middle School, who died on May 23, 2019. Ms. Demko was employed in the District from June 1993 until her retirement in June 2012.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The Board approved a trip by the LMHS cheerleading team to Greeley, Pa. in August 2019.

The Board approved contracts with the following vendors:

- Blackboard
- Hoonuit
- Learning without Tears
- World Book
- College Board
- David Tennet

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

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

- A renewal agreement with Leader Services to provide IEP Writer/Children Court Licenses for the upcoming year
- Independent consultant contract with Dr. Jeanne Stanley to provide training and consultation on the topics of sociocultural identities, including of transgender and gender expansive identities

### **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the June 6, 2019, Facilities/Purchasing Committee Meeting reviewing the items that were recommended for tonight's agenda.

The Board approved the following:

- The List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the May 2019 LMSD Financial Report.
- The appointment of Kenneth A. Roos, of Wisler Pearlstine, LLP, as the School District Solicitor for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Financial institutions and investment trusts as depositories for School District funds for the 2019-2020 year
- Adoption of the 2019-2020 budget
- Adoption of the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution
- Budget transfers in the 2018-2019 budget
- The transfer of \$6,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund

- The Committed Fund Balance for 2019-2020
- The continued segregation of monies received due to exceptions in the 2016-2017 tax year, pending the outcome of ongoing litigation
- An amendment to a Letter of Credit Agreement from a General Obligation Note in 2008
- Maintaining the 2018-2019 Nutritional Services pricing for the 2019-2020 school year

### **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

The Board approved contracts, which were negotiated through the MCIU, for the following:

- Fuel bids through the MCIU
- Modifications to the GES library
- Prep and re-coating of gym floors and annual elevator maintenance and inspections
- A new F350 pickup truck and up-fit package
- Sand filter change service at LMHS
- Installation of safety mulch
- Installation of new playground equipment at BHES
- Locker room partitions at HHS and LMHS
- Temporary security fence at 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.
- Hazardous material abatement and underground storage tank/septic tank closure and soil remediation at 1860 W. Montgomery
- Building demolition at 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.
- White copy paper

The Board also approved

- License Agreement with LM Aquatics
- Advanced Protection Company for security agents at 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.
- David Blackmore & Assocs. For Geotechnical services
- Gilbert Architects for layout of temporary classrooms at MES and PVES
- Wayne Moving and Storage to remove items at 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.
- Authorization for the Administration to make adjustments related to the asphalt improvement at GES, roof replacement and restoration at MES, masonry façade restoration at PVES, roof replacement and restoration at PWES and tennis court replacement at LMHS
- Quote from ePlus for Ironport software renewal
- Quote from HUDL for online video program at HHS

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

A Wynnewood resident urged the Board to support HR 7124, or the “Keeping All Kids Safe Act.” This bill would prohibit the use of restraint and seclusion in schools. Dr. Gilbert thanked the resident for

