



Lower Merion School District
301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399
www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Nov. 18, 2019, Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATION

Ms. Robin Klaiber, Principal of Belmont Hills Elementary School, shared a presentation on digital portfolios. She explained that digital portfolios align with the personal and cultural transformative goals embodied in the Strategic Plan, “All Forward.” The digital portfolios allow teachers and parents to comment on work in real time and show progress over time. 4th and 1st grade teachers explained how they use the SeeSaw platform and then several children showed examples of how they use the platform and explained why they like it.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission shared its enrollment update. Elementary growth is stabilizing at the elementary levels, but continuing to grow in the upper grades. Private school enrollment is declining. Multi-family units provide about 600 students/year. Housing turnover contributes a large number of new students – 165 last year. More than 1500 new multi-family units are expected in coming years. Cynwyd and Penn Valley ES are expected to see the biggest increases. Looking at birth to first-grade progression, it appears that every grade is adding students. This leads to a total increase of 710 students over the next 10 years.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION ON ACTION ITEMS

A representative of the Penn Valley Civic Association commented on the agenda item regarding possible bus parking on the WVMS campus, asking that the item be delayed, because neighbors are already frustrated with traffic in the area of the school.

A Wynnewood resident asked whether partner-schooling would apply to the high schools if the populations were high.

A Penn Valley resident also asked for a delay in the request for bus parking at WVMS, since she thinks the District is overstating the need for buses, parking and drivers in order to implement later start times.

Mr. Copeland explained that the District is trying to be proactive in that we would need 12 additional buses if earlier start times are approved. There’s a three-month cycle for land

approvals, so the District is investigating bus parking options now so that it would be available if the start time proposal is approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Supt. Copeland congratulated 10 student athletes from Harriton and Lower Merion high schools who signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports. He also shared information about American Education Week, which will be observed in many of our schools. Details of dates, times and activities can be found on the District website. And he noted that both LMHS and HHS had made Newsweek's list of Top 500 STEM schools in the country.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Jennifer Gaudioso was named the District's new Director of Elementary Education.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Vann Lynch reported on the Nov. 6, 2019, meeting of the Curriculum Committee, when eight new courses for the high school were proposed. They include AP 3D art and design, AP computer science principles, Cyber security, Artificial intelligence and machine learning, Environmental science, Voices of African American literature, Film and Literature, Sports and Society.

The Board approved Lower Merion High School's Science Olympiad overnight field trip to Cornell University in November.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved Educational Service Agreements for students receiving non-District Educational Services.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the Nov. 14, 2019, Facilities/Purchasing Committee Meeting reviewing the items that were recommended for tonight's agenda, project updates for the new middle school including moving the AT&T phone tower and the scheduling of the Act 34 hearing.

The Board approved the following items:

- List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the October 2019 LMSD Financial Report.
- Transfers in the 2018-19 budget.
- A transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.

- Accepted approval from the Pa. Dept. of Education for PlanCon K, refinancing for issuance of General Obligations Bonds, Series A of 2019 to refund Series of 2013 and 2014.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved the following items:

- Proposal from Shephard Restoration Engineers for façade and roof work at Merion ES and auditorium walls at Penn Valley ES.
- Individual work orders from Chester Valley Engineers for preliminary plan applications for stadium lights at LMHS and bus parking on the WVMS campus.
- Proposal from Air and Gas Technologies for a system upgrade.
- Supplemental Services RFP Development by Decision Support Group.
- Quote from ePlus for Barracuda email archiver subscription.
- Quote from Visual sound for SMART Learning Suite 1-year extended software maintenance.
- Addendum to existing managed services agreement from Presidio.
- Quote from StarLite for labor on District-wide wireless microphone replacement.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson gave a report on the Nov. 8, 2019, Policy Committee Meeting where the following Policy had a second reading:

- Policy 239 Awards, Scholarships and Contests Sponsored by Outside Organizations

NEW BUSINESS

First Readings:

- Policy 603 Budget Preparation
- Policy 604 Tax Waiver Requests
- Policy 609 Investments

BOARD RECOGNITION

Mr. Copeland thanked outgoing School Directors Diane DiBonaventuro, David Federman, Virginia Pollard and Robin Vann Lynch.

Ms. Robinson read remarks from Dr. Gilbert, thanking Ms. DiBonaventuro for her 20 years of service and leadership in building the two high schools, Ms. Pollard served for 9 years and worked with community members, Dr. Vann Lynch served as Board President for several terms and as curriculum chair, Mr. Federman served four years working particularly on enrollment growth.

Ms. DiBonaventuro thanked the Board, Administration, staff and school volunteers. She also asked the Board members to change school start times and congratulated the incoming Board members.

Mr. Federman said he was honored to serve for four years. He also thanked the Administration, staff and students, as well as the community for supporting our schools and speaking up at meetings.

Ms. Pollard said she was grateful to be able to bring wonderful changes for the students and for building wonderful relationships. She urged the Board members to represent everyone in the entire community.

Dr. Vann Lynch said she's very proud of the work that the Board has accomplished and that she looks forward to what the new Board will do. She's proud of her work on curriculum committee, the strategic plan and bringing in Mr. Copeland. She also wished the incoming Board well.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

The ISC co-presidents thanked the outgoing Board members for their 41 years of collective service.

SUNSHINE ACT

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings: (at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room, unless otherwise noted)

Monday, Dec. 2, 2019 – Reorganization Meeting

Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 – Regular Business Board Meeting

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

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019 – Communications Committee at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019 – Curriculum Committee

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 – Policy Committee

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 – Facilities and Purchasing Committee

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