



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

March 18, 2019, Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

The meeting opened with students from Gladwyne Elementary School explaining “The Gladwyne Way” Expectations. Students get rewards for good behavior and have grade meetings to show their pride when they meet expectations. The students also explained how restorative practices work when students need reminders about the expectations.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

There was no audience comment on action items.

SUPERINTENDENT’S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Copeland congratulated HHS Senior Sam Weissman, who took second place in the Regeneron Student Science Talent Search for his HIV research. The award includes a \$175,000 prize. Sam will spend next year continuing his research at a lab at the University of Pennsylvania.

He also congratulated the LMHS Mock Trial Team. They’ll be headed to the State competition for the first time in 21 years, following an impressive performance at Regionals.

Mr. Copeland congratulated HHS students Graham Branscom and Harrison Weiner, who took home the top prize in the "News Broadcasting" category at the 2019 Pennsylvania High School Speech League tournament at Bloomsburg University this past weekend.

Finally, he recognized TSA teams from both high schools, who are headed to the State competition after their impressive showings at Regionals. The Aces recorded an impressive 51 top-ten results, including 11 first-place finishes, while the Rams collected a total of 28 top-ten results, including 17 top-three finishes.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires, relocations and reclassifications for the 2018-2019 school year. Among the new hires is an additional college access counselor, in response to enrollment growth.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Ms. Robinson reported on the March 5, 2019, Curriculum Committee Meeting, where Dr. Eveslage and Dr. Paul reviewed the timeline and contract with TregoEd to conduct research with stakeholders on the

issue of Sleep and Start Times. Dr. Paul presented an overview of the issue. In addition, Mr. Marta shared the District's college and career readiness plan in accordance with Act 339.

The Board approved the contract with TregoEd, pending solicitor review, and approved the following field trips:

- LMHS Mock Trial Club trip to Harrisburg, March 29-30, 2019
- HHS and LMHS music departments trip to Pittsburgh, April 3-6, 2019

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved agreements for Students receiving Non-District Educational Services, a contract with Austills Rehabilitation Services for the 2019-2020 school year, a contract with Dr. Jonathan Plucker to provide consultative and professional development support for the Gifted Ed program and the Act 339 K-12 School Counseling Plan.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

Ms. DiBonaventura gave a report on the March 13, 2019, Finance Committee meeting, where the budget for Maintenance, Transportation and Operations was presented.

She noted that the Maintenance Department maintains 1.8 million square feet of building space and 228 acres of land. The maintenance budget for next year reflects a 3.6% increase and reflects ongoing efforts to find savings by performing preventive maintenance, increasing efficiency of energy usage, competitive bidding and use of green cleaning products. Ms. DiBonaventura praised the maintenance and operation staffs for keeping students safe and keeping the buildings and grounds clean.

The Transportation Department owns and maintains 162 vehicles, buses to about 125 schools and drives more than 1.5 million miles each year. The transportation budget for next year reflects a 2.4% increase. Ms. DiBonaventura noted that LMSD is unique in providing both mid-day kindergarten bus runs and two late bus runs each day and she praised drivers who often are required to adjust their routes on the fly, due to issues such as construction, covering additional routes and other demands.

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the March 14, 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 February 2019 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted with gratitude the donation of trees, valued at \$340, to be planted at PVES by the PVES HSA.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved the following items:

- Contracts for a Ford F-550, dump chassis and upfit package
- Contracts for major roof replacement and repairs at PWES and MRES
- Agreement with Ricoh for Equitrac server upgrade

- Amendment to the contract with Right At School, who will pay the District to provide transportation to a K-wrap Center, pending Township approval
- Amendment to the contract with Right At School, who will rent space at CES to provide a summer camp program
- Agreement with Box Clever Education to renew the Bus System app for three years
- Quote from Presidio for GigaVue and VPN hardware
- Quote from ePlus for distribution switches
- Quote from iBoss for web filter hardware upgrade

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson gave a report on the March. 8, 2019, Policy Committee Meeting, where the policies below were discussed.

The Board heard Second Readings on:

- Policy/AR 201 Admission of Beginners
- Policy/AR 203 Blood Borne Pathogens (FOR REPEAL)
- Policy/AR 205 Immunization and Communicable Diseases
- Policy 211 Pupil Accident Insurance
- Policy 250 Student Accidents and Injuries
- Policies 357, 457 and 557 Outside Business Interests

NEW BUSINESS

The Board heard first readings on:

- Policies 314, 414 and 513 Blood Borne Pathogens

The Board approved the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year calendars

The Board approved the donation of surplus equipment – 3 iPads and 1 desktop computer – to the Narberth Food Bank. Mr. Federman abstained from voting on this item as he serves on the Board of the Food Bank, but stated that the donation will enable the Food Bank to expend more of its resources in directly addressing food insecurity.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

A Bala Cynwyd resident who sells real estate and is a member of the Township Planning Commission urged the Board to reconsider building the new middle school at the St. Charles Seminary site in lieu of the planned location at 1860 Montgomery Avenue.

A Merion resident urged the Board to consider delaying school start times by 15 minutes for the 2019-2020 school year.

