



Lower Merion School District  
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## **LMSD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Highlights from the March 19, 2018, Meeting

For a complete agenda, visit the BoardDocs section of the District Website. [Click here](#) to view

### **Presentations and Honors:**

Dr. Pamula Hart, first-grade students and teachers from Belmont Hills Elementary School shared a lesson in Mindfulness, which they explained helps them focus, solve problems and sleep better. Their video showed the students engaging Mindfulness sessions and they led the Board and guests in a session including closing their eyes, taking belly breaths and being “in the moment.”

Dr. Scott Eveslage gave a presentation on ESSA, the successor to “No Child Left Behind” and explained how the testing and scoring criteria are different. There is a greater emphasis on participation. Even though the state allows parents to opt-out of tests, if more than 5% in a school opt out, the school’s overall scores will decrease due to the new formula. There are also changes in the student groups considered “historically underperforming” and an emphasis in “career awareness.”

### **Superintendent’s Update:**

On Wednesday, students from Lower Merion, Harriton, Bala Cynwyd and Welsh Valley held student-organized events and rallies in support of school safety, answering a call from the students at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Between about 50 to 85% of the students at each of the schools participated, while others remained in class with their teachers. I’m happy to say the rallies were incident-free and the student organizers were thoughtful and articulate.

The day after the rallies, Governor Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale visited Penn Wynne Elementary School to announce the formation of a statewide task force on school safety. We thank Mr. Bernatowicz and the library staff at Penn Wynne for hosting members of the board and the media for that event.

Congratulations are in order for three Harriton High School students who recently earned prestigious national recognition in the "2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards" sponsored by the *Alliance for Young Artists & Writers*. Out of more than 350,000 participating students nationwide, junior Ashley Young and sophomores Jade Adelman and Tiffany Lee were selected by a panel of creative professionals as among the most talented artists in the country.

### **Human Resources:**

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

Two staff members announced their retirement. Best wishes to John Hammond, a day custodian at Lower Merion High School who has been with the district since 1985, and to Pat Guinnane, Director of Operations since 2001. Both Mr. Copeland and Dr. Gilbert particularly praised Mr. Guinnane, who has shepherded the District through a number of important and transformative initiatives.

The District mourns the passing of Joan Baxt, who was Clerical Aide at Gladwyne Elementary School. She was employed in Lower Merion School District from February 1982 until her retirement in June 2007.

### **Educational Services:**

The Board approved trips to the TSA championships for participating middle and high school students, a Quebec trip for French students from Welsh Valley Middle School and trip to a Mock Trial event for Harriton High School students.

### **Student Services:**

The Board approved the Educational Service Agreement for students receiving Non-District Educational Services.

### **Business Office and Finance:**

- The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the February 2018 Financial Report.
- The Board accepted with gratitude three tree plantings plus a garden-stake style plaque, valued at approximately \$1,100, from Girls Scout Troup 7146 for Gladwyne Elementary School and \$4,000 from the Harriton High School Class of 2017 and \$6,000 from Harriton High School's SADD Club to the Harriton Turf Field Project.
- The Board confirmed the Debt Service Fund transfer in the amount of \$2,145,980, as set forth in the District's 2017-18 General Fund Budget and approved the declaration of surplus equipment as surplus property and authorized its disposition.

**Facilities and Operations:**

- Contracts were awarded for masonry waterproofing at MRES, new boiler at BHES and nine new school buses.
- An addendum was approved with AccordWare LLC and Order Form No. 2 to extend the Licensing and Services Agreement approved by the School Board of Directors on April 18, 2016 for employee benefits administration, to extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022 under the current rate.
- An Independent Consultant Contract was approved with Valerie Nartowicz for nutritional services consulting at a rate of \$65 per hour plus expenses, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,250.
- Quotes and an Addendum were approved with StarLite for Lower Merion High School's library AV system at a cost of \$32,860 for labor and \$79,636 for equipment.
- A Change Order was approved for artificial turf field at Harriton High School.

**Old Business:**

A second reading of Policy 812 regarding Food Services

**New Business:**

- First Reading of Policy 140 regarding Charter Schools
- First Reading of Policy 249 regarding Bullying
- A discussion of the 2019-2020 Calendar was tabled

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Monday, April 9 @ 8 pm, Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board Meeting; Monday, April 16 @8 pm, Regular Business Board; Wednesday, March 21 Communications Committee @ 8:30 am; Tuesday, April 3 Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 am; Wednesday, April 4 Finance Committee - Student Services Budget Review @ 8:30 am (will be videotaped); Friday, April 6 Policy Committee @ 8:30 am; Thursday, April 12 Facilities & Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 am; Wednesday, April 18 Communications Committee @ 7:00 pm; Thursday, April 25 Legislative Committee @ 7:00 pm. All meetings held in the DAO Board Room.



LMSD Business Meeting Highlights is distributed to the community and staff of Lower Merion School District to highlight actions taken at Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the minutes of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings. For information, visit [www.lmsd.org](http://www.lmsd.org).