



# Lower Merion School District

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## **LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights**

### **Vol. 2, No. 11 – Highlights from the May 15, 2017 Business Meeting**

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Before and After-School Programs**

Penn Valley Elementary Principal Scott Mitchell and students and staff from the District's elementary schools presented an overview of elementary clubs and activities that occur before and after school hours. A range of programs -- from fitness clubs to Reading Olympics to school newspapers -- are available free of charge to students and offer an array of enrichment opportunities. For a slideshow from the presentation, [click here](#).

##### **25-Year Honoree Recognition**

The Board of School Directors honored District staff members who are completing their 25<sup>th</sup> year of service this year. Congratulations and thank you to: Bryan Bohn (Transportation/Lead Bus Mechanic), Beth Hampton (Lower Merion HS/Teacher), Debra Hobbs (Lower Merion HS/Teacher), Beth Kohler (Penn Wynne ES/Teacher), Larry McAfoos (Lower Merion HS/Teacher), Beverly Raschiatore (Merion ES/Secretary), Stephen Speck (Transportation/Bus Driver), Kathleen Yeager (Gladwyne/Instructional Aide).

##### **ISC Mini-Grant Distribution**

The Interschool Council Mini-Grant Program provides grants to LMSD teachers piloting innovative approaches to student learning. The program received 74 grant applications for the 2017-18 school year requesting a total of \$52,770 in funding. A total of 38 grants were awarded funding totaling \$12,812, including 27 grants at the elementary level, six grants at the middle school level and 13 grants at the high school level. [Click here](#) to review a list of grant recipients. Funding came from each of the ten schools' Home & School Associations, the Committee for Special Education and the Education Foundation of Lower Merion. Award amounts ranged from \$50 to \$758. For more information in the mini-grant program, [click here](#).

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Superintendent Copeland shared the following recent news:

##### **LM Boys Tennis Wins District Title**

After winning the 2017 Central League Title, the defending state champion Lower Merion Boys Tennis Team earned a third consecutive District championship last week. The team began state play this week in a 16-team tournament that concludes in Hersey this weekend.

##### **LMSD Transportation Wins School Bus Safety Competition**

The Lower Merion School District Transportation Department recently fielded a team of 14 drivers to compete in the 44th Annual Montgomery-Bucks School Bus Safety Competition. The team earned first place among 12 competing districts in a series of written and driving tests. Driver instructor John Welsh finished in first in the individual competition.

### **Harriton Delivers Historic Performance at PA Science Olympiad**

The Harriton High School Science Olympiad team captured its 19<sup>th</sup> state title in the last 20 years, delivering a record-breaking performance at this year's state competition. Harriton students medaled in all 23 individual events, including 14 gold medals, and placed no lower than fourth in any event. The team will compete at the National Science Olympiad in Dayton, Ohio this weekend.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff and coaching hires for the current school year and summer programs.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The Board approved a contract with MCIU Discovery Education Streaming contract for the 2017-18 school year and approved the purchase of new textbooks and resources for world languages, comprehensive health and anatomy and physiology.

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Among the items approved by the Board included an independent consultant contract with Lisa Ellis for occupational therapist services for the 2017-18 school year.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the April 2017 LMSD Financial Report.

The Board accepted the following donations with gratitude:

- \$100 from Jan Gartland to the Penn Valley Elementary School 2016 Children's Garden Fund
- \$177 from the Penn Valley Home and School Association for a native redbud tree as part of a first grade education planting day and Arbor Day celebration
- Two benches and their installation, valued at \$3,827, from the LMHS Home and School Association for outdoor student seating at Lower Merion High School

The Board retained Michael J. Hanlon and the firm of Cozen & O'Connor for professional services related to personnel matters.

The Board elected Denise LaPera as Secretary of the Board for a four year term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021 and set bond for the Secretary in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2017-18 school year. The Board appointed Victor J. Orlando as Assistant Secretary of the Board for the 2017-18 school year.

The Board elected Christopher J. Stoffere as Treasurer for a term of one year term and set bond for the Treasurer in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2017-18 school year.

### **FACILITIES & OPERATIONS**

Contracts awarded for pest management service, inspection, testing, certification of fire systems, installation of security door access at BCMS; License agreement awarded to First String Sports LLC for Lower Merion Summer Basketball Camp at Lower Merion High School; Fifth amendment to and restatement of master agreement for professional services approved for Barry Isett and Associates, Inc.; Agreement approved with Gilmore & Associates, Inc. for professional services and reimbursables; Contract approved for construction and lease of modular building agreement with Mobilease Modular Space, Inc. subject to solicitor review and approval of contract documents; Quote approved from Presidio for purchase of network equipment and professional services for maintenance of telephone services; Proposal approved from Blackbaud for a Community Engagement/Alumni Record Management System, subject to Solicitor review.

### **POLICY**

The following policy was reviewed for a second reading: [Policy 460 Tutoring for a Fee](#).

The following policies were reviewed for a first reading: [Policy 254 Student Wellness](#) and [Policy 701 Equipment Disposal](#).

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board approved revisions to the [2017-18 School Calendar](#).

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Monday, May 22 @ 7 PM Facilities Update - Public Workshop; Thursday, May 25 @ 7:00 PM Legislative Forum - LMHS - Library; Wednesday, May 31 @ 8:30 AM June Curriculum; Thursday, June 8 @ 8:30 AM Facilities/Purchasing; Friday, June 9 @ 8:30 AM Policy; Monday, June 12 Regular Business Board Meeting @ 8:00 PM.

**LEGISLATIVE FORUM**

The LMSD Board is sponsoring a forum featuring state legislators on Thursday, May 25 at 7 PM in the Lower Merion HS Library. The forum is free and open to the public.

All Lower Merion and Narberth state representatives and senators have been invited to attend the forum. This is a great opportunity for a small group interaction with representatives.

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