



# Lower Merion School District

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

### **Vol. 3, No. 2 – Highlights from the August 21, 2017 Business Meeting**

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

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

##### **Penn Wynne Students Honored with National Liberty Museum's "Young Heroes Award"**

Nine Penn Wynne Elementary School students were recently selected as recipients of the 2017 Young Heroes Award sponsored by the National Liberty Museum and TD Bank for their service project, "Hats for Haiti," which raised funds and awareness for ongoing humanitarian causes in Haiti. The Young Heroes Award recognizes young people who have taken action to make positive social change in their schools and communities.

##### **Welsh Valley Student Named "Stellar Startup" Finalist**

Welsh Valley Middle School student Anna Welsh has been named a finalist in the Stellar Startups Competition – an annual program sponsored by the Philadelphia Media Network celebrating and recognizing the startup community in and around Philadelphia. Welsh, the youngest finalist in this year's competition, combined her passion for sewing, learning and protecting the environment to create her company – Little Bags, Big Impact – that produces and sells handcrafted handbags from resourced vintage materials. Welsh donates 15% of all proceeds to Tree House Books, an organization dedicated to improving child literacy and education in the North Philadelphia area.

##### **LMSD Drivers Shine at State & International School Bus Safety Competitions**

During the summer break, seven LMSD drivers visited State College for the PA State School Bus Safety Competition where the team placed second overall in the state. Driver Ted Dubbs claimed top honors in the individual Transit Bus Division and advanced to the International Safety Competition in Indianapolis where he placed third overall.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2017-18 school year.

Several longtime staff members announced their retirement this month. Best wishes to Maureen Morrison (Secretary/Penn Wynne), Dennis Violetti (Parking Attendant/LMHS) and Sara Weil (Receptionist/Administration).

The District welcomes a new elementary assistant principal, Renee Boylan-Free, who will support Cynwyd and Penn Valley elementary schools.

#### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The Board approved a three-year contract renewal with Blackboard for the District's online learning management system. Blackboard provides faculty with robust tools for sharing course content, schedules, homework and helps facilitate communication between students, faculty and school families. The phased implementation of Blackboard over the past few years has been a successful one. All staff will be utilizing Blackboard this year (eBoards and Moodle will no longer be in use).

## **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

- The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the July 2017 LMSD Financial Report.
- The Board accepted with gratitude a donation of four Chromebooks at a value of \$1,300 from Gladwyne's 5th grade Class of 2017 to GLES, and \$1,000 for sensory equipment from Lucky Farah for Belmont Hills ES.

Additional items approved by the Board included an amendment to the Letter of Credit Agreement in connection with the extensions of Letter of Credit issued to secure General Obligation Note, Series A of 2008.

## **FACILITIES & OPERATIONS**

- Bids awarded to repair the flume at 65 RHR, install a sidewalk at BCMS, for Food Service Group paper, disposables and cleaning supplies
- Independent consultant agreements approved with Phyllis Glackman to provide writing and multi-media services for the District website and publications; and Dr. Jeanne Stanley for training, counseling and related support towards the District's efforts to ensure a welcoming a school culture; work will encompass socio-cultural identity, transgender student and staff policy implementation and other related topics.
- Contract approved with Krapf's Coaches for transportation of students during the 2017-18 school year.
- License agreement approved with My Turn to Drive School to provide classroom space for drivers education classes at Lower Merion and Harriton High Schools in the fall and winter semesters.
- Agreement approved for professional services with Gilbert Architects, Inc. for projects at BCMS, WVMS and PWES.
- Agreement approved for professional services with F. Tavani and Associates, Inc. for traffic and parking investigations at Harriton and Lower Merion High Schools.
- Proposals for professional services approved with: Sundance Associates and Montgomery County Planning Commission subject to solicitor review.
- Individual work orders approved for Professional Services with: Chester Valley Engineers for sidewalk installation at Bala Cynwyd MS; F. Tavani and Associates, Inc., for additions and alterations at Bala Cynwyd Middle School and at Penn Wynne Elementary School; and Snyder Hoffman Assoc. to replace a boiler at Gladwyne Elementary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Board of School Directors approved the donations requests pursuant to Policy 701 Sale or Disposal of District and Equipment of laptops to Bethel Tutoring Program and Saints Memorial Program.

## **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Monday, September 11 Education Committee and Supplementary Regular Board @ 8 PM; Monday, September 18 Regular Business Board @ 8 PM; Wednesday, September 6 Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 AM; Friday, September 8 Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; Thursday, September 14 Facilities & Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; Wednesday, September 20 Communications Committee @ 8:30 AM. All meetings held in the DAO Board Room

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