



Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Ave.

Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

Phone: 610-645-1800 ♦ Fax: 610-645-0703 ♦ www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Vol 1. No. 2 - Highlights from the May 16, 2016 Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

Interschool Council (ISC) Mini-Grants

The ISC received 52 grant applications for the 2016-17 school year requesting a combined total of \$34,788. Funding was generously provided by each of the District's ten Home and School Associations, the Committee for Special Education and funds from three grants that did not go forward this school year. A total of 32 grants received funding totaling \$13,398, with ten grants awarded at the elementary and high school levels and 12 grants awarded at the middle school level. Grantees are using funds to enhance curriculum through a range of programs, topics and resources – from physics maker spaces and robotics kits to young writers' workshops and hands-on exploration of alternative energy sources.

Recognition of 25-Year Employees

The Board held its annual recognition of employees who have reached their 25th year of service to the District. To view this year's honorees, [click here](#).

2016-17 Budget

Superintendent Robert Copeland and Business Manager Victor Orlando provided an additional presentation of the 2016-17 Proposed Final Budget. The Proposed Final Budget was approved by the Board of School Directors last month and represents a refined version of the Preliminary Budget that was approved by the Board in late January. The Proposed Final Budget is subject to change and is part of an ongoing public budget review process that began in late 2015 and concludes with approval of a Final Budget on June 13. The District is making every effort to ensure the most fiscally-responsible Final Budget, while maintaining existing programs and covering new costs related to unprecedented enrollment growth, rising retirement and special education costs and personnel (salaries and benefits). To view a slideshow of this presentation, [click here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Robert Copeland shared the following updates and achievements from LMSD schools:

Meeting of Student Cabinet

Superintendent Copeland hosted a meeting of student leaders from Harriton and Lower Merion high schools earlier this month to solicit feedback on key District topics, including enrollment growth planning, definitions of student success and school start time.

LMHS Robotics Excels at World Championships

Lower Merion High School's robotics team, known as Dawgma 1712, recently capped an exceptional year with a quarterfinals finish at the FIRST Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. FIRST Robotics teams design and build robots that are programmed to complete specific tasks. Dawgma 1712 members, guided by staff advisors and mentors from local business partners like Lockheed Martin, spent nearly 30 hours per week building a unique robot customized to meet the competition's strict design parameters. In St. Louis, the team placed 8th among 75 teams in the opening round, earned the distinction of Alliance Captain, and ultimately advanced to the quarterfinals – finishing in the top 2% of all teams in the world.

LMSD Transportation Takes First Place at School Bus “Road-E-O”

A team of LMSD bus drivers earned first place at the 43rd Annual Montgomery-Bucks School Bus Safety Competition last month, demonstrating superior driving skills and extensive knowledge of school bus rules and regulations. The event, commonly known as the “School Bus Road-E-O,” brings together drivers from districts across the region for a series of driving events and written exams. Six LMSD team members advanced to the state-level competition which is held annually in June in State College.

Harriton, BCMS Science Olympiad Teams Headed to Nationals

The Harriton and Bala Cynwyd Science Olympiad teams are headed to the National Science Olympiad in Wisconsin later this month. Harriton earned its 18th state title in the past 19 years at the PA Science Olympiad and team members earned six gold medals and top five finishes in 22 out of 23 events – a state record. BCMS finished second in the state event and had 17 top five finishes and three gold medals.

HUMAN RESOURCES

A number of longtime LMSD staff members announced their retirement this month. Best wishes to Harriet Ackerman (Lower Merion/Art Teacher), Andrew Adamowicz (Welsh Valley/Custodian), Mary Daley (Harriton/Secretary), Sally Drucker (Gladwyne/2nd Grade Teacher), Charles Gleich (Welsh Valley/Psychologist), Jean McWilliams (Lower Merion/English Teacher), Lori Rogers (Welsh Valley/Art Teacher), Joseph Verzella (Bala Cynwyd/Custodian)...The District extended the appointment of Jen Kehoe as interim assistant principal at Gladwyne and Belmont Hills elementary schools.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACTIONS

Among the items approved by the Board included textbooks and curricular materials for mathematics chemistry, environmental science and genetics as well as renewal of service agreements with an online provider of educational videos/media resources (Discovery Education) and an online college and career readiness platform (Naviance).

STUDENT SERVICES ACTIONS

Among the items approved by the Board included the District’s annual agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for services provided for students with special needs. Some examples of supports provided through the MCIU include hearing support, vision support, orientation and mobility, clinical services, behavioral supports, and transition services. The estimated cost is \$1,054,619.64. The District intends to use Section 611 IDEA funds to pay for the costs of the 2016-17 MCIU Cost Plan.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the April 2016 LMSD Financial Report...The Board accepted a donation of three recycled plastic picnic tables from Belmont Hills Elementary Home and School Association to be placed on school grounds.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Bids awarded for joint purchasing of transportation and heating fuel through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, stair treads at Cynwyd Elementary School, custodial rider floor scrubber machines at Lower Merion HS and Harriton HS, and boiler replacement at Bala Cynwyd MS...License agreement approved with Main Line School Night for designated space at Lower Merion High School during the 2016-17 school year...License agreement approved with Gregg Downer and First String Sports to run a summer basketball camp in the LMHS Bryant Gymnasium from June 27, 2016 through July 1, 2016...Agreement approved with Finalsite for enhancements to the District website to include responsive design, mobile app, user-friendly calendar, and hosting services...Approval of additional fees for drinking water evaluation by Element Environmental Solutions as part of voluntary District-wide water testing initiative...Approval of construction management services with Reynolds Construction for work in the District Administration Office...Approval of Construction Administration Services with Gilbert Architects, Inc. for the District Administration Office project.

POLICY

The following policies were reviewed for a second reading and formally approved by the Board: [Policy 259 \(Gender Expansive & Transgender Students – Ensuring Equity and Nondiscrimination\)](#) and [Policy 354, 454, 554, 831 \(Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students\)](#). Both policies have been developed in support of the District’s efforts to provide a safe, supportive learning environment for all students.

The following policies were reviewed for a first reading: [Policy 244 \(Educational Research\)](#); [Policy 621 \(Federal Fiscal Compliance\)](#); [Policy 622 \(Travel Reimbursement- Federal Programs\)](#); [Policy 812 \(Food Service\)](#); and [Policy 827 \(Conflict of Interest\)](#). Policies 621, 622, 812 and 827 are part of Federal Compliance obligations; the District has existing policies in place that govern these activities.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming Meeting Dates: May 18 Communications Committee @ 8:30 AM; June 3 Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; June 6 Special Meeting of the Board – Public Work Session @ 6:30 PM followed by the Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board @ 8:00 PM; June 9 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; and June 13 Regular Board @ 8:00 PM.

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.