



# Lower Merion School District

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

### **Vol. 2, No. 3 – Highlights from the October 17, 2016 Business Meeting**

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS & HONORS**

##### **National Merit Honorees Recognized by Board**

The Board hosted its annual recognition ceremony for National Merit Scholarship Competition honorees. This year, 57 LMSD seniors earned recognition, including 20 National Merit Semifinalists, 34 Commended students and three national Hispanic Recognition Program Nominees. LMSD regularly has one of the largest groups of National Merit honorees on the East Coast. Students are identified through exceptional academic achievement and high scores on the PSAT, which they take junior year.

Approximately 1.6 million juniors in over 21,000 high schools entered this year's National Merit program by taking the 2015 PSAT. Fewer than 16,000 students — less than one percent of all U.S. high school students — achieved the status of National Merit Semifinalist. Commended students placed among the top 5% of all entrants. Those deemed "Scholars" must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes the outstanding performances of the top Hispanic/Latino students participating in the qualifying test.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - RECENT UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Superintendent Robert Copeland shared the following recent news from around the District:

##### **LMSD Launches Year-long Programming on Health Topics for Parents/Guardians**

Lower Merion School District's Department of Student Services and the Interschool Council (ISC) have organized a series of informational events and programs covering many important health-related topics throughout the 2016-17 school year. The first two events of the fall are scheduled in the coming weeks. On Tuesday, October 18th the LMSD Nursing Staff will host "Common Issues of Elementary Age Children" beginning at 7:00 PM at Gladwyne Elementary School. Topics will include pertussis, head lice, strep throat, food allergies and more.

The next event – "What Every Parent Needs to Know about Drugs and Teens" – will take place on Wednesday, October 26th at 7:00 PM at Lower Merion High School. For more information, [click here](#).

##### **Alumni News**

Rebecca Brown (HHS '96) was recently featured on an episode of ABC's Shark Tank to pitch her product, The Solemates, which is an accessory that helps prevent damage to women's shoes. Following the pitch, Brown and her business partner agreed to terms with one of the Sharks, who offered \$500,000 for a 20% stake in the company.

Film producer Mike Jackson (LMHS '99), who founded the film company, Get Lifted, with business partner and Grammy award-winning artist, John Legend, is the executive producer of the new, critically-acclaimed film *Southside With You*, which depicts the real-life first date between future U.S. President Barack Obama and Michelle Robinson in the summer of 1989.

##### **LMSD Partners with LMPD on "National Drug Take Back" Program**

The District and the Lower Merion Police Department have partnered to take a stand against the national epidemic of opioid abuse. This Saturday, October 22, LMSD and the LMPD are asking community members to remove any expired

or unused medicine and prescription drugs from their homes and dispose of them at the Lower Merion Police Department in Ardmore. The event will run from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. For more information, please visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

### **Installation of School Bus Security Cameras**

In recent years, the District has moved forward with a number of initiatives designed to enhance student safety in various school environments. This has included the implementation of new protocols for school visitors, construction of designated school entrances, expanded use of security cameras and fencing and preparedness training for staff and students. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, the District will install security cameras on the majority of school buses. As older buses are replaced over the next few years, all buses will eventually be similarly equipped. These cameras have proven to be an effective tool for districts nationwide seeking to deter misconduct on buses and can provide critical information in situations when disciplinary action may be considered.

The Board approved an amendment to the District's student transportation policy last year that establishes parameters for the implementation and use of security cameras and related audio/video recording on buses.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including several staff hires and salary adjustments for the 2016-17 school year.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACTIONS**

Items approved by the Board included International Baccalaureate History resources from Oxford University Press, subscription services from McGraw-Hill Education and overnight field trip requests for the HHS/LM National Society of Black Engineers, HHS buildOn, LMHS buildOn, LMHS Science Olympiad, LMHS Merionite, WVMS Girls Basketball, BCMS Model United Nations and HHS Baseball.

### **STUDENT SERVICES ACTIONS**

The Board approved an agreement with Abington Speech Pathology Services, Inc. for speech therapists.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE**

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the September 2016 LMSD Financial Report. Other approved items included:

- A donation of \$2000 from the Penn Wynne Home & School Association for the purchase of computers
- An Engagement Letter from The PFM Group to act as financial advisor to the School District
- An agreement with The Communication Solutions Group Inc. to provide supplemental communication services on an as-needed basis for 2016-17

### **FACILITIES & OPERATIONS**

Among the items approved by the Board included: an independent work order for surveying service, a proposal from ELA Sport for replacement of the synthetic turf field at Lower Merion High School and change orders for modular classroom project at PWES and additions and alterations at WVMS.

### **POLICY**

The following policies were reviewed for second reading: [Policy 104 \(Equal Opportunity Employment\)](#); [Policy 244 \(Educational Research\)](#); and [Policy 261 \(Anti-Hazing\)](#).

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Upcoming Meeting Dates: October 19 Communications Committee @ 8:30 AM; October 26 Legislative Committee @ 8:30 AM; November 9; Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 AM; November 11; Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; November 14 Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board @ 8:00 PM; November 17 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; November 21 Regular Business Board @ 8:00 PM and November 30 Communications Committee @ 7:00 PM

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*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).*