



Lower Merion School District

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LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Vol. 2, No. 6 – Highlights from the December 19, 2016 Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

Facilities & Enrollment Update

Superintendent Robert Copeland and Director of Operations Pat Guinnane provided an update on how enrollment growth is impacting District facilities. The presentation included a summary of enrollment numbers, an update on options, opportunities and obstacles in planning for growth and next steps to consider. Over the past eight years, LMSD has had the second-fastest enrollment growth rate in the Commonwealth and the largest growth by total number of students. This has resulted in the need to pursue options for accommodating additional students. LMSD recently commissioned two independent enrollment studies, which both showed continued growth at all levels in the near future and some leveling off at the elementary schools after five years. The District is working with the demographers to reconcile several discrepancies between the studies at individual school levels.

Some of the options discussed publicly over the past year have included redistricting, expanded use of modular classrooms, a Kindergarten center, an additional elementary or middle school, shifting grade groupings at elementary schools to K-4 and middle schools to 5-8 and increasing class size, among others. Of immediate concern is Bala Cynwyd Middle School, where expanded classroom capacity is necessary in the short term to maintain existing programs.

To view a slideshow of the facilities presentation, [click here](#).

For more detailed information about planning at Bala Cynwyd Middle School, [click here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

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

Hour of Code returns to LMSD

LMSD elementary school students recently joined more than 100 million students worldwide to participate in the third annual Hour of Code event, which took place December 5-9. The Hour of Code is a 60-minute activity where students of all ages learn the basic concepts of Computer Science and the language of programming through game-like, self-directed tutorials. Over the course of the week, students at all six elementary schools participated in the event in an effort to help demystify and spark a passion for the world of computer science.

Harriton pair honored in Drexel University's High School Photography Contest

Harriton High School tenth grade students Danielle Benstock and Grace Copeland were recently selected to have their artwork featured in the 2016 Drexel University High School Photography Contest Exhibition. Benstock's and Copeland's photographs will be exhibited at Drexel's gallery located at the Photography Facility on 33rd & Arch Street in Philadelphia from February 11 – March 5.

BCMS, Harriton Science Olympiad Support Urban Schools Initiative of PA Science Olympiad

The District recently received a note of appreciation from Scott Leggett, Coordinator for the Urban Schools Initiative of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad, for outstanding service by the BCMS and Harriton Science Olympiad teams. BCMS

and HHS Science Olympiad coaches and students attended the Build It/Study It/Learn It Day at St. Joe's University on December 3rd and helped to prepare students from urban schools by sharing resources, helping build structures, and giving students "some of their best tips on how to be a successful Science Olympian."

Mr. Leggett commended the LMSD students and staff for their work as mentors and expressed gratitude for ongoing efforts to support the Urban Schools Initiative, which helps to ensure that students in underserved communities are better able to participate and compete in Science Olympiad.

Mr. Leggett also shared that guests from other states who were present to observe the program remarked that "they were amazed at the willingness of [LMSD's] championship Science Olympiad teams to share so much of their knowledge – this doesn't happen in other states."

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff and coaching hires for the current school year. The District also announced the reclassification of Jennifer Kehoe from interim assistant principal to assistant principal for Gladwyne and Belmont Hills elementary schools.

Several longtime staff members announced their retirement this month. Best wishes to Gary Plummer (Mathematics/Harrilton), John Sharkey (Campus Aide/Lower Merion), Helen Smith (Bus Aide/Transportation) and Lynne Urian (Secretary/Harrilton).

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Among the items approved by the Board included several overnight field trips.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the November 2016 LMSD Financial Report. The Board also accepted Financial Statements and Single Audit Report for the school year ending June 30, 2016 from Rainer & Company.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Bid awarded to Rohrer Bus Sales for 16 replacement buses...Proposal approved from Shephard Restoration Engineers Proposal for masonry repairs and restoration at Penn Valley Elementary School... Individual work order for professional services approved with F. Tavani and Associates, Inc. as part of the initial investigation and design for classroom additions at Bala Cynwyd Middle School (traffic and parking analysis)...Individual work order for professional services approved with Gilbert Architects, Inc., to support the initial zoning and land development applications for classroom additions at Bala Cynwyd Middle School...Individual work order for professional services approved with Gilbert Architects, Inc., to evaluate existing conditions, capacity and site plans for each middle school cafeteria...Submission of applications approved based on a plan for a permanent classroom addition, cafeteria seating area expansion and temporary classrooms at Bala Cynwyd Middle School consistent with the plan presented at the December 19, 2016 Board Business Meeting. These applications include: a. Application for Waiver of Land Development for construction of temporary modular classrooms and associated parking; b. Application for Tentative Sketch approval of the plan to construction a permanent classroom addition and cafeteria seating area expansion; c. Application to the Zoning Hearing Board for permission to combine the school and Amherst Field parcels for zoning purposes to remain within the limit of impervious surface...Receipt certified for approval of PlanCon Part K: Project Refinancing dated December 1, 2016 by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016...Quote approved for Cisco maintenance services by Presidio.

POLICY

The following policy was reviewed for First Reading: [Policy 906 Public Complaints](#).

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 4 Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 AM; January 9 Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Meeting @ 8 PM; January 11 Communications Committee @ 8:30 AM; January 13 Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; January 19 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; January 23 Regular Business Board @ 8:00 PM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The LMSD Board and Administration extend best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy New Year!

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.