



Lower Merion School District

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LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Vol. 2, No. 8 – Highlights from the February 13, 2017 Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

Best Buddies

A team of students from Harriton and Lower Merion high schools presented an update on the Best Buddies program to the Board. Best Buddies is an international non-profit organization with high school chapters that fosters one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program began several years ago with seven students; today, more than 100 students at LMHS and more than 50 students at Harriton participate in the program, making it among the most popular clubs in the District. Students shared their reflections about the impact of the program and expressed their desire to see the program and its goals supported in the larger community and continued expansion in the middle schools. [Click here](#) to view a slideshow from the presentation.

Preliminary Budget Presentation

Superintendent Robert Copeland provided a second presentation of the 2017-18 LMSD Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary Budget is subject to change and serves as a starting point each year in a comprehensive public process that concludes with Final Budget adoption in June. It establishes a millage (tax) rate that cannot be increased in the final budget. The presentation included an expanded look at the impact of enrollment growth on LMSD. No other school district in the Commonwealth has been impacted more by enrollment growth over the past eight years than Lower Merion. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

The schedule of presentations and additional budget resources are available in [the budget section of the District website](#). This information will be updated throughout the budget process. The District encourages community members to review this information to better understand the budget and current funding challenges facing public education in Lower Merion and across the Commonwealth. Questions about the LMSD budget may be directed to budget@lmsd.org. To review the Preliminary Budget presentation, [click here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

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

Harriton Art Students Shine at PSEA competition

Harriton is well-represented at the 30th Annual Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) "Touch the Future" Art Show as 22 students recently had their pieces selected into the juried competition, which spotlights extraordinary student art from schools throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties. Harriton's selections are highlighted by three overall winners: seniors Lillian Brody and Hannah Wheeler, who each claimed first place in the printmaking and fiber arts categories, respectively; and senior Charlotte Perin, who took top honors in this year's competition with the "Best in Show" award.

Penn Wynne Elementary School Honored by the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

The Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation recently awarded Penn Wynne Elementary School with the Alex Scott Crystal Cup at the 11th Annual Lemon Ball in honor of the Penguins' longstanding dedication and commitment to the fight against childhood cancer. The impact of the Penn Wynne community has extended well beyond their support of Alex's original lemonade stand in 2002 and the school's annual lemonade stand in subsequent years. Penn Wynne parents have served twice as Lemon Ball co-chairs, and several parents and former students volunteer on the committee and at the event. Hundreds of school volunteers have helped out at ALSF events, served on committees and hosted their own events to raise funds. Many parents have introduced new staff, board members and supporters each year, creating a positive and lasting ripple effect throughout the Foundation.

Harriton Robotics Qualifies for PA State Championships

The Harriton High School Robotics Club recently competed in the *VEX Robotics Starstruck State Qualifier* and, despite the fact that it was only the team's second event in their inaugural season of competition, turned in an outstanding overall performance, ultimately qualifying for the Pennsylvania State Championships in March. The team's long-term goal is to qualify for the VEX Robotics World Championships, which brings together the top 1,400 school robotics programs in the world.

Record-Breaking Performance for LM TSA

The Lower Merion Technology Student Association (LM-TSA), kicked off its competitive season with a record-breaking regional competition. All 64 members earned top ten finishes and 62 of 64 achieved top five finishes in one or more events at the competition of 22 teams held earlier this month at Strayer Middle School. LM-TSA also achieved the most first place finishes (32) of any school. Victoria Lee, Noah Rubin, Russell Dougherty, Julian Ginzburg, Lauren Holgado, Sophie Yang, Ben Schatz, and David Altman received first place finishes in two or more of their events. TSA students have the opportunity to participate in over thirty science, technology, engineering, and math related events ranging from Software Development to Fashion Design. These events test creativity, intelligence, and leadership skills.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Among the items approved by the Board included several overnight field trips and a consulting agreement with Drew Gitomer for services related to review of science and mathematics curricular standards.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

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

The Board adopted the Preliminary 2017-18 School District Budget, authorizing expenditures totaling \$267,774,253 based upon a Real Estate Tax of 28.4493 mills; a 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax under Act 511 of 1965 known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act" (shared with the Township of Lower Merion or the Borough of Narberth); and a \$5 Local Services Tax. The Board also authorized the filing for budget exceptions in accordance with Act 1 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Bids awarded for installation/relocation of school zone flashing signals at PVES and PWES; additional security cameras at BCMS; chiller replacement at CYES; athletic stadium sound system; truck replacements: 2005 F530 dump truck, 2004 international stake body with lift gate; and F250 pick-up with aftermarket plow mount...License agreements approved with Saint Joseph's University for Lower Merion and Harriton High Schools graduation ceremonies on June 6 and June 7, 2017...Agreement approved with Level 3 Communications, LLC for Internet services through 2020... Agreement approved with Level 3 Communications, LLC for Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) mitigation services through 2020... Agreement approved with Mobilease Modular Space, Inc. for reservation of Modular Units in connection with renovations at Bala Cynwyd Middle School... Agreement approved for professional services and individual work order with VCOMM, LLC for communication services...First amendment approved to individual work order for geotechnical and environmental services with David Blackmore and Associates, Inc... Approved quote from

Lutron Services Co., Inc. for a Quantum software upgrade for lighting control system at LMHS.

POLICY

The following policies were reviewed for second reading: [Policy/AR 105.1 Curriculum Review by Parents/Guardians and Students](#); [Policy/AR 555 Private Coaching or Training of Students by District Athletic Coaches](#); and [Policy/AR 904 Public Attendance at School Events](#).

The following policy was reviewed for a first reading: [Policy 713 Access to School Facilities](#)

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the [2018-19 school calendar](#).

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming Meeting Dates: February 23 Legislative Committee @ 8:30 AM; February 27 @ 7 PM Facilities Public Workshop; February 29 Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 AM; March 8 Curriculum Committee; Friday March 10 Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; March 13 Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board @ 8 PM; March 16 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; March 20 Regular Board Business Meeting @ 8PM.

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.