

Lower Merion

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School District

Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Vol. 2, No. 9 – Highlights from the March 20, 2017 Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATIONS

Elementary World Language Program

Students and staff from the District's elementary schools presented an update on the FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) program to the Board. Students performed a variety of skits and songs in French and Spanish to demonstrate their language skills and cultural knowledge. LMSD students begin language instruction in first grade, with a focus on speaking and understanding. Visuals, manipulatives, and integration of cultural topics are a crucial part of the FLES classroom. A typical class includes songs, rhymes, games, play-acting, and other physical activities. The LMSD FLES program began in 1996, making it the longest-running FLES program in Pennsylvania.

Strategic Plan Update

Members of the LMSD Strategic Plan Leadership team provided an update on various aspects of the strategic plan, including recent implementation progress and the work of the plan's five pathway teams. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

Middle School Schedule Alignment

Assistant Superintendent Scott Eveslage provided a presentation as part of [a continuing series of informational programs](#) on the alignment of middle school schedules. The District has been engaged in aligning middle school schedules for the 2017-18 school year in an effort to more closely align with the LMSD strategic plan, to increase student input in course selection, and to ensure equity in programs and offerings for students at both Bala Cynwyd and Welsh Valley. To view a slideshow of Dr. Eveslage's presentation, [click here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

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

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Honor LMHS Students

Lower Merion High School students were well-represented in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, an annual competition that recognizes the nation's top student artists and writers. Ten LMHS students earned an impressive 22 awards across a variety of categories in this year's competition. LM's honorees included two Gold Key winners; Sophomore Sihan Wu and junior Michael Cheng were each awarded a Gold Key for their respective submissions in the Digital Arts and Poetry categories. Last year, more than 255,000 works of art and writing were submitted to the competition; approximately 5-7% of the works submitted received Gold Key recognition at the regional level.

LM Hosts Coding Competition

Lower Merion High School recently hosted its second annual "CodeLM" – a programming competition for computer science students from local high schools that features a series of challenging problem sets using a variety of coding languages like Java, Python, and C++. Eleven high schools participated in this year's event, which was planned and organized by a team of LMHS students led by seniors Noah Rubin, Max Roling, David Vonderheide and Ethan Boyer, with guidance and support from computer science teacher, Tom Swope. SIG served as the event sponsor.

Harriton Science Olympiad Wins Regional Competition

The Harriton High School Science Olympiad team recently won the 2017 Pennsylvania Southeast Region Science Olympiad Championship. The team earned medals in 21 out of 23 events, including 15 first-place finishes. The team will now begin to prepare for the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad, which takes place on April 29th. Harriton has won the state title in 19 of the past 20 years.

Mr. Harriton Raises \$30K for Charity

The 10th Annual Mr. Harriton Competition raised more than \$30,000 for a variety of charities, including the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, CURE SMA, the Sean King Fund, and the Lower Merion Scholarship Fund. The ten contestants demonstrated an array of entertaining talents while putting on a stellar show – all for a great cause – in front of a sold-out crowd in the Harriton auditorium. This year's winner was Joel Danilewitz.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Several longtime staff members announced their retirement this month. Best wishes to Michael Acerba (Teacher/Bala Cynwyd MS), Soryl Angel (Aide/Lower Merion HS), Jonathan Edwards (Teacher/Harriton HS), John Steptoe (Aide/Transportation), Laura Wienick (Teacher/Penn Valley ES).

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Among the items approved by the Board included several overnight field trips, the purchase of middle school English resources from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and the renewal of staff development software license with PerformanceMatters LLC.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

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

The Board accepted a donation from Cynwyd Elementary Home and School Association for the purchase and installation of a gaga pit.

The Board approved the annual membership services budget of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Bids awarded for roof repairs at DAO and BCMS; storm water maintenance at HHS; and musical instruments for various schools...License agreement approved with Nicholas Severini and World Class Soccer School...Contract approved for a one-year maintenance subscription with Visual Sound for the SMART Learning Suite...Contract extension approved with CPower for Demand Response...Modification approved for professional services contract with Reynolds Construction, LLC...Individual work order for professional services approved with Gilbert Architects, Inc...Amendment approved to individual work order for professional services with CMC Engineering... Amendment approved to individual work order with Chester Valley Engineers, Inc...Amendment approved to individual work order with F. Tavani and Associates, Inc...Change order approved for District Admin Building classroom renovations with SJ Thomas Inc.

POLICY

The following policies were reviewed for a first reading: [Policy 207 Attendance](#); [Policy 604 Tax Waiver Requests](#), and [Policy 713 Access to School Facilities](#).

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Monday, April 17 @ 8 PM Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board; Monday, April 24 @ 8 PM Regular Board. Committee Meeting Dates: Wednesday, March 22 @ 8:30 AM Communications; Wednesday, March 29 @ 8:30 AM @ Finance - ADDED; Wednesday, April 5 @ 8:30 AM Curriculum; Wednesday, April 5 @ 7:00 PM Finance - ADDED; Friday, April 7 @ 8:30 AM Policy; Thursday, April 20 @ 8:30 AM Facilities/Purchasing; Wednesday, April 26 @ 8:30 AM Finance - ADDED; Wednesday, April 26 @ 7:00 PM

Communications and Thursday, April 27 @ 7:00 PM Legislative.

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.