



Mountain Lakes Board of Education meeting, 3-7-22

SGA Report delivered by SGA President, Mr. Thomas Rankin

Congratulations to the cast and crew of “Newsies,” which ran for three nights last week. Wednesday night, the Guidance department presents “The College Admissions Game” for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors. On Thursday, the Band and Choir depart for their trip to Disney. The baseball program will be going to Florida to train. Juniors will sit for the NJGPA testing next week. There will be an early dismissal next Wednesday.

The debate team had some success in a recent competition. The Quiz Bowl team took 10th place in a recent competition.

In sports, MLHS swimmers are dominating. Liam Lynk, Lily Hann, and Lorelai Page all set school records. The girls track team competed in the Meet of Champions.

Comments from the MLEA, Mrs. Rose Dunn, Co-President MLEA

The current MLEA contract expires in just over 100 days and the central office has not yet agreed to meet to start negotiations. The MLEA has requested documents from the central office and none of their requests have been fulfilled. The MLEA is eager to start the negotiations process and is waiting for the central office to set an initial meeting. The MLEA is ready to meet now.

Presentation of Revenues, BA Mr. Alex Ferreira

The slideshow presentation is available online (see link at end of this document).

The sources of revenue are ML tax levy, tuition, subscription busing, state aid, fund balance, and withdrawal from reserve (for capital expenditure only). Because tuition is dropping greatly, the district is anticipating making a 2% increase in the tax levy. There are fewer students enrolling from Boonton Township, fewer students coming to Lake Drive, and the Biotech program, which brought 15-20 students per year, is in its last year. The state aid is not yet defined. The tuition charged to Lake Drive students is an estimated cost. When that tuition rate is confirmed a year after the year charged, it can be off by \$10,000 per student, which requires the district to rebate that amount to the sending district.

Capital expenses that are budgeted in next year’s budget are the Wildwood Playground and a sewage lift station at the HS.

The complete tentative budget will be shared on March 21st, 2022, with revenue and expenses, and including state aid numbers. Once the budget is approved by the Board of Ed, it will be reviewed by the NJ DOE. Public hearing for the budget will be May 2.

President’s Report, Mrs. Joanne Barkauskas, President, MLBOE

Reflecting on the past two difficult years, she is proud of the district. As a district, we have room to respect those who wish to wear masks and those who do not. We are headed for better days.



Superintendent Update, Michael Fetherman and Dr. Sumit Bangia

The COVID case count since 2/12/22 is 8 across all schools. We remain vigilant.

Lake Drive was recognized as a Regional Deaf Education Center of Excellence.

NJGPA testing, the new graduation requirement, will take place next week (3/14/22-3/18/22). The students will sit for 90 minutes a day for 5 days. We were selected for an experimental section, so that 5th day is not common to all districts.

Professional development on 3/16, early dismissal. Topics covered include SEL, state mandates, and health standards for PE teachers.

Parent SEL workshop on 3/22/22, virtual delivery.

Student volunteers for the Wingman Program were trained at WW, BC, and LD. Training for HS students will be later this spring. The training was well received, and the Wingman representatives gave positive feedback on how well our students did.

Coffee Talk on 4/27/22, 9 am, virtual delivery.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items only

HS student Benji Forman spoke to the board about the Russian attack on the Ukraine and how horrific it is. He relayed that his ancestors suffered in World War II and nobody was there to help them, so he wants to help the suffering Ukrainian people by raising funds for World Central Kitchen. WCK cooks and delivers meals to Ukrainians fleeing the war. He has raised \$12,000 already and his goal is now \$15,000. Please use this link to donate:

<https://donate.wck.org/fundraiser/3741119>

The board applauded and thanked Mr. Forman for his efforts.

A community member pointed out that the expense transfer report shows funds being moved from the ML taxpayer levy to a Lake Drive expense line. This is wrong because LD expenses are meant to be covered by the tuition from the sending districts. *Mr. Ferreira replied that he had made a mistake and there is a further entry on the same report reversing that one.*

A community member pointed out that Mr. Forman's comments were not agenda related but they were given in the "agenda items only" comment session. The community member was happy they let him speak and said that the board should revise its rules so that people can make non-agenda related comments in either comment period, or they should allow any comments from students in the first comment period. *The board was happy to have allowed Mr. Forman's important input, and they liked the second suggestion.*

Boonton Township Report, Johnathan LeVar, BT Representative

BT completed a demographic study with a trusted professional, and the study indicates that BT is expected to make up the last ten year's decrease in headcount over the next five years. They should



gain back the 90 headcount (over the 12 school grades) that has been lost. The study did not take into account any new residential development.

Committee Reports

Facilities Committee: Mrs. Erinn Tucker reported Principal Azar formed a playground committee. They prioritized landscaping, sensory station, monkey bars, and replacement of the failing equipment. The cost will be \$400K. It will be funded from our capital reserve and will take 8-16 weeks to install. The capital reserve will also be tapped to replace the bleachers at Wilkins Field.

Referendum Phase 3 will include two bathrooms at WW, the HS Auditorium seating and asbestos abatement, and the HS kitchen.

Long Term Planning Committee: Dr. Lauren McIntyre reported that they met on 3/3 and looked at each of the five objectives (Ensuring the success of all students, ensuring the success of all teachers, supporting the whole child, Finance, Infrastructure, and Technology, Community Partnerships) and aligned them with educational standards. On May 2, they will report out progress and plan to the BOE.

LWV note taker left the meeting at 10:15 pm

Presentations Link

The presentation on the MLSD Revenue, by BA Alex Ferreira, are available here:

https://www.mlschools.org/board_of_education/board_meeting_presentations