

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2009
Muhlenberg High School First Floor Lecture Hall

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 7:04 p.m. by Board President, Otto W. Voit, III, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present

President – Otto W. Voit, III
Vice President – Lee R. Reiniger
Secretary – K. Scott Long
Treasurer – Richard E. Hoffmaster
Assistant Secretary – Terry L. Heckman
Member – Chris W. Okonski (arrived 7:17 p.m.)
Member – Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.
Solicitor – James M. Lillis, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Brenda A. Stein

Members Absent

Member – Cindy L. Mengle (vacation)
Member – Barbara A. Nagle (family commitment)

Administration Present

Superintendent – Dr. Theresa D. Haught
Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Vlacía Z. Campbell
Business Manager – Diane E. Lucchese, CPA
High School Assistant Principal – Kevin Vanino
Middle School Principal – Donna Albright
Middle School Assistant Principal – Steve Baylor
Cole Intermediate School Principal – Ryan Giffing
Elementary Center Principal – Barbara Moyer
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Timothy Moyer
Reading/Language Arts Supervisor – Pam Wolff
Supervisor of Special Education – Michael D. Barr
Buildings/Grounds/Transportation Coordinator – Greg Schneider

Visitors

Tracy Huey
Zachery Zimmerman
Colleen Russo
Greta Cuyler, *Reading Eagle News Reporter*

Educational Presentations

A. MEC Report Card – Mrs. Barbara Moyer and Mrs. Pamela Wolff

Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Wolff presented a revised Report Card for Grades Kindergarten through Grade 4 (Exhibit A). The change is focused on Language Arts and Mathematics performance levels. Students would also receive progress reporting for special subjects and other learning skills assigned to each grade level. The grading would be based on a point system of 1 (Below Basic) through 4 (Advanced). Social studies and science would be integrated with reading and mathematics curriculum. The report card is being proposed for implementation in the 2009-10 school year and computerized in the 2010-11 school year.

- Mr. Raifsnider noted that the grading scale correlates with the PSSA scoring.
- Mr. Long added that each grade level establishes their own rubric for attainable performance levels.

B. Updates to Financing Bonds – Mr. Scott Kramer, RBC Capital Markets

Mr. Scott Kramer presented to the School Board an update regarding the district's financial status and possible financing of bonds (Exhibit B). He reviewed the current interest rate market indicating there is a good time to secure bonds for the remaining \$2.2 million bond issue. A worksheet was included in the update which showed the district's long range capital plan with an ending cash balance of \$6.1 million for June 30, 2012. The projection included the \$2.2 million bond. Without this bond issue the district's cash balance would be reduced by \$2.2 million in 2012. The impact for the millage requirement for the bond is 0.050 which is proposed for the 2011 (0.020) and 2012 (0.030) fiscal years.

Discussion by Board members:

- When does the \$2.2 million issue expire? – Mr. Kramer responded in 2022 when the principle is due.
- The district is permitted to retain an 8% fund balance each year for capital projects.
- The district would have more capital cash remaining if bond is used for Middle School project.

Poll of Board to Issue \$2.2 Million Bond:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Okonski – yes | Heckman - no |
| Raifsnider – no | Hoffmaster - no |
| Reiniger – no | Long - no |
| Voit - no | |

Decision by the Board is to not proceed with the bond issue of \$2.2 million.

Hearing of Visitors - Muhlenberg School District taxpayers and residents have an opportunity, at this time, to comment on matters of concern, official action, or deliberation which are or may be before the Muhlenberg School Board. The Board retains the option to accept all public comment at this time. Presentations should be limited to two minutes per person. In the event that the Board determines that there is not sufficient time for residents or taxpayers of the School District to comment, the Board may defer the comment period to the next regular meeting.

No public comment at this time.

Committee Reports

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.
Mr. Raifsnider reported the BCIU Board meeting is Thursday, June 18.
- B. Reading Muhlenberg CTC Lee R. Reiniger
Mr. Reiniger reported on the Joint School Committee meeting of June 8. Two courses were changed: Retailing, Marketing & Distribution to Business Marketing, & Distribution and Cabinetmaking to Cabinetmaking and Finish Carpentry. The Upholstery program was placed on a watch list for next year. Mr. Richard Hoffmaster was elected as Treasurer for the 2009-10 school year.
- C. Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau Cindy L. Mengle
In Mrs. Mengle's absence, Mr. Raifsnider reported the EIT board meeting is scheduled the end of this month.
- D. PSBA Liaison Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.
Mr. Raifsnider shared with the board that a resolution was included on the agenda regarding the GCA/Keystone Exams. He further reported that he would like the Board to support the PSBA platform proposal regarding testing and curriculum.
- Board members were in consensus to favorably vote on this platform proposal at tonight's meeting.
- E. Muhlenberg Community Library Terry L. Heckman
Mr. Heckman reported on the meeting held on June 8. The total fund raising amount for the used book sale was \$3,066.49. The next fund raising event is scheduled for July 14 at Schell's Restaurant and Miniature Golf. There have been cuts in funding by the state for all libraries. This may effect some of the services and hours of operation in the library.
- F. Educational Programs Dr. Vlacia Z. Campbell
Dr. Campbell reported on the Act 80 day held on May 20, 2009. The principals and staff members presented a Learning Fair that highlighted student achievement results for the school year:
- The Elementary Center staff presented a video on the 4-Sight testing results which is posted on the district's web site.
 - Cole Intermediate School Principal Mr. Giffing spoke on educators and what they do for families in the community.
 - Middle School staff presented a video motivating children to achieve.
 - High School department chairpersons highlighted their programs and extra-curricular programs.

The entire program was well received by the staff as a reflection of the school year.

Report on Cole Gym Floor

Mr. Lillis reported that the district received a favorable response from the insurance company to pay the deductible and to submit a claim for coverage of remaining costs. The abatement part of the contract is subject to a cap of up to \$50,000 for reimbursement.

Mr. Hill reported that the bids for the gym floor replacement and new bleachers was awarded to Gordon H. Bayer, Inc. in the amount of \$159,000. The asbestos abatement bid was awarded to Asbestos & Mold Services in the amount of \$26,485.

The bid awards will be added to the meeting agenda for a formal vote by the Board so that work may proceed through the summer months.

Solicitor's Comments

No further comment at this time.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Haught reported that this year's commencement program was a lovely event.

Dr. Haught reported that the administrators have been assigned to read a book for professional development entitled The Heart of Change by John Kotter and Dan Cohen. After reading the book topics were discussed at cabinet meetings among the principals and department supervisors.

Dr. Haught announced that staff members were invited to participate in a school slogan contest for the district. From the 72 responses received, the one selected as a new school slogan is *MUHLENBERG – EXCELLENCE IN ACTION*. A luncheon meeting was held on June 5 for all participants in the contest. The slogan will be used as a kick off to the new school year.

Board Business

Personnel – Resolution Nos. 281A through 281Q

Moved by Okonski and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Personnel Resolution Nos. 281A through 281Q in its entirety.

Yeas: Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit.
Motion carried unanimously.

281A Professional Appointments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following professional appointments:

- a) Ms. Laura E. Winder, Special Education Teacher for Learning Support at MEC (C. Spencer), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year, salary of \$40,393 (BS, Step 1)
- b) Mrs. Stacy Yozwiak, *transfer* from First Grade Teacher to the half time Librarian and half time Computer Teacher at the C. E. Cole Intermediate School (new position), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year, salary remains the same as assigned

281A Professional Appointments (continued)

- c) Mrs. Kristina Antonellos, *transfer* from Third Grade Teacher to Full Day Kindergarten Teacher at the Elementary Center (R. Watson's retirement), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year, salary remains the same as assigned
- d) Mrs. Hilary Gancar, *transfer* from Reading Intervention Teacher to Grade 2 at the Elementary Center (L. Angelucci-Kuriger), effective the 2009-10 school year, salary remains the same as assigned
- e) Mrs. Leslie Angelucci-Kuriger, *transfer* from Grade 2 Teacher to Reading Intervention Teacher at the Elementary Center (H. Gancar), effective the 2009-10 school year, salary remains the same as assigned
- f) Ms. Danielle Zaborowski, long term substitute for Grade 4 at Elementary Center (S. Raudabaugh) effective August 26, 2009 through January 21, 2010, salary of \$40,393 (BS, Step 1) prorated for days served in the 2009-10 school year
- g) Mrs. Linda Grace, long term substitute for Grade 4 at Elementary Center (K. Barbon), effective the 2009-10 school year at the salary of \$40,393 (BS, Step 1)
- h) Ms. Sharawn D. Hall, School Psychologist (J. Lucas), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year and as needed in summer 2009 at the salary of \$54,466 (M+30, Step 1), pending Pennsylvania certification
- i) Mr. Matthew DeAngelis, School Psychologist (new position budgeted from 2008-09 school year), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year and as needed in summer 2009 at the salary of \$54,466 (M+30, Step 1), pending Pennsylvania certification
- j) Mr. Peter Martinez, Health & Physical Education Teacher at High School (J. Yocum), effective beginning the 2009-10 school year, salary of \$40,393 (BS, Step 1)

281B Resignations

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following resignations:

- a) Ms. Rachel Johnson, Grade 1 teacher, effective at the completion of the teacher contract year ending June 5, 2009
- b) Ms. Jessica Christman, Learning Lab Instructional Assistant at Elementary Center, effective June 4, 2009
- c) Mrs. Lynda Gross, Custodian, resignation effective retroactive to September 24, 2007 as per PSERS disability benefit

281C Resignation for ESY Program

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following resignation for the ESY 2009 program:

- a) Mrs. Lisa A. Ermler, Instructional Assistant
- b) Mrs. Joanna Banks, Instructional Assistant

281D Department Chairpersons for the 2009-10 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following personnel as Department Chairpersons for the 2009-10 school year:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| a) Art | Mrs. Kachina Martin | \$1,200 |
| b) Career /Technology Education | Mr. Michael Allen | \$1,200 |
| c) English | Mr. Michael Anthony | \$1,200 |
| d) Family & Consumer Science | Mrs. Faye Heckman | \$ 900 |
| e) Guidance | Mr. Matthew Werley | \$1,200 |
| f) Library | Mr. Rob Walters | \$ 900 |
| g) Mathematics | Mrs. Cathy Shappell | \$1,200 |
| h) Music | Mr. David Luckenbaugh | \$1,200 |
| i) Nurses | Mrs. Kathy Bower | \$ 900 |
| j) Health & Physical Education | Mrs. Lori Spohn | \$1,200 |
| k) Science | Dr. Beth Kroa | \$1,200 |
| l) Social Studies | Mrs. Pat Morse | \$1,200 |
| m) Special Education K-6 | Mrs. Mary Davis | \$1,200 |
| n) World Languages | Mrs. Ginny Fitzpatrick | \$1,200 |

281E ESY Appointment

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following ESY appointment for 2009:

- a) Mrs. Darlene Allen, Instructional Assistant for Learning Support at C. E. Cole I.S., pay rate of \$13.72 per hour (replaces L. Ermler)

281F Request for Leave of Absence and FMLA Leave for Mrs. Hilary Gancar

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request for leave of absence and FMLA leave for Mrs. Hilary Gancar, Elementary Teacher, effective on or about August 26, 2009 through December 23, 2009.

281G Co/Extra-Curricular Resignations

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following co/extra-curricular resignations:

- a) Mr. William Snelling – Spring Musical Vocal Director, effective May 27, 2009
- b) Mr. Bill Lobb – Junior High Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach, effective June 4, 2009
- c) Mr. John Winand, Jr. – High School Mock Trial Advisor, effective June 5, 2009
- d) Mr. Mike Rohrbach – High School Baseball Assistant Coach, effective June 8, 2009

281H Co/Extra-Curricular Appointments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following co/extra-curricular appointments:

- a) Mr. Joshua Ressler, Head Girls' Basketball Coach
- b) Mr. Bill Lobb – Head Junior High Girls' Basketball Coach
- c) Ms. Rebecca Kallal, High School Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach (J. Ressler)
- d) Ms. Katie Kauffman, High School Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach (K. Yeasted)
- e) Ms. Carissa Kramer, Junior High School Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach (W. Lobb)

281I Completion of Probation for Classified Employee

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the probation for the following classified employee:

- a) Ms. Robin Gardner, completion of probation as of May 8, 2009 and recommended for permanent employment effective May 9, 2009

281J Aquatics Personnel for 2009

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following employee for the aquatics program for 2009:

- a) Jillian Roth – Instructor, \$7.50 per hour

281K Mentor Assignments for 2009-10

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following mentor assignments for the 2009-10 school year at the professional pay rate of \$22.00 per hour:

- a) Mrs. Lori Rubert, mentor for Mrs. Ann Edwards, 30 hours
- b) Mrs. Kristen Bagentose, mentor for Ms. Danielle Zaborowski (LTS Grade 4), 30 hours
- c) Mrs. Eileen Campbell, mentor for Mrs. Linda Grace (LTS Grade 4), 60 hours

281L Salaries for Secretaries and Custodians for the 2009-10 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the salaries for secretaries and custodians for the 2009-10 school year as per the MESPA Contract (Exhibit #222).

281M Terminated Position

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the termination of the Director of Aquatics position effective June 30, 2009.

281N Director of Aquatics (Part Time Position)

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the revised job description for the Director of Aquatics – Part Time Position, salary of \$15,250.00, effective July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (Exhibit #223).

281O Administrative Salaries for the 2009-10 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the administrative salaries for the 2009-10 school year (Exhibit #224).

281P Substitute for Summer School Program

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following personnel for substitute teaching in the 2009 summer school program:

- a) Ms. Lisa G. Yeasted, Mathematics Teacher

281Q Classified Positions

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following classified positions:

- a) Ms. Cindy Heimbach, from full time Special Education Instructional Assistant at Elementary Center to part time Special Education Instructional Assistant at C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective beginning the 2009-10 school year
- b) Mrs. Cindy Tomasi, from part time Special Education Instructional Assistant at C. E. Cole Intermediate School to full time Special Education Instructional Assistant at Elementary Center, effective beginning the 2009-10 school year

Management

282 Adoption of District Policies

Moved by Hoffmaster and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the following policies (Exhibit #225):

- Policy 1.8 – Board Meetings
- Policy 2.4 – Disaster and Emergency Plan
- Policy 3.3 – Student Records
- Policy 3.15 – Enrollment of Students
- Policy 3.25 – Admission of Beginners
- Policy 3.41 – Behavior Support
- Policy 3.43 – Independent Education Evaluations
- Policy 5.3 – Homework
- Policy 7.5 – School Visitors

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

Physical Plant and Transportation

283 Sunday Facility Use Requests

Moved by Reiniger and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Sunday facility use requests for the following activities (Exhibit #226):

- a) Tim Braun Softball Tournament – use of fields 2 & 4 on July 31, August 1 & 2, 2009
- b) Reading Area Tennis Organization for use of tennis courts on June 7 and June 14, 2009 for the 25th Annual Berks Junior Open

Yeas: Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

284 Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement

Moved by Raifsnider and Okonski that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the membership to the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council for a fee of \$100.00 (Exhibit #227).

Be it further resolved that the district appoint Dr. Theresa D. Haught as the authorized signatory for entering into a service contract for supply of electricity.

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

285 Middle School Weight Training Room

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the revision for the Middle School weight training room at a cost not to exceed \$100,000 (funding from 2008 Construction Fund) (Exhibit #228).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

286 Construction Change Order for Middle School

Moved by Hoffmaster and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following change order for the Middle School renovations and additions (funding from 2008 Construction Fund) (Exhibit #229):

- a) MMS #4, Gordon H. Baver., Inc.
 - General Construction Contractor, GC-003
 - Installation of wall cabinets
 - Change floor finish for administration office
 - Revise fascia details \$15,055.00

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

Budget and Finance

287 Approval of Financial Reports

Moved by Raifsnider and Okonski that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following financial reports and that they become part of the permanent record of the meeting.

| Fund | Treasurer's Report | Financial Report | Bills Paid Month | Investments | Budget Transfers |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| General | April 09 | | May 09 #20332-20674 | April 09 | April 09 |
| Capital Reserve | April 09 | April 09 | June 09 #424-430 | April 09 | |
| 1996 Series "A" | April 09 | April 09 | June 09 #459-464 | April 09 | |
| 2003 Construction | April 09 | April 09 | N/A | April 09 | |
| 2007 Construction | April 09 | April 09 | June 09 #371-372 | April 09 | |
| 2008 Construction | April 09 | April 09 | June 09 #131-138 | April 09 | |
| Cafeteria | April 09 | April 09 | May 09 #1030-1081 | April 09 | |
| Activity Fund | April 09 | | | April 09 | |

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski.
 Motion carried unanimously.

288 Adoption of Final Budget for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Reiniger and Hoffmaster that the Final Budget for the Muhlenberg School District 2009-10 fiscal year, as presented by the Administration, be approved. This is a balanced budget in the amount of \$45,235,794 (Exhibit #230).

Said budget shall set forth a levy of the following tax structure: a tax of 25.06 mils (\$25.06 per \$1,000.00) of assessed market value of real estate; and the district's share of a realty tax transfer of 1%; an occupational tax of \$10.00 for Laureldale and an emergency management tax of \$52.00 for Muhlenberg Township (\$47 for township and \$5.00 for school district); a 1% earned income tax; a mercantile tax consisting of one mil on wholesale transactions; and a business privilege tax at the rate of one and one-half mils on the gross volume of business, to provide the necessary revenue for same.

Yeas: Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski.
 Nay: Raifsnider.
 Motion carried.

289 2009-10 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger,

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Muhlenberg School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2009, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2009:

a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$1,194,715.78.

b. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$5,275.09.

c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$1,199,990.87.

2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 6,420.

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 3.

c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and farmsteads is 6,423.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(c) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$1,199,990.87 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and farmsteads of 6,209, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$186.83.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homestead and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$960.30 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 6,402 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$0.15. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$186.83, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$186.98.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$186.98 by the School District real estate tax rate of 25.06 mills (.02506), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$7,462, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$7,462.

Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$7,462. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$7,462. The homestead exclusion and farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction will apply only to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

Yeas: Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Motion carried unanimously.

290 School Breakfast and Lunch Prices for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the school breakfast and lunch prices for the 2009-10 school year:

- a) Breakfast
Students - \$1.50 (all buildings)
Adults - \$2.00 (all buildings)

- b) Lunch
Elementary and Intermediate School - \$1.75 (.15 increase)
Middle School and High School Students - \$2.00 (.15 increase)
Adults - \$3.00

Yeas: Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit.
Motion carried unanimously.

291 District Broker of Record

Moved by Raifsnider and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Mr. Jeff Darlington of Rigg Darlington Group, as the district's Broker of Record for insurance and risk management purposes effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

292 District Insurance Policies

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district's insurance policies for the 2009-10 school year as follows (Exhibit #231):

- a) School Leaders, Errors & Omissions Insurance with PSBA Insurance Trust effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$15,297.00

- b) Multi-Insurance Package Policy - effective July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 – PSBA/ACE Insurance:
 - 1) Package \$42,571
 - 2) Automobile 7,716
 - 3) Umbrella 8,686
 - 4) Student Accident 9,920
 - 5) Boiler & Machinery 5,239

- c) Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy with School Districts Insurance Consortium (S.D.I.C.) as the carrier for workers' compensation insurance for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at a cost of \$143,025 for the central fund contribution portion and a maximum cost of \$29,090 for the self-insured retention portion for a total of \$172,115.

Yeas: Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

293 Acknowledgement of Donations from Office Max

Moved by Reiniger and Okonski that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district as a recipient of donated items from Office Max, 5th Street Highway, (Exhibit #232).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

294 Advertised Sale of Surplus Kitchen Equipment

Moved by Hoffmaster and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the advertised sale of surplus kitchen equipment (Exhibit #233):

- a) Steamer
- b) Gas Range
- c) Convection Oven (2)
- d) Dishwashing System

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

295 Award Bids for Copy Paper and School Supplies for 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the bids for copy paper and school supplies for the 2009-10 school year (Exhibit #234):

- a) Copy Paper
- b) Art Supplies
- c) Classroom and Office Supplies
- d) Fall and Winter Sports Supplies
- e) Technical Education Supplies

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

Education

296 Acceptance of Gifts

Moved by Hoffmaster and Okonski that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following gifts as in accordance with district Policy 2.1, "Gifts" (Exhibit #235):

- a) Muhlenberg Community Partnership – donation of \$7,026.12 for the purchase of library books for Elementary Center, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, and Middle School
- b) Mr. Mark Wallace – donation of equipment for weight training room at a value of \$800.00
- c) Mr. Dan Smith, donation of Besson Euphonium for the High School Marching Band, value of \$2,000.00
- d) Mr. Jerome Zeiler, donation of Minolta 7000 Series 35 MM Camera for the Technology Education Department, value of \$50.00

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski.
Motion carried unanimously.

297 Summer Tuition Contract Agreement with Opportunities School

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Summer Tuition Contract Agreement with Opportunities School for a Muhlenberg student to receive educational services at a tuition cost of \$3,428.64 for 24 days effective June 29, 2009 to August 6, 2009 (Exhibit #236).

Yeas: Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider.
Motion carried unanimously.

298 Adopt Textbook/Software Video Listing for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Okonski and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the Textbook/Software Video Listing for the 2009-10 School Year as presented (Exhibit #237).

Yeas: Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Motion carried unanimously.

299 Adoption of New Curriculum for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the New Curriculum for the 2009-10 School Year as presented (Exhibit #238).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

300 Conference Requests

Moved by Hoffmaster and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following conference requests (Exhibit #239):

- a) Mrs. Pamela Wolff and Ms. Bonnie Kerr to attend the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Training in Charleston, South Carolina, on July 19-21, 2009 at an estimated cost of \$2,514.80 (funding through Title I)
- b) Mr. Donald B. Raifsnider to attend the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Symposium on Educational Issues for School Board Members on July 12-13, 2009 in Gettysburg, PA at an estimated cost of \$488.00 (budgeted - Board conference)
- c) Mrs. Holly Lorchak to attend the 2009 National Autism Conference at State College, PA, on August 2-7, 2009 at an estimated cost of \$1,165.15 (budgeted – Special Education Department)
- d) Mrs. Donna Albright to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary Principals' Summer Institute in Gettysburg, PA on July 27-29, 2009 at an estimated cost of \$909.53 (budgeted – Middle School principal conference)

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

301 Alternative Education Agreement with Manito, Inc. for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Raifsnider and Okonski that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Alternative Education Agreement with Manito, Inc. for the 2009-10 school year for 2 upfront slots at \$19,844.00 each (Exhibit #240).

Yeas: Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

302 Agreement with Caron Foundation for Student Assistance Services for the High School for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Okonski and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Agreement with Caron Foundation for Student Assistance Services for the High School for the 2009-10 school year for 2 days per week at an annual cost of \$6,747 (Exhibit #241).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

303 Permission for a Senior Student to Complete the 2009-10 School Year as a Non-Resident

Moved by Raifsnider and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request for a senior student, Alex Godfrey, to complete the 2009-10 school year as a non-resident student as in accordance with district Policy 3.15 "Enrollment of Students" and whereby abiding by school rules and regulations. Permission is granted at no tuition charge for the 2009-10 school year (Exhibit #242).

Be it further resolved, that it is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation for the days the students is in attendance as a non-resident.

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

304 PSBA Policy Proposal

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the proposal from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for Policy Manual Development Service at the initial cost of \$7,500 and annual maintenance of \$950 (budgeted – Curriculum) (Exhibit #243).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

305 Agreement with Berks County Intermediate Unit for Special Education Services for the 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Hoffmaster and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit for Special Education Services for the 2009-10 School Year (Exhibit #244).

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski.
Motion carried unanimously.

306 Resolution Opposing Proposed High School GCA/Keystone Exams

Moved by Raifsnider and Heckman,

WHEREAS, the School District of Muhlenberg is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, students who have passed the local proficiency evaluations and have historically experienced placement and success in college could be denied the opportunity to attend even after offers of admission have been granted; and

WHEREAS, in the School District of Muhlenberg, students who have not scored proficient on the PSSA have shown understanding of state standards through a variety of other assessments including portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and other methods; and

WHEREAS, the PSSAs and local assessments already provide districts with information about students in need of remediation, and another layer of testing will only confirm what is already known; and

WHEREAS, the State, without regulatory change, can extend technical and financial assistance to districts already known to be struggling; and

WHEREAS, verification of the validity of these alternative assessments would be required every six years and would be costly to the school district and administration in both time and money, giving districts no choice but to “voluntarily” use the GCA/Keystone Exams rather than incur the financial burden associated with the validation process; and

WHEREAS, the monies required by the districts for verification of the validity of alternative assessments would require expenditures that would be better spent in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for local assessments are undefined and may discourage assessments that would be beneficial for diverse learners; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the GCA/Keystone Exams would reduce the number of instructional days and impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of GCA/Keystone Exams amounts to a state controlled curriculum that reduces the District’s ability to provide a curriculum based on community needs and desires for education that focuses on developing in students a passion for life-long learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the GCA/Keystone Exams will not measure 21st century skills employers are seeking and will take away instructional time that should be used for developing skills sets in the areas of leadership, collaboration, creativity and technology; and

WHEREAS, the GCA/Keystone Exams will have continuing economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the State, having already identified best practices related to local proficiency assessments, can share these methods with all districts without the need to add GCA/Keystone Examinations and related expenses;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the School District of Muhlenberg opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact GCA/Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including leadership, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Yeas: Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider.
Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Business

307 Membership to Lehigh University Study Council for 2009-10 School Year

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the membership to Lehigh University Study Council for the 2009-10 school year for dues in the amount of \$1,100.00 (Exhibit #245).

Yeas: Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Motion carried unanimously.

308 Proposed Change Orders for Middle School Construction Project

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the proposed change orders for the Middle School construction project (Exhibit #246):

- a) MMS #5, Gordon Baver, General Construction Contractor –
Revisions to Janitor's Closet, Room B171- \$7,528
- b) MMS#6, Herneisen Electric, Inc., Electrical Contractor –
Emergency lighting in 7th Grade Tech-Ed room and
first floor LGI Room - \$4,758
- c) MMS#7, TMI Commercial, Inc., Plumbing Contractor –
Add air lines in Science Rooms A123 and A130 - \$7,397

Yeas: Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit.
Motion carried unanimously.

309 Change Orders for C. E. Cole Intermediate School

Moved by Raifsnider and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following change orders for the C. E. Cole Intermediate School construction project (funding from 2007 Construction Fund) (Exhibit #247):

- a) COLE #49, G. Bass Company #05-05, Plumbing Contractor –
Equipment installation \$ 553.00
- b) COLE #50, G. Bass Company #05-04, Plumbing Contractor –
Additional plumbing work, revision to lower pass through,
relocate RWC to install cabinets \$2,467.25
- c) COLE #51, E. R. Stuebner, Inc. #01-27, General Trades
Contractor – Repairs to metal stairs at Boiler Room \$4,126.07

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

310 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Special Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2009, the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2009, and the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2009 be approved as submitted.

Yeas: Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

311 Award Bids for C. E. Cole Gym Floor

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District award the bid for the C. E. Cole Gym Floor replacement to Gordon H. Bayer, Inc., Pennsburg, PA, in the amount of \$159,000.00 (Exhibit #248).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

312 Award Bid for Asbestos Abatement for C. E. Cole Gym

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District award the bid for the Asbestos Abatement for the C. E. Cole Gym Floor to Asbestos & Mold Services, Hainesport, NJ in the amount of \$26,485.00 (Exhibit #249).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

313 Appoint Representative to the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council

Moved by Hoffmaster and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize Mr. Greg Schneider as the district's representative to the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council (Exhibit #250).

Yeas: Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long.
Motion carried unanimously.

314 PSBA Platform Proposal for 2009

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the support and submission of the following platform proposal to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (Exhibit #251):

Platform Proposal

Opposes any effort by the Governor, PDE, and/or Legislature to implement a one size fits all state curriculum and/or state graduation exam. This would include but not be limited to GCA's, Keystone Exams 1.0, and any other such high stakes exam that would be mandatory to pass in order to receive a high school diploma. PSBA would also oppose any funding for any such proposals.

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski.
Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. School Crossing Guards

Dr. Haught received a request from Mr. James Murray, Muhlenberg Township Commissioner, to transfer the employment of the school crossing guards to the school district. There are currently four crossing guards in Muhlenberg Township. The district also has two crossing guards in the Borough of Laureldale – one guard is employed by the borough and the other one is employed by the school district. The school district does share half the cost of the salaries for the employees with the exception for the one guard that the district employs and pays full salary to that employee.

In researching the history of the crossing guards, it was discovered that the township has employed the school crossing guards for the past 35 years.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue the employment of the four crossing guards under the jurisdiction of Muhlenberg Township. The district shall continue to share the cost in salaries at half payment. The district shall cooperate with the Township to advertise for the positions in the school district's newsletter and web site.

New Business

315 Memoriam of Mrs. Angela M. Kummerer

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that we remember the passing of Mrs. Angela M. Kummerer who served as a Mathematics Teacher in the Muhlenberg High School for thirteen years (1990-2003) and served as Department Chairperson and Japan Club Advisor, and that we honor her memory for her dedicated service to the school district and community.

Be it further resolved that we convey through this resolution our deepest sympathy to her family, and that this resolution be made part of the permanent record in the minutes of the Muhlenberg School District.

Yeas: Reiniger, Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider.
Motion carried unanimously.

Hearing of Visitors

Presentation is limited to approximately two minutes per person. Should any citizen require more than the two minutes allocated, please contact the Superintendent prior to the meeting. She will coordinate such requests for the Board. Citizens addressing the Board should be aware that the meeting is being taped.

No public comment at this time.

Board Visitor of the Month

September – Donald Raifsnider
October – Lee Reiniger
November – Rick Hoffmaster
December – Scott Long

January –
February –
March – Terry Heckman
April –
May – Cindy Mengle

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| June 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Regular Meeting |
| July 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Committee of the Whole & Regular Meetings |
| August 3 | 6:30 p.m. | RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings |
| August 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Committee of the Whole & Regular Meetings |

Adjournment

316 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Hoffmaster and Reiniger that there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Yeas: Voit, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Long, Okonski, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

K. Scott Long
Board Secretary