

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2011
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, February 9, 2011 at 7:02 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
Treasurer – Richard E. Hoffmaster
Assistant Secretary – Cindy L. Mengle
Member – Terry L. Heckman
Member – John A. DelCollo
Member – Barbara A. Nagle
Member – Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr. (arrived 7:08 p.m.)
Solicitor – James M. Lillis, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Brenda A. Stein

Members Absent

Secretary – K. Scott Long (work commitment)

Administration Present

Superintendent – Dr. Theresa D. Haught
Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Vlacía Z. Campbell
Business Manager – Diane E. Lucchese, CPA
High School Principal – Michael Mish
High School Assistant Principal – Kevin Vanino
Middle School Principal – Donna Albright
Middle School Assistant Principal – Michael Kelly
Cole Intermediate School Principal – Dr. Ryan Giffing
Elementary Center Principal – Steven Baylor
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Tim Moyer
Supervisor of Special Education – Michael Barr
Technology Director – Daniel Houck
Buildings/Grounds/Transportation Coordinator – Greg Schneider

Visitors

Karin Althouse	Jackie Bellanca	Debbie Moyer	Suzanne Myers
Linda Wentzel	Armani Fuller	Tracy Huey	Jonathan Potts
Michelle Hillegas	Inga Hobbs	Jill McIntyre	Bruce Watson
Jolyn Casper	Lee Ann Bieber	Mike Molusky	Tiffany Armani
Laura Cugini	Danielle Zaborowski	Terry Guers	Sara Patton
Casey Blankenbiller	Jamie Snyder	Clarissa T. Enslin	Margie McGinley
Lisa Venkler	Sharon Miller	Sandra Schneider	Randy Mutter
Marc Wolfe	Michele Karom	Ann Edwards	Linda Sassaman
Erica Ligenza	Vicki Seidel	Ivana Schlott	Sheri Millard
M. Ligenza	Katie Foltz	Nancy Faust	A. Eddinger
Gerald Miller	Michele McCammitt	Laurie Vlasak	Rhonda Himic
Amy Sharp	Denise Rapp	Mike Rapp	

Greta Cuyler, *Reading Eagle Reporter*

Student Council

A. C. E. Cole Intermediate School Student Council Report

Armani Fuller, a sixth grade student, reported that the Cole Student Council has sponsored several fund raising events – a food drive at Christmas that donated 517 pounds of food and a Valentine’s Dance with proceeds going to the American Heart Association.

Brooke Schlott, a fifth grade student, reported on activities that Student Council is involved with this school year – PSSA Pep Rally, Shamrock Shake, and Love Messages.

Sabrina Avanzato, a fifth grade student, reported that students sold candy canes in December and plan to sell lollipops to donate proceeds to the American Heart Association.

B. High School Student Council Report

Erica Ligenza, President of Student Council, reported that the Student Council has prepared care kits for teacher appreciation. The Council is continuing to improve student climate in the school working cooperatively with the Art Club, class officers, and high school administrators. The school climate initiative includes projects such as:

- Painting wall areas above the lockers with blue paint
- Adding Muhl hoof prints in path areas and also outside
- Ideas for transforming the current Muhl mascot
- Designing flags for academic wings, i.e. Science, Math, Social Students
- Creating a mobile Muhl in the lobby

Student Council continues to participate in the *No Place for Hate* program and are planning a motivational speaker for this spring. The Muhl Pride event is scheduled for May 6 with a raindate of May 13. The Student Council along with the Girl Scouts sponsored a *Preventing Date Violence* week.

Executive Session

The Board recessed at 7:10 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

President Voit resumed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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.

Mrs. Lisa Venkler, parent and resident, stated her concern regarding the costs of health insurance and recommended that the district require staff to pay for health insurance.

Hearing of Visitors (continued)

Ms. Karin Althouse, parent and resident, stated her support of the full day kindergarten program and encouraged the Board to consider priorities for the school district.

Mr. Raifsnider responded that the district participates in a joint purchasing program with the Berks County Intermediate Unit and that the district participates in a county-wide health insurance program to secure competitive rates.

Mr. Voit responded that all organizations are working together this year. The board's priority is education.

Committee Reports

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.

Mr. Raifsnider reported that the BCIU board meeting is next Thursday, February 17.

- B. Reading Muhlenberg CTC Lee R. Reiniger

Mr. Reiniger reported the CTC Joint School Committee meeting is Monday, February 14.

- C. Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau Cindy L. Mengle

Mrs. Mengle reported on the meeting held on January 25. The EIT board is reviewing the preliminary budget for July 1 through December 31. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22.

- D. PSBA Liaison Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.

Mr. Raifsnider reported on the recent conference he attended in Washington D.C. Presented at the conference was a book written by Mr. Jamie Vollmer entitled *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*. An interesting article in the book describes the enhancements to the public educational system through the 20th Century outlining each decade of new initiatives and programs.

- E. Muhlenberg Community Library Terry L. Heckman

Mr. Heckman reported the annual report for 2010 is available to the public. The ending balance is \$16,000.00. The next meeting is Monday, February 14.

- F. Educational Programs Dr. Vlacía Z. Campbell

Dr. Campbell updated the School Board on the following programs:

- Crisis Management Committee – Chaired by Mr. Tim Moyer, the committee has developed a Crisis Management Plan.
- Policy Committee - The meeting was canceled on February 1st and rescheduled for February 21.
- Student/Parent/Faculty Survey – Responses have been received from the survey and will be compiled for school safety.
- Middle School Spelling Bee Champion – Asher Fair, grade 8, will compete in the Berks County Spelling Bee.

Solicitor's Comments

No report.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Theresa D. Haught reported ...

As I mentioned last month Senator Jeff Piccola, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and Senator Williams are introducing legislation to create a tax funded education tuition voucher program called Senate Bill No. 1. The plan is to be phased in over 3 years and focuses on low income students from families with an annual income no more than 130% of poverty level. That equates to \$28,665 for a family of four. The plan will direct the first student's state subsidy from the home district to another public, private, or parochial school of the parent's choice with that amount not to exceed the cost of tuition at the receiving school. The first year of this plan only low income students currently attending a persistently failing school would be eligible for the voucher. In the second year low income students residing within the attendance boundaries of those schools but currently attending private schools would be eligible. And the third year all low income students regardless of school district would be eligible. The program will be administered by an Educational Choice Board and this will be an independent board inside the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It includes an educational improvement tax credit that would increase the program up to \$100 million from \$75 million for EITC. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court will have exclusive jurisdiction over challenges with vouchers. There are many concerns about the voucher program. Vouchers divert resources from public education but don't adequately reduce costs. They create a separate education system that does nothing to address the inadequacies or the issues with existing public schools. Franklin and Marshall College did a survey and found that two out of three Pennsylvanians oppose using tax dollars for school vouchers. Right now our Pennsylvania School Boards Association has done a nice job of outlining vouchers in Senate Bill No. 1. If you are interested in finding out more about this program and want to voice your opinion the PSBA has introduced a taxpayer funded tuition voucher watcher page on its website: www.psba.org I would encourage you to take a look at vouchers because it is really going to impact public schools.

Mr. Raifsnider stated that PSBA is carefully researching this bill since part of it may be unconstitutional in that public money cannot be diverted to any private, parochial school.

Board Business

Personnel – Resolution Nos. 147A through 147H

Moved by Mengle and DelCollo that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Resolution Nos. 147A through 147H in its entirety.

Yeas: DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit.
Motion carried unanimously.

147A Classified Appointments

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

- a) *Transfer* Mrs. Karen Lessie, from Title I Instructional Assistant (4.5 hours) to Special Education Instructional Assistant at Elementary Center (7 hours) (T. Murhon-Hemsley), effective February 10, 2011
- b) *Transfer* Mrs. Sharon Lobb from 2.5 hour to 3.5 hour Cafeteria Worker at High School (J. Sandritter transfer), effective February 10, 2011

147B Co/Extra-Curricular Assignments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the co/extra-curricular assignments for the 2010-11 school year:

- a) Spring Coaches and Volunteers (Exhibit #111)
- b) Erin Palangio, Sports Monitor, \$10.50 per hour
- c) Jason Zalno, Middle School Musical Set Design/Construction Manager - \$1,762 (year 2)

147C Resignation

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

- a) Ms. Patricia W. Dareneau, Home and School Visitor, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective on the last teacher contract day (June 9, 2011)

147D Completion of Probation

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

- a) Ms. Elba Beltran del Rio, ESL Instructional Assistant, completion of probation as of January 14, 2011 and recommended for permanent employment effective January 17, 2011
- b) Ms. Diane Lutz, Custodian, completion of probation as of February 14, 2011 and recommended for permanent employment effective February 15, 2011

147E Substitutes for the 2010-11 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the listing of substitutes for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit #112).

147F Guest Teachers for the 2010-11 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the listing of guest teachers for the 2010-11 school year (Exhibit #113).

147G Request for Sabbatical Leave of Absence

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District that in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 as amended, Section 1166, and Act 66 of 1996, the administration is authorized to grant a sabbatical leave of absence for Ms. Estelle Harron, 2nd Grade Teacher, for the purpose of professional development effective the 2011-12 school year.

147H Award Tenure to Professional Employee

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District that in accordance with Section 1121 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 (as amended) and Act 66 of 1996, the administration be authorized to award a Professional Employee Contract to the following teacher who has performed on a satisfactory basis for three years:

- a) Mrs. Lisa Bowersox

Management

148 Snow Make-Up Days

Moved by Hoffmaster and Nagle that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following snow make-up days for the 2010-11 school year:

- February 21, 2011 – for missed school on January 18, 2011
- April 18, 2011 – for missed school on January 27, 2011
- April 19, 2011 – for missed school on February 1, 2011
- April 20, 2011 – for missed school on February 2, 2011

Yeas: Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo.
Motion carried unanimously.

149 School Calendar for 2011-12

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the School Calendar for 2011-12 as presented (Exhibit #114).

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

150 Town Hall Meeting

Moved by Hoffmaster and Nagle that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District has designated a special meeting of the Board, *Town Hall Meeting*, to be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 in the High School Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of budget discussions.

Discussion

Mr. Raifsnider suggested a Thursday evening to include local legislators since they do not meet in Harrisburg that day.

Board members agreed to invite House Representative Dante Santoni and the newly elected Senate representative who will be determined after the March 15 election (Michael O’Pake’s position).

Yeas: Mengle, Nagle, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster.

Nay: Raifsnider.

Motion carried.

Physical Plant and Transportation

Budget and Finance

151 Approval of Financial Reports

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider 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	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011 #26070-26324	Dec 2010	Dec. 2010
Capital Project	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	N/A	Dec 2010	
1996 Series “A”	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	N/A	Dec 2010	
2003 Construction	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	N/A	Dec 2010	
2007 Construction	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	N/A	Dec 2010	
2008 Construction	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	N/A	Dec 2010	
Cafeteria	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011 #1906-1946	Dec 2010	
Activity Fund	Dec 2010	Dec 2010		Dec 2010	

Yeas: Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
 Motion carried unanimously.

152 Preliminary Budget for 2011-12

Moved by Reiniger and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2011-12 in the amount of \$49,436,262 containing a real estate tax rate increase in excess of the school district's index. (Proposed real estate tax rate of 28.86 mills, an excess of 2.84 mills above the state index 26.02 mills.) (Exhibit #115).

Be it further resolved, that the administration is authorized to take steps necessary to seek exceptions as required to account for any increase as indicated in excess of the Act 1 index.

Yeas: Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, Heckman.
Nays: DelCollo, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried.

Education

153 Special Education Software Management System

Moved by Raifsnider and Mengle that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Sungard Public Sector IEPplus Special Education Management Software System effective beginning July 1, 2011 for a 3-year agreement at an estimated cost of \$19,986.75 for year 1 (Exhibit #116).

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle.
Motion carried unanimously.

154 Receipt of Gifts

Moved by Raifsnider and Reiniger that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following gifts as in accordance with Policy 2.1, "Gifts" (Exhibit #117):

- a) \$75.00 from Junior Woman's Club of Muhlenberg – to be used for High School IMPACT Club
- b) \$75.00 from Junior Woman's Club of Muhlenberg – to be used for Middle School student rewards for the Restoring Academic Potential Program
- c) \$2,000.00 from Muhlenberg School District Foundation – to be used for the Student Assistance Programs at the High School and Middle School
- d) Jimbo Steaks and Hoagies, LLC, gift of \$234.00 – to be used in the High School Special Education/Gifted Account

Yeas: Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider.
Motion carried unanimously.

155 Senior Students to Complete the School Year as a Non-Resident

Moved by Hoffmaster and Nagle that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following students to complete their senior year as non-resident students as in accordance with Policy 3.15, "Enrollment of Students", and whereby abiding by school rules and regulations. Permission is granted at no tuition fee charged to the family (Exhibit #118).

- a) Skye Schulz – effective February 11, 2011 to completion of the school year
- b) Veronica Duran – effective February 7, 2011 to completion of the school year

Be it further resolved, that it is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation for their child for the days in attendance as a non-resident.

Yeas: Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Motion carried unanimously.

Student Activities

TRIP Ski & Snowboard Club Educational Trip

CANCELED

NO ACTION Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Ski & Snowboard Club Educational Trip to Hunter Mountain, New York, on February 19-20, 2011 for 20 students and chaperones Faye Heckman and Bill Hanebury.

Additional Business Items

156 Change Order for Exterior Signage

Moved by DelCollo and Raifsnider that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the change order for exterior signage for the following (funding from Capital Project account) (Exhibit #119):

- a) Bright Sign and Maintenance Co. Inc. – provide and
Install two watch fire network interface boxes (HS & MS) \$600.00

Yeas: DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Raifsnider, Reiniger.
Nays: Nagle, Voit.
Motion carried.

157 PAIUnet Consortium

Moved by Raifsnider and DelCollo that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district's participation in the PAIUnet Consortium for the procurement of E-rate eligible services effective for 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 (Exhibit #120).

Yeas: Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo.
Motion carried unanimously.

158 Berks Summer Band Institute

Moved by Reiniger and Hoffmaster that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the 2011 Berks Summer Band Institute to be held on Wednesday evenings effective June 15 to August 10, 2011 in the High School (Exhibit #121).

Yeas: Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman.
Motion carried unanimously.

159 Submission of Real Estate Tax Interims

Moved by Raifsnider and DelCollo that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the submission of the Real Estate Tax Interims for the Township of Muhlenberg and the Borough of Laureldale for uncollected real estate taxes for calendar year 2010 to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau (Exhibit #122).

Yeas: Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

160 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Nagle and Hoffmaster that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 5, 2011 and the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2011 be approved as submitted.

Yeas: Mengle, Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster.
Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Budget Discussion

Dr. Haught reported that the administration conducted meetings to compile a listing of budget considerations for the 2011-12 school year (Exhibit A). The considerations included those recommended, possible but not recommended, and not recommended. The listing will be posted on the district website under *School Board/News*.

Mrs. Lucchese reported that the state's Basic Education Funding for next year will be determined in March.

Transportation

Mr. Schneider presented a transportation cost reduction to eliminate busing of secondary students, grades 7 through 12. The cost savings from the BCIU bus contractor is estimated at \$276,234 with an additional \$70,000 savings if the elementary non-reimbursable areas are eliminated. There are fixed costs that remain in the current transportation contract – i.e. bus equipment, fuel rates.

Requests from the Board members:

- *Determine a net cost in savings (less state subsidy) for eliminating secondary transportation.*
- *Current count on the number of secondary students riding the bus.*
- *Check with Solicitor to review the current BCIU bus contract.*
- *Show areas for elementary non-reimbursables.*

Personnel

Mr. Reiniger requested additional information for the following items:

- *Elementary Grades – Core subjects as per the state guidelines?*
- *Instructional Aides – What positions are not affected?*
- *Secretaries – Status of all secretaries in the buildings.*
- *Sports – Listing of those sports will small number of participation.*
- *Pay to Play – He supports this program stating that parents whose children participate in the sports should pay for this and not the taxpayer.*
- *Unfunded Mandates – Request that citizens contact the legislators for a much needed tax reform in Pennsylvania.*

Mr. Heckman requested a cost comparison for Saturday football games.

Board members requested that the administrators respond to the concerns as listed.

New Business

161 Appraisal Services for Assessment Appeals

Moved by DeCollo and Raifsnider, that the Solicitor of Muhlenberg School District is hereby authorized to retain the appraisal services of Douglas A. Haring & Company, including preparation of an appraisal report, and testimony at and assistance in preparation for trial pursuant to the defense of the following Assessment Appeals on behalf of Muhlenberg School District:

ROYAL PARTNERS

Property: 2200 Stacey Drive, Muhlenberg Township

Preparation of appraisal report - \$5,000

Trial and trial preparation - \$200 per hour additional

HCR MANORCARE, LAURELDALE

Property: 2125 Elizabeth Avenue, Muhlenberg Township

Preparation of appraisal report - \$8,500

Trial and trial preparation - \$200 per hour additional

GP-FAIRGROUND SQUARE, LP

Property: 3050 & 2920 N. 5th Street Highway, Muhlenberg Township

Preparation of appraisal report – not to exceed \$18,500

Trial and trial preparation - \$200 per hour additional

161 Appraisal Services (continued)

CAR TECH

Property: Leiszs Bridge Road, Schweyer Road, Centre Avenue and Hartman Road,
Muhlenberg Township

Preparation of appraisal report - \$14,500

Trial and trial preparation - \$200 per hour additional

PROSPECT ENTERPRISES

Property: Bellevue Avenue, Muhlenberg Township

Preparation of appraisal report - \$5,000

Trial and trial preparation - \$200 per hour additional

DULY RESOLVED, this 9th day of February, 2011, by the Board of School Directors of
Muhlenberg School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly
assembled.

Yeas: Nagle, Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle.
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.

Mr. Casey Blankenbiller, parent, stated he drives his daughter to school every morning
at the Middle School and the parking lot is full of parents doing the same. His concern is
the congested area for drop off if all parents are to drive their children to school.

Ms. Danielle DiMartini, parent, stated her support of the full day kindergarten program.
Her daughter's education was very beneficial in the full day program.

Ms. Lisa Venkler, parent, stated her concern to the Board on educational values in the
district – i.e. kindergarten program.

Ms. Karin Althouse, parent, questioned if elementary and middle school students could
be transported together? She also stated a concern regarding the efficiency of diesel
fuel for transportation.

Mr. Schneider responded that biodiesel fuel is used.

Board Visitor of the Month

September – Don Raifsnider
October – Barb Nagle
November – Rick Hoffmaster
December – Lee Reiniger

January – Otto Voit
February – John DelCollo
March – Terry Heckman
April – Scott Long
May – Cindy Mengle

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

February 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
February 14	6:30 p.m.	RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings
March 2	7:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
March 14	6:30 p.m.	RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings

Adjournment

162 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Raifsnider and DelCollo that there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Yeas: Raifsnider, Reiniger, Voit, DelCollo, Heckman, Hoffmaster, Mengle, Nagle.
Motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

K. Scott Long
Board Secretary