

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL BOARD
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2011
Muhlenberg High School First Floor Lecture Hall

Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:32 p.m. by Board President, Mr. 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 – John A. DelCollo
Member – Terry L. Heckman
Solicitor – James M. Lillis, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Brenda A. Stein

Members Absent

Secretary – K. Scott Long (work commitment)
Member – Barbara A. Nagle (vacation)
Member – Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr. (illness)

Administration Present

Superintendent – Dr. Theresa D. Haught
Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Vlacia Z. Campbell
Business Manager – Diane E. Lucchese, CPA
High School Principal – Michael Mish
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
Athletic Director – Kerry Ciatto
Technology Director – Daniel Houck
Food Service Coordinator – Tony Brochu
Buildings/Grounds/Transportation Coordinator – Greg Schneider

Visitors

Scott Sage	Romy Yerkes	Sam Josh
Agatha Onundinjo	John W. Love	Lisa Ermler
Colleen Russo	Haley Todd	MJ
Amy Sharp	Dave Schlott	Jolyn Casper
Hao Duong	Michele McCammitt	Laurie Vlasak
Margie McGinley	Bruce Watson	Gary Pumphrey
Dr. Joseph S. Yarworth	Marc Wolfe	Tom Caruso
Eddie Mitchem	Robin Anderson	Rebecca Woskoff
Andrew Friedlund	Tiffany Wells	Alicia Nelson
Joshua Black	Bill Snelling	Tracy Huey
Mark Nelson	Lon Bauer-West	Maryrose Yerger
Christine Wert	Kachina Martin	Vicki Seidel

Executive Session

President Voit announced that the School Board met in Executive Session on Monday, February 21, to discuss personnel and negotiation issues. The Board also met in Executive Session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Welcome

Dr. Haught welcomed Dr. Joseph S. Yarworth and students from Albright College in attendance at the meeting.

Education Presentations

A. Monthly Energy Presentation – Mr. Greg Schneider

Mr. Schneider reported that the district is now receiving statements from the new energy supplier. There is a cost savings per kilowatt usage compared to last year. He also reported that the cost for lights at the football stadium for Friday games is estimated at \$50.00 per event.

Mr. Heckman questioned the cost for gasoline contracted for next year.

Mr. Schneider responded that BCIU has secured bid contracts for next year at a cost of \$3.13 per gallon.

B. First Reading of Policies – Dr. Vlacía Z. Campbell

Dr. Campbell presented policies in Section 200, Pupils, in the new PSBA format (Exhibit A). Policies will be reviewed for a second reading next week and then submitted to the Board for adoption in April.

President's Statement

President Voit stated that our country is in an economic downturn that has affected everyone both personally and professionally. And all of us struggle to make ends meet. Our federal and state government is broke and all school districts are facing deficits. Specifically, Muhlenberg has a \$4 million deficit for the next school year beginning July 1. Education is all about people and people costs account for two-thirds of the budget – teachers, administrators, custodians, clerical staff, coaches. Budget decisions will affect people. The administration and this Board are working diligently to come up with a way to balance the budget without affecting jobs and programs. To us, art and music are as instrumental to a quality education as math and science are. To this end we have asked for an across the board payroll concession from everyone in the district. If we can get it then we can in fact save jobs and the programs that are at the very heart of education. If not, then regrettably we will need to make the necessary cuts to balance the budget. Numbers are cold – and these are the facts. This statement is not meant to be disrespectful or threatening, but states the position that the school district is in. It is all about people and these people are our friends, neighbors, and their families. All of us are sensitive to that. Behind every number is a person and that person affects us as well. We are here as elected officials to provide the best quality education possible for the students and a concern for the taxpayer as well. If we can get these salary concessions, which are not easy to contemplate because it affects how we make ends meet, it will save jobs. If we could cut our pay from zero we would, but Board members do not get paid. We shall discuss the budget at next week's meeting, two meetings in April, and at the Town Hall Meeting on April 27 in the High School Auditorium when we plan to present the final budget. Tonight's budget discussion will be held during Old Business.

Hearing of Visitors

Mrs. Lisa Ermler, resident and employee of the district, requested that the Board reconsider the elimination of her position as secretary in the Elementary Center Library.

High School students Craig Wilson, Maryrose Yerger, Riley Sieders, Josh Nanna, and Kristie Wert stated their support of the music programs in school – band, chorus, musicals.

Board Business

A. Personnel–Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session prior to the meeting.

B. Management

C. Physical Plant and Transportation

1. Sunday Facility Use Requests:

- a) Muhlenberg A’s Baseball Club – use of field #6 and #12 for practice and games on Sundays effective May through July 31, 2011
- b) M.T.A.A. – use of Cole gymnasium for baseball tryouts on Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- c) M.T.A.A. – use of Cole gymnasium for baseball practice on Sundays, February 20 & 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; and on Sundays, March 6-27 and April 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- d) Laureldale Athletic Association, use of softball field for tournament on Sunday, July 31, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- e) Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, use of field #6 on Sundays for baseball practice and games effective March 6 through June 12, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- f) Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, use of field #2 and #4 on Sundays for softball practice and games effective March 6 through June 12, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

D. Budget and Finance

1. Approval of Financial Reports

Fund	Treasurer’s Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	Feb 2011 #26325-26529	Jan 2011	Jan 2011
Capital Project	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	Feb 2011 #538-#541	Jan 2011	
1996 Series “A”	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	N/A	Jan 2011	
2003 Constr.	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	N/A	Jan 2011	
2007 Construction	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	N/A	Jan 2011	
2008 Construction	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	Feb 2011 #288	Jan 2011	
Cafeteria	Jan 2011	Jan 2011	Feb 2011 #1971-2014	Jan 2011	
Activity Fund	Jan 2011	Jan 2011		Jan 2011	

2. Berks County Intermediate Unit Mandated Services Budget for 2011-12

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Berks County Intermediate Unit Mandated Services Budget for 2011-12 in the district's share amount of \$42,434.85.

3. Appraisal Services for Assessment Appeals

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the services of Mr. Douglas A. Haring and Company for property appraisals for the following assessment appeals:

- | | <u>Appraisal Fee</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) Carpet Mart, 3515 N. 5 th Street Highway | \$3,750.00 |
| b) Erin Partners/R&B Realty, 410,600 Corporate Drive et al | \$2,500.00 each property |

Be it further resolved that services beyond the appraisal report shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$200.00, appraiser assistant hourly rate of \$100.00, and clerical support services billed at \$70.00 per hour.

E. Education

1. Conference Requests

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following conference requests:

- a) Mr. Tony Brochu, to attend the *Child Nutrition Directors Retreat – School Nutrition Association of PA*, on April 3-4, 2011 at Penn State, University Park, PA at an estimated cost of \$210.50 (budgeted food service department)
- b) Mr. Joshua Ressler and Mr. Tony Geddio, Jr., to attend the *Nike Coaches Clinic* in Verona, NY, on May 20-22, 2011 at no cost to the district (registration is funded by the Muhlenberg Sports Boosters)

2. Amendment to Student Assistance Program

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the amended agreement with the Caron Foundation for the Student Assistance Program for the High School and Middle School to receive four hours of additional services per week through June 15, 2011 at no cost to the district.

3. Students to Complete the School Year as a Non-Resident

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following students to complete the school year as non-resident students as in accordance with Policy 3.15, "Student Enrollment", and whereby abiding by school rules and regulations. Permission is granted at no tuition fee imposed effective April 26, 2011 to completion of the school year ending June 8, 2011.

- a) Toby Himmelberger, Grade 11
- b) Tyler Himmelberger, Grade 8

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.

4. Certificate of Support Students

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the enrollment of Certificate of Support Students, PA School Code 1302, as presented.

5. Acceptance of Gifts

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following gifts as in accordance with Policy 2.1, "Gifts".

- a) Campbell's Growing Minds Promotion – donation of the following books:
 - The Sneetchies and Other Stories and Everything Kids Cookbook for the Elementary Library
 - The Giver, for the Middle School Library
- b) Whole Food Markets – \$3,000.00 grant to provide a salad bar at the Cole Intermediate School

F. Student Activities

1. Establish a Student Activity Account

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District establish a student activity account for C.E. Cole Intermediate School Student Council, Account No. 10.

Additional Business

1. Sunday Facility Use Request

- a) Keystone Canoe Club – use of High School pool for training on Sunday, April 3, 2011 from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.

2. Receipt of Gifts

- a) Berks Technical Institute – gift of \$250.00 to be used for the High School Athletic Department

Minutes

Board members reviewed minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 2, 2011 and the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2011.

Old Business

A. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Lucchese reviewed the worksheets for the referendum exceptions (Exhibit B):

a) Special Education Expenditures	\$ 642,348
b) Retirement Contributions	<u>360,890</u>
	\$1,003,238

Budget Discussion (continued)

With the consideration of exceptions, the district may increase taxes to a maximum of 1.25 mills. However, the state may possibly award only 40% to 60% of the referendum exceptions.

Other budget worksheets reviewed:

- Real estate collections through February 2011
- Proposed increases in real estate reflected by millage increases
- Budget worksheets – Scenarios #1 and #2

Mr. Voit summarized the budget considerations as follows:

\$ 550,000 tax increase at .46 mils
500,000 cash
1,100,000 freeze in salaries
270,000 positions
180,000 5% decrease in co-curricular
\$2,600,000 Total

The district will need \$1.2 million more in salary concessions to meet the \$4 million shortfall. Labor unions have until April to respond to the concessions.

Further discussions will be held at the April board meetings and Town Hall Meeting.

New Business

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 – Don Raifsnider	January – Otto Voit
October – Barb Nagle	February – John DelCollo
November – Rick Hoffmaster	March – Terry Heckman
December – Lee Reiniger	April – Scott Long
	May – Cindy Mengle

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

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
April 6	7:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 11	6:30 p.m.	RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings
April 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
April 27	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting – HS Auditorium

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Attest:

K. Scott Long
Board Secretary