

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL BOARD
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – August 10, 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, August 10, 2011 at 6:33 p.m. by Board Vice President, Mr. Lee R. Reiniger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present

Vice President – Lee R. Reiniger
Treasurer – Cindy L. Mengle
Secretary – K. Scott Long
Member – John A. DelCollo (arrived 6:36 p.m.)
Member – Richard E. Hoffmaster (arrived 6:42 p.m.)
Member – Barbara A. Nagle
Member – Donald B. Raifsnider, Jr.
Legal Counsel – Brian F. Boland, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Brenda A. Stein

Members Absent

President – Otto W. Voit, III (vacation)
Assistant Secretary – Terry L. Heckman (family commitment)

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
Cole Intermediate School Principal – Dr. Ryan Giffing
Elementary Center Principal – Steven Baylor
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Tim Moyer
Reading/Language Arts Supervisor – Lisa Langsdorf
Technology Director – Daniel Houck
Buildings/Grounds/Transportation Coordinator – Greg Schneider

Visitors

Tammy Calvaresi
Vicki Seidel
Jolyn Casper
Colleen Russo
Nancy Faust
Linda Sassaman
John W. Love
Linda Grace
Matt Cinelli
Mark J. Nelson
Liam Migdail Smith, *Reading Eagle Reporter*

Audio Recording

Mr. Reiniger announced that TV station WFMZ would be making an audio-recording at the meeting this evening.

Educational Presentations

A. Financing Update – Mr. Scott Kramer, RBC Capital Markets

Mr. Kramer presented a handout outlining refunding bond opportunities for the district (Exhibit A). Included in the review were the refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2002, and the General Obligation Bonds, Series AA of 2002. The breakdown of debt service for refunding the bonds is as follows:

- Series A Bond of 2002 – Principal Amount of \$4.1 Million
Estimated Savings of \$305,000
- Series AA Bond of 2002 - Principal Amount of \$14.6 Million
Estimated Savings of \$750,000

Mr. Kramer noted that the benchmark for potential savings is anything above 2% and this proposal yields 5% cost savings to the district. RBC is requesting authorization to sell bonds for the refunding the Series A of 2002 beginning in December and whereby award bonds on January 1, 2012. The Series AA of 2002 bonds would be scheduled for locking in on May 1 and award bonds on June 1, 2012.

Board Discussion

- *Cost of issuance?* Cost is negotiable.
- *Need for bond insurance from 1st issue to 2nd issue of bonds?* Do not need insurance. Costs are driven by market.
- *Timeline for school board?* RBC will present more defined numbers in early November and shall request authorization to proceed with the sale of bonds.

B. 2011 PSSA Adequate Yearly Progress Results – Dr. Vlacía Campbell

Dr. Campbell presented a report on the Adequate Yearly Progress Status for 2010-11 school year as reported in the appeals period (Exhibit B). The District Status Report indicated the district was successful in making AYP status overall. The district also attained the targeted goal for Attendance Rate and Graduate Rate.

The breakdown by buildings reflected the following:

- Elementary Center - Met 20 of the 21 Targets; Met Attendance Target (Latino/Hispanic sub-group was below performance target in Reading)
- Cole Intermediate - Met 23 of the 23 Targets; Met Attendance Target
- Middle School - Met 21 of the 21 Targets: Met Attendance Target (School Improvement II Status)
- High School - Met 15 out of 21 Targets; Met Graduation Target (School Improvement I Status; Subgroups scored below performance targets in both Reading and Mathematics)

State Performance Targets for 2011 – 67% Mathematics; 72% Reading

C. Monthly Energy Presentation – Mr. Greg Schneider

Mr. Schneider presented the monthly energy report indicating the electricity usage was slightly less than last year and the natural gas revealed a slight increase (Exhibit C).

Mr. Hoffmaster questioned the savings for the 4-day summer work week.

Mr. Schneider responded that no concrete number is determined at this time. Last year's savings was approximately \$40,000.

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. Vicki Seidel, parent and resident, questioned the proceeds from the surplus auction held in the spring.

Mr. Schneider responded that \$15,000.00 was gross proceeds.

Ms. Tammy Calvaresi, parent, questioned the letter requesting payment for an activity fee for students in grades 7 through 12 as to whether all students had to pay the fee, reasons for the fee, and the September 16 deadline.

Mrs. Lucchese stated the activity fee covers any non-educational curricular in the district. The fee is being assessed to sustain all extra-curricular activities and programs for students. The timeline gives parents one month to submit payment.

Dr. Haught responded that the fee will be assessed in the beginning of school in order that students will be eligible to participate in activities during the school year.

Mr. Hoffmaster questioned the students on free and reduced lunch.

Dr. Haught replied that parents can contact Mrs. Lucchese in the business office to get a waiver form for such requests.

Board Business

A. Personnel – Personnel items to be discussed in Executive Session following the committee of the whole meeting.

B. Management

1. Act 80 Day Exception for 2011-12 School Year
2. National School Boards Association Membership – amount of \$4,525.00

C. Physical Plant and Transportation

1. Sunday Facility Use Request:
 - a) Lady Muhls Softball Field Use for Sundays – September 4, 11, 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2011

D. Budget and Finance

1. Approval of Financial Reports

Fund	Treasurer's Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	June 2011	June 2011	July 2011 #27304-27422	June 2011	June 2011
Capital Project	June 2011	June 2011	N/A	June 2011	
1996 Series "A"	June 2011	June 2011	N/A	June 2011	
2003 Construction	June 2011	June 2011	N/A	June 2011	
2007 Construction	June 2011	June 2011	N/A	June 2011	
2008 Construction	June 2011	June 2011	N/A	June 2011	
Cafeteria	N/A	June 2011	July 2011 #2202	June 2011	
Activity Fund	June 2011	June 2011		June 2011	

2. Award Bids for Medical and Nursing Supplies for the 2011-12 School Year

E. Education

1. Tuition Contract Agreement with CHOR Day Academy for 2011-12
2. Agreement with Richard J. Caron Foundation for Student Assistance Program for all school buildings for 3 days per week, 1.5 days grant funded and 1.5 days district funded, effective August 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012
3. Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge Grant for the High School in the amount of \$9,396.00 to purchase heart rate monitors and equipment
4. License Agreement with The Progressions Companies, Inc. to provide mental health services in all schools effective September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012
5. Settlement Agreement and Release for Student "A" for the 2011-12 School Year and the Education Trust be established as in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student "A"

F. Student Activities

Minutes

Board members reviewed minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2011.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

No report.

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.

Mrs. Vick Seidel, resident, questioned the funding for the chiller repairs from the regular budget or capital reserve?

Mr. Schneider responded that funding will be from the capital reserve account.

Board Visitor of the Month

September – Don Raifsnider
October – Otto Voit
November – Richard Hoffmaster
December – Lee Reiniger

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

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

August 8	6:30 p.m.	RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings
August 10	6:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole & Regular Meeting
September 7	7:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 12	6:30 p.m.	RMCTC Committee & Regular Meetings
September 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

An Executive Session was held following the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Attest:



K. Scott Long, Board Secretary