

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025
Via Zoom
www.muhsdk12.org

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, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM by Board President, Mr. Garrett Hyneman.

Members Present

President – Mr. Garrett E. Hyneman
Vice President – Mrs. Kristyna Eagle
Treasurer - Mr. Miguel Vasquez
Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle
Assistant Secretary – Ms. Janet Howard
Member – Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, Sr.
Member – Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.
Member – Mr. S. Wayne Hardy
Member – Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
Solicitor – Mr. Brian F. Boland, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Tara L. Flowers

Members Absent

Administration Present

Superintendent – Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Alan S. Futrick
Business Manager- Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA
Director of Physical Plant – Mr. Ken Patterson
Director of Special Education - Ms. Nicole Huntbach
Supervisor of Special Education - Dr. Jason Miller
Director of Technology - Dr. Juliana Ciccarelli
Director of Federal Programs - Dr. Cathy Shappell
Director of Food Services - Mr. Carey Kline
Director of Human Resources - Dr. Jessica Heffner
Director of Pupil Services - Mr. Michael Mish
Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12 - Mr. Kyle Crater
Athletic Director - Dr. Timothy Moyer
Community & Family Outreach Coord. & Distr. Interpreter – Ms. Elizabeth Laviena
Principal on Assignment - Mr. Steve Baylor
High School Assistant Principal - Ms. Lori Morris
High School Assistant Principal - Mr. Aaron Kopetsky
Junior High Principal - Mr. Chris Becker
Junior High Assistant Principal - Mr. Joshua Rankin
Junior High Assistant Principal - Ms. Michele Weaver
Junior High Assistant Principal - Mr. Joseph Scoboria
C.E. Cole Intermediate Principal - Dr. Janet Heilman

C.E. Cole Intermediate Assistant Principal - Ms. Jaclyn Bellanca
C.E. Cole Intermediate Assistant Principal - Mr. William Dramby
Elementary Principal - Ms. Ginny Hornberger
Elementary Assistant Principal - Ms. Julie Kehr
Elementary Assistant Principal - Mr. Daniel Kramer
Social Worker - Ms. Lauren Heydt
Social Worker - Ms. Liliana Moore
Social Worker - Ms. Amanda Foulds
Social Worker - Ms. Emily Carmichael

Visitors

Austin Harmes	Don Main
Tara Pacharis	Michelle McCammitt
Mrs. McGowan	Susan Roeckle
Enrique Castro	Sharon Kissinger

Educational Presentations

A. Physical Plant Update - Mr. Ken Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported:

- Maintenance and Custodial Staff update - Both maintenance crew and the custodial crew have been busy clearing the snow and ice events the district has had these last four weeks, including the one last night. Inside maintenance crews continue to take care of staff requests through the work order system. Custodial crews continue to play their part in helping orchestrate winter sports, spring sports indoor practices and community activities as well; continuing to do a great job keeping the buildings clean and safe.
- Multi-Purpose Turf Field Update - The multi-purpose field progress is slow due to the weather these last four weeks. Liner and drain pipe installation has stalled; substantial completion was set for this February, but that has been pushed more towards April provided the weather begins to turn more favorable.
- New 5/6 Building Update - The new 5/6 middle school groundbreaking ceremony is set for February 21st, with a rain date of February 24th. The general contractor has set up their construction trailer behind the high school and the lay down area has been established for the project. Final conditional approvals from Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township have been received at each of their board of commissioners meetings in January. The building permit will be secured in the near future which is the last step before land development begins.
- Football Stadium and Multi-Purpose Field Scoreboards - The proposal for the digital video scoreboards for the football stadium and multi-purpose field are

before the board this evening for approval; Daktronics is the vendor the district is looking to partner with for that purchase.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit spoke about in the past the district has had issues with scoreboards, however if every board member reads the memo for the scoreboards, in this case he believes Mr. Patterson has done a phenomenal job. Mr. Voit spoke to Mr. Haas and advised that normally he would oppose this like him, but that fact that he district will be buying the state of the art scoreboard and the district will be getting money back for that is a great credit to Mr. Patterson and the administration for doing this opposed to just spending money.

Mr. Haas asked to table this purchase until they could meet in person as he had a lot of questions and didn't want to hold up the meeting. Dr. Macharola advised if the board wants to table this, and asked Mr. Haas to just ask the questions and be open here as everyone was asked if there were any concerns; this isn't the "cadillac" this is the mid-level one and the district budgeted for this. Mr. Haas responded that it was in favor of one scoreboard but not in favor of two, because he doesn't have enough information on the second scoreboard as to who is going to be responsible for the marketing of this; where is the district getting the marketing for the sponsorships. Mr. Patterson advised Daktronics marketing team is actually going to secure, with the district, the anchor partners. He explained the anchor partners are the ones that will be placed along the very bottom of the scoreboard. Mr. Patterson advised the other revenue from commercials and ads that are along the side of the scoreboard, those are the responsibility of the district to secure. Mr. Haas asked who is going to be in charge of doing this. Dr. Macahrola advised the administration would be taking care of this. He explained there are plenty of people in the business office including the business manager and the assistant business manager; as the district will take the business approach to it first and then go from there if the district needs any other assistance. Mr. Haas questioned if the district is going to have to pay someone to be doing this job of additional sponsors such as a co-curricular or stipend for a staff member. Dr. Macharola responded no. Dr. Macahrola spoke about the idea is for the scoreboard to eventually pay for itself at some point and this is the right thing for the district. Mr. Haas commented that he doesn't understand purchasing two scoreboards for the junior high field. Dr. Macharola advised both new fields are going to have multiple sports playing on both fields. Mr. Haas commented that he was told lacrosse and soccer were going to be played up top on where the football field is now and now being is told differently. Dr. Macahrola reiterated that this is a multi-purpose field and explained the district is getting so tight the district is going to have to use all of these fields at one time for all of the sports; with the Title IV the district needs to assure there is availability for everyone. He explained that the district does not want to go back to the days where it was necessary to ship people to different fields and pay for transportation and all the district wants to do is assure the district gives everyone the very best opportunity. Dr. Macarola advised both scoreboards are mid-level scoreboards, they are not even the top ones. He spoke about the district putting in an incredible field very frugally attempted by taxpayers as the district didn't waste a dime here.

Mr. Voit commented that he believes Mr. Haas's questions are extremely valid knowing what the district has been through before. Dr. Macharola agreed. Mr. Voit talked about in the 25 years being on the board, this is the first time he has seen a proposal where the district is not just spending money. He spoke about the fact that the district is getting a mid-level product and getting advertisers to pay for it is a great first step for this district and encouraged board members to say yes. Ms. Eagle spoke about the scoreboards and the youth program across the board, talking about doing tournaments, bringing other schools in, and this will be a benefit for the district. Mr. Haas advised that he is in favor of the scoreboards but wondering if the amount of money being spent up front is going to be recouped in the end. Dr. Macahrola responde the district hopes so.

Mr. Haas also questioned whether marketing is going to put the revenue back into the general fund. Mr. Patterson advised any revenue that would be generated would go back to whatever the accounts that Mr. Mathias would direct that towards as all the accounts are under the general fund. Mr. Haas then asked Mr. Voit, when out marketing something, as a taxpayer, from a marketing standpoint he would rather have the district saying this revenue goes towards the athletic department for the students versus putting it in a general fund. Mr. Voit advised that he believes Mr. Haas's thinking is spot on, but given government accounting the district, especially Mr. Mathias who is well versed in government accounting will put it where it needs to be given what the board wishes. Mr. Haas understood. Dr. Macahrola advised the district can always earmark specific dollars and the district knows to continue to build up the district's responsibility with the athletic programs.

Mr. Haas spoke about with the field being pushed back, the district will now need to transport students to other fields and adding an additional cost. Mr. Patterson advised Dr. Moyer had a contingency plan from Day 1 when starting the project for this reason; he advised that if practices are staggered the teams can all stay on campus. Dr. Macharola advised Dr. Moyer will do everything he can with this; it's unfortunate but in going through building projects this is not uncommon.

- Blue Center Commemorative Plaque - A bronze commemorative plaque was purchased and installed at the entrance of the Blue Center which marks the completion of the renovation including all of the school board officials and administrators who were serving when the project was approved and completed, and also the contractors who worked on the renovations. He encouraged board members to visit the Blue Center.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Dr. Macharola wanted to let Mr. Patterson know how great of a job the staff were doing while out working around 4:15 AM and he had the opportunity to speak to them while conducting a road analysis; very proud of the district workers.

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. ***This period of time is for comments only; it is not a time to engage in a question and answer or debate with the board. Comments from the Board are at the option of the Board.*** The Board retains the option to accept all public comment at this time. Presentations ***will*** 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.

There were none.

Board Business

Personnel

1. Professional Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Christina Taveras, Long-Term Substitute Teacher (T. Sarangoulis), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending emergency certification, effective February 3, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$55,170 (B + 9, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- b. Mr. Kyle Jurgensen, Long-Term Substitute Teacher (H. Jack), C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective February 10, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$55,170 (B + 9, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- c. Ms. Caitlin Ambruster, Elementary Teacher (M. Wenzel), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending PA Certification, effective February 10, 2025, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.

2. Classified Appointments

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

- a. Mr. Christopher Fox, Second Shift Custodian (X. Robles), Muhlenberg High School, effective January 17, 2025, at a salary of \$53,255, prorated for days worked.
- b. Ms. Ana Vasquez, Special Education Paraprofessional (R. Kline), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective August 26, 2024, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.

- c. Ms. Rosemarie Sysenh, Personal Care Paraprofessional (K. Adams), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 3, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.

3. Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Mr. Jeffrey Beissel, Second Shift Custodian, Muhlenberg High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective April 30, 2025.
- b. Ms. Alessandra Romagna, Cafeteria Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective January 24, 2025.
- c. Ms. Lyn Lapp, Special Education Teacher, C.E. Cole Intermediate, pending release from Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- d. Ms. Alissa Wenrich, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending release from Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- e. Ms. Susan Hawkins, Assistant Business Manager, rescind retirement effective date of February 28, 2025 and extend retirement date to March 28, 2025 or sooner a replacement can be procured by the district.
- f. Ms. Charlita Andrews, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective February 7, 2025.

4. Mentor Assignments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following mentor assignments at the professional rate of \$30.00 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year:

- a. Mr. Gregory Weeks, mentor for Mr. Christopher Elwert, English Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- b. Ms. Tori Galluccio, mentor for Dr. Lucinda Schaeffer, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, for eleven (11) hours.

5. Co-Curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Xiomara Toledo, Varsity Girls Basketball Interim Head Coach, effective December 30, 2024, at a salary of \$5,800 (year 1), prorated for days worked.
- b. Ms. Katelyn Dieffenbach, Unified Sports Co-Head Bocce Coach, effective December 9, 2024, at a salary of \$1,000.
- c. Mr. Anthony Calvaresi, Jr., Unified Sports Co-Head Bocce Coach, effective December 9, 2024, salary of \$1,000 (funded by Unified Sports).
- d. Ms. Michelle McCammitt, COLE Yearbook Advisor, effective December 18, 2024, at a salary of \$615 (year 6), prorated for days worked.

- e. Ms. Jill Klinger, MHS Musical Accompanist, effective December 10, 2024, at a salary of \$2,030 (year 1).
- f. Ms. Kelly Robidas, Sport Event Monitor, effective January 7, 2025, at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour.

6. Co-Curricular Resignations

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

- a. Mr. Westley Giddens, Varsity Girls Head Basketball Coach, effective December 29, 2024.
- b. Mr. Marc Wolfe, Spring Musical Stage Construction Supervisor and Spring Musical Business Manager, effective January 27, 2025.

7. Request for Leave of Absence/FMLA Leave

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request for a Leave of Absence/FMLA leave for the following employees:

- a. Employee No. 1508, Teacher, FMLA Leave, effective on or about January 7, 2025 through on or about February 10, 2025.
- b. Employee No. 2834, Teacher, FMLA Leave, effective on or about May 16, 2025 through on or about the first contractual day of the 2026-2027 school year.
- c. Employee No. 2200, Class A Secretary, Leave of Absence, effective on or about January 27, 2025 through on or about February 28, 2025.
- d. Employee No. 1459, School Nurse, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about March 17, 2025 through on or about the first contractual day of the 2025-2026 school year.
- e. Employee No. 3095, Custodian, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about February 21, 2025 through on or about March 21, 2025.

8. Approval of Job Description

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following revised job description:

- a. Clerical Assistant-Technology

9. Completion of Probation

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

- a. Ms. Olivia Gehris, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 2, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of January 3, 2025.

- b. Ms. Tamika Bota, Special Education Paraprofessional, C.E. Cole Intermediate, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 13, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of January 14, 2025.
- c. Ms. Ana Echevarria, Cafeteria Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 28, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of January 29, 2025.
- d. Ms. Samantha Mengel, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg Junior High School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 30, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of January 31, 2025.

10. MESPA Mentor Stipend

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District in accordance with the MESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article XVI, Wages, Section 8, approve a mentor stipend to the following support staff who have assisted in the induction of a new employee into the school district and new employee remains employed for one (1) continuous year after hire date, at a stipend of \$500.00:

- a. Ms. Jillian Ayers, mentor for Ms. Brianna Walker Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- b. Ms. Teresa Crumbliss, mentor for Ms. Deborah DiLanzo, Cafeteria Assistant, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- c. Ms. Karen Roth, mentor for Ms. Jael Rivera, Cafeteria Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center

11. Spring 2025 Musical Assignments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Spring Musical Assignments for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

12. Career Connections Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with Career Connections to provide staffing recruiting services for special education paraprofessional positions as presented.

Management

1. Adoption of Policies

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the following district policies:

- a. Policy No. 005, Organization
- b. Policy No. 308, Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- c. Policy No. 610, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- d. Policy No. 626, Federal Fiscal Compliance

e. Policy No. 823, Opioid Antagonist

2. School Calendar for the 2025-2026 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the School Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

3. Representative for Berks County Schools Health Trust Consortium

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the appointment of Mr. Shane M. Mathias, as the school district's Management Representative for the Berks County Schools Health Trust Consortium effective February 12, 2025-June 30, 2026.

4. Emergency Disaster Relocation Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the emergency disaster relocation agreement for My First Steps Child Care Center to use the Muhlenberg Elementary Center, 610 Sharp Avenue, Reading, PA 19605 as presented.

Physical Plant and Transportation

1. Replacement of High School Football & Multi-Purpose Field Scoreboards

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve replacement of the High School Football & Multi-Purpose Field Scoreboards at a cost of \$460,000 (funded through Capital Projects Bond Funds) as presented.

Budget and Finance

1. Approval of Financial Reports

Resolved, 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 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025 Ck#58048-58245 V#28203-28228	Dec 2024	
Cafeteria	Dec 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025 Ck#8480-8509 V#3141-3151	Dec 2024	

Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Jan 2025	Jan 2025			
Capital Reserve (Fund 39)	Jan 2025	Jan 2025	Jan 2025 Ck#1017-1023		
Activity	Dec 2024	Dec 2024			

2. Berks County Intermediate Unit Proposed Mandated Services Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Berks County Intermediate Unit Proposed Mandated Services Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year at the district's share of \$45,386.88.

3. Tax Assessment Appeals - North Reading WM and Bergeys Realty

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Muhlenberg School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeals filed by North Reading WM and Bergeys Realty on behalf of the Muhlenberg School District as presented.

4. E-Rate Project: Aruba Switches and Networking Equipment

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the bid for Aruba Switches and networking equipment (hardware and installation) of \$259,197.65 from IntegraOne (PEPPM Contract 533902-017). This purchase of technology equipment is through the E-rate program and is anticipated to be reimbursed to the district at a rate of 85% of cost (funded by Technology Budget) as presented.

5. E-Rate Project: APC Racks

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the bid for APC Racks (hardware and installation) of \$18,163.05 from IntegraOne (PEPPM Contract 533902-017). This purchase of technology equipment is through the E-rate program and is anticipated to be reimbursed to the district at a rate of 85% of cost (funded by Technology Budget) as presented.

6. E-Rate Project: Wireless Migration to Aruba Central

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the bid for Aruba Central (hardware and installation) of \$81,163.71 from IntegraOne (PEPPM Contract 533902-017). This purchase of technology equipment is through the E-rate program and is anticipated to be reimbursed to the district at a rate of 85% of cost (funded by Technology Budget) as presented.

7. Tax Equity Supplement Payments-Ready to Learn Block Grants

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Act 55 of 2024 Concerning Tax Equity Supplement Payments as presented.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit asked if the board members were being asked to approve the receiving of money. Dr. Macharola responded, correct.

8. Disposal of Surplus Property

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the disposal of the following surplus property in accordance with district Policy 706.1, Disposal of Surplus Property as presented:

- a. Fitness Room Equipment at Junior High School – These items are broken or have no usable value.

Education

1. Educational Field Trip Request

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following educational field trip request:

- a. Muhlenberg High School Competitive Cheer Team, travel to the National Cheer Competition in Orlando, FL on February 7, 2025 through February 9, 2025.

2. Admission of Fact, Waiver of Hearing, Acknowledgment of Compliance with Procedural Safeguards and Consent to Expulsion

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for the following student as presented:

- a. Student "E", C.E. Cole Intermediate
- b. Student "F", C.E. Cole Intermediate

3. 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, for the 2024-2025 School Year as listed.

4. Settlement Agreement and Release

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for the following student as presented:

- a. Student No. #34708

5. Access Services Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with Access Services for trauma informed behavior analytic services to student through medical billing as presented.

6. Special Olympics Pennsylvania Memorandum of Understanding

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the memorandum of understanding with the Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and Muhlenberg Junior High School to participate in the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program for the 2024 -2025 school year as presented.

7. Muhlenberg School District K-12 Guidance Plan for 2025-2028

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg School District K-12 Guidance Plan for 2025-2028, as presented.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit asked if the district still had a lacrosse team and how they are doing. Dr. Macharola responded that the district does and the program is phenomenal and has Division I players/scholarships as this is an incredible investment with the highest number ever with participation. Dr. Macharola thanked Mr. and Mrs. Eagle as well as Mr. DeAngelis for starting the program. Mrs. Eagle thanked Dr. Moyer for being instrumental in this program as well. Mrs. Eagle also spoke about the district's bocce program and how well Mr. Calvaresi is doing with the students. Dr. Macharola spoke about championing the right things for the district's students and also thanked Dr. Moyer for his work with the lacrosse program as well. Mr. Haas asked how the girls' lacrosse team was doing. Mrs. Eagle advised more girls are playing. Dr. Moyer advised the girls program is a little bit of a struggle, however the district has a new coach with energy, enthusiasm and excited to have her on board. Mr. Hyneman spoke about he and his wife being phenomenal supporters of the youth programs here in Muhlenberg.

Student Activities

There are no items.

Minutes

Review minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 8, 2025 and the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2025.

Old Business

There are no items.

New Business

Mrs. Mengle wanted to speak about a question that was presented to her from taxpayers regarding the boys basketball uniforms and the name on the uniforms. She asked who approved them to be "The Berg," she thought they were the "Muhls." Dr. Moyer advised those uniforms were purchased through fundraising and the booster club, it had nothing to do with taxpayers. Dr. Moyer advised all of the teams are using alternate jerseys, the kids wanted that (he reiterated "the kids" wanted this) and that's what the district went with.

Mr. Haas commented that if the kids want to change the color of the school, then will the district change the color of the school. Dr. Moyer responded no and advised the district is not going that far, it was within the scope of something that was appropriate. Mr. Haas commented to Mr. Voit that he was adamant on having gold. Mr. Voit advised as long as the district navy blue and gold he was good. Mr. Haas said he was talking about tradition, and talking about an alumni. Dr. Moyer spoke about it being a third jersey, there is Muhlenberg on everything else, the team wears the third jersey every once in a while. He advised new traditions have to start somewhere, and the district started a new tradition. Mr. Haas responded he was not in favor. Mr. Voit spoke about this bringing the youth into the process, as long as its navy blue and gold, "The Berg" he's okay with. Dr. Macharola spoke about never selling out the tradition of Muhlenberg; when the district branded the block M it was to remove all the garbage that was out there and now everyone knows when they see that block M its Muhlenberg. Dr. Macharola reiterated what Dr. Moyer was saying of still being the "Muhls." Dr. Macharola advised there is nothing wrong with the kids having a third option and the district will always be Muhlenberg. He talked about putting the block M on the football helmets this year, the district has the block M on the football field and will never sell out who the district is; Muhlenberg is a great name. Mr. Voit commented that this builds pride and comradery. Dr. Macahrola spoke about being around the district's kids, really listening to them what they are going through and what they are talking about. He spoke about the district doing more things now than ever in terms of culture to build the district's students up and to give them a sense of pride to be a part of Muhlenberg. Dr. Macharola spoke about the outside pressures that they are dealing with are unbelievable; when it comes to culture and tradition he is all for Muhlenberg and the district's children having an opportunity just to get something and not changing who the district is.

Mr. Haas commented that the booster's club purchased the uniforms; going back to the previous discussion regarding the revenue from the scoreboard going towards the district's athletic department. He talked about being a coach for thirty years, it being

a pain to fundraise. Dr. Macharola advised it is harder today. Mr. Haas spoke about fundraising overlapping in the district and everyone trying to support their program. He talked about finding other ways to help the athletic department and the booster's club shouldn't have to purchase uniforms that should have come from the athletic department. Dr. Macharola advised that the district has been investing more into the athletic program as well as the music and arts programs. Mr. Haas spoke about fundraising being difficult when trying to coach and being a mentor for kids.

Mr. Eaton wanted to make a point of something he noticed all last week while taking his daughter to school, the policies and procedures the district has in place for dropping off at the high school and their start time. He spoke about his concerning issues that he noticed; the number of cars being backed up on fifth street highway and the erratic driving of some of the students trying to make it to school on time by 7:40 AM, he watched almost three accidents just right at that light on Sharp Ave. He talked about cars literally blowing passed a lines of people that are waiting patiently in line to get their kids dropped off all because from what he is gathering from other people from other students and his daughter especially, the problem is that when they get ot the building, they are considered tardy even at 7:41 AM. He commented what is happening is the district is having a 12-13 minute line of traffic and kids are walking in a single file line walking into the building, at 7:40 AM if they are still standing in that line walking into the building they are being marked tardy. He talked about this is causing the kids to do some crazy maneuvers to try and get into the building without having to be considered late. Mr. Eaton stated that he only knows this firsthand because is one of these kids who gets there at 7:35 AM and stands in a 6 minute line and is being marked late at 7:41 AM. He advised he saw over 50 kids in this line, and he knows every single one of these kids if they are being marked late at 7:41 AM, now all have tardies. He spoke about now having 50 kids tardy to school who are standing on school property at 7:40AM, but then being marked late at 7:41 AM and then the procedure that's happening now currently is that they are taking these kids at 7:41 AM or 7:42 AM and placing them in the gymnasium under the watchful eye of four or five teachers or administrators. He advised they are now corralled into a gymnasium instead of allowing them to walk to homeroom before 8 AM when actual homeroom ends Mr. Eaton stated that he finds this new policy, he does not see this policy anywhere in the handbook. He talked about this causing problems as the district will end up with accidents on fifth street highway and Sharp Ave; kids getting hit from crossing streets from people trying to run to the building all so that they are not being marked tardy, so they don't lose out on their club programs and proms. He talked about wanting to address this and make it part of a discussion moving forward because he almost hit two kids dropping off his daughter to school for cutting across him trying to run into the building. He advised he is not the only one seeing this as he took his daughter to school for a week and he is getting feedback from other parents and kids doing his research on this and it's an issue. He advised with the increase amount of kids in the buildings and the new ids driving, thinks the district should address some sort of grace period from 7:40 AM to 7:45 AM for allowing these kids not to feel like if they are on school property at 7:40 AM but not through that front door, that they still are going to be tardy and he thinks this is a problem.

Mr. Hardy commented that he does see a lot of it too being a van driver and for bus drivers, they have to be constantly on their toes to make sure no kids run out in front of a school van or a bus; the traffic is just atrocious on Sharp Avenue.

Ms. Howard spoke about reflecting on this and remembering it being that chaotic last year. She asked a question if there is a grace period and the district gives them another five minutes, the kids are just going to be another five minutes later.; the answer is to come earlier.

Mr. Eaton stated there is only one option for these kids to get into the building, there is only one door they are being allowed to enter that building.

Mr. Kopetsky advised he was asked to speak if this topic came up. Mr Kopetsky advised with the policy change part of it; lates and how the high school has accounted for tardies has not changed since he was a student at Muhlenberg High School. He explained all students that come into the building after 7:40 AM are always marked tardy, the only change that has occurred recently is that students are now being asked to go into the gym instead of going to their homeroom. He advised this is the only change that has happened and quite honestly the reason this has changed is the effects to the high school's hallways. Mr. Kopetsky invited any board member and administrator to see there are no students walking around, there might be a few but the high school knows they are in the building on time and might need some extra encouragement to get to class so they will walk them there. He advised it's easier to check passes and the amount of students that were late prior to having students come to the gym, they were hovering around 100. He explained from 7:40 AM through the homeroom period there would be kids all over the place, some would have passes and some wouldn't. He advised the challenge was what time did the student get in and how does the high school manage this; from the high school's standpoint in the building this change of procedure in the morning was more just to maintain order, to have the hallways clear and everyone where they needed to be. Mr. Kopetsky advised they actually let the kids leave from the gym a little bit early, which gives them time to go to their lockers, get themselves set when they go to the first period. He reiterated how the high school marks students tardy has not changed, the only thing they have done differently is instead of having kids walking all over the place and getting to their homerooms slowly, it is easier for staff to manage the volume of kids that are coming in. Mr. Kopetsky advised the numbers of tardy students have gone from about 100 to 120 a day to now around 70 tardy students. He advised every five lates to school is a detention and for the juniors and seniors, in the handbook, if you get to fifteen tardies you cannot go to prom.

Mr. Eaton spoke about missing prom at fifteen tardies and detention after so many after that, his question is if the high school's policy hasn't changed since Mr. Koprtsky was at Muhlenberg on how students are considered late or tardy for school and there is an influx of students, maybe looking into the district's policy would not be the wrong idea and he thinks it may be the right idea considering the fact that the district is now taking 70 to 120 students and putting them in the gym and having to put four or five administrators watch over these kids which is now leaving a safety gap in

whether or not the district has people around the building to be watching hallways. He spoke about in the event that something should happen it also could be part of a problem.

Dr. Macharola advised there is policy and practice, this is a change of practice at the high school. He explained that the district will always have trouble with 1920 streets. He advised 7:40 AM is the start time, for 40 years in his career they had companies come in, kids failed drug tests they don't get hired; kids don't show up to work they don't get hired; kids are late they don't get hired. Mr Eaton stated that he disagrees. Dr. Macharola responded he does not agree with Mr. Eaton and if getting up ten minutes or fifteen minutes earlier, there will always be traffic there as they are 1920 streets and the district is doing everything the district can. Mr. Eaton stated there is only one way into the high school and there is only one entrance to get into the building to be accounted for and the high school has multiple other entrances they can enter. Dr. Macharola advised this is a safety reason and cannot go in multiple ways. Mr. Eaton responded he agrees and he personally took his daughter to school for five straight days to witness what was going on and he sat in the parking lot with her while she stood in a line eight minutes before 7:40 AM and could not get into the building until 7:41 AM and then was taken to the gymnasium. Mr. Eaton said his concern is if there is this line of 120 kids and 70 kids standing in line to get into the building who are on the school property standing on the sidewalk to walk to that front door and they happen to not make it through that front door exactly at 7:40 AM, the district is now affecting a lot of kids not only with the tardies but taking teachers out of where they should be in order to watch kids. He agreed that kids arriving at 7:45 AM and 7:48 AM they are late, but if they are standing in that line at 7:40 AM and not getting through the building and door and being considered late for that reason, he finds this to be troublesome considering there is only one option for them to enter the building; the district is only given them one entrance and two streets to drive. Dr. Macharola advised he will have Dr. Futrick and Mr. Mish look into this as well. He advised he agrees with Mr. Eaton to that point, however the district does not need to bump the time back and everyone needs to make adjustments along the way to get to school on time. He advised if the students are waiting in line there might be something in practice the high school can do. Mr. Eaton stated he watched two staff members standing outside watching these kids stand in line all the way up until past 7:40 AM, and it seems like their only idea of what they're supposed to be doing is marking them late when they are not through the door. He advised there are still kids standing in the line attempting to get there on time and there has to be some sort of consideration for the kids who are standing in line at 7:35 AM trying to get through a door. Dr. Macahrola advised that he agrees if this is what is happening and can be looked at by administration. Dr. Macahrola explained in terms of safety that the district's staff is being delegated where they need to be and cannot open other doors as this is the worst thing the district can do. Dr. Macharola also reiterated the need to get up earlier to get their kids to school. Mr. Eaton advised he did try and attempt to leave early and was still getting caught and stuck in traffic. He talked about taking a staff member and standing where they would say kids were late to this certain point. Mr. Eaton advised he has been passing along the message to his kids and other students about

getting up earlier to try to alleviate having to stand in the line to get into school. Dr. Macahrola advised that the district will look into this for all of the students.

Mr. Haas questioned the students that park on the avenue, there is not enough room for them to park in the high school parking lot. Dr. Macharola advised they are public streets, the students are supposed to park in the parking lot, if they dont the district does not know that. He advised the district had the police check the cars in those public streets. He talked about the district wishing the district could widen streets since they are 1920 streets; this is why the district takes the buses through the campus.

1. Memoriam of Mr. Richard Weiherer

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mr. Richard Weiherer who served in the Muhlenberg School District for twenty-five (25) years (1967-1992) as a Social Studies teacher. We honor his memory for his dedicated service to the school district and community.

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

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. He will coordinate such requests for the Board. Citizens addressing the Board should be aware that the meeting is being taped.

There were none.

MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of the Month

Schedule 2024-2025

February	Mr. S. Wayne Hardy
March	Mr. Miguel Vasquez
April	Ms. Janet Howard
May	Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

February 10 6:30 PM RMCTC Board Meeting

February 12	6:30 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting and Regular Board Meeting
March 5	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 10	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
March 12	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
April 2	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 9	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
April 14	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
May 7	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 12	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
May 14	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
June 9	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
June 11	6:30 PM	Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit asked Mr. Main if there was anything the board needed to know with regard to the building projects. Dr. Macharola advised on February 21st the district has the groundbreaking. Mr Main advised everything is progressing well, everything is set for the permit with the building inspector so it's just a matter of getting the plans recorded which McCarthy is working on, they have had pre construction and job conferences, shop drawings have started to move forward so things are progressing well here in terms if the initial planning and getting the job moving forward.

Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Vasquez, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Attest:


Cindy L. Mengle
Secretary