

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2025  
Lecture Hall, Muhlenberg High School  
[www.muhsdk12.org](http://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 6:38 PM by Board President, Mr. Garrett Hyneman.

There was a brief executive session held prior to the meeting.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Assistant Secretary – Ms. Janet Howard  
Member – Mr. S. Wayne Hardy

**Administration Present**

Superintendent – Dr. Joseph E. Macharola  
Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Alan S. Futrick  
Director of Special Education - Ms. Nicole Huntbach  
Supervisor of Special Education - Dr. Jason Miller  
Supervisor of Special Education - Mr. Byron Grosselfinger  
Licensed Behavior Specialist - Ms. Courtney Knittle  
Director of Technology - Dr. Juliana Ciccarelli  
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 Principal - Mr. Haniff Skeete  
High School Assistant Principal - Ms. Lori Morris  
High School Assistant Principal - Mr. Aaron Kopetsky  
Junior High Principal - Mr. Chris Becker  
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  
Social Worker - Ms. Lauren Heydt  
Social Worker - Ms. Liliana Moore  
Social Worker - Ms. Amanda Foulds  
Social Worker - Ms. Emily Carmichael

### **Visitors**

Eric Taylor	Bob Mengle
Susan Roeckle	Enrique Castro
Brad Coley	Diane Benson
Daniel Fair	Linda Roebuck
Don Main	Scott Eldridge
Andrew Ganzelli	Rick Hoffmaster
Robi Kramer	

### **Educational Presentations**

- A. JROTC-AF Unit Inspection Update - Major Campbell and Cadets: Ms. Aubrey Faust, Ms. Alyssa Hoffman, Mr. Joseph DeJesus, Ms. Ciara Morrotto, Mr. Angel Ocasio Diaz

Major Campbell introduced his top five leadership team (cadets) which are all seniors. Cadet Aubrey Faust core commander of the unit, Cadet Alyssa Hoffman vice commander, Cadet Major Joseph DeJesus operations squadron commander, Cadet Major Ciara Morrotto missions sports squadron commander, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Andrew Ocasio command chief of the unit.

Cadet Faust reported:

#### Overview

- Unit Goals and Performance Measures
- Top Flight
- CIA Trips
- Community Service
- Unit Wellness
- Cadet Accomplishments
- Cadets Across Campus
- Leadership Development Requirements
- Cadet Leadership Course

Unit Goals and Performance Measurements: Community Impact Goals

- The Unit will complete 2,500 hours of community service by 10 Apr 2025, so far they have completed 2,256 hours and still working towards that goal, about 90% of the cadets will reach the goal.
- Each Cadet will complete 12 hours of community service by 10 Apr 2025.
- Complete two Unit community service projects with 85% of the Unit involved by 10 Apr 2025, they have met this goal: Veterans Breakfast and Canned Food Drive in the fall.

Cadet Hoffman reported:

Curriculum in Action Trips (CIA) : CIA Trips completed

- Military Bases
- Washington D.C.
- EOY Trip

74% of Cadets have participated in a CIA Trip

CIA Trips coming up

- Bucks County Tour of Honor
- Joint Base Airshow
- EOY Trip

CIA trips

- Last year in May they got to experience a C-130 Flight Located at 193rd Special Operations Wing at an air national guard base, taking a tour of the base as well as taking a look at the job opportunities there; while in flight they got to experience a refueling by a different plane
- Fort Indiantown Gap Military Obstacle Course: cadets completed military course and were able to do their team building exercises and eat MREs with some of the guard men
- Bataan Memorial Hike: located in Valley Forge: three groups of cadets completed a fourteen mile hike for the soldiers who can't.
- Joint Base Airshow in JBMDL, NJ: cadets had the opportunity to do a flight simulator and toured the planes and helicopters that were flown in the Air Show, this year they are going again on May 16th.
- Every two weeks they take about two to four cadets over to Reading Airport and have the opportunity to fly an actual plane with an instructor with about an hour of flight time.

Cadet Major Joseph DeJesus reported:

Community Service

- Events:
  - Campus Cleanup
  - Color Guards
  - Veterans Breakfast
  - Wreaths Across America at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

- Veterans Dinner Dance which was done with Wilson High School' Army ROTC
- Canned Food Drive
- Community Service To Date: 2,257 hours: today they also completed a green team in one class period cleaning up four full bags of trash from over by the soccer field
- 74/108 Cadets completed at least 12 hours of community service so far

#### LDR Activities

- Cadets Participate in LDRs in our unit(100% of the Corps)
- Color Guard Events: Reading Fightin Phillies, Veterans Luncheon, Reading Royals and Parades (Temple Parade, Reading Christmas Parade, Ephrata, New Holland, etc.)
- Armed Drill Team (ADT): presentation performed at the Wilson High School and at Lozano's Award Ceremony
- Unarmed Drill Formation: they take around 50 cadets during parades in their camouflages marching around singing, screaming, yelling; it's fun times and everyone loves it
- Saber Team Events: they attend important events such as Muhlenberg's Senior Night, Veterans Breakfast and Military Ball and create an saber arch for everyone to walk through
- Raider Team: probably the most popular physical training team but also a mental training team; it's built on morale. There is always a cadet helping a cadet or everyone helping each other being very team based. There are competitions coming up in Bensalem, the Raider Competition and Panther Challenge in Central York.
- Green Team: cadets go around and pick up trash and noted that the district's campus is very clean compared to other schools

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Ocasio reported:

#### Unit Field Day

- Every year, we hold a field day specifically meant for the cadets in our unit, this year it will be held May 9th which starts at 7:40 am and ends around 2:35 pm
- Field day is a day in which cadets are pushed to their limit physically and mentally, and it also offers an opportunity to compete with their peers
- Army National Guard comes to the school with equipment, helps out and cheers on the cadets and get to do a ton of fun events

Cadet Major Joseph DeJesus reported:

#### 2024 Cadet Leadership Course

- Completed in Charleston, South Carolina about a week or two after the school year ends in June
- Last year they took twelve basic cadets (cadets going down for the first time) and four cadre cadets (cadets that have been there before)

- It's a week long where cadets are waking up around 4:30 am, doing exercises, eating breakfast, changing into the blues, inspection, then changing into utility uniforms and being able to go about their day and usually ends around 11 pm.

Cadet Major Morrotto reported:

#### Military Ball

- Every year they hold an awards ceremony dedicated to the cadets where they are given the awards they have earned throughout the entire school year as well as their national level of awards that both Sergeant and Major pick out.
- After the ceremony they get to have a fancy dinner with family and friends.
- They also get to dance, have fun and let loose.
- This year's Military Ball will be on May 20th and invites everyone to attend, tickets go on sale April 22nd.

Cadet Faust reported:

#### Unit Inspection

- Will be held April 23rd at 8 am in the high school gym.
- In that unit inspection an Air Force Regional Director will be inspecting their unit himself and asking questions.
- After inspection of their uniforms, the cadets will have to present their Color Guard to the standards and also their thirty-command.

#### Recap

- Unit Goals and Performance Measures
- CIA Trips
- Community Service
- Leadership Development Requirements
- Cadet Leadership Course

#### Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Dr. Macharola thanked Major Campbell and Master Sergeant Beaver for delivering an incredible program for the district's students. He spoke about the district's board of directors that support this program and will never go away. The AFJROTC program is a prime example of what Muhlenberg is about, the spirit in the district's school system and where the district put money and that's to help the children grow and deliver.*

*Mr. Voit wanted to commend the cadets for their participation in the Muhlenberg Township Memorial Ceremony; it's a phenomenal ceremony and their participation with the arch and the color guard is phenomenal and greatly appreciated.*

*Mr. Eaton asked about the Unit Field Day that is coming up on May 9th and is it open for all the students to come see the cadets and what they are up to. Cadet Major Joseph DeJesus advised the Unit Field Day is specially for their cadets in their unit and the Army National Guard that comes down and helps as well. Major Campbell spoke about the junior high allowing the cadets to come in to recruit for the following year which is an attire day with every single 8th grader to go over things of what they do and get people interested in the program. He advised they also try to go to events at C.E. Cole and MEC early on to try to introduce who they are. Major Campbell advised they do have 9th graders at the junior high who are a full time presence.*

*Mr. Grosselfinger spoke about the cadets presenting as senior leaders and asked what were their plans after graduating if they would be enlisting. Cadet Major Joseph DeJesus advised on February 10th he swore into the air force. Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Ocasio advised on October 21, 2023 he enlisted in the Army National Guard. Cadet Faust advised she is working on it. Cadet Hoffman and Cadet Major Morrotto advised they were not enlisting.*

*Dr. Macharola and board members thanked Major Campbell, Master Sergeant Beaver and cadets for their presentation and expressed how proud of the program.*

B. Physical Plant Update - Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

Dr. Macharola reported:

- Maintenance and Custodial Staff update - Spring Sports have begun here at MSD. This means the outside grounds crews are busy preparing playing fields for the student athletes throughout the campus. They are also beginning to clean up edges of the grass areas throughout the campus that were damaged from snow plowing. Lawn mowing season and mulching are just around the corner. Inside Maintenance Techs have been working on numerous work orders and completed several safety work orders as reported to the Safety Committee. Inside Custodians continue to be heavily involved in the activities taking place in all of the buildings throughout the evenings and weekends, while doing a great job keeping the school buildings clean/disinfected/sanitized and safe.
- Multi-Purpose Turf Field Update - The multi-purpose turf field progress has picked up these last two weeks, as the weather has been more favorable. Storm water piping and replacement of a sanitary line has dominated their worksite activity. Liner installation will follow the storm water completion. Substantial completion of this project is scheduled for the end of April, provided the weather remains favorable.

- New 5/6 Building Update - The new 5/6 middle school groundbreaking ceremony took place on February 24th. Contractors who will be working on the construction of the building continue to mobilize on the actual site and behind the High School. Building Permits were secured for all of the prime contractors. Fencing has been set up around the construction site. Erosion and Sedimentation Control is being installed and land development should begin this week.

C. Preliminary Budget Review - Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

Dr. Macharola reported:

Once again this is extremely fluid and very little here that the district is going to move on at this time, the Governor just released his budget and everyone knows there is going to be quite a bit of change, not only from Harrisburg, but also as the district continues to develop the district school budget. At the moment the district is proposing a 85,691,415 dollar budget for the 25-26 school year.

Local budgeted revenues are forecast to increase about \$481K over the 2024-25 budgeted local revenues.

- Budgeted property tax does not include millage increase (see page 3). Increase in revenue is due to change in total taxable assessment.
- Earnings on investments budgeted conservatively to account for future interest decreases and corresponding revenue decreases (not sustainable).
- Other local revenues expected to remain fairly consistent with small increases likely.

State budgeted revenues are forecast to increase about \$2.86M over the 2024-25 budgeted state revenues.

- Basic Ed funding (BEF), Special Ed Funding (SEF) and Ready to Learn Block Grant (RTLBG) amounts shown at 2024-25 actual amounts. See page 3 for Gov Shapiro proposed increases.
- There is concern regarding the sustainability of the State's budget. The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) performed a 5 year outlook of the State's budget and reported that the State's fund balance was expected to be depleted by 2025-26 and the State's rainy day funds were expected to be depleted by 2026-27.

Federal budgeted revenues are forecast to decrease about \$487M from the 2024-25 budgeted federal revenues.

- Decrease anticipated as all ESSER Funds that have been received over the last few years are completely spent down.

Budgeted local and state expenditures are forecast to increase \$4.4M over the 2024-25 budget.

- Salary and benefits are forecast to increase \$4.1M over the current year. This increase in costs includes no new positions. Salary increases average about 6.96% while medical insurance is expected to increase approximately 9.90%.
- Other notable increases are: CTC expenditures \$338K; Special education budget \$112K; Placements budget (including cyber charters) \$203K; Transportation budget (IU) \$310K; School Resource Officer costs \$221K.
- Budgeted decrease in debt service of \$237K is due to a reduction in the total payments due on the 2019 & 2020 bonds. This is the final year of payments for these two bonds. Anticipated borrowing of additional \$75M will result in additional debt service of between \$3.1 and \$4.75M (see page 3 & 5).
- Capital Reserve Transfer budgeted in 2024-25 of \$357K was a projected surplus in the prior year.
- Currently there is no surplus projected for the 2025-26 budget.

The net impact of these forecasted revenues and expenditures is a deficit (prior to budgetary considerations) of \$1.99M.

Budgetary considerations (page 3) includes the following items of note:

- A tax increase at the adjusted index of 5.70% would generate an estimated \$2.61M in additional property tax revenue. This is at a collection rate of 96.30% (5yr historical average).
- Governor Shapiro's proposed budget would provide a 2.77% and 6.17% increase in BEF and SEF, respectively. The total dollar increase over 2024-25 funding for the two appropriations would be \$495K. This is a relatively small increase compared to the increases provided the last three years.
- A larger increase is proposed by Governor Shapiro in the RTLBG (Ready-to-Learn Block Grant) funding. This is the new funding that was created in response to the fair funding lawsuit. A total increase of \$2.14M in RTLBG funding is projected for the District under the Governor's current proposed budget. As mentioned before, there are concerns about the sustainability of this funding for future years.
- It's anticipated that the District will need to issue additional bonds during fiscal year 2025-26. These bonds are necessary to fund the ongoing construction project. With the recent change in the order of construction projects, cash flow projections will need to be reviewed and updated followed by an update to the District's financing plan. It's estimated that the District will need to borrow approximately \$75M in 2025-26. This will be updated when a new financing plan is received.

A total of eleven (11) new positions at a net cost of \$1.12M are identified on page 6.



Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit questioned under the budget preview expenditures, under state locally funded, what is "other department budgets." that over the course of four/five years the expenditures have tripled. He asked at some point in time in the next couple of months what makes up that increase. Dr. Macharola advised he will get answers for him.

Dr. Macharola also spoke about hearing negative things this past weekend at the farmer's market. He spoke about having thick skin when running a school district and having a strong spine. Dr. Machrola spoke about being in the district for twelve years, Dr. Futrick being here eleven years, and being approachable to a fault. He talked about having an incredible concert at the district, how people speak about the district only caring about athletics is completely false. He invited everyone to come to the musical, Shrek, this weekend and see what is really happening in the district's schools instead of condemning and criticizing the district. He spoke about being upset going into the farmer's market and hearing such disgusting comments about the district's students and about the nine board members. He advised he defended the nine board members and stood by them to two older gentlemen that decided to seek him out. Dr. Macharola talked about having this years ago and stopped going into the market. He talked about people suggesting there are a thousand kids in Muhlenberg that he allows to come here is complete garbage. He talked about the last census as there are 3,000 additional inhabitants in Muhlenberg, this is a fact and asked to stop the lying and distorted facts. Dr. Macharola spoke about the district having a Director of Pupil Services that already moved three or four families out of the school district because they did not reside here; but if they reside here the district is going to educate them. He spoke about 1302 students and homeless students and how the district will educate them; he advised these are students that are in this urban school district. Dr. Macharola talked about people slamming the children of the district and saying negative statements about where their parents come from. He spoke about this happening years ago with a local politician and now resurfacing, it needs to stop; this is not Washington D.C. He talked about people who are criticizing the children, teachers, staff and board members of this district. They have every right to do this however they need to know their facts. Dr. Macharola advised 1,400 children are school aged, the district only has 950 of them. He advised he does not let people come to the district that do not belong here and that he wants the garbage to stop. Dr. Macharola talked about if someone wants to run on this, he does not want them to run for school board; but if they would stand there and support what is true then run for school board. He talked about being there for 4,424 kids and within ten years it is going to be 5,000 and how he told the board twelve years ago the district was going to grow. He spoke about being told there was nowhere to

build, however there are plenty of places to build in Muhlenberg as he watched housing developments going up left and right. Dr. Macharola spoke about homes that were once owned by families are now inhabited by multiple families and have nothing to do with the district's school board. He talked about the district's lawful, legal obligation is to educate the children and the district is going to do it. Dr. Macharola spoke about if people do not like who is living here and don't like what is happening this is not the place to settle it and this is not where their hate needs to be reflected; hate needs to go away completely. He reiterated how he is tired of the distorted facts and what is sad there is a new generation coming on picking up that same mantra from years ago. Dr. Macharola talked about when he came to the district one out of four children was a minority, today three out of four children are minorities. He talked about when he came to the district, the district was 33% economically disadvantaged; the district is now a CEP district where all the children eat free breakfast and lunch and thank goodness they do; putting the district at a 99% poverty rate. He advised the district's direct certified rate is a little less right now because parents do not have to fill out the paperwork, if they did the rate would be over 70%. Dr. Macharola commented that thank goodness the district exists and the school board here who truly cares about the children in Muhlenberg exists. He spoke about not wanting people to have comfort coming to him to speak about the color of the student's skin and that he is letting children come to the district from Reading and that's why the taxes are going up; this is completely false, it's insulting and he takes offense to this. He spoke about wanting the district's children to have a great country to live in and defend, and raise their families. Getting an education, getting a great trade, that's what the district is about here in Muhlenberg. He reiterated what he heard in the community was disgusting, it needs to stop and not a reflection of anyone here in Muhlenberg. Dr. Macharola also spoke about people who are talking about the rank of the school district and how Muhlenberg is a transient school district. He spoke about any child who has a Muhlenberg elementary education has done remarkably well when it comes to standardized testing; which is just a barometer and does not determine whether a student is successful in life. He talked about some students moving into the district may be grossly underserved and may be basic and below basic and then the district is "tagged" with this. He spoke about the children moving in who are happy to be here, proud to be here and asked everyone to get involved in helping these students. Dr. Macharola talked about the school district being in the top five in the county and not to look at those numbers; the district is investing in sports, the arts and music, and the district will continue to take care of the children.

**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.

Andrew Ganzelli - resident/Francis Street

He advised he is probably the youngest resident on his street and moved in with his wife back in 2022. He loves the area, lots of culture, but there have been a couple of issues that he wanted to address to the board. This has been occurring since the day that they have moved in, there is an excessive amount of trash that is left by students and he does not know why students choose to park on the residential streets over parking in the newly paved district parking lot that is severely underutilized. He knows there are construction vehicles back there right now that are taking up a large portion of the parking lot. He reiterated there was an excessive amount of trash, anything from a urine filled bottle found in front of his house today in a Chik-Fil-A bag; there are cigarette butts, fast food bags, empty bottles/cans/Starbucks cups, etc. His wife's car has been involved in two hit and runs in the past six months, police were notified about those and gave license plate numbers. They were able to find one of the students and ask them about it. The student was shocked that the police found him and didn't realize license plates were traceable. His wife, who works from home sometimes, asked a student to move his car that was blocking their driveway and the student called her a "jobless bitch" and told her to "get a life." This was probably one of the first incidents that he questioned the community he was moving to, hoping it was not. Another parent, his wife had asked to please politely move their car from blocking their driveway as this seems to be a common occurrence, the parent said, "I can park wherever I want, call the f-ing police and ask for Sergeant so and so, he is my cousin." He said his street has become a drag show as some of the cars are going obviously above 20 mph on his residential street. It has also become a pickup and drop off location for parents dropping their students off, or their children off in the morning and picking them up in the afternoons. He is hoping with the new school and with the renovations there is some sort of way for traffic remediation to avoid these potential problems. The last thing on his list is they have noticed some students that have crossed in from the student parking lot through their yard by foot to get back onto Francis Street.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Dr. Macharola advised he wanted his name, address, and phone number as the architect is here this evening, despite this being a city street, Mr. Ganzelli is not falling*

*on deaf ears. Dr. Macahrola advised the high school principal is here, he wrote down all of Mr. Ganzelli's concerns and everyone will get together and address Mr. Ganzelli's concerns and the district will try to do what the district can. Dr. Macharola apologized to Mr. Ganzelli and advised he wouldn't like trash in his yard, students calling his wife names, a parent calling names, all uncalled for. Dr. Macahrola advised drop off/pick up the district is already having problems around the entire neighborhood and will be looked at. Dr. Macharola asked Principal Skeete and Director of Pupil Services to speak to Mr. Ganzelli to get together to try and solve. Mr. Ganzelli thanked everyone for listening.*

*Mr. Haas advised these are the same concerns that his mother is having at her residence.*

Enrique Castro - resident

He wanted to first commend Dr. Macharola for all of his comments as he is hearing them himself. It is very crazy and hateful out there and he would remind the community that the kids are hearing the news, they are scared, the teachers are scared as there is a lot of uncertainty; stop being mean and be nice to each other, especially the kids. In terms of the school and tax increases, nobody wants a tax increase and this shouldn't be all on the homeowner. But it's up to the community to step up to the township commissioners, the county commissioners, senators, and state reps and insist that they contribute too because they approve variances for all the apartments to be built, all those homes to be built and the school board had nothing to do with that. But, the district still has to educate those kids. No school board is perfect, no district is perfect and he has had his issues with the school district but he is a proud Muhlenberg guy. He took his kids out of here during COVID to go to HGA and they just fell behind. His son who couldn't read when he came back here from HGA, is having his best academic year ever; he is very proud of this school district. The last thing he wanted to say to the board members and everyone, he thought there was a no bag policy for school events and he knew people went crazy over this. He volunteered at the music fest and was disgusted to see all of the beer cans in the bathroom; take pride in the school. Especially adults, there is no reason to bring beer to your student's music concert and that's all he has.

## **Board Business**

### **Personnel**

#### **1. Administrative Appointment**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following administrative appointment:

- a. Ms. Sabrina Maples, Assistant Business Manager (S. Hawkins), effective March 6, 2025 at a salary of \$99,500, prorated for days worked.

## **2. Professional Appointments**

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

- a. Ms. Nina Kramer, Special Education Teacher (H. Slane), Muhlenberg Junior High School, pending emergency certification and release from current employer, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked, given 3.5 years to attain and secure PDE Certification in Special Education.
- b. Ms. Jenele Vadelund, Special Education Teacher (L. Lapp), C.E. Cole Intermediate, pending release from current employer, at a salary of \$65,076 (M, 14 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- c. Ms. Amy Martzall, Long-Term Substitute Teacher (T. Sborz), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 24, 2025 until the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$68,480 (M, 12 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- d. Ms. Taryn Buono, Special Education Teacher (A. Wenrich), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending emergency certification, effective February 24, 2025 at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked, given 3.5 years to attain and secure PDE Certification in Special Education.
- e. Ms. Cameron Gring, Special Education Teacher (L. Hess), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective March 12, 2025, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked, given 3.5 years to attain and secure PDE Certification in Special Education.

## **3. Classified Appointments**

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

- a. Ms. Charlita Andrews, Special Education Paraprofessional (M. Singleton), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective February 10, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- b. Ms. Kathrynne Thomas, Special Education Paraprofessional (T. Buono), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective March 10, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- c. Ms. Tanisha Chopra, Paraprofessional (E. Majewski), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective March 6, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- d. Ms. Abi Shuman, Special Education Paraprofessional (H. Juzyk), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective March 6, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- e. Mr. Harrison Stricker, Custodian Substitute, effective March 10, 2025.
- f. Ms. Monica Brock, Cafeteria Substitute, effective March 10, 2025.

**4. Acceptance of Resignations**

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

- a. Mr. Taryn Buono, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 21, 2025.
- b. Mr. Bradley Barskey, Clerical Assistant, C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective February 19, 2025.
- c. Dr. Audrey Smeltzer-Schwab, Chemistry Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, pending release from Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- d. Ms. Brittany Towles, Math Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective February 28, 2025.
- e. Ms. Anna Maldonado, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg High School, effective February 28, 2025.

**5. Mentor Assignment**

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

- a. Ms. Lisa Bowersox, mentor for Ms. Nina Kramer, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.

**6. Co-Curricular Appointments and Adjustments**

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

- a. Mr. Anthony Calvaresi, Jr., COLE Student Council Co-Advisor, replacing Ms. Emily Carmichael for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$870 (year 1).
- b. Ms. Katie DiStefano, MHS Spring Musical Stage Design Manager, effective December 10, 2024, at a salary of \$3,026 (year 13).
- c. Mr. Tyler Seisler, MHS Spring Musical Stage Construction Co-Supervisor, effective January 29, 2025, at a salary of \$1,450 (year 1), prorated for days worked.
- d. Mr. Shane Shaffer, MHS Spring Musical Stage Construction Co-Supervisor, effective January 29, 2025, at a salary of \$1,450 (year 1), prorated for days worked.

**7. Co-Curricular Activities**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the closing of the Linguistics club for the Muhlenberg Junior High's co-curricular activities effective the start of the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

**8. 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 the following stipend as presented:

- a. Ms. Kelly Geddio, mentor for Ms. Taryn Buono, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, stipend of \$458.33, prorated for hours worked
- b. Mr. Jared Kretz, mentor for Ms. Summer McCoy, Custodian, C.E. Cole Intermediate, stipend of \$500.00
- c. Mr. Christopher Ramirez, mentor for Ms. Adriana Santiago, Custodian, Muhlenberg High School, stipend of \$500.00

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mrs. Eagle advised she likes seeing all of the alumni coming back to teach at Muhlenberg and thinks this is fabulous. Dr. Machrola agreed and thanked Mrs. Eagle.*

**9. Spring 2025 Coaching Assignments**

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

**10. 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. Zulmarie Ortiz, Cafeteria Worker, C.E. Cole Intermediate, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of February 18, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of February 19, 2025.
- b. Ms. Lori Seisler, Special Education Paraprofessional, C.E. Cole Intermediate, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of December 13, 2024 and recommended for permanent employment as of December 16, 2024.

**11. 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. 2434, Teacher, FMLA Leave, effective on or about February 26, 2025 through on or about June 6, 2025.

**Management**

**1. Summer Work Schedule**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the summer work schedule as Monday through Thursday beginning Monday, June 9, 2025 through Friday, August 8, 2025 – Office hours 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Vasquez asked in looking at the summer work schedule is this Monday through Thursday a 32/40 hour schedule or is that four 10 hours.. Dr. Macharola advised it works out to four days a week, 7:30AM to 4PM with an abbreviated lunch, 8 ½ hours. Mr. Vasquez asked what the hours come out for the week. Mr. Haas stated 32 hours, Dr. Macharola advised it was 34 hours. Mr. Haas commented that they do not get paid for lunch so it is an 8 hour day.*

**Physical Plant and Transportation**

**1. Transportation Contract**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the transportation contract between the Muhlenberg School District and the Berks County Intermediate Unit for school years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029 and 2029-2030 with rate increases of 10.6%, 7.0%, 5.7%, 5.7% and 5.7% respectively as presented.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Haas asked if they were staying with gas or diesel vehicles. Mr. Baylor advised they are changing over some of the diesel buses to gasoline engines. Dr. Macharola advised this is cheaper to run. Mr. Baylor commented that this is better for the winter. Mr. Haas commented that his question was electric. Dr. Machrola advised no electric, just gas.*

**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:



<b>Fund</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>Bills Paid Month</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Budget Transfers</b>
General	Jan 2025	Jan 2025	Feb 2025 Ck#28246-28452 V#28229-28252	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Cafeteria	Jan 2025	Jan 2025	Feb 2025 Ck#8510-8541 V#3152-3158	Jan 2025	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Feb 2025	Feb 2025	Feb 2025 Ck#986		
Capital Reserve (Fund 39)	Feb 2025	Feb 2025	Feb 2025 Ck#1024-1029		
Activity	Jan 2025	Jan 2025			

## 2. Disposal 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. Apple iPads, Chromebooks, and Desktops – These items are broken, have had usable parts removed, or have no usable value.

## 3. E-Rate Project: Middle School Aruba Access Points

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the bid for Aruba Access points and Aruba Central management system (hardware and installation) of \$83,312.50 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.

## 4. Appraisal Services for Tax Assessment Appeal – North Reading WM LP

BE IT RESOLVED, that John E. Muir, Esquire, Brian F. Boland, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, are hereby authorized to retain the professional appraisal services of Douglas A. Haring, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, including inspection of the property, examination of information received from the property

owner, assembly of necessary data required to develop the value opinion of the property and preparation of an appraisal report on behalf of the Muhlenberg School District for the following real estate tax assessment appeal action as presented:

North Reading WM LP (by Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust, Tenant as Agent)  
vs. Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals, Berks County, PA

Berks County C.C.P. No.	24-17259
Property Address:	5370 A Allentown Pike, Muhlenberg Twp Berks County, Pennsylvania
Parcel I.D. No.:	66000000000001
Appraisal Report:	\$6,500.00

Trial preparation/attendance at trial:

Douglas A Haring: \$200 per hour additional

## **Education**

### **1. Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following donations in accordance with district Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Donations:

- a. The Perk Up Truck/Ms. Michelle Lorah, donation of the book "I Am Somebody" and football playing cards to the Muhlenberg Elementary Center/C.E. Cole Intermediate library for students in the Muhlenberg School District.

### **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 "G", Muhlenberg Junior High School

### **3. Medical Provider Authorization Professional Service Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Ms. Jennifer Dufford, Medical Provider Authorization of School Based Access Program Services, for the 2024-2025 (February 12, 2025 - June 30, 2025) school year as presented.

### **4. Conference Request**

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

- a. Dr. Juliana Ciccarelli, to attend the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-IAC) Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ on June 21, 2025 to June 26, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$2,152.00 (Technology Department funds).

## **5. 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.

## **6. Extended School Year Program for 2025**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for 2025 (July 7, 2025 to July 31, 2025) at an estimated operating cost of \$136,280, plus transportation which includes the following staff and related services (Special Education Budget and General Fund):

- a. Fourteen (14) Teachers
- b. Eighteen (18) Instructional Assistants
- c. Two (2) Speech Therapists
- d. Related Services:
  - 1) Occupational Therapist
  - 2) Physical Therapist
  - 3) Hearing

## **Student Activities**

*There are no items.*

## **Minutes**

Review minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 12, 2025 and the Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 2025.

## **Old Business**

*There are no items.*

## **New Business**

### **1. Memoriam of Ms. LuAnn Deininger**

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Ms. LuAnn Deininger who served in the Muhlenberg School District for twenty-two (22) years (1989-2011) as a cafeteria worker. We honor her memory for her dedicated service to the school district and community.

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

## **2. Memoriam of Mr. Steven Noll**

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mr. Steven Noll who served in the Muhlenberg School District for four (4) years (2020-2024) as a Spring Sports Manager and Softball Coach. 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.

### Richard Hoffmaster - resident

He has lived in Muhlenberg for thirty-five years and was on the school board back in 1990 when he first got on this board, this district was one hell of a mess. First thing they did was fire the Superintendent. This guy (Dr. Macharola) the district has now is one the best superintendents that the district ever had. Mr. Voit and Mr. Boland were there with him when they had meetings until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning to get a good superintendent in. The district was able to get a good superintendent, Dr. Yarworth and everyone thought Dr. Yarworth was the best; but now the district has the best (Dr. Macharola), he is here for the people. He and Dr. Macharola use to fight a lot, and he and Mr. Voit hated each other, but everyone had to work together and move ahead because Muhlenberg is a great township. When he hears about people bitching about racists and stuff, this is not the township. They had a commissioner on the board of Muhlenberg Township, he was a racist and he doesn't care what anyone says, he says he was a racist and that is what hurt the school district and the township. Everyone needs to work together, even if you want to run, don't bitch about these nine people (board members) and do something better than these nine people here. These are good people here, great people the district got here. He is just tired of the racists going on in the township.

**MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of the Month**

Schedule 2024-2025

March	Mr. Miguel Vasquez
April	Ms. Janet Howard
May	Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.

**Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events**

March 10	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
March 12	6:30 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting 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

**Adjourn Meeting**

Moved by Mrs. Eagle and Mr. Voit, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Attest:

  
Cindy L. Mengle  
Secretary