

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2025
Lecture Hall, Muhlenberg High School
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, May 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM by Board President, Mr. Garrett Hyneman.

There was a brief executive session held regarding personnel.

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 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
High School Principal - Mr. Haniff Skeete
High School Vice Principal - Mr. Kevin Vanino
High School Assistant Principal - Ms. Lori Morris
Junior High Principal - Mr. Chris Becker
Junior High Assistant Principal - Ms. Michele Weaver
Junior High Assistant Principal - Dr. Joseph Scoboria
Junior High Assistant Principal - Mr. Joshua Rankin
C.E. Cole Intermediate Principal - Dr. Janet Heilman

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

Visitors

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Patricia Sustello | Linda Roebuck |
| Susan Roeckle | Bill Stoyer |
| Terry Guers | Tatiana Roche |
| Afaf Maslah | Ashley Lane |
| Enrique Castro | Dolores Stull |
| Denise Lewis | Mark Horst |
| Sharon Melone-Orme | Heather DeTurk Horst |
| James Lewis | Emma Shealer |
| Brad Coley | Mohamed Sillah |
| Donna Sands | Bruce Marbarger |
| Donna Marbarger | Doug Olexy |
| Carlina Ramos | |

Educational Presentations

A. MEC Student Council - Mr. James Lane, Ms. Brianna Roche, Ms. Rayhannah Sillah and Ms. Wendy Hromiak

Mr. Lane reported:

Tonight they wanted to speak about some of the ways the student council is collaborating with the students at the high school and also about some of the fun activities they have been doing recently. Earlier this year, one of the third grade reading units focused on the system of the human body like the muscular system, the nervous system, and the skeletal system. As a culminating activity Mr. Pumphrey's class came down to MEC and did a bone map activity with them. The high school students first showed them a slide show about the skeletal system, they asked them questions and were very impressed about their knowledge. They thought they were going to teach them a lot of new things and were surprised with how much they already knew. Then the high school students helped them with the bone map, each group in the room got a piece of marrow, they used their tools to look at the different parts they saw in the bone. They looked at the bone marrow that was stored in the bone and the high school students pointed out the blood vessels within the bone. It was a fun hands-on experience for them.

Ms. Sillah reported:

Another way the high school students help at MEC is when the English language learners from the high school come down to the school and work with the ELL students at MEC. Last Spring the high school students came down and read stories with the ELL students. In the fall this year they came down again and taught games to groups of students. In March these students came into the ELL rooms and did crafts with the students. They also had six high school interns that come into their school on a regular basis to help with their classrooms. These students usually come down several days a week and spend a whole afternoon helping students and teachers. These high school students are learning valuable skills while helping in the kindergarten/ first grade library and phys ed classes.

Ms. Roche reported:

The high school has a class called Working with Young Children. As part of this class, the high school students visit MEC every Thursday to help in classrooms. The goals of this class are to give the high school students observation time, have them work one on one with students, and assist teacher responsibilities such as putting up bulletin boards. *Ms. Roche read some statements from some teachers of students who helped.* The MEC students love the extra attention they get by working with the high school students who seem a lot cooler than the regular teachers. They are so lucky to have the high school so close to their school. They love that they have these programs in place so they can meet some of these high school students and they can give them extra help and attention when they need it.

Mr. Lane reported:

Another thing they wanted to talk about is something they always look forward to every year, field trips. They were so happy they were able to get enough money from three fundraisers to pay for a field trip and bussing for all of the students in their school. Their families never have to pay for anything. This year third graders had a chance to go to Nolde Forest and learn about animals and their habitats. They also went to the Reading Science Center. The first graders went to the Oregon Dairy to visit the animals and learn about the importance of farming. Second grade went to Crystal Cave this year for the first time and even got to pan for gold. The kindergarten classes went to Berks Nature to experience the eye spy scavenger hunt and observe and record nature in their journals.

Ms. Sillah reported:

Last week their school had a really fun opportunity, the Keystone Classroom Initiative came to their school. This is an official statewide program to prepare students for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. All kindergarteners through second grade classrooms, and community volunteers read the book "K is for Keystone" the Pennsylvania alphabet where children learn about Gettysburg, the Liberty Bell to name a few. They donated a signed book to the MEC library. Third graders were also lucky, they had a fun assembly where they met Ben Franklin, the gentleman who was

a reenactor and shared stories and facts about Pennsylvania and U.S. history. There were two Pennsylvania mascots that visited classrooms and everyone in the school received a swag bag from America 250 PA. In these bags they got coloring books showing special things about Pennsylvania, crayons, stickers and an America 250 t-shirt.

Ms. Roche reported:

As everyone can see they have a lot of great things going on at MEC. May is filled with many fun learning activities as well. Please feel free to stop by at any time to see and thank everyone for their support for their school.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Dr. Macharola thanked the students for their presentation and asked for applause.

B. MJHS Dean's List - Ms. Yareli Mora, Ms. Jazmin Vargas-Alvarez, Mr. Chris Becker, Dr. Joe Scoboria, Mr. Josh Rankin, Ms. Michele Weaver, Mr. Matt Coldren and Ms. Liliana Moore

Mr. Becker, Ms. Weaver, Dr. Scoboria, Mr. Coldren reported:

Our goal is to make MJHS a place that fosters a positive culture, emphasizing academic excellence, and providing a range of opportunities for students to thrive. D is for dedication, E is for effort, A is for academics, N is for never give up, and S is for success.

If the students are seen making good choices, earning high grades, working hard, getting to class on time, having very good attendance, and catching the eye of their teachers, they can get on the Dean's List. Dean's List means that you have made a prestigious list of students who are doing awesome things to make our school a great place to learn.

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How students are chosen:

- Mr. Coldren emails the staff asking for recommendations for the month.
- He checks on their grades, attendance, tardies, and behaviors.
- He comes up with the 5-7 best in each grade as well as Learning Support/Life Skills students.
- Sends list to Admin for final approval.

Ms. Mora and Ms. Vargas-Alvarez reported:

How students are celebrated:

- Student's names are read over the morning announcements and asked to meet administration in the main lobby.
- Students get their pictures taken to be displayed in our Dean's List Trophy Case which is located in the main lobby outside of the office. A group photo is also taken for our social media account.
- Dean's List Celebration:
 - September kickoff- Pizza Como pizza party with ice cream sandwiches.
 - September- Chick-fil-A party with ice cream sandwiches.
 - October- Philly Pretzel Factory soft pretzels with ice cream sandwiches.
 - November/December- Dutch Maid Bakery cookies and donuts with ice cream sandwiches.
 - January- Margherita's pizza party with ice cream sandwiches
 - February- Pizza Como pizza party with ice cream sandwiches
 - March/April-Chick-fil-A party with ice cream sandwiches

The Junior High has recognized 124 students. There will be a culminating event where students will get to go to the Reading Fightin' Phils game on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 to let the students know how proud they are of them.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mrs. Eagle asked if it is about six students per grade level earning the award each month. Mr. Coldren advised it is and is roughly between 18-20 students per month. Mrs. Eagle commented that she would like to challenge the board members to sponsor one of these celebrations for the students one month, next school year as a school board. Mr. Eaton asked if this was something that the district is integrating into fourth, fifth, and sixth grade as it promotes high achievement. Mr. Coldren advised it is a great initiative and feels as though it has made a great difference in the junior high. Mrs. Eagle commented that this program also focuses on students too who have made that change which is really important as sometimes those students get lost. Mr. Coldren agreed it's not just grades and advised they have had lifeskills students, learning support students as part of the Dean's List who also will be traveling to the baseball game.

C. Physical Plant Update - Mr. Ken Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported:

- Maintenance and Custodial Staff update - Outside grounds crew continue to be busy with spring sports activities. With the weather change inside maintenance techs are getting the buildings ready for the cooling season. As the current school year winds down they are also completing work orders issued by instructional staff to help ensure classrooms are ready for Summer Style and ESY, Kindercamp and various programs that happen at the district's facilities throughout the summer. The inside custodial crews are preparing to tackle the

summer cleaning of the facilities. In addition they are heavily involved with all the activities that are taking place in all of the buildings throughout the evenings and weekends. Over spring break the inside and outside maintenance techs helped with a major IT initiative that took place in C.E. Cole and also put a safety coating on the entrance ramp to the modulares. Inside custodians deep cleaned and waxed the MEC cafeteria. ...continues to keep the campus facilities safe, clean and sanitized for the staff, students and community.

- Multi-Purpose Turf Field Update - The multi-purpose turf field continues progressing forward. All of the light poles and fixtures have been installed. Utilities for the field are also being installed. The backstop to the baseball part of the field is also up and various fence posts around the perimeter of the field are in place. The placement of the sanitary line and finishing stoning of the entire area will be completed these next few weeks. Turf installation should begin in the next couple weeks as well, substantial completion of this project is scheduled for the end of June provided the weather remains favorable.
- New 5/6 Building Update - The new 5/6 middle school project is progressing on schedule, land development is in full swing as top soil and rock were removed and concrete footers starting in the southwest corner of the site are being dug, formed and poured. Activity on the site will continue to increase towards the end of May, beginning of June as masons will begin to mobilize on site.
- Lead Water Testing Results - In April water samples were taken from all of the district's school buildings. These samples were then sent to the lab for analysis testing for overall lead content in the water. These tests are done to make sure the student water supply is safe for drinking and also goes above the requirements of Act 39 of the PA school code. All the samples came back well under the threshold of allowable lead content as established by the EPA. All of these results are posted on the district's website under the lead water testing tab.
- Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Approval - This agreement between the Muhlenberg School District and McClure Company are looking to partner with them for several energy savings initiatives relating to mechanicals being replaced throughout the district as part of the 7.7 million dollar grant that the district was awarded last year.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Haas questioned if the district was starting at the junior high school on this project. Mr. Patterson explained that the district is replacing two of the boilers at the junior high and also the chiller as well. Mr. Haas asked at what point does this become a cost to the school district. Mr. Patterson advised the 7.5 million dollar grant the district had to pledge the 7.5 million dollars to receive the 7.5 million dollars to spend on the district and mechanicals. Mr. Haas asked if these mechanicals will then be the district's and are not leased. Mr. Patterson advised that is correct. Mr. Haas questioned as the district

progresses with the five year plan, does the boiler room at the junior high stay there. Mr. Patterson advised if the scope of the junior high would happen to change, there is nothing the district is going to do in this project that wouldn't stay. Mr. Haas questioned if the district is looking at a four pipe system or not. Mr. Patterson responded the district is not due to the cost; however if there was a new junior high being built it would be considered. Mr. Haas agreed and asked the board to discuss and to look into at some point as it is a much more efficient system with a four pipe system.

D. Preliminary Budget Review - Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Dr. Macharola, Mr. Voit, and Mr. Mathias all discussed the board will need to vote on a preliminary proposed budget (per PA school code) and can be adjusted before the June board meeting. However the board will vote on the adoption of the final budget at the June board meetings.

Mr. Mathias reported:

Local budgeted revenue changes from the April Board report.

Notable:

- Interest earnings increased \$334k. This is still a somewhat conservative estimate of investment income. The current level of earnings is not sustainable and should not be built into a long term budget. Approx \$593k of this total will cover one-time expenditures in the budget.
- Interim RE Taxes increased \$275k. This increase is directly related to an anticipated assessment appeal settlement with a large commercial taxpayer.
- Property tax decreased \$107k . This is directly related to a large commercial taxpayer whose assessed value was decreased significantly as a result of an assessment appeal.

State budgeted revenue changes from the April Board report.

Notable:

- Safe Schools decreased \$67k. Safe Schools grant originally expected to carry into 2025-26, now expected to be spent in 2024-25

Federal and Other Financing Sources budgeted revenue changes from the April Board report.

Notable:

- Minor decreases to operational costs covered by Title, ACCESS, and IDEA funding (picked up by local) . Grants still being finalized.
- Capital Project fund transfer increased \$1M. As part of Raymond James' financing plan, the District can use interest earnings, or reserves (fund balance) to balance the budget.

Budgeted local and state expenditure changes from the April Board report.

Notable:

- Salaries increased \$175k. This increase is to account for increase in costs associated with Long Term Subs.
- Small increases to salary picked up by local due changes in Federal funding as noted above.
- Debt Service increased \$3.27M. The estimated cost of debt service for the 2025 bonds (not yet issued) moved to page 2 and included here.
- Technology budget increased \$259k. Budget increased to account for eRate purchases as well as Viewsonic monitor (one time) purchases .
- Other debt budgets increased \$722k. This increase is due to an anticipated property tax refund of \$609k to a commercial taxpayer. This taxpayer had a significant decrease in assessed value (over 4 years) as a result of an assessment appeal (pending settlement).
- Modular classrooms budget increased \$44k. This increase represents the estimated rental cost for eight
- Modular units at the Junior High for four months. This cost does not include the setup costs for the modular units.

The net impact of these forecasted revenues and expenditures is a deficit (prior to budgetary considerations) of \$4.98M. Estimated debt service for the 2025 bonds is now included in the OS figure on page 2 (expenditures) as noted above. When this is accounted for (comparing to April's report), the deficit is \$1.71M (compared to \$1.96M in April).

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

A tax increase at the adjusted index of 5.70% would generate an estimated \$2.62M in additional property tax revenue. This is at a collection rate of 97.93% (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 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 estimated OS shown on page three to show the impact of the debt on the bottom line.

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

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit spoke about two years developing a comprehensive plan and it was probably time at the September meeting to revisit where the district is at and what the district is planning for the next stages just to refresh everyone's memory. Dr. Macharola agreed.

Mr. Eaton questioned if the district is forecasting off of the idea that the 2.6 million (from Governor). Mr. Mathias advised he is always in discussion with other business managers and some are saying they are budgeting the entire thing in order to balance their budget. Mr. Mathias talked about this needing to be a decision when getting closer to June the district is going to have to look at; in his eyes this is the best case scenario what the Governor is proposing and certainly could be less.

Mr. Voit spoke about the bonds the district has taken out, earning some level of interest as allowable by the state, and some of this is being used in the budget to bring down the debt service. He spoke about next year's budget and while the debt service from twenty years ago is paid off next year, any new debt service is just a continuation of that. Mr. Mathias advised yes that debt service will fall off next year, around 4.5 million dollars. He explained the way Raymond James has structured in the new debt service it is structured in with lower principle up front so all of this does go up next year, however there is still a net positive for the district. Mr. Voit questioned if the district can use more interest to cover this. Mr. Mathias advised the district earned around 1.2 million thus far, and could potentially use a bit more and may be a case where the district uses fund balance for one year to bridge until next year possibly. Mr. Mathias advised the district will more than likely not know what the state will do with this money come June; as in the past three years it has come out after June.

E. First and Second Reading of Policy - Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

Policy No. 237, Student Use of Cell Phones

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a focused, respectful, and safe educational environment. The use of cell phones during the school day has been shown to negatively affect academic performance, student behavior, and social development.

This policy establishes a clear and consistent approach to banning student cell phone use during school hours in all K-12 buildings.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in grades K-12 across the Muhlenberg School District during the instructional day and in all school buildings, on school grounds, and at school-sponsored events during the academic day unless otherwise noted. Cell phones are not permitted to be used or visible at any point during the school day.

Guidelines

Prohibition of Cell Phone Use

1. Students shall not use or possess cell phones during the school day.
2. All cell phones must be powered off and stored in a locker or other location designated by the school administration upon entering the school building.
3. Students may not carry cell phones on their person during the school day (e.g., in pockets, waistbands, or clothing).

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit spoke about a book he had read, the epidemic of mental health specifically among adolescents, starting with the iPhone and at the very same time Facebook bought Instagram that people could start putting videos up; that's when you can pin point to when the epidemic of mental health. He spoke about parents needing to limit the use of smartphones in the day time, allowing socialization. He believes this is a great policy to help with mental health. Mrs. Eagle spoke about the students needing medical needs, 504 plans, IEPs, and other accommodations as these students will be protected. Mr. Eaton spoke about being against the idea of having the cell phone in their lockers and would rather see the district designate an area where they can be stored; trying to eliminate the excuse for students to go into the hallways to go to their lockers to try and get their cell phones. Mrs. Eagle spoke about another district where they have pouches hanging in the classroom and there have been no issues. Mr. Haas questioned if adopting this cell phone policy this evening can it be revised at a later time. Dr. Macharola responded that it can. Mr. Haas commented that he believes five offenses is a lot to get a message through. Dr. Macharola discussed the recent event that occurred in real time with the police department and students with their cell phones causing a distraction, he agreed with Mr. Eaton in regards to getting holders for the cell phones and advised the district is currently working on purchasing this. Dr. Macharola also agreed this will help the students with mental health and focusing in school.

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.

Denise Lewis - resident/Muhlenberg Park

She respectfully urges the board to reconsider the proposed 5.7% tax increase. While she understands the financial challenges facing the community, this significant increase could burden many residents, especially seniors on fixed incomes, potentially risking their homes. As public servants she asks the board to collaborate with the community to find balanced creative and compassionate solutions that address their physical needs while protecting their vulnerable neighbors. Regarding enrollment, the Muhlenberg School District has seen an increase of 396 students from the year 2019 to 2025, however there are claims of larger increases that appear misleading. Dr. Macharola affirmed the district has 91 homeless students and is uncertain if they are funded or if it falls on taxpayers. She submitted a Right to Know Request on enrollment but has not received a response. The district also needs to address the issue of non-resident students attending Muhlenberg, currently there are ways around proof of residency requirements and she suggests requiring tax returns to verify addresses. Additionally creating a tool for anonymous reporting of residency fraud could be beneficial. Financially Muhlenberg has had the highest tax increases in Berks County for the last two years, yet faces high poverty rates. With over 4800 senior citizens in the district, many cannot afford rising taxes and must consider ways to alleviate their burden such as a tiered tax system or a per car registration tax. She also has concerns about the school board's management as Dr. Macharola should not be running the school board meetings and may not be empathetic to the community's struggles. Lastly, budget cuts could help recuse spending especially considering administrative costs are significantly higher than state averages yet the district's academic performances rank poorly. They need urgent action to ensure fiscal responsibility and support the community.

Donna Marbarger - resident

What she is concerned with is Muhlenberg received the second largest percentage of money for the 2024-2025 school year in Berks County. More money was received in all categories of regular ed, special ed and block grants yet the taxes were raised for the 24-25 7.5%. This happened with the large increase in state funding. The district now has the second highest school taxes in the county, right beneath Antietam. Antietam does not have many businesses, yet Muhlenberg does; are the businesses paying their fair share. The second things that was brought up at a community meeting and Mr. Voit and several other board members were in attendance, which was the amount of students that are on a 1302. It is very easy for anyone to go in and get a certificate of support, go to a notary and say the child lives with them. She is a former Reading

teacher and she knows she had former students that came to her and said that they were moving and asked where they were moving to, and they said Muhlenberg. Asking where they are moving they were going to live with their mom's sister or they were going to live with their friend but they really aren't living there because they were on the playground after school; they just didn't want to go to a Reading school. Their suggestions when they were talking about this at the community meeting were obviously better verification processes like possibly copies of a tax return. She knows that in the Oley School District that is one of the requirements that she knew that they had asked that the person there that is living with them the dependent on their tax return or a copy of the medical insurance card that they are listed on there as part of their family. The major concern was how does the school district actually verify the residence of these students. How many staff members actually do this verification, it would be a rather large job she would think. As she said anyone can go to a notary and how do they prove to the notary that they are responsible for this child.

Emma Shealer- resident

Tax increase brought her attention, she is a current 26 taxpayer with no current children in the school district, any school district ever. She continues to pay school tax and the district is about to push her out of her house. Between her pension and her social security, she is at her ends wit. She found it paramount for her to be there today for the board to put a face, somebody who has worked, brought everybody to where they are today. She is close to 70 years old and she broke down last year and got a part time job to supplement her income, so times are tough for everyone and she wants the district to reconsider the fact that the district wants to raise their school taxes yet again. Put a face, her name, Emma Shealer, to the idea of raising taxes, she would sincerely appreciate the board's time.

Board Business

Personnel

1. Acceptance of Superintendent Resignation

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accepts the resignation, for the purpose of retirement of Superintendent, Joseph E. Macharola.

2. Professional Appointment

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

- a. Mr. Tyler Czeiner, Chemistry/Physics Teacher (A. Smeltzer-Schwab), Muhlenberg High School, pending verification of PA certification, effective May 12, 2025, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.

3. Classified Appointment

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

- a. Ms. Angelica Molina, Class A Secretary (B. Barskey/C. Santo Domingo), C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective May 1, 2025, at a salary of \$53,217, prorated for days worked.

4. Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Ms. Jenifer Brady, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg Junior High School effective April 4, 2025.
- b. Ms. Marina Heister, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 5, 2025.
- c. Ms. Ana Vasquez, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective April 9, 2025.
- d. Mr. Jeffrey Weyant, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg High School, effective April 25, 2025.
- e. Ms. Lori Marrinucci, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 5, 2025.
- f. Mr. Eric Bieber, Special Education Teacher, C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective June 7, 2025.
- g. Ms. Erica Berger, Elementary Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective June 9, 2025.
- h. Ms. Samantha Mengel, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective May 30, 2025.
- i. Mr. Brian Kopetsky, In-School Suspension Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 6, 2025.
- j. Ms. Tamika Bota, Special Education Paraprofessional, C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective May 1, 2025.
- k. Ms. Michele McCammitt, Math Interventionist, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 6, 2025.

5. 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. Ms. Ashley Roth, mentor for Ashley Berkel, Special Education Teacher, C.E. Cole Intermediate, for sixty (60) hours.
- b. Ms. Elizabeth McNichol, mentor for Ms. Amy Martzall, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, for thirty (30) hours.
- c. Ms. Megan Grandinetti, mentor for Mr. Tyler Czeiner, Chemistry/Physics Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, for sixty (60) hours.

6. Co-Curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Katelyn Dieffenbach, Unified Sports Co-Head Track and Field Coach, effective March 13, 2025, at a salary of \$1,500.
- b. Mr. Tyler Werner, Unified Sports Co-Head Track and Field Coach, effective March 13, 2025, salary funded by Unified Sports.
- c. Mr. Robert Dudek, MHS Co-Ed Track and Field Assistant Coach, effective April 9, 2025, at a salary of \$5,548 (year 47), prorated for days worked.

7. Health Services Department Summer Hours

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve summer hours for employees of the Health Services Department to ensure the Muhlenberg School District is compliant with all Department of Health Regulations 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 a stipend of \$500.00:

- a. Ms. Denisse Jaquez, mentor for Ms. Alison Sherk, Class A Secretary, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- b. Ms. Joan Sandritter, mentor for Ms. Jessica Quintero, Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg High School
- c. Ms. Ann Love, mentor for Ms. Jamie Shipe, Cafeteria Worker, C.E. Cole Intermediate

9. Summer Technology Assistants

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following summer technology assistants for 2025 at the pay rate of \$12.00 per hour, pending receipt of active clearances:

- a. Ms. Yalixa Martinez-Diaz
- b. Mr. Alex Melendez
- c. Ms. Delaney Althouse
- d. Mr. Nathaniel Garner

Management

1. Adoption of Policies

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

- a. Policy No. 103, Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
- b. Policy No. 103.1, Qualified Students With Disabilities
- c. Policy No. 104, Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
- d. Policy No. 234, Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
- e. Policy No. 247, Hazing
- f. Policy No. 249, Bullying/Cyberbullying
- g. Policy No. 252, Dating Violence
- h. Policy No. 810, Transportation
- i. Policy No. 824, Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

2. Election of Board Treasurer for One-Year Term

Election of Treasurer for one-year term (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) as in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended, Article IV, Section 404, Election of Officers.

Nominations and Roll Call Vote by Name

Resolved, that _____ be elected as Board Treasurer for a one-year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

3. Election of Assistant Board Secretary for One-Year Term

Election of Treasurer for one-year term (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) as in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended, Article IV, Section 404, Election of Officers.

Nominations and Roll Call Vote by Name

Resolved, that _____ be elected as Board Treasurer for a one-year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

4. Memorandum of Understanding Between Muhlenberg Township Police Department and Muhlenberg School District

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Memorandum of Understanding Between Muhlenberg Township Police Department and Muhlenberg School District as in accordance with "Safe Schools Act", PA School Code, Article XIII-A as presented.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit thanked all of the SROs for everything that they do, everything they do for the kids, what they do for the Muhlenberg community, and keeping everyone safe.

5. Memorandum of Understanding between Laureldale Police Department and Muhlenberg School District

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Memorandum of Understanding Between Laureldale Police Department and Muhlenberg School District as in accordance with "Safe Schools Act", PA School Code, Article XIII-A as presented.

Physical Plant and Transportation

1. Agreement with McClure Company

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement between Muhlenberg School District and McClure Company for the use of grant funds through a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) 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 | Mar 2025 | Mar 2025 | Apr 2025 Ck#58415-58549 V#28284-28309 | Mar 2025 | |
| Cafeteria | Mar 2025 | Mar 2025 | Apr 2025 Ck#8574-8597 V#3164-3169 | Mar 2025 | |
| Capital Reserve (Fund 32) | Apr 2025 | Apr 2025 | | | |
| Capital Reserve (Fund 39) | Apr 2025 | Apr 2025 | Apr 2025 Ck#1036-1038 | | |
| Activity | Mar 2025 | Mar 2025 | | | |

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. Schlouch Incorporated, donation of \$20,000 to offset the disruption caused by the recent infill that was placed at the athletic field in the Muhlenberg School District.

2. Conference Request

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

- a. Dr. Cathy Shappell, to attend the 2025 PAFPC Annual Conference in Hershey, PA on May 12, 2025 through May 14, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$1,092.04 (funded through Title I).

3. Student to Complete the School Year as Non-Resident Student

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request for the following student to complete the 2024-2025 school year as non-resident student:

- a. Student No. 42505, 5th Grade, C.E. Cole Intermediate

4. Dual Enrollment Agreement with Reading Area Community College for 2025-2026 Academic Years

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Dual Enrollment Agreement with Reading Area Community College for the 2025-2026 Academic Year at a student tuition rate of \$99.00 per credit as presented.

5. 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. #35466

6. 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.

7. 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 "I", Muhlenberg High School
- b. Student "J", Muhlenberg High School

Minutes

Review minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2025 and the Regular Board Meeting of April 9, 2025.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Mr. Haas wanted to address staff at the high school and talked about being elected as a school board member and his wife works in the cafeteria, she runs the cafeteria and feeds 1,000 kids a day. He spoke about when the board makes a decision, it's his decision, he made the vote, and if someone has a problem with it go see him; do not go to his wife and try to intimidate her and think that will change his vote. He asked to leave his wife alone and reiterated if someone has a problem to ask him why he voted that way.

1. Memoriam of Mr. Joseph R. Brommer

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mr. Joseph R. Broomer who served in the Muhlenberg School District for ten (10) years (1997-2007) as a custodian. 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

May Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| May 7 | 6:30 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 Mr. Hardy and Mr. Vasquez that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Attest:


Cindy L. Mengle
Secretary