

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2024  
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, October 9, 2024 at 6:42 PM by Board Vice President, Mrs. Kristyna Eagle.

**Members Present**

Vice President – Mrs. Kristyna Eagle  
Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle  
Assistant Secretary – Ms. Janet Howard  
Member – Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, 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**

President – Mr. Garrett E. Hyneman  
Treasurer – Mr. Miguel Vasquez  
Member – Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.

**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 - Mr. Byron Grosslefinger  
Supervisor of Special Education - Dr. Jason Miller  
Licensed Behavior Specialist - Ms. Courtney Knittle  
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  
High School Principal - Mr. Haniff Skeete  
Junior High School Principal - Mr. Christopher 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  
Social Worker - Ms. Lauren Heydt  
Social Worker - Ms. Amanda Foulds  
Social Worker - Ms. Emily Carmichael

### **Visitors**

Linda Roebuck                      Mike Roth  
Diane Benson

### **Educational Presentations**

A. Physical Plant Update - Mr. Ken Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported:

- Maintenance and Custodial Staff update - The 2024-2025 school year is well underway and the custodial crews have shifted from summer cleaning mode to now maintaining all of the District's campus facilities. Inside custodial crews are helping to set up the events now taking place on campus, both Muhlenberg student events and community events. As the district transitions from fall sports to winter sports these next few weeks, these crews will be instrumental in set-up, tear-down and clean-up from all of the practices and games. The outside grounds crew have been maintaining and setting up the sports fields used this fall along with keeping with the fall grass growing season. The maintenance techs have been busy handling staff work orders and requests since the start of the school year.
- Modular Addition Update - The additional modular unit for fourth grade was re-inspected on September 16th by Muhlenberg Township code officials and everything was in order. The township granted the district the certificate of occupancy.
- Kiln Replacements for MHS & C.E. Cole - The replacement of the school kilns are located in the high school and C.E. Cole art rooms.

### Questions/Comments/Concerns

*Dr. Macharola spoke about keeping the board up to date on the progress regarding replacing the turf field and also made sure that everyone who works in the school district was kept up to date as well. He talked about keeping up with the district's robust and ambitious physical plant expansion.*

B. First Reading of Policies - Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

Policy 113.1. Discipline of Students With Disabilities

Purpose

This policy was reviewed with current state and federal legal provisions. The language on reporting of school safety and security incidents was updated based on the terminology changes from the School Code. The provisions addressing coordination with law enforcement agencies and submitting the annual report to the PA Department of Education were also revised, and the legal citation references were updated to align with current School Code.

*Policy 113.1 is recommended for legal liability purposes.*

Policy 113.2. Behavior Support

Purpose

The policy language on referral and reporting to law enforcement agencies was updated to align with the terminology changes from the School Code, and the legal citations were also revised. The section on relations with law enforcement was revised to align with current School Code terminology.

*Policy 113.2 is mandated by Chapter 14 State Board of Education regulations.*

Policy 202. Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Purpose

Act 67 of 2024 amended the PA Public School Code, 24 P.S. 13-1302, to include provisions for disenrolling a student when the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of a child do not reside in the school district and a determination is made that the child is not otherwise entitled to free school privileges. In such instances, the child may not be disenrolled from the school until:

- (1) the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child are provided an opportunity to appeal the decision through a hearing held pursuant to an appropriate grievance policy of the school district and any appeal has been exhausted;
- (2) after the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child have been provided notice of such a hearing, the parents, guardians or other person having charge or care of the child decline to participate in a hearing pursuant to the appropriate grievance policy of the school district or appeals process;

(3) after the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child have been provided information from the school district's liaison for homeless children and youth regarding the educational rights of homeless students; or

(4) a court enters an order directing the child to be disenrolled and enrolled in a different school.

Policy 202. Nonresident Students was updated to include the requirements for disenrollment of a nonresident student. Also, the legal citation, 24 P.S. 11-1184, regarding National Guard or Reserve parent and student support was added to the policy where applicable.

*Policy 202 is mandated to comply with state law and regulations.*

#### Policy 236.1. Threat Assessment

##### Purpose

The policy language and legal citations pertaining to coordination with and reporting to law enforcement and PDE were updated to reflect the current School Code provisions. The language regarding reporting of school safety and security incidents was also revised to reflect current School Code terminology.

*Policy 236.1 is recommended for legal liability purposes.*

#### Policy 254. Educational Opportunity for Military Children

##### Purpose

Act 82 of 2024 created a new section of the PA Public School Code, 24 P.S. 11-1184, to provide the rights afforded through the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act to any student who is required to move due to the parent's responsibilities in the service of the National Guard or Reserve that result in the student having to transfer from a public school in one state to a public school located in Pennsylvania.

The definition of Children of military families in Policy 254. Educational Opportunity for Military Children was updated to include the requirements of 24 P.S. 11-1184.

Policy 254 previously included two separate definitions for Uniformed Services, based on different definitions outlined in the Interstate Compact and Pennsylvania statute; the Interstate Compact was revised in December 2023 and a single definition for Uniformed Services is now included as the recommended definition in the policy guide.

*Policy 254 is a mandated policy in terms of meeting the advanced enrollment requirement in 24 P.S. Sec. 1302.1.*

#### Policy 607. Tuition Income

Purpose

This policy was updated to broadly incorporate disenrollment based on overdue tuition payments as well as other minor editorial revisions.

*Policy 607 is recommended for legal liability purposes to assist in compliance with state law and regulations.*

Policy 805.2. School Security Personnel

Purpose

Act 55 of 2024 established new section 24 P.S. 13-1316-C of the PA Public School Code, requiring each school district to have at least one, full-time school security personnel who has completed the required training on duty during the school day. "School security personnel" are defined in School Code as school police officers, School Resource Officers and school security guards. Each type of personnel has specific training and appointment requirements outlined in the School Code.

"School day" is defined as the hours between the morning opening of a school building and the afternoon dismissal of students on a day which school is in session.

School districts may employ or contract for school security personnel, and may assign other duties to the personnel, in addition to the powers granted under School Code. School districts have the option to assign school security personnel to be on duty in a school building or on school premises during extracurricular activities that are outside the school day, but this is not a requirement.

School districts must certify to the School Safety and Security Committee each year that they have met this requirement, or have been issued a waiver for this requirement. Districts may apply for waivers based on criteria developed by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the waivers will be administered by the School Safety and Security Committee. The criteria for the waiver must include an attestation that the school district has acted in good faith and meets one of the following:

- Does not have a municipal police department or law enforcement agency that is able to provide a School Resource Officer.
- Has been unable to hire or contract with a school police officer.
- Has been unable to hire or contract with a school security guard.
- Has been unable to hire or contract with a police officer from an accredited police force.

School districts will apply to the School Safety and Security Committee for the waiver, and a waiver will expire one year after its approval. An official waiver process will be adopted by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency in mid-September, and information will be conveyed to school districts about the waiver process following that date.

Joint guidance was issued by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the PA Department of Education and sent to school districts last month. The guidance states that school districts are not required to have school security personnel in place prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year to meet the requirement, but are expected to meet the requirement or apply and receive a waiver during this school year.

Policy 805.2 has been updated to include the new provisions of School Code 24 P.S. 13-1316-C outlining the requirement for at least one, full-time school security personnel on duty during the school day, as well as certification of meeting that requirement submitted to the School Safety and Security Committee. The new definition of "school day" was added to the policy, for purposes of the school security personnel requirement.

In addition to these provisions, Act 55 of 2024 also updated section 24 P.S. 13-1309-B of the PA Public School Code, regarding the role and responsibilities of each school entity's School Safety and Security Coordinator. Language was added to the law addressing the requirement for the annual school safety and security report that is made to the school board by June 30. The law now requires that the School Safety and Security Coordinator include information in the annual board report regarding the number and type(s) of school security personnel who are contracted or employed by the district. The following elements must be included in that report:

- The number of school security personnel that are armed, listed by type(s) of personnel.
- The school building at which each school security personnel is assigned, listed by type(s) of personnel.
- The training, including the type of training and completion dates, of each school security personnel, listed by type(s) of personnel.
- A listing of other individuals utilized by the school entity for school safety-related duties.

Language reflecting these reporting responsibilities was added to Policy 805.2. Minor revisions were also made to the policy to remove the options that school entities could select to "employ" or "contract for" school police officers or school security guards. Those options were replaced with language which now states that school entities "shall employ and/or contract for" these school security personnel. This revision will allow school entities to either employ or contract for school police or school security guards, or a combination of employing and contracting, without revising the board policy, since the method of acquiring school security personnel may change from time to time, based on availability of services and grant funding.

*Policy 805.2 is recommended for legal liability purposes.*

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Dr. Macharola spoke about the district already having two full-time School Resource Officers currently on staff, and on November 4th the District will have a third full-time Muhlenberg police officer positioned and duties at intermediate and elementary 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.

*There were none.*

## **Board Business**

### **Personnel**

#### **1. Acceptance of Resignations**

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

- a. Ms. Kelly Renninger, Cafeteria Worker, C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective September 20, 2024.
- b. Ms. Felicia Kissinger, Cafeteria Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective October 4, 2024.
- c. Ms. Tammy Sarangoulis, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending release from Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.

#### **2. Classified Appointments**

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

- a. Mr. Isaiah Domine, Special Education Paraprofessional (I. Domine) Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective September 20, 2024 at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- b. Mr. Joshua Acosta, Cafeteria Substitute, effective October 21, 2024, at a pay rate of \$14.00 per hour.
- c. Ms. Lori Seisler, Special Education Paraprofessional (M. Schleinkofer), C.E. Cole Intermediate, effective October 2, 2024, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- d. Ms. Cindy Wanamaker, Special Education Paraprofessional (Y. Cancilla de Mora), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective September 27, 2024, at a pay rate of \$20.46 per hour.
- e. Ms. Kelly Renninger, Clerical Assistant (G. Ramirez), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective September 23, 2024, at a pay rate of \$19.67 per hour.

### **3. 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. John Gantz, mentor for Ms. Shoba Jain, Science Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- b. Ms. Kathleen Brad, mentor for Ms. Abigail Streeter, Math Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- c. Ms. Jennifer Pacharis, mentor for Ms. Katrina Moyer, English Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- d. Ms. Jessica Steffy, mentor for Ms. Stacey Yapsuga, English Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- e. Ms. Carolina Ramos, mentor for Ms. Joyce Neal, German Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- f. Ms. Paula Shea, mentor for Ms. Jenna Plump, Math Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- g. Mr. Isaias Rivera Jr., mentor for Ms. Jessica Smith, English Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- h. Mr. Joseph Houck, mentor for Mr. Kedric Yoder, Health & Physical Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- i. Mr. Scott Keller, mentor for Ms. Meredith Heming, Social Studies Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- j. Ms. Tara Clemens, mentor for Ms. Cameron Gring, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- k. Ms. Jennifer Pacharis, mentor for Ms. Jordan Brown, English Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- l. Mr. Donald Heinz, mentor for Ms. Victoria Bishop, ESL Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.
- m. Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, mentor for Mr. Brian Garner, Science Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- n. Ms. Katelyn Dieffenbach, mentor for Mr. Joseph Oros, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for thirty (30) hours.

### **4. Professional Salary Adjustments for the 2024-2025 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Professional Salary Adjustments for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

### **5. Co-Curricular Assignments**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following co-curricular assignments as presented.

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



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

- a. Ms. Mihai Sanchez, MHS Co-Ed Cross Country Volunteer Coach, effective September 17, 2024.
- b. Ms. Shanalyn Eckenrod, Asst. Marching Band Director, effective August 12, 2024, from a salary of \$2,828 (year 1) to a salary of \$3,278 (year 12).
- c. Ms. Autumn Gilmore, MJHS Cheerleading Head Coach, effective September 27, 2024, at a salary of \$2,175 (year 1), prorated for days worked.

**7. Award Professional Employee Contract for Tenured Teacher**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District in accordance with Section 1121 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 (as amended) and Act 66 of 1996, authorize awarding a Professional Employee Contract to the following teacher who have performed on a satisfactory basis for three years:

- a. Ms. Kerri Anderson, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- b. Ms. Rebecca Cariola, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- c. Ms. Megan Douglas, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- d. Mr. Jason Heflin, Muhlenberg High School
- e. Ms. Destini Kelch, Muhlenberg High School
- f. Mr. Jason Kilgore, Muhlenberg High School
- g. Ms. Nancy Mauroschat, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- h. Mr. Brandon Monk, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- i. Ms. Kelly Murphy, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- j. Ms. Kylie Redcay, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- k. Ms. Madison Szczecina, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- l. Ms. Jesse Todero, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- m. Ms. Xiomara Toledo, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- n. Ms. Gabrielle Zukowski, Muhlenberg Elementary Center

**8. Aquatics Personnel for the 2024-2025 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following revised aquatics personnel and salary schedule for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

**9. 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. Wendy Harrington, mentor of Ms. Lori Beise, Health Services Technician, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- b. Ms. Lisa O'Brien, mentor for Mr. Robert Sterley, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Junior High School

## **10. Professional Appointment and Adjustment**

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

- a. Ms. Danielle Ninfo, Long-Term Substitute (H. Slane), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective October 14, 2024 through on or about December 16, 2024, at a salary of \$61,671 (M, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- b. Ms. Cameron Gring, from Special Education Teacher to Long-Term Substitute (L. Hess), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective first contractual day of the 2024-2025 school year through the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top).

## **Management**

### **1. Act 80 Days for 2024-2025 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the submission of Act 80 Days for the 2024-2025 school year to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### **2. Approval of Revised School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the revised SRO Agreement between Muhlenberg Township Police Department and Muhlenberg School District as presented.

## **Physical Plant and Transportation**

### **1. Sunday Facility Use Request**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following Sunday Facility Use Request:

- a. Church of Latter Day Saints, use of the Muhlenberg High School auditorium on Sunday, October 27, 2024 to hold a regional organizational meeting.

### **2. Replacement of School Kilns**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the replacing of the Muhlenberg High School and C.E. Cole Intermediate school kilns at a cost not to exceed \$23,340 (Capital Reserve 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:

<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	Aug 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024 Ck#57337-57523 V#28082-28115	Aug 2024	
Cafeteria	Aug 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024 Ck#8353-8385 V#3097-3108	Aug 2024	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2024 Ck#983-984		
Capital Reserve (Fund 39)	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2024 Ck#1002		
Activity	Aug 2024	Aug 2024			

**Education**

**1. Conference Request**

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

- a. Dr. Jessica Heffner to attend the PASPA Annual Conference in Altoona, PA on February 26, 2025 to February 28, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$1,067.12 (funded through Human Resources).

**2. 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.

**3. Berks County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement and Schedule "A" Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Special Education Agreement and Schedule "A" Agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit to provide special education services as presented.

**4. 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 "Peace Train" to the Muhlenberg Elementary Center/C.E. Cole Intermediate library for students in the Muhlenberg School District.

**Student Activities**

*There are no items.*

**Minutes**

Review minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 11, 2024 and the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 2024.

**Old Business**

*Mr. Voit asked where the district was regarding the video conferencing of the board meetings. Dr. Macharola advised the district was waiting on a piece of equipment that was on backorder, everything else was present and poised to run.*

*Dr. Ciccarelli explained the location of the cameras, what the public can view via youtube, the audio system that is completely installed and a television that will also be mounted so the board can view what the public is seeing.*

**New Business**

*There are no items.*

**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.

Mr. Mike Roth- resident

Mr. Roth wanted to comment on the school calendar and wanted to know if there were supposed to be 182 days. (*Dr. Macharola advised there are 180 days.*) Mr. Roth advised he only counted 176 days which included 11 half days and when he went to school he only had five half days. He advised that he was concerned with these kids that are trying to learn; questioned why the district doubled half days that are counted as full days and there only being 176 days.

Mr. Roth spoke about for the last two years, and spoke with Muhlenberg residents and parents, about the kids going to the school. He advised that he is a disabled resident who receives a "crap" check, and is concerned with the taxes going up quite substantially. He advised he was told it was because the district is building a new school and supposedly because there are a lot of kids in the district. But, the parents actually told him that they are not Muhlenberg kids. He was told a carload of students are getting dropped off at the Sheetz, the Coastal, especially in Hyde Park and it would be a lot cheaper to hire private investigators to get license plates, follow them, and find out where the kids are coming from than build a new school. Mr. Roth advised this happened years ago too and there were a few people that were well known to go to different schools that shouldn't have, but this is his concern because this comes down to a money issue and there is a very short supply for money for a lot of people in the area. He asked again why the district is allowing kids from Reading, without seeing the kids and only being told, to come to Muhlenberg.

Questions/Comments/ Concerns:

*Dr. Macharola advised Mr. Roth that there are in fact 180 days, Act 80 days do count as a full day. He spoke about the district meeting the instructional hours for both elementary and secondary as well as the 180 days.*

*Dr. Macharola advised Mr. Roth that he respected his questions and candidness in speaking to the board. Dr. Macharola spoke about the people telling him this is a blatant lie. He talked to Mr. Roth about some facts Muhlenberg Township has increased over 3,000 additional people from the last census have moved into Muhlenberg. Mr. Voit added that in the homes, there are multi-families living within each home. Dr. Macharola spoke about years ago this was a very strong German community, now Muhlenberg has changed, having more than one family that resides in homes that the district has the responsibility to educate the children. Dr. Macharola talked about those 3,000 additional people that moved into Muhlenberg, according to the commonwealth 1,800 of them are school-aged since the last census. He spoke about Muhlenberg building more homes and families residing there have children; they provide proof of residency, documents from owning homes to renting and the District is obligated by the state to educate them;*

many of the Muhlenberg families are split families. He advised that the almost 900 students that the District has grown from are bonafide residents of the district. Dr. Macharola talked about the campus being very tight with space, the District needing to be very frugal with its dollars; the District is laying out a very reasonable plan that addresses the enrollment by building a brand new middle school over on Sharp Avenue, build a brand new junior high because the kids are literally in the hallways at one point learning with no more classroom space. The district added modular behind C.E. Cole Intermediate , originally having 12 classrooms, now having 14 classrooms to address the children with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Macharola advised the District is taking on more children now that need special services than ever before; the federal government directs all public schools to follow guidelines when educating those children, there is no alternative. Dr. Macharola talked about there are parents that are incarcerated, in a mental institution, parents that are divorced, parents that are deployed, if this is the District that student that once resided in and those parents are no longer there and fall under that federal law, the District has to educate those children. He reiterated that having multiple families residing in one home is not uncommon. Dr. Macharola spoke about the District also having an employee or school resource officer (if it involved a conflict) knocking on the doors, when hearing of a complaint to verify residency and investigate.

Ms. Howard spoke about being approached in public about the same issue of people seeing car loads of kids being dropped off and the same rumors keep getting spread that just are not accurate. She talked about her neighbor who was an elderly couple passing away and now this home was replaced with a family with children who had another family move in, so she is seeing this firsthand. Ms. Howard spoke about families who live within the parameter of bussing and if a resident lives outside of a certain distance you get bussing, if inside a certain distance you do not get bussing however it is still a hike. She does know that families will collaborate and drop off all of the kids and this is what those people spreading the false rumors see. Ms. Howard also talked about children that are in foster care placement, whether in Muhlenberg or another city, where the district is obligated to educate them. Ms. Howard spoke about the appearance of what Mr. Roth was hearing, however if peeling back the layers it is not the case.

Mrs. Eagle addressed Mr. Roth's question of if the kids are legally in Muhlenberg why are they being dropped off at the Coastal and Sheetz; she explained that this is due to the traffic pattern as the traffic is horrendous. Dr. Macharola explained that the district takes the buses through the campus now because it is such a cluster of traffic during these times.

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

Schedule 2024-2025

October	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
November	Mrs. Kristyna Eagle

December	Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, Sr.
January	Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
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**

October 9	6:30 PM	COW Meeting and Regular Board Meeting
October 14	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
November 6	6:30 PM	COW Meeting and Regular Board Meeting
November 11	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
December 4	6:30 PM	Annual Organization Meeting; COW; Regular Board Meeting

**Adjourn Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hardy, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Attest:

  
Cindy L. Mengle  
Secretary