

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021
Via Zoom
www.muhlSDK12.org

Call to Order

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM by Board President, Mr. S. Wayne Hardy.

Members Present

President – Mr. S. Wayne Hardy
Secretary – Mr. Thomas W. Gross
Assistant Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle
Treasurer – Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster
Member – Mr. Garrett E. Hyneman
Member – Mr. K. Scott Long
Member – Mr. Mark J. Nelson
Member – Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
Solicitor – Mr. Brian F. Boland, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Tara L. Flowers

Members Absent

Vice President – Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.

Administration Present

Superintendent – Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Alan S. Futrick
Business Manager – Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA
Director of Special Education – Dr. Shawn Rutt
Supervisor of Special Education – Dr. Tyler Herman
Supervisor of Accounts – Ms. Susan Hawkins
Behavior Analyst – Mr. Zachary Milch
Director of Federal Programs – Dr. Cathy Shappell
Director of Food and Nutrition – Mr. Carey Kline
Athletic Director – Dr. Tim Moyer
Community & Family Outreach Coordinator & Interpreter – Ms. Elizabeth Laviena
High School Principal – Mr. Michael Mish
High School Assistant Principal – Ms. Lori Morris
High School Assistant Principal – Mr. Frank Vecchio
Junior High School Principal – Dr. Jeffery Ebert
Elementary Center Principal – Mr. Kyle Crater
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Mrs. Ginny Hornberger
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Dr. Shannon O'Donnell

Visitors

David Kostival
Jolyn Casper
Miguel Vazquez
Joann B

Elizabeth Chapman
Linda Figueroa
McCammit

Janet Howard
Kathi Wolfe
Samantha Armstrong

Educational Presentations

Mr. Nicholas Beiber introduced himself as a manager with Herbein & Co. who performed the audit for the June 30, 2021 fiscal year end for Muhlenberg School District. Mr. Beiber discussed the background for the audit as it is performed under generally accepted auditing standards, government auditing standards, as well as uniformed guidance for the audit over the district's federal programs. Mr. Beiber explained their responsibility as auditors is to find out whether the financial statements prepared by management are fairly presented and all material respects in conformity with U.S. generally accepted principles. Mr. Beiber also advised of planning on the districts compliance with directed material compliance requirements related to major federal programs that were accepted for testing. Mr. Beiber advised their opinions for the year were unmodified opinions over both the financial statements and the audit under uniformed guidance with federal programs, unmodified opinion is a clean-audit opinion which is the highest level that can be issued. Mr. Beiber advised reiterated the unmodified opinion over the financial statements and the federal awards and also notes that there were no deficiencies in internal controls or on compliance noted within their testing or financial reporting as well as a Child Nutrition Cluster and Education Stabilization Program which were the federal programs selected for the single audit. Mr. Beiber stated the Muhlenberg School District also qualifies as a low-risk auditee. Mr. Beiber talked about looking at the results for the general fund revenues, in total, revenues were \$1,952,000 over budget which were a 3.1% positive variance. Larger variances within local revenues were under the current real state taxes and earned income taxes, with uncertainty of impact of COVID, the revenues were budgeted a little lower than typically were, that's where the results with the year were on par than in past years which led to the overage in the budget in that category. Mr. Beiber advised state sources came in about \$478,000 over budget which is primarily related to the retirement and social security subsidies received from the state. Mr. Beiber stated there is a 3% increase in the reimbursement rate the district received for the year, which was unknown at the time of the budget, which led to this overage. Mr. Beiber discussed under federal sources that is primarily related to additional COVID-19 related funding. Mr. Beiber discussed on the expenditures side, these came in \$1,385,000 under budget which is 2.4% positive variance. Mr. Beiber advised most of the local items were savings in student transportation and operations, maintenance of plant, as well as student activities which were all results of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic which led to reduced expenses in those categories. Mr. Beiber advised in putting this audit all together the actual result for the general fund was a positive change in fund balance which was \$1,741,000 which brought the ending fund balance of the year to \$12,026,000. This surplus of 1.7 million the district had budgeted for a use of fund balance for \$1,654,000 for the year. Mr. Beiber advised there was a positive result for the 2021 year compared to the budget. Mr. Beiber discussed the balanced sheet of the general fund, of the breakdown of the 12 million dollars in fund balance. The assigned

fund balance \$6,534,000 includes 5.3 million dollars which has been assigned for PSERS, retirement, rate increases. Mr. Beiber advised this assigned fund balance category did increase by \$3,037,000 at year end for the board approved assignment of excess fund balance. This assigned category also includes 1.2 million dollars that is the budgeted deficit for the 21-22 fiscal year. Mr. Beiber advised the unassigned fund balance \$5,483,000 represents 8% of the budgeted expenditures for the 21-22 fiscal year, which is within the threshold of outlined within the district's fund balance policy. Mr. Beiber discussed the five-year trend with Muhlenbergs's fund balance statement to take in account both the general account as well as the amount money that has been set aside in capital reserve. There is a downward trend from the 2017 to 2022 year, which is consistent with the districts planned used of assigned fund balance for PSERS rate increases and then a slight increase in the 2021 year resulting from the surplus from the year. Mr. Beiber discussed other funds used within the district, the capital projects fund did not have any significant capital projects occurring in the 2021 year. Mr. Beiber advised the overall fund balance in that fund at year-end of \$3,490,000 which is comprised of about \$21,000 from unspent 2019 bond funds. The remaining \$3,469,000 represents the accumulation of transfers from the general fund to be used for qualified capital construction and purchases. Within the debt service fund the primary activity there was the refunding of debt during the year. Mr. Beiber advised this refunding kept the final payoff change of the district overall general obligation liabilities use which is a final payoff with the fiscal year. Resulted in a \$458,000 net present value cash flow savings. The 2020 obligation bonds were assigned a rating of AA2 by Moody's Investors Services. Mr. Beiber advised this is the third highest rating possible, so this is a great sign of the financial rendition of Muhlenberg School District. Mr. Beiber advised he is not aware of any other district within the county that have any higher ratings than this so this is a great achievement for the school district. Within the nonmajor funds, the primary thing to note is implementation of a new standard over Fudiciary Funds there is a change with the presentation with the district's scholarship and student activities funds which no longer qualify to be reported as Fudiciary Funds. These are now reported as special revenues funds and are presented in the districts governmental funds. Mr. Beiber spoke about the Food Service Fund, there is a change in net position, there was a loss of \$222,000 or the fiscal year end in 2021. This reported loss within the financial statements is deceiving, the cost listed next to the pension and OPEB valuation adjustments is not a true expense within the district, excluding that amount the Food Service fund reported loss of less \$48, 814. The balance sheet of the food service fund, in total the reported net position which is a deficit position of \$1.6 million is driven by the reporting of the liabilities for the pension and post-employment benefits which are allocated to the food service fund. Without reporting these liabilities, the district would have presented a positive net position of \$987,000 which is about six months of operating expenses. Mr. Beiber advised the district is in a good financial position within the food service fund as well. A few comments Herbein discussed with management, and regarding the management letter, was a reminder of the importance of updating employee clearances, the importance of the grant tracking and the mechanisms in place behind that, as well as some information on upcoming standards, the important being the implementation of the new lease standard. Within the general communication letters, there were no difficulties in performing the audit, and minimal journal entries as an overall result of the audit for the 2021 year, and no other reportable matters.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit commented that he, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Mathias, Ms. Hawkins and Dr. Macharola met with the auditor and went through this presentation. Mr. Voit advised nothing was discussed that was not presented today, and he complimented Mr. Beiber on the presentation and highlighted specific areas of interest. Mr. Voit congratulated Mr. Beiber on a job well done, and congratulated Mr. Mathias and the entire business department staff. Mr. Voit also congratulated Dr. Macharola and entire Administration for continuing to be prudent with the taxpayer's money. Mr. Voit mentioned the AA2 rating, best in Berks County, at the same time the districts cost per pupil is the lowest in the county and the district's educational standards have increased, with the high school being in the top 5% and soon the junior high and intermediate there soon. Mr. Voit congratulated the entire Administration for their hard work.

Mr. Hyneman commented that he agreed with Mr. Voit and advised the auditor's presentation was straight forward that anyone could have understood it and it was done in a relatively short period. Mr. Hyneman gave kudos to the business staff of the district and Dr. Macharola.

Mr. Hardy commented it was well presented and gave his compliments to the district and to keep up the good work.

Mr. Beiber thanked the board and advised their appreciation working with the Muhlenberg School District year after year.

Hearing of Visitors - Muhlenberg School District taxpayers and residents have an opportunity, at this time, to comment on matters of concern, official action, or deliberation which are or may be before the Muhlenberg School Board. The Board retains the option to accept all public comment at this time. Presentations should be limited to two minutes per person. In the event that the Board determines that there is not sufficient time for residents or taxpayers of the School District to comment, the Board may defer the comment period to the next regular meeting.

There were none.

Committee Report

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit – Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.

There is no report at this time.

- B. Reading-Muhlenberg CTC – Mrs. Cindy Mengle

Mrs. Mengle advised there was a meeting on Monday night and one of the things mentioned they were working on a website for the Reading Muhlenberg CTC and this should be up and running by the holidays in December. Mrs. Mengle talked about the board appreciation organization meeting at the CTC is scheduled for January 10, 2022, as there is no December meeting, and she highly recommends

everyone attending the dinner as it is a nice opportunity to get to know members from Reading Board as well as administrators. Mrs. Mengle advised the board everyone should be receiving an invitation in the mail, but if they do not to inform her.

C. Berks County Tax Collection Committee – Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA

Mr. Mathias advised there was no meeting and there was no report at this time.

D. PSBA Liaison – Mr. Otto W. Voit, III

Mr. Voit talked about an interesting point was briefly talked about and read about regarding the NSBA; the controversy in which at least eleven states pulled their membership from the NSBA and others are pending. Mr. Voit talked about those who already pulled their membership as well as the others who will be pulling it, will be starting a new NSBA, one that it is consistent in support of public education and not the politics of it.

E. Muhlenberg Community Library – Submitted Mr. Terry Heckman, read by Dr. Alan S. Futrick.

Attached are the highlights from Monday, November 8th monthly library meeting:

- Our first ever Fall Craft Show held on 10/23 was a success with the final proceeds coming in at \$2,046. A great job by many on the Board who put in a great deal of hard work behind the scenes to make this happen.
- Our semi-annual Used Book Sale will be held this Thursday (11/11) from 10:00AM to 7:00PM and on Saturday from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. This is a great opportunity for members of our community to get a hardcover best seller for only \$2 each. Additionally, we also have a special sale of buying an entire bag of paperback books for only \$5.
- Local psychic Nellie Walters will be giving a special presentation next Tuesday (11/16) with proceeds benefiting our library. Tickets are going fast but there are still a few seats remaining.
- We will be holding a Holiday Open House at the library on Saturday December 4th for our entire community. Stop by to visit and see all that our library has to offer and even meet a special guest or two.
- Our adult monthly book club meets tomorrow (11/10) evening from 6:30PM to 7:30PM to discuss their latest read.
- Be sure to check our MCL website to see our staff's recommended picks of current best-selling books available for you at our Library.

F. Muhlenberg Township/Laureldale Borough Liaison – Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.

There is no report at this time.

G. Educational Programs – Dr. Alan S. Futrick

There is no report at this time.

Solicitor's Comments – Mr. Brian F. Boland, Esq.

There is no report at this time.

Superintendent's Comments - Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

Dr. Macharola talked about the Commonwealth Court has issued a ruling voiding Acting Secretary Beam's School Mask Order, the state is filing an appeal today which will trigger a stay of the court's ruling to keep the ruling in effect. Dr. Macharola advised the recommendation for the school district is to continue to observe the school masking order under the duration of the court's proceedings. For additional context and background for Pennsylvania Department of Education in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Office of the Governor is providing the following statement to our schools. The secretary of Health's authority is clearly outlined in the existing law the Department of Health has directed council to file an appeal today, filing of the appeal will immediately stay the Commonwealth's Courts decision and advised Mr. Boland will be speaking more on this topic. Dr. Macharola advised school masking is necessary in public health as its keeps children safe, provide them with a much in-person learning as much as possible. Medical experts agree, as well as hospitals and health care professionals across the state support the masking order requirement. Requiring masks in school is helping to keep students in classrooms and the virus out, recommended by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Macharola advised he fully supports this position at this time, until the district has further information. Dr. Macharola advised the district's health and safety plan, the district's Pandemic team, there is no need for any adjustments. Dr. Macharola talked about the area being exceptionally high regarding COVID in Berks County cases. Dr. Macharola stated the Muhlenberg School District to date, not even at the end of the first quarter, has 143 positive COVID cases, of which 115 of those are children and 28 of those are adults. Dr. Macharola spoke about his position is strongly has been and will continue to be one life loss, is one too many. Dr. Macharola advised the district needed to continue with masking until the district monitors, and hopefully in the future the district would be able to move into an optional status, however at this time he cannot support such a position regardless of the court's decision today. Dr. Macharola discussed sending a message to parents/guardians tomorrow regarding this decision once the district has collected all of the necessary information.

Mr. Boland advised the order that came down today from the Commonwealth Court indicated the masking order that Alison Beam, the Acting Secretary, ordered was two things; void from the beginning, and second that it was unenforceable. Mr. Boland

advised at this point in time, the state of affairs as it relates to that order, the Governor has indicated through a press conference and through a statement from the Department of Education that they intend to file an appeal. Mr. Boland discussed whether or not the appeal automatically operates as a stay as an issued to be determined yet, but it will likely be asking for a stay of this order and the Supreme Court will likely entertain that. Mr. Boland advised he thinks that the takeaway at this point in time, is stay tuned as right now there is a Commonwealth Court decision that says the original order was not proper, we have a Governor saying they are filing an appeal, so they will take directions from the Supreme Court as they come.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Voit stated that he respects the comments of the Superintendent and he will reserve his comments under new business.

Board Business

Personnel

Resolution Nos. 59A – 59P

Moved by Mr. Long and Mrs. Mengle, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution Nos. 59A through 59P** in their entirety.

Yeas: Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit. The motion **carried** unanimously.

59A Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Ms. Kelsey Reich, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Muhlenberg High School, effective November 12, 2021.
- b. Ms. Tracey Pearson, Second Shift Custodian, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective November 10, 2021.
- c. Ms. Gabrielle Natale, Special Education Assistant, Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective December 2, 2021.

59B Professional Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Katie Halteman, Elementary Teacher (A. Rohrbaugh), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective October 28, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$44,682 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).

- b. Ms. Alison Franzone, Elementary Teacher (S. Armstrong), C. E. Cole Intermediate, effective November 2, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$44,682 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).
- c. Ms. Kaley Quillman, Elementary Teacher (A. Gattone), C. E. Cole Intermediate, pending release from current employer per PA School code, at a prorated salary of \$59,805 (M, 14 Steps from the Top).
- d. Ms. Laura Rhein, Special Education Teacher (newly created), Muhlenberg Junior High School, pending release from current employer per PA School code, at a prorated salary of \$72,342 (M + 9, 8 Steps from the Top).

59C Co-Curricular Activities

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the addition of the following clubs to Muhlenberg High School's co-curricular activities, as presented (Exhibit #65).

- a. School Spirit Club
- b. Muhlenberg Esports High School Competition Team
- c. Film Club

59D Co-Curricular Adjustments

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

- a. Mr. Bill Mease, from Muhlenberg Junior High Girls Soccer Co-Assistant Coach to Muhlenberg Junior High Girls Soccer Head Coach, effective September 14, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$4,350 (year 1).
- b. Mr. Anthony Paolino, from Muhlenberg Junior High Girls Soccer Co-Assistant Coach to Muhlenberg Junior High Girls Soccer Assistant Coach, effective September 14, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$3,360 (year 3).

59E Co-Curricular Resignation

Resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following co-curricular resignation:

- a. Ms. Catherine Raunzahn, Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach, effective November 30, 2021.

59F Daily Sub and Pay Rate

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Katie Halteman as a daily sub for Muhlenberg School District for the

2021-2022 School Year, effective August 30, 2021, at a pay rate of \$110 per day.

59G 2021 Winter Coaching Assignments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the 2021 winter coaching assignments as presented (Exhibit #66).

59H Aquatics Personnel for the 2021-2022 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following aquatics personnel for the 2021-2022 school year:

- a. Ms. Hailey Schmeck, student swim instructor, effective November 11, 2021, at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.
- b. Ms. D'Mornay Woollery, student swim instructor, effective November 11, 2021, at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.
- c. Ms. Courtney Wenger, Youth Aquatics Director (P. Fiore), effective October 27, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$6,625 (year 1).

59I 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 has performed on a satisfactory basis for three years:

- a. Mr. Dylan DelPiano, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- b. Mr. Steven Frymoyer, Muhlenberg High School
- c. Ms. Emily Grube, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- d. Ms. Haley Layton, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- e. Mr. Tyler Seisler, Muhlenberg High School
- f. Ms. Paula Shea, Muhlenberg Junior High School

59J Job Description

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following job description as submitted (Exhibit #67):

- a. Director of Human Resources

59K 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 employee:

- a. Ms. Yasmarie Aponte, ESL Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about December 3, 2021, through on or about March 28, 2022.
- b. Ms. Megan Charles, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about February 6, 2022, through on or about May 16, 2022.

59L Approval of What's So Cool About Manufacturing Advisor

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve a stipend of \$500 for Mrs. Erin Weir, Muhlenberg Junior High School, to serve as the advisor for the 2021-2022 What's So Cool About Manufacturing Video Contest (Exhibit #68).

59M Classified Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Tracey Pearson, 4 Hour Cafeteria Worker (M. Ceden), Food Services, C. E. Cole Intermediate, effective November 11, 2021, at a pay rate of \$19.04 per hour.
- b. Ms. Kristin Mullarkey, Inside Custodian (R. Rodriguez), Muhlenberg Junior High School, pending updated releases, at a prorated salary of \$38,506.40.

59N 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 2021-2022 school year (Exhibit #69):

- a. Ms. Carley Antosy, mentor for Ms. Katie Halteman, Elementary Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, for sixty (60) hours.
- b. Ms. Samantha Amstrong, mentor for Ms. Alison Franzone, Elementary Teacher, C. E. Cole Intermediate, for sixty (60) hours.
- c. Ms. Amy Gattone, mentor for Ms. Kaley Quillman, Elementary Teacher, C. E. Cole Intermediate, for sixty (60) hours.
- d. Mrs. Tori Galluccio, mentor for Ms. Laura Rhein, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Junior High School, for fifteen (15) hours.

59O 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. Rachel Kline, Part-Time Clerical Assistant, Muhlenberg High School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 3, 2021, and recommended for permanent employment as of November 4, 2021.
- b. Ms. Sindel Strohecker, Cafeteria Assistant, Food Services, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 5, 2021, and recommended for permanent employment as of November 8, 2021.
- c. Ms. Lori Pfleger, Cafeteria Assistant, Food Services, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 4, 2021, and recommended for permanent employment as of November 5, 2021.
- d. Ms. Allison Bowman, Cafeteria Worker, Food Services, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 1, 2021, and recommended for permanent employment as of November 3, 2021.
- e. Ms. Rosa Segura-Rivas, Special Education Assistant, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 1, 2021, and recommended for permanent employment as of November 3, 2021.

59P Co-curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Jessica Schafer, Muhlenberg Junior High Select Ensemble Instructor, effective August 30, 2021, until January 22, 2022, at a prorated salary of \$1,494 (year 1).
- b. Ms. Jessica Schafer, Muhlenberg Junior High Play Musical Director, effective August 30, 2021, at a salary of \$1,740 (year 1).

Management

Resolution No. 60

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Nelson, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution No. 60** in its entirety.

Yeas: Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Long, Mr. Lupia, Ms. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy. **Nays:** Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy. **Abstain:** Mr. Hyneman. The motion **failed**.

60 2022 Membership to National School Boards Association

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district's annual (2022) membership to the National School Boards Association in the amount of \$4,165 (Exhibit #70).

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Hyneman commented that he was not comfortable voting either way regarding this resolution because he does not have enough information. He advised he knows there are things that he does not agree with that they have done, but they have done so many good things that it overpowers that. Mr. Hyneman advised he read the article in the paper that criticized some of the things they did, but again he thinks before he votes for this he would like some discussion why the district would not join or would join. At this point, he would like pros and cons, and he would abstain.

Resolution Nos. 61 – 62

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution Nos. 61 and 62** in its entirety.

Yeas: , Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross. The motion **carried** unanimously.

61 Muhlenberg School District Organizational Chart

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg School District Organizational Chart as presented (Exhibit #71).

62 Approval of NICHE Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with NICHE to promote and brand Muhlenberg School District through data, services, and platform enhancement, term of 12 months at a cost of \$5,990 (Special Projects Fund) (Exhibit #72).

Physical Plant and Transportation

Resolution Nos. 63 - 64

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Long, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Physical Plant and Transportation Resolution Nos. 63 and 64** in its entirety.

Yeas: Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster. The motion **carried** unanimously.

63 Administration Office Work Space Short-Term Solution

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the short-term solution, Option 2, for Administration office work space as presented (Exhibit #73).

64 Relocation of High School Weight Room and Replacement of Weight Room Equipment

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the relocation of the Muhlenberg High School weight room and replacement of the weight room equipment, at an estimated cost of \$359,660.00 (Athletic Department funds) as presented (Exhibit #74).

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Nelson questioned what was going into the weight room once relocating. Dr. Macharola advised wrestling.

Budget and Finance

Resolution Nos. 65 - 66

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Budget and Finance Resolution Nos. 65 and 66** in its entirety.

Yeas: Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster. Mr. Hyneman. The motion **carried** unanimously.

65 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 (Exhibit #75):

Fund	Treasurer's Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	Aug 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021 Ck#50618-50838 V#26968-27014	Aug 2021	
Cafeteria	Aug 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021 Ck#7196-7248 V#2891-2901	Aug 2021	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Sept 2021	Sept 2021	Sept 2021 Ck#910		
Capital Projects Fund (Fund 39)	Sept 2021	Sept 2021			
Activity	Aug 2021	Aug 2021			

66 Disposal of Surplus Property

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the disposal of the following surplus property in accordance with district Policy No. 706.1, Disposal of Surplus Property as presented (Exhibit #76):

- a. HP Desktops for Disposal – These items are broken and have had most usable parts removed.
- b. Apple iPads for Trade-in - The items are intended to be traded-in for a credit value for each item depending on condition. These items are outdated and can no longer be updated to run current IOS applications.

Education

Resolution Nos. 67 – 69

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mrs. Mengle, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Education Nos. 67 through 69** in its entirety.

Yeas: Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long. The motion **carried** unanimously.

67 Muhlenberg School District Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2024

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg School District Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2024, as presented (Exhibit #77).

68 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 authorize the Admission of Fact, Waiver of Hearing, Acknowledgement of Compliance with Procedural Safeguards and Consent to Expulsion for the following students (Exhibit #78):

- a. Student "D", Muhlenberg High School
- b. Student "E", C. E. Cole Intermediate

69 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Donations

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following donation in accordance with district Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Donations (Exhibit #79).

Student Activities

There was none.

Minutes

Resolution No. 70

70 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Nelson, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 6, 2021 and, the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2021 be approved as submitted.

Yeas: Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross. Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Voit talked about the type of science that he is looking for is further detailed of the comments that Dr. Macharola made regarding 115 children. Mr. Voit spoke about 2.37%, and questioned does the district have the data to the extent that those 115 had COVID, did they have a runny nose or did the 115 end up in the ICU. Mr. Voit discussed there is a huge difference that in the possible thinking that once it becomes legal to discuss the district's options, this is the type of data he believes the district would need. Mr. Voit asked if there was any thoughts.

Dr. Macharola discussed the 115 positive cases; as far as the number of ICU cases the district has had, he is unaware of the number as a lot of this information is protected. Dr. Macharola advised that when he speaks, he speaks authentically so he can share that. He advised that it is serious enough he believes the district should not take a chance with someone's life, and he also thinks of the adults. Dr. Macharola spoke about his concern as is he does not want 70 kids in a classroom, or cannot get enough substitutes, and he also knows that the district has over 400 children with compromised immune systems that enjoy a traditional education, and that won't be the case. This also includes the district's staff and faculty. Dr. Macharola advised he believes all the science is one thing, he respects Mr. Voit immensely, but the common sense to this outweighs anything more than the data that the district does share, which is accurate. Dr. Macharola advised he cannot get into to the extent of who and what publicly, he has had parents come to him who has had their kids in the ICU who did not have compromised immune systems right here in Muhlenberg. Dr. Macharola advised these parents were very grateful the district took the steps to protect the kids and adults, as well as all staff. Dr. Macharola spoke about not being a politician, he is a practitioner, and he believes the district needs to do the right thing here. Dr. Macharola discussed having too many homicides, suicides and natural deaths in his career, this is one time where he is not even going to think of playing games with somebody's life. Dr. Macharola advised if the board wants to take a position and pivot somewhere else, he recommends no doing it. Dr. Macharola advised the district has its plan in place, gives the district an option to pivot; now is not the time as the district is still high, above substantial, and believes Mr. Voit does not have an argument.

Mr. Voit commented that Dr. Macharola has guided this district a nominally, and as soon as this legally has options the board has a responsibility to discuss it regardless of the outcome of the vote and subsequently at this point the board needs to vote on it the board provides cover for the Superintendent. Whether the board votes for masking, or volunteer masking, that is a debate like everything else, the board will discuss the pros and cons calmly, vote, and move on.

Mr. Hyneman commented regarding the statistics of children with COVID in the paper, as they took the exact date a year ago and children with COVID in Berks County are high, compared to a year ago. Mr. Hyneman advised he would prefer to be safe.

Mr. Voit commented that the board has the strength of character to support any issue on a positive side, one side or the other side, and discussed wanting to read the data of the 2.37%, not misinterpreting anything just data that the district is going to have to evaluate.

Mrs. Mengle questioned whether any of this percentage of children were vaccinated or able to be vaccinated. Dr. Macharola advised the district is unaware of this information; however, there is plenty of vaccinations within the area to do so with vaccine clinics in Muhlenberg area. Dr. Macharola advised he has had extensive conversations with board members, pandemic coordinator, and nursing staff to encourage the district take the steps to have a vaccine clinic here in the district and professionals assured him that Muhlenberg has numerous vaccine clinics that they can go to, so there was no push any further. Dr. Macharola advised of the districts children that are able to be vaccinated, have begun. Dr. Macharola discussed it has been slow, but this is as far as he can go in regards to sharing information.

Mr. Voit commented that he finds it interesting, not critical of anyone present, that they cannot understand the seriousness of COVID that the kids have gotten, but the government is saying whether you received the shot, he finds it hypocritical to abide by the one standard.

Dr. Macahrola advised during the first round of COVID, the state asked for an extensive amount of information, as the district had to provide names, and household info. However with the Delta variant, what they have done they have flattened out the kind of data they want and are more interested in numbers than who it is now.

Mr. Hoffmaster talked about the administration doing the right thing regarding graduation, and other events and is 100% behind what they recommend; if having to wear a mask then he will wear a mask, this is not a political thing. It is for the safety of the children and cannot worry about what political parties and media are saying.

Mr. Long advised he agrees with Dr. Macharola, and his definite statement that he made being one life lost is one too many, as this resonates and should resonate in everybody's mind. Mr. Long commented imagining someone losing their child to this because the district was not diligent enough in the district's efforts to make sure they were safe, kudos to Dr. Macharola.

New Business

There was none.

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 2021-2022

November	Mr. K. Scott Long, Jr.
December	Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.
January	Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
February	Mr. Mark Nelson
March	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
April	Mrs. Cindy Mengle
May	Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

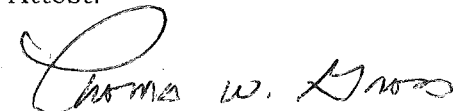
November 3	7:00 PM	COW Meeting
November 8	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
November 10	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
December 6	6:30 PM	Annual Organization Meeting; COW; Regular Board Meeting

71 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Nelson, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Yeas: Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hoffmaster, Mr. Hyneman, Mr. Long, Mrs. Mengle. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Attest:



Thomas W. Gross
Secretary