

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2020  
Muhlenberg High School – Lecture Hall  
[www.muhsdk12.org](http://www.muhsdk12.org)

**Call to Order**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM by Board President, Mr. S. Wayne Hardy.

**Members Present**

President – Mr. S. Wayne Hardy  
Vice President – Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.  
Secretary – Mr. Thomas W. Gross  
Assistant Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle  
Treasurer – Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster  
Member – Mr. Garrett E. Hyneman  
Member – Mr. Randall R. Madara  
Member – Mr. Mark J. Nelson  
Member – Mr. Otto W. Voit, III  
Solicitor – Mr. Brian F. Boland, Esq.  
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Patricia L. Law

**Administration Present**

Superintendent – Dr. Joseph E. Macharola  
Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Alan S. Futrick  
Business Manager – Mr. Shane Mathias  
Director of Physical Plant and Transportation – Mr. Ken Patterson  
Director of Special Education – Dr. Shawn Rutt  
Supervisor of Special Education – Mrs. Amy Coyle  
Director of Food Services and Nutrition – Mr. Carey Kline  
Director of Technology – Mr. Daniel Houck  
Supervisor of Language Arts and Literacy – Mrs. Cathy Shappell  
Athletic Director – Dr. Tim Moyer  
High School Assistant Principal – Ms. Lori Morris  
High School Assistant Principal – Mr. C. Eric Schaeffer  
Middle School Principal – Mr. Jeffery Ebert  
Middle School Assistant Principal – Dr. Felicia Ulsh  
Elementary Center Principal – Mrs. Krista Venza  
Elementary Center Principal – Mrs. Shannon O'Donnell

**Visitors**

John Imhoff	Michele McCammitt	JD Hobbs	Steven Noll
Diane Benson	Jess Levy	Donna Spangler	Samantha Noll
Jolyn Casper	Inga Hobbs	John Spangler	

**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.

John Imhoff – Mr. Imhoff said that he brought along several emails he received about the school that included bullying, teachers and all kinds of stuff. He said he also brought along emails from teachers and residents. Mr. Imhoff said he had information from a reliable source that there are seventy students attending the Muhlenberg School District that do not live in the District. He said it is costing the District over a million dollars (\$15,000 per student) and he wanted to know what the school board is doing about this.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Hyneman said that you should not calculate the cost by multiplying \$15,000 by seventy. The students could be spread all over the district and will not change the number of teachers, the number for transportation for the buses or the electricity. If there are seventy students here, and Mr. Hyneman did not believe there were, it would not cost a million dollars it would be a very fractional part of that.*

*Dr. Macharola said he agreed with Mr. Hyneman and thought Mr. Imhoff's comments were nonsense. He said the children that are in the District are here lawfully and the District has an obligation to educate them.*

*Mr. Hoffmaster said he has been on the school board for twenty-five years and the Board has never had this kind of stuff. Mr. Imhoff said no one ever challenged the Board. Mr. Hoffmaster said Mr. Imhoff was not representing the Township when he comes to the meetings.*

**Educational Presentations**

**A. MHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team**

Dr. Macharola said this is an incredible school district and with great people. Muhlenberg School District has the best students. He said there are people who are part of the problem and they are not part of the solution. It is time to step up for the greatness of the District and to not allow people to make comments that are hurtful and destructive. Muhlenberg School District students deserve better and the District is better. Dr. Macharola said it is the power of a team and it is a shame that some close-minded people do not want to see the good things that are going on in the District.

Dr. Macharola said great teams don't give into a situation. They don't give up when things look bleak. They overcome the negative with positivity. Belief in optimism in order to be their best, to do their best and to bring out the best in others. A team that is positive and strong on the inside will overcome the negative forces they experience on the outside. He said there was an example of that earlier. Dr. Macharola said the basketball team was an example of a positive team along with Coach Nesby and his assistants. He said this basketball team has gone further into the state tournament than any other MHS team because they believe in each other. It is about mind, it is about heart, it is about soul. Dr. Macharola said he was proud of the team; although he said, he is proud of everything in the Muhlenberg School District from the sciences to the arts to humanities, technology, the programs for literacy, math, science, and the mental health pilot. He said this is a District of doers. Dr. Macharola said he is very proud of the young men of the MHS basketball program. Coach Nesby is a man of integrity and respect and has done a great job these past few years because he believes in the power of positive thinking. The MHS basketball team is winning on the court and off the court. Dr. Macharola asked Dr. Moyer to say a few words and for the members of the board to recognize the team.

Dr. Moyer said that when Coach Nesby was hired, he had a sparkle in his eye and it was obvious he was going to make a positive change to the basketball program. He said the players responded to him immediately - believed in him, followed him - got them where they are now. The success the basketball team has had carried over to the entire school - kids are positive, kids are proud, the community is proud and it's a great time to be a Muhl. Dr. Moyer thanked the basketball team and coaches for everything they've done. He said the MHS swimmers have been doing an outstanding job at states; and the bowlers will do a great job too at their upcoming events. Dr. Moyer said it's been a great winter - the wrestlers did a good job and the girls' basketball team is on the way up. Dr. Moyer thanked the community for rallying around the program.

Dr. Macharola thanked Coach Nesby and his entire staff. He said he was proud of them and the members of the team. As the Coaches and team were leaving for practice, Dr. Macharola said they should take a lesson in life with what they saw earlier because that is just the beginning of stuff that needs to be ended. He said they are winners - heart, mind and soul - with everything they do.

B. Ms. Lauren Stadel, RBC - Refinancing Opportunity (Exhibit A)

Ms. Stadel presented a brief update on what has been happening over the past month since Mr. Kramer's presentation in February. She said interest rates have been on the downward slope and the current US Triple-A Municipal Bond rate was .78%. Ms. Stadel said the District's credit rating is very good and if the interest rates stay low the next couple of weeks until the rates are locked in, the District will see very low interest rates for refinancing the debt. Ms. Stadel said based on current rates, the District will see a savings of \$384,000 and because of the District's bond rating, insurance will not be necessary. The District's debt will still be paid in June of 2025; the 2019 refunding in 2026.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit asked if the resolution being approved later was a vote to actually do the refinancing. Mr. Boland said the vote will be to refund the remaining 2012, 2014 and 2015 and to pay the cost of the expenses of refinancing.*

*Mr. Voit stated he had two recommendations. One was to approve it and the other was to take the savings over the life of the bonds.*

**Committee Reports**

A. Berks County Intermediate Unit – Mr. Randall R. Madara

Mr. Madara said a copy of *What Happened at the BCIU* was sent out via email to all Board members. He said there was nothing more to report at this time.

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

Mrs. Mengle reported that the Committee met on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. They ratified terminations, approved a custodian, an administrative assistant, approved policies and approved out-of-state travel for a class to Baltimore Harbor on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

C. Berks County Tax Collection Committee – Mr. Shane M. Mathias/Mr. Otto W. Voit, III

Mr. Mathias said there was nothing to report as they do not meet until the end of the month.

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

Mr. Voit said he had nothing to report; however, as information comes out he will send it to Board members in their packets.

E. Muhlenberg Community Library – Mr. Terry Heckman/Mr. Randall R. Madara

Mr. Madara presented the following report submitted by Mr. Terry Heckman:

The Library reviewed their contingency plan for the protection of their employees and patrons should the coronavirus situation further escalate.

They met with the school district food service director on the possibility of providing light snacks to our kids that use the Teen Room for extended periods of time during the upcoming summer months.

The Library sold 153 total spaghetti dinner meals totaling a profit of \$821 for them in the annual fundraiser they have with Margherita's.

The group, "Friends of the Muhlenberg Community Library," has decided to disband and under the provisions of their bylaws they have decided to give all remaining assets in their accounts to the Library which totals \$1,090.

The Muhlenberg Community Library's Semi-Annual Spring book sale will be held April 15th thru April 18th.

Next Tuesday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), they will be holding a dining in fundraiser at the Muhlenberg McDonalds from 4:00 PM to 7:00PM.

There will be no Community Library Monthly Board meeting in April.

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

Mr. Lupia said there was nothing to report at this time. The Muhlenberg Township meeting is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>; and he did not hear back from Laureldale with any reports.

G. Educational Programs – Dr. Alan S. Futrick

No report at this time.

**Solicitor's Comments** – Mr. Brian F. Boland

No report at this time.

**Superintendent's Comments** - Dr. Joseph Macharola

Dr. Macharola said last weekend the music department put on an incredible show which was well attended by the community. The music department is certainly growing and the musicians are taking a step up. He said the District is trending in the right direction and he would like to see more kids get involved in their school's clubs and programs. Students get a sense of belonging when they participate in things especially the music department. Dr. Macharola said the hallways are filled with illustrations done by students and it is impeccable and blends in which is another example of the District's art program growing and developing. He said the high school had a group of STEM students that traveled to Pittsburgh to participate in STEM opportunities and they performed extremely well. It is about holistic education in the Muhlenberg School District. Dr. Macharola said he is very proud of all of the teachers, Pre-K -12<sup>th</sup> grade, and what they are doing with the students.

Dr. Macharola said there are updates on COVID-19 on the District's website. He said letters went out to the parents and community members in Spanish and English regarding COVID-19; letters went out as well to all of the District's staff. Dr. Macharola said administration will try to keep up to date with this the best that they can. He said information will be put on the District's website to keep everyone updated.

Dr. Macharola said it was his honor to introduce Dr. Tyler Herman who was on the agenda to be hired as Supervisor of Special Education. Dr. Tyler Herman, currently works at Manheim Central School District as a Special Education Consultant, grades K-12. He was a Special Education teacher at Cornwall-Lebanon School District and Lebanon School District. Dr. Herman earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Lebanon Valley College (2011); his Master's Degree from Messiah College (2016); and, his Doctorate from Slipper Rock University (2018). Dr. Herman will be replacing Mrs. Amy Coyle. Dr. Macharola said a person can go to medical school, pass the exams and become a doctor. Some doctors are suited for general practice (they still earned their doctorate), and then there are doctors who are in trauma centers that must have the temperance to deal with intense situations that require expertise beyond that of a general practitioner. He said in the Muhlenberg School District, practitioners are needed that go the extra mile like the trauma doctor because that is the demand the students place on educators in the District. Dr. Macharola said it doesn't happen very often that the District gets people who are really hitting full throttle all the time the right way. He said Amy Coyle is leaving to work in her home district. She has been loyal, committed, dedicated, and knowledgeable and has really dug in as a Special Education Supervisor in the Muhlenberg School District. Dr. Macharola said Dr. Herman will do equally as well, if not better. He said he was happy to see Amy leave to be part of her community, but he wanted everyone to know what a joy it was to work with her and for the things she did behind the scenes that no one will know – rectifying situations and empowering students with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Macharola thanked Mrs. Coyle and wished her the very best.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Hoffmaster apologized for his earlier behavior and explained that he wanted to be a regular citizen for a moment to respond to Mr. Imhoff. He said he gets upset that Mr. Imhoff puts the school district down. The District has good teachers, administrators and staff. Mr. Hoffmaster said Mr. Imhoff doesn't just put the District down at the meetings but out in the community as well. He said this is a good Board that works together and he is hurt by the things that Mr. Imhoff says. Mr. Hoffmaster said it is a shame a commissioner puts down a group of volunteers (the Board) who care about the community.*

**Personnel**

**Resolution Nos. 160A – 160J**

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Personnel Resolution Nos. 160A through 160J** in their entirety.

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

**160A Acceptance of Resignations**

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

- a. Ms. Barbara P. Post, Communications Teacher, Muhlenberg Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 5, 2020.
- b. Ms. Shana E. Kelly, 4.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker, Muhlenberg Middle School, effective February 27, 2020.

**160B 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 2019-2020 school year:

- a. Mrs. Julia Hornberger, mentor for Mrs. Melissa Bearoff, English, Muhlenberg High School, for sixty (60) hours.
- b. Mr. Michael Anthony, mentor for Mr. Michael Burggraf, English, Muhlenberg Middle School, for twenty-five (25) hours.

**160C Professional Appointments**

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

- a. Mrs. Rachel Wade, Long-Term Substitute (D. Hangen), Muhlenberg Middle School, effective December 3, 2019, at a prorated, retroactive salary of \$59,657 (M, 13 Steps from the Top).
- b. Mr. Jeffrey Reiniger, Dean of Students (W. Sellars), C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective upon hire and approval of replacement for current position.
- c. Ms. Rebecca Ahearn, Long-Term Substitute, Special Education (K. Quimby-Paskowski), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective March 12, 2020, at a prorated salary of \$42,832 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).
- d. Ms. Stephanie Tice, Long-Term Substitute, Fourth Grade (E. McDevitt), C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective on or about March 23, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, at a prorated salary of \$42,832 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).

**160D Co-Curricular Appointments**

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

- a. Mr. Kevin Wright, Varsity Track Assistant Coach (M. Smith), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$3,045 (year 1).

- b. Mr. Mason Smith, Junior High Boys Track and Field Head Coach (M. Wisotsky), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$3,045 (year 1).
- c. Mr. Gary Pumphrey, Junior High Track and Field Assistant Coach (B. Hendricks), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$2,284 (year 1).
- d. Dr. Felicia Ulsh, Junior High Track and Field Assistant Coach (C. Drake), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$2,284 (year 1).
- e. Mr. Steven Noll, Junior High Softball Assistant Coach (G. Natale), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$2,610 (year 1).
- f. Mr. Michael Merkel, Varsity and Junior Varsity Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach, effective March 12, 2020.
- g. Ms. Hannah Gallagher, Varsity Girls Lacrosse Assistant Coach (C. Raney), effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$3,263 (year 1).

**160E Substitutes for 2019-2020 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the listing of substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year as presented (Exhibit #135).

**160F Administrative Appointment**

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

- a. Dr. Tyler Herman, Supervisor of Special Education (A. Coyle), effective upon release from current employer as per PA School Code, at a prorated salary of \$85,000.

**160G Bus Monitor for the 2019-2020 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following bus monitor for the 2019-2020 school year, at the pay rate of \$10.50 per hour:

- a. Mr. Daniel Brady, AM Bus Monitor, Muhlenberg Middle School

**160H Age Group Swimming Appointment**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following appointment for age group swimming:

- a. Ms. Morgan Antonacci, Youth Swim Coach/Instructor, effective March 12, 2020, at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.

**160I Completion of Probation**

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

- a. Ms. Maria Cedeno, 4 Hour Cafeteria Worker, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of February 21, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of February 24, 2020.

**160J New Co-Curricular Position and Appointment**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following new co-curricular position and appointment (Exhibit #136):

- a. MEC Yearbook Coordinator
- b. Ms. Michele McCammitt, effective March 12, 2020, at a salary of \$580 (year 1).

**Management**

**Resolution Nos. 161 - 163**

Moved by Mr. Lupia and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution Nos. 161 through 163** in their entirety.

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

**161 Adoption of Policies**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the following district policies (Exhibit #137):

**Section 200 Pupils**

201 Admission of Students  
204 Attendance  
208 Withdrawal from School  
233 Suspension and Expulsion

**Section 300 Employees**

333 Professional Development

**Section 600 Finance**

610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation

**Section 700 Property**

705 Facilities and Workplace Safety

709 Building Security

**Section 800 Operations**

805 Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

**162 Summer Work Schedule**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the summer work schedule as Monday through Thursday beginning Monday, June 15, 2020 through Friday, August 14, 2020 – Office hours 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

**163 Revised School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the School Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year as presented (Exhibit #138).

**Physical Plant and Transportation**

**Resolution Nos. 164 - 166**

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Voit, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Physical Plant and Transportation Resolution Nos. 164 through 166** in their entirety.

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

**164 Sunday Facility Use Request**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following Sunday Facility Use Request (Exhibit #139):

- a. Healthy Kids Running Series Organization, use of the Muhlenberg High School practice field on March 29, 2020, April 5, 2020, April 12, 2020, April 19, 2020, April 26, 2020, May 3, 2020 and May 10, 2020.

**165 Replacement of High School Furniture and Middle School Chairs**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the purchase of classroom furniture for Muhlenberg High School to replace existing outdated and deteriorating furniture at a cost of \$56,400; and the purchase of chairs for Muhlenberg Middle School to replace existing outdated and deteriorating chairs at a cost of \$3,510.54 (Capital Reserve Fund) (Exhibit #140).

**166 Replacement of Administration Building Roof**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the replacement of the Administration Building roof at a total cost of \$60,000 as presented (Capital Projects Fund) (Exhibit #141).

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Madara said the Board discussed the possibility of renovating the administration building at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and asked if the plan was to go forward with re-doing the roof. Mr. Nelson said yes because Mr. Patterson said the roof won't last.*

**Budget and Finance**

**Resolution Nos. 167 – 171**

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Budget and Finance Resolution Nos. 167 through 171** in their entirety.

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

**167 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 #142):

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>Bills Paid Month</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Budget Transfers</b>
General	Jan 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2020 Ck#47334-47559 V#26247-26281	Jan 2020	
Cafeteria	Jan 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2020 Ck#6689-6739 V#2802-2809	Jan 2020	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Feb 2020	Feb 2020	Feb 2020 Ck#886-887		
Capital Projects Fund (Fund 39)	Feb 2020	Feb 2020	Feb 2020 Ck#1051		
Activity	Jan 2020	Jan 2020			

#### **168 Disposal of Surplus Property**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the disposal of the following surplus property in accordance with district Policy 706.1, Disposal of Surplus Property as presented (Exhibit #143):

- a. Cisco Switches for Disposal – These items are broken or have reached end-of-life and have no usable value. (Exhibit – Cisco Switches Disposal 2-25-20)
- b. iPads for Trade-in - The items are intended to be traded-in for a credit value between \$50.00 - \$70.00 for each item depending on condition. (Exhibit – iPads Trade-In 2-25-20)

#### **169 CAFCO Participation Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the CAFCO Participation Agreement to purchase food being offered through the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 (IU13) and facilitated by IU13 Collaborative Services beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as presented (Exhibit #144).

#### **170 E-Rate Category 2 Wireless Equipment**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the Category 2 E-rate bid (MUHL FY20-21 C2 Wireless Equipment RFP - Form #200019801) for Internal Connections Equipment and Services of \$57,593.30 from IntegraOne (Technology Budget).

**171 Appraisal Services**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Muhlenberg School District (the "School District") that the School District's Solicitors, Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, are authorized to retain the appraisal services of Douglas A. Haring, including preparation of an appraisal report and assistance in preparation for, and if necessary, testimony at trial for the below real estate assessment appeal, for the following fees and in accordance with the attached proposal (the "Proposal") (Exhibit #145).

- General Battery & Ceramic Corporation, for property located at 200 Spring Valley Road, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property I.D. No. 66531809261883 docketed at No. 19-18987

General Battery & Ceramic Corporation, for property located at 3000 Rosedale Avenue, Laureldale Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property LD. No. 57531805178744 docketed at No. 19-18997

Preparation of appraisal report - \$8,500

Trial Preparation and attendance at trial - \$200 per hour additional

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and the Vice President of the Board of School Directors are authorized to execute the attached Proposal.

**Education**

**Resolution Nos. 172 - 177**

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Madara, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Education Resolution Nos. 172 through 177** in their entirety.

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

**172 AFJROTC Educational Field Trip Requests**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following educational field trip requests (Exhibit #146):

- a. Muhlenberg High School AFJROTC, travel to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey on May 17, 2020.
- b. Muhlenberg High School AFJROTC, travel to Quantico Marine Base in Virginia on May 31, 2020.

- c. Muhlenberg High School AFJROTC, travel to the Summer Leadership School in Charleston, South Carolina on June 14, 2020 through June 20, 2020.
- d. Muhlenberg High School AFJROTC, travel to Goddard Space Center in Maryland on May 19, 2020.

**173 Extended School Year Tuition Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the extended school year student tuition agreement with Capstone Academy for student #32432 as presented (Exhibit #147).

**174 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 2019-2020 school year as listed (Exhibit #148).

**175 Extended School Year Program for 2020**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Extended School Year Program for 2020 (June 30, 2020 – July 30, 2020) at an estimated operating cost of \$51,000 plus transportation which includes the following staff:

- a. ESY Coordinator
- b. Thirteen (13) Teachers
- c. Fourteen (14) Assistants
- d. One (1) Job Coach
- e. Related Services:
  - 1) Speech & Language Therapist
  - 2) Occupational Therapist
  - 3) Physical Therapist
  - 4) Hearing/Vision Support, if deemed necessary

**176 Application for Membership into the Lancaster-Lebanon Athletic Association**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the application to become an associate member to the Lancaster-Lebanon Athletic Association in the sport of football starting in the 2022-2023 school year (Exhibit #149).

**177 Certified School Psychologist Contracted Services**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the contracted services of Dr. Doris Daughtry, Certified School Psychologist, effected upon receipt of updated clearances through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, at a pay rate of \$95 per hour up to twenty-five (25) hours per week (Exhibit #150).

**Student Activities**

*No items at this time.*

**Minutes**

**Resolution No. 178**

**178 Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Lupia, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 5, 2020 and the Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 2020 be approved as submitted.

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

**Old Business**

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Lupia said in 1969 when his family moved to Muhlenberg from the city and attended the schools, he found the teachers to be very informative. He said it was like nothing he had ever seen. The teachers were responsible, helpful and knowledgeable. Mr. Lupia said he was not putting Reading down, but he was not getting it there. He said as he got older he decided to get involved in the community – tried to attend school board meetings and commissioner meetings when he could. Mr. Lupia said now he is a part of the Muhlenberg School District Board which he loves. He said when he became a school director he had an idea to have a liaison attend the Township and Borough meetings to help each other out because when he went to the Township meetings (as a citizen) they always talked down about the District. The commissioners and the Board were able to work together to find resolution when the Hull Property Group came in to discuss their plan for the Fairground Square Mall property. Mr. Lupia said now there is a commissioner that comes in and puts the school district down. He said the school is open to anyone and if Mr. Imhoff had any questions, he could have attended at least two school board meetings and he would have had all of the information he was looking for. Mr. Lupia said he doesn't feel the commissioners are willing to work with the school district. He said anyone of the commissioners are welcome to come to a school and observe a classroom. Mr. Hyneman said in order to do that they must have updated clearances.*

*Mr. Lupia said Ms. Benson is the only one from the community that comes to the meetings and she probably knows more than the commissioners do. Mr. Lupia suggested members of the Board attend the commissioners meeting to see what it going on.*

*Mr. Hyneman said his children received a wonderful education at Muhlenberg. He said every staff member cooperated; his son was all-county in three sports, his daughter in two. The music teachers then allowed students to participate in music and sports and that isn't found everywhere. Mr. Hyneman said in 1969 when Mr. Lupia moved to Muhlenberg, he was a teacher in Reading and he said the teachers in Reading cared for the kids one hundred percent.*

*Mr. Voit said one item the Township and the School District must work together on which they did in the past until the Township changed their priorities, is replacing Sgt. Marino. Sgt. Marino went to all of the buildings except the middle school as that is in Laureldale and would be covered by the Laureldale Police although, they are understaffed. Sgt. Marino left in January and they still have not replaced him or offered additional security in the buildings. He said in his view instead of coming to the Board meetings and criticize, Mr. Imhoff should become part of the solution. Mr. Imhoff should be reporting what the Township is doing to replace that resource officer so the District would have more security in the buildings.*

*Dr. Macharola said he is very proud of the comments made by Board members and the support the administration receives. The Board and administration must come together as one to move forward. He said you cannot invite toxic mentalities to the table. Mark Twain said it best, "no amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot." Dr. Macharola said when there are people who think they should be involved in things with distorted agendas and hate in their heart, then this is what there is. He said the District has incredible teachers, incredible maintenance workers and staff. Negativity will go nowhere and people need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Dr. Macharola said there is no place in the District for anyone who does not like what the community is. He said he is tired of the racism and the dislike for the students and people; and of those who don't like leaders because they have an education, or because they are leaders, or because they are not from this community. There is no place for it in public education. Dr. Macharola said it is going to stop, and he will not stop. This is not the Muhlenberg of the sixties and seventies – this is a multicultural diverse community. Dr. Macharola said he does not know who is providing information, but it is garbage and in violation of state and federal law. He said they must band together as one and move forward. The District is about integrity, competency, and the students – human souls. Dr. Macharola said everything that has been done in the District is for everyone in the community – for generations. He said quoting Chuck Noll, "all it takes is a core group of people on your team with a negative attitude you will be defeated before you even get on the field to play the game." This is true and everyone needs to step up and play as a team, as one.*

## New Business

### Resolution No. 179

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 179** in its entirety.

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

### 179 Memoriam of Mrs. Barbara Nichols

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mrs. Barbara Nichols who served in the Muhlenberg School District for thirty-one (31) years (1965-1996) as an elementary teacher. We honor her memory for her dedicated service to the school district and community.

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

### Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit said looking at the dates, 1965-1996 (thirty-one years), he was a student at Riverview Park Elementary in 1965. He said it was a good school and he isn't sure why the District gave it up. Mr. Voit said he doesn't know where Mrs. Nichols taught or if he had her. Mrs. Nichols started her career in Muhlenberg in 1965 when schools held nuclear bomb drills and worked up until 1996. Mr. Voit said when you stop and think about all of the things that she saw in those thirty-one years – all of the generations that she saw and influenced along with the changing of the times. Mr. Voit said the way a teacher taught in 1965 was not the same in 1996. He said anybody that puts thirty-one years in public education should be up for sainthood. Mr. Voit said he commended Mrs. Nichols for her great work of thirty-one years and may God rest her soul.*

### Resolution No. 180

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 180** in its entirety.

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

**180 Authorization to Issue General Obligation Bonds**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the intent to issue one or more series of general obligation bonds of the school district in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$21,500,000); and, the purpose of the refinancing of the bond issue is to refinance the general obligation Series A of 2012; the general obligation bonds series of 2014; the general obligation series of 2015; and together with paying all of the costs associated with the bond issuance;

Furthermore, authorizing the application to the Department of Community of Economic Development for the approval of the bond issue in accordance with the Local Government Unit Debt Act. The filing of the debt statement and borrowing base certificate as well as the certified debit service schedule;

Furthermore, authorizing the appropriate officers of the Board to execute the bond purchase agreement and addendum with RBC and to execute all of the documents necessary to conclude the bond issue once the refinancing is complete (Exhibit #151).

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit said the District is not taking on any more debt but refinancing existing debt to an approximate savings of \$384,000. The District's debt will be paid off one hundred percent in six years. Mr. Voit said the District has the highest bond rating in Berks County. He said nobody likes taxes, especially the Board, but until the state comes up with a different way of funding schools, this Board has been fiscally prudent and good caretakers of taxpayer's money.*

**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.

Miss Samantha Noll, Student, MMS – Samantha said she wanted to congratulate Mr. Reiniger and Ms. Post. Mr. Reiniger for being appointed Dean of Students at C. E. Cole; and Ms. Post for retiring. She said they were both a big help to her. Samantha said she also wanted to wish all of the Muhlenberg sports good luck.

Mr. Steven Noll – Mr. Noll said he was a member of Laureldale Council but resigned recently to spend more time with his family. He said his name was on the agenda for approval to be a Junior High Softball Assistant Coach. Mr. Noll said he felt that coaches and teachers do not coach just for the sports, but to be there for the kids.

Mr. Noll said, unfortunately, everyone in the audience saw a display from an official from the Township that was horrible. He said it was a shame because he only sees one side. Mr. Noll said that last month this official talked down about sports, which was ridiculous. He said education is important and as a coach, he lets the kids know that if they have any questions about school, they should not hesitate to ask. Mr. Noll said the coaches do not want their students to fail; they want to help them as much as possible. He said that a few months ago Coach Nesby made a facility use request for Sundays to provide study hall for the basketball players. Mr. Noll said it is not just about sports, it is about education. He said he moved into the District in 1994 and the teachers here and the school board are phenomenal. Mr. Noll said people do not understand because they hear this type of negativity; and negativity draws negativity. He said people must be positive because positivity draws positivity too. That is what the District wants to aim for. Mr. Noll said it is not unusual to see teachers, school board members or Dr. Macharola speaking to students outside of school – where else does a kid get that. He said that is the nice thing about Muhlenberg – it is a family organization because they care about the kids and the community. Mr. Noll congratulated the Board, administrators and the teachers. He said no one likes when their taxes are raised, but it is part of doing business. Mr. Noll thanked everyone and said they do a wonderful job and it is ridiculous that a Township official would come in and put everyone down.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit thanked Mr. Noll for his great comments. He said it is great to have positive influences and he was glad the Board voted for him to be a coach.*

**MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of Month**

March	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
April	Mrs. Cindy Mengle
May	Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster

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

March 11	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
April 1	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 8	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
April 13	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
May 6	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 11	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
May 13	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
June 8	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
June 10	6:30 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting; Regular Board Meeting

**181 Adjourn Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Voit, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

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

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Gross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent.

Thomas W. Gross  
Secretary