

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020
Muhlenberg High School – Lecture Hall
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, February 12, 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
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

Members Absent

Assistant Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mingle

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
Data Administrator – Mr. Kevin Vanino
Behavior Analyst – Mr. Zachary Milch
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 Assistant Principal – Dr. Felicia Ulsh
Elementary Center Principal – Mrs. Krista Venza

Visitors

John Imhoff
Diane Benson
Jolyn Casper
Anthony Calvaresi, Jr.
Tate DeWalt

Janet Howard-Smith
Lee Reiniger
Brodie Faessen
Alex McGear

Educational Presentations

A. Second Reading of Policies

Dr. Macharola presented the second reading of the following policies:

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 Property

805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

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 – 1716 Mt. Laurel Road, Temple

Mr. Imhoff said there are two big businesses coming into Muhlenberg this year. One is CarbonLITE out of California which will employ one hundred people and the other is up Route 222 behind Walmart. They will employ two hundred people. He said that will be three hundred people coming into the Township as workers as well as people coming in from California to CarbonLITE. Mr. Imhoff said he spoke last month and was told he did not have facts. He said he has facts now from the Future Ready website and everywhere else. Mr. Imhoff said it is very discouraging to know that when people are doing research to buy a house in Muhlenberg Township and go to a website for real estate, they see that the school system is rated at four and five out of ten. He said when they go to another website they see that out of eighteen school districts in Berks County, Muhlenberg is number eleven. Mr. Imhoff said if they check with the local police department, they will see that there have been seventy calls since September to one police department – Laureldale. He said he is not sure what is going on, but the rest of the Township has stepped up their game.

Dr. Macharola presented Mr. Imhoff with a Muhlenberg School District pin.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Mr. Hyneman said he and his wife volunteer at the Elementary Center three times a week and they work with students who move in from other areas. He said he works with first graders who do not know letters, numbers, and colors. Mr. Hyneman said they work very hard to bring them up to grade level. He said he doesn't believe that Muhlenberg is number eleven because teachers aren't busting their tails – because they are. Mr. Hyneman said they are working very hard to catch students up who are behind. He said he worked at Alvernia for seventeen years teaching early childhood education. He found that the students who had preschool education and if their parents helped them with their work, they would be on level. Many students are not and play catch-up all the time. Mr. Hyneman said he understands Mr. Imhoff's concerns but he did not think the teachers were the blame because he sees them working very hard in their classrooms.

Mr. Hoffmaster said there are good people working in the school district has – just like the Township. He said the school district is funded by the tax payers where the township gets funding from other sources like cable companies. Everyone is doing a great job.

The Board recessed at 7:09 PM for an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

President Hardy resumed the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Committee Reports

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

Mr. Madara reported the BCIU board held their reorganization meeting. The president, Tim Heffner, who was president for fourteen years did not run for re-election. The new officers – president, vice president, treasurer, secretary – have a combined total of fifty-nine years of service.

B. Reading-Muhlenberg CTC – Mr. J. Tony Lupia, Jr.

Mr. Lupia reported that the he CTC was still looking for a director for the building. They have nine candidates to be interviewed.

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 did not meet.

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

Mr. Voit reported that monthly he will be distributing an update on legislative issues that PSBA is addressing. He said he is co-chair of the PSBA Task Force on Property Tax Reform; and he spoke before the senate majority committee workshop on school property tax elimination. The committee is headed by Senator Argall and Senator and Senator Scarnati had promised that something will be voted on this year.

Below are Mr. Voit's comments from that workshop:

*Comments by Otto W. Voit III before the Property Tax Elimination Workshop.
February 12, 2020
The Marysville Lions Club
Marysville, PA*

Good afternoon Chairman Argall, Senator DiSanto, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Otto Voit. I am a 20 year school board member for the Muhlenberg School District, a sub-burb of Reading, co-chair of the Pa School Board Association's Task Force on Property Tax Reform, and the 2016 candidate for PA State Treasurer – I lost.

The comments I make today are my own and may not reflect those of my fellow school board or task force members. Our task force has just begun it's work and a report is due out in July with recommendations.

Nothing I say here today is meant to be disrespectful in any way. I only seek to comment on a path forward to provide property tax relief to many suffering senior citizens and a legislative solution that will actually pass both the house and senate and signed by the Governor to include complete elimination of property taxes.

Property taxes have doubled over the past 40 years – even after accounting for inflation. The main cost drivers of this increase are state mandates. Pensions, special education and charter schools, just to name a few.

We all know that the current model of funding schools through property taxes is unsustainable. The cost to fund mandates is increasing faster than the state is reimbursing those costs thus causing an even greater burden on local tax payers. There is no tax relief in sight for the taxpayer.

More people are leaving PA then arriving. We need economic development to keep people here and to help pay for the costs of educations annual increases. So how do we fund education, encourage businesses to come to PA and stop the out-migration of people?

Property tax reform should not be addressed in a vacuum.

It would take about \$12 billion to eliminate school property taxes. With an annual increase of \$1b per year.

Between 900k and 11billion could be raised by expanding sales tax and making other changes to the tax code. Our Commonwealth tax code has not kept up with a 21st century economy. To completely eliminate property taxes the legislature will have to look at, and reduce, the cost drivers of public education: again - pensions, special education, and charter schools, just to name a few.

Local control of school boards by elected officials such as me is a myth. Over 80% of our budget is fixed – wages, benefits, pensions, special education, transportation, charter schools and debt service. The main cost drivers for local school budgets is driven by the state, not by local decisions. You can add a new fast-growing cost driver to our school budget – mental health. So maintaining local control of school boards should not be an impediment to property tax reform.

The principals of any tax reform a.k.a cost shifting should be fair, broad-based, and simplistic.

With that in mind I offer the following suggestion as a one of many path ways forward:

1. *Immediately provide relief to senior citizens by expanding the property tax and rebate program. This can be done by expanding (not increasing) the state sales tax. This will give the legislators time to reduce the cost drivers in public education and to develop a thorough plan to completely eliminate property taxes. No one knows the unintended consequences of complete elimination of property taxes. This will give time for the legislators to carefully, yet with a sense of urgency, tackle this issue.*
2. *Reduce the corporate income tax from 9.99% to 6.99%, allowing businesses to deduct capital investments as is done at the federal level and improve treatment of NOL's. This can be paid for by changes to the current business tax credits provided to businesses. This will make PA more business friendly, help keep people from leaving PA and will expand the PA G.D.P.*
3. *Only then can you completely eliminate property taxes because you will have vetted out an expanded revenue model, identified and reduced the public education cost drivers, and most important, how to adequately and fairly fund all school districts from the most wealthy to the most impoverished.*

During this phase you can further expand the sales tax and expand (not increase) the personal income tax to cover income not already subject to taxation.

4. *The math proves out that after addressing the education cost drivers and school funding formula, completely eliminating school property taxes will **not** need an increase to sales tax or to a personal income tax – but by expanding these taxes to encompass a broader base could be done to make property tax elimination a reality, provide a competitive business environment, and stem the tide of people leaving PA.*

Thank you for allowing me to provide some thoughts today on this most pressing issue.

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

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

- Library Director Melissa Adams gave her annual State of the Library presentation. The Library ended 2019 in very good shape coming in at 5.45% under their projected budget. They are starting the year with a small surplus of \$13,921 to get the Library off to a very good start.
- Ms. Adams also distributed a detailed list of library accomplishments for 2019 and a copy of that was included in your board packet.
- 2020 marks the Library's 60th anniversary of serving the Muhlenberg community. The Library has come very far from its humble beginnings back in 1960.
- Last year the Library's dedicated patrons borrowed 17,555 movie DVD's and 1,012 music CD's as well as 2,209 Audiobooks.

- The Library had a total annual circulation of 63,095 total items for the year.
- The Library will be having a fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) from 5:00PM to 8:00PM at the Muhlenberg McDonalds where it will get a percentage of all proceeds during that three hour window - so come on out and have a Shamrock Shake and help out the Library's cause.
- Again, this year the Library is planning and will be offering even more high quality, diverse programs for the entire Muhlenberg community to enjoy.

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

Muhlenberg Township - Mr. Lupia reported that Muhlenberg Township saw the opening of Chick-Fil-A, Panera Bread and Mod Pizza.

Laureldale Borough - Tim Swartz resigned as Mayor of Laureldale. Any Laureldale resident is welcome to apply.

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 congratulated the three Board Members who completed three hours of training in compliance with Act 55 and Act 18. Those Board Members were Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Lupia and Mr. Hyneman.

Dr. Macharola introduced Mr. John Lorchak (who was in the audience). Mr. Lorchak was on the agenda for approval as Varsity Football Head Coach. Mr. Lorchak started in the District in November of 2004, currently teaching Civics and Geography. Mr. Lorchak is a graduate of Kutztown where he received both his bachelor's degree and master's degrees. He has an extensive coaching career last working as an assistant coach at Wilson.

Dr. Macharola asked Mr. Hardy to enter onto the agenda a resolution calling for charter school funding reform. Dr. Macharola read the resolution which can be found under New Business. On February 4, 2020, Gov. Wolf highlighted the need for charter reform as part of his 2020-2021 state budget plan. The spending plan includes \$280 million coming from projected savings gained from proposed charter school funding reforms. In conjunction with the call for charter funding reforms, the governor's office announced that legislation to enact comprehensive changes is being introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives.

In the same way that PSBA worked with the Senate and House of Representatives on their charter proposals.

Dr. Macharola said the District started its own cyber school so that the District can provide a better education for students the Muhlenberg way and to recapture those costs to outside cyber schools. He asked the Board to consider the resolution on charter school funding reform as a sign of unity and sensibility.

Dr. Macharola said the Muhlenberg School District is the tenth most diverse district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, advocating for all students. The District is incredibly dedicated to the children. He said he spoke with factual evidence last month and will continue to speak with the highest level of integrity and ethics as he leads the District. He said all children in the District are respected regardless of who they are or where they are from. This is a very diverse school district.

Dr. Macharola said February is Black History month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

Dr. Macharola said he wanted to thank and openly support the Muhlenberg School District staff. The MESPA group goes above and beyond and it would be difficult to find cleaner schools. He said he is very proud of the District's cafeteria staff, secretaries and custodians. Dr. Macharola said everyone works very hard to provide a great environment for students. He said he wanted to thank the teachers. They are the very best teaching staff. Dr. Macharola said the District is a city school district with challenges and obligations. The District needs winning teaching because this District is not for everybody. He said this District has the best, most committed administrators. Every decision he makes is focused on how it will improve and empower children. He said there is nothing more important than the human spirit. Dr. Macharola called on all Board Members to move forward with him as one as their support is needed.

Personnel

Resolution Nos. 137A – 137L

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Personnel Resolution Nos. 137A through 137L** in their entirety.

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

137A Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Mrs. Amy Coyle, Supervisor of Special Education, effective upon release from the Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- b. Mr. William Sellars, Dean of Students, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective upon release from the Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- c. Mrs. Iesha Vincent, English Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, effective January 16, 2020.
- d. Mr. Jeffrey Musselman, Custodian, Muhlenberg High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective May 29, 2020.
- e. Mr. Keith Boyer, Outside/Grounds Custodian, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 28, 2020.
- f. Ms. Sarah Thom, Instructional Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 7, 2020.

137B 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. Mrs. Laura Kopetsky, Special Education Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, Leave of Absence/FMLA Leave, effective on or about March 1, 2020 through on or about February 22, 2021.

137C 2019-2020 Bus Monitors for the Second Semester

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

Muhlenberg Elementary Center

- a. Ms. Judy Becker

Muhlenberg Middle School

- a. Mr. Brian Kopetsky (AM)

137D Job Descriptions

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following job descriptions as submitted (Exhibit #114):

- a. Director of Federal Programs K-12
- b. Facilities Maintenance Person - District-Wide

137E 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. Christine Garner, Instructional Assistant/Job Coach, Muhlenberg High School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 15, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of January 16, 2020.
- b. Mr. Jeffrey Beissel, Inside Custodian, Muhlenberg High School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 9, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of January 10, 2020.
- c. Ms. Carol Kalin, Cafeteria Assistant, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 16, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of January 17, 2020.
- d. Ms. Sky Sanfiel, Instructional Assistant, Muhlenberg Middle School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of January 16, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of January 17, 2020.

137F Classified Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Madeline McMullen, Special Education Translator/Interpreter (New Position), effective February 13, 2020, at a pay rate of \$17.86 per hour.
- b. Ms. Damaris Montalvo, Instructional Assistant (M. McMullen), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 13, 2020, at a pay rate of \$14.29 per hour.
- c. Ms. Randi Farrow, 4 Hour Cafeteria Worker (J. Neuheimer), C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective February 13, 2020 at a pay rate of \$14.83 per hour.
- d. Ms. Glenys R. Allsop, Instructional Assistant (C. Garcia), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 13, 2020, at a pay rate of \$14.29 per hour.
- e. Mr. Marquis Marshall, Instructional Assistant (S. Thom), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective February 13, 2020, at a pay rate of \$14.29 per hour.

137G Co-Curricular Resignations

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

- a. Ms. Rhonda Himic, Junior High Softball Head Coach, effective January 9, 2020.
- b. Mr. Matthew Wisotsky, Junior High Boys Track and Field Head Coach, effective January 22, 2020.
- c. Mr. Brian Hendricks, Junior High Track Assistant Coach, effective January 20, 2020.

137H Guest Teachers for the 2019-2020 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the listing of guest teachers for the 2019-2020 school year as presented (Exhibit #115).

137I Spring 2020 Coaching Assignments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Spring Coaching Assignments for the 2019-2020 school year as submitted (Exhibit #116).

137J Co-Curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Sharon Rowley, Fellowship of Christian Students Club Advisor (S. Bristel), effective January 6, 2020, at a prorated salary of \$319.47.
- b. Mr. John Lorchak, Varsity Football Head Coach (P. Sisk), effective February 13, 2020, at a salary of \$7,250 (year 1).
- c. Mr. Richard Dietrich, Muhlenberg High School Spring Musical Co-Sound Engineer (J. Ferro), effective February 13, 2020, at a salary of \$725 (year 1).
- d. Mrs. Megan Dietrich, Muhlenberg High School Spring Musical Co-Sound Engineer (J. Ferro), effective February 13, 2020, at a salary of \$725 (year 1).

137K Co-Curricular Salary Adjustment

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following adjusted salary:

- a. Mr. Matthew Kramer, MMS Art Club Co-Advisor, adjust salary to \$597 (year 4) from \$587 (year 4).

137L Professional Appointments

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

- a. Mrs. Melissa Bearoff, English (I. Vincent), Muhlenberg High School, effective February 17, 2020, at a prorated salary of \$44,340 (B, 17 Steps from the Top).
- b. Mrs. Tammy Sarangoulis, Long-Term Substitute, Special Education (L. Kopetsky), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective upon release from current employer per PA School Code through on or about February 22, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$72,996 (B+24, 3 Steps from the Top).

Management

Resolution Nos. 138 and 139

Moved by Mr. Lupia and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution Nos. 138 and 139** in their entirety.

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

138 Adoption of Policy

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the following district policy (Exhibit #117):

900 Community

Policy No. 918, *Title I Parent and Family Engagement*

139 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 #118).

Physical Plant and Transportation

Resolution Nos. 140 - 142

Moved by Mr. Hyneman and Mr. Voit, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Physical Plant and Transportation Resolution Nos. 140 through 142** in their entirety.

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

140 Sunday Facility Use Request

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following Sunday Facility Use Request (Exhibit #119):

- a. Muhlenberg Township Parks and Recreation Department, use of the Muhlenberg High School Cafeteria on Sunday, March 8, 2020 to hold their annual Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser.

141 Request to Dispose of M9 Passenger Van

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request to dispose of a 1999 GMC Savana nine (9)-passenger van (asset number M9) due to safety reasons (Exhibit #120).

142 Purchase of Replacement Vans

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve purchasing three (3) nine (9) passenger vans at a cost not to exceed \$113,211 as presented (funded through Capital Reserve Fund) (Exhibit #121).

Budget and Finance

Resolution Nos. 143 – 149

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Budget and Finance Resolution Nos. 143 through 149** in their entirety.

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

143 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 #122):

Fund	Treasurer's Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	Dec 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020 Ck#47081-47333 V#26189-26246	Dec 2019	
Cafeteria	Dec 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020 Ck#6648-6688 V#2793-2801	Dec 2019	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Jan 2020	Jan 2020	Jan 2020 Ck#882-885		
Capital Projects Fund (Fund 39)	Jan 2020	Jan 2020	Jan 2020 Ck#1046-1050		
Activity	Dec 2019	Dec 2019			

144 Approval of 2020 Mileage Rate

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the 2020 standard mileage reimbursement rate for the use of a vehicle for business purposes of 57.5¢ per mile in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service guidelines as of January 1, 2020.

145 Berks County Intermediate Unit Proposed Mandated Services Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg School District approve the Berks County Intermediate Unit Proposed Mandated Services Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year at the district's share of \$43,286.44 (Exhibit #123).

146 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 #124):

- a. Chromebooks for Disposal – These items are broken and have had usable parts removed.
- b. Chromebooks for Trade-in - These items are intended to be traded-in for a credit value between \$3.00 - \$15.00 for each item depending on condition.

147 Certification of Unpaid Real Estate Taxes for Calendar Year 2019

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Certification of Unpaid Real Estate Taxes for Muhlenberg Township and the Borough of Laureldale for calendar year 2019 to be submitted to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau (Exhibit #125).

148 Certification of Unpaid Interim/Change Tax Bills for Calendar Year 2019

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Certification of Unpaid Interim/Change Real Estate Tax Bills for Muhlenberg Township for calendar year 2019 to be submitted to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau (Exhibit #126).

149 Lease of Driver Education Vehicle

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the lease of a Driver Education Vehicle for Muhlenberg High School from Bob Fisher Chevrolet for thirty-nine (39) months at a cost of \$349.34 per month (Exhibit #127).

Education

Resolution Nos. 150 - 156

Moved by Mr. Madara and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Education Resolution Nos. 150 through 156** in their entirety.

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

150 Conference Requests

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following conference requests (Exhibit #128):

- a. Dr. Audrey Smeltzer-Schwab, to attend the PA Invention Convention at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA on February 24, 2020 through February 25, 2020 at a cost of \$400 (funded through Muhlenberg High School Budget).
- b. Dr. Tim Moyer, to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA on March 25, 2020 through March 27, 2020 at a cost of \$719.12 (funded through the Athletic Budget).

151 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 student (Exhibit #129):

- a. Student "G", Muhlenberg Middle School

152 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following donation as in accordance with district Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Donations (Exhibit #130):

- a. Mr. Terry Scott Reed, donation of photography equipment which includes three (3) professional photography studio-strobe lights with stands and storage crate, one (1) forty-eight (48) inch seamless photography backdrop kit, two (2) lighting soft boxes with stands and one (1) Nikon DSLR camera with case and four (4) exchangeable lenses, for the Muhlenberg High School Art Department.

153 Settlement Agreement and Release

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the settlement agreement and release for the following students as presented (Exhibit # 131):

- a. Student #33869
- b. Student #30425

154 Educational Trip Request

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following educational trip as presented (Exhibit #132):

- a. Muhlenberg High School AP Physics Students, to attend the PA Invention Convention at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA on February 24, 2020 through February 25, 2020 (funded through Title IV).

155 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 #133).

156 Alvernia University Student Interns

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following Alvernia University student interns:

- a. Ms. Marion K. Oshaughnessy
- b. Ms. Holly Speaker-Cadugan

Student Activities

No items at this time.

Minutes

Resolution No. 157

157 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Voit, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2020 be approved as submitted.

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

Old Business

No items at this time.

New Business

Resolution No. 158

Moved by Mr. Hyneman and Mr. Madara, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 158** in its entirety.

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

158 Resolution Calling for Charter School Funding Reform

WHEREAS, the average Pennsylvania school district spends millions of dollars in taxpayer money annually in mandatory payments to brick-and-mortar and cyber charter schools; and these payments are calculated in a manner which requires districts to send more money to charter schools than is needed to operate their programs and places a significant financial burden on districts' resources and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the current charter school funding formula was established in 1997 under the state's Charter School Law and has not been changed in the 23 years since it was first created; and the formula for regular education programs is unfair because it is based on a school district's expenditures and not what it actually costs to educate a child in the charter school; and

WHEREAS, the calculation for charter special education tuition is unfair because it is also based on the special education expenditures of the school district rather than the charter school; and although the General Assembly revised the special education funding formula in 2014 to more accurately target special education resources for students identified with high, medium and low needs, this formula was applied only to school districts and not to charter schools; and

WHEREAS, because the tuition rate calculations are based on the school district's expenses, they create wide discrepancies in the amount of tuition paid by different districts for the same charter school education and result in drastic overpayments to charter schools; and these discrepancies in tuition rates for regular education students can vary by almost \$13,000 per student and by \$39,000 for special education students; and

WHEREAS, the latest data from the PA Department of Education (PDE) shows that in 2017-18, total charter school tuition payments (cyber and brick-and-mortar) were more than \$1.8 billion, with \$519 million of that total paid by districts for tuition to cyber charter schools; and

WHEREAS, further analysis of PDE data shows that in 2014-15, school districts paid charter schools more than \$100 million for special education services in excess of what charter schools reported spending on special education; and

WHEREAS, the costs of charter schools for school districts continue to grow significantly each year; and on a statewide basis are the most identified source of pressure on school district budgets; and

WHEREAS, the need for significant charter school funding reform is urgent; and school districts are struggling to keep up with growing charter costs and are forced to raise taxes and cut staffing, programs and services for their own students in order to pay millions of dollars to charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Muhlenberg School Board calls upon the General Assembly to meaningfully revise the existing flawed charter school funding systems for regular and special education to ensure that school districts and taxpayers are no longer overpaying these schools or reimbursing for costs the charter schools do not incur. We, along with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, are advocating for substantial change (Exhibit #134).

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Mr. Lupia suggested that perhaps every month at the meetings an honor student should be featured (something like the RMCTC) to show the public the good things that are being done in the schools. Dr. Macharola agreed and said it would be nice to take it a step further and make a brief presentation on all of the good things that are happening in school because there are a lot of kids who are doing magnificent things that may not get the accolades that those who are identified as honor students receive. Dr. Macharola said he will ask Dr. Futrick to begin planning to showcase Muhlenberg students.

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. Lee Reiniger said he attended the meeting along with his grandson and his best friend to show their support of the football program and the new head football coach. He said they are so happy that a coach was hired so the students will have guidance to get ready for next season and to recruit player within the school district so that the team can carry on the tradition of the past.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Mr. Hyneman said he was very happy that the coach was a faculty member because a football coach isn't just coaching skills; he is getting to know the students during the day in the building. He said he was very supportive of this appointment.

Mr. Hoffmaster said the Board did a great job appointing Mr. Lorchak. He said Dr. Moyer did a great job hiring the right person for the job.

MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of Month

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

February 10	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
February 12	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
March 4	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 9	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
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

159 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Mr. Lupia 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, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Voit. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Attest:



Thomas W. Gross
Secretary