

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2020
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, October 7, 2020 at 8:11 PM by Board President, Mr. S. Wayne Hardy via remote access using Zoom.

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 – Dr. Tyler Herman
Behavior Analyst – Mr. Zachary Milch
Director of Federal Programs – Mrs. Cathy Shappell
Director of Food and Nutrition – Mr. Carey Kline
Community & Family Outreach Coordinator & Interpreter – Ms. Elizabeth Laviena
Athletic Director – Dr. Tim Moyer
High School Principal – Mr. Michael Mish
High School Assistant Principal – Ms. Lori Morris
High School Assistant Principal – Mr. C. Eric Schaeffer
Middle School Principal – Dr. Jeffery Ebert
Middle School Assistant Principal – Dr. Felicia Gonzalez
Elementary Center Principal – Mrs. Krista Venza
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Mrs. Ginny Hornberger
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Mrs. Shannon O'Donnell

Visitors (Note: This is who appeared to be attending via Zoom and may not include everyone)

Linda Figueroa	Amanda Bayer	Amy Rohrbaugh	Andrea Stern
Kyle Crater	Angela Haas	April Kreiser	Awilda Goodwin
C. Rothkiske	Carly Antosy	Cathy Liszcz	Chad Thiele
Christine Garner	C. J. Palumbo	Coleen Russo	Collen Shillady
Cristina Lillis	Crystal Chwatek	Liz Chapman	Erika Watson
Gary Pumphrey	Haniffe Skeete	Hao Duong	Jackie Bellanca
Janet Gift	Janet Howard	Jen Doyle	Jennifer Ranaudo
Jenny Neuheimer	Jill McIntyre	Jillian Zerby	John Althouse
Jolyn Casper	Jonathan Hobbs	Kaitlynn Girard	Karen Snyder
Karin Kahler	Kathi Wolfe	Katie Foltz	Katie Iannocchino
Kay Adams	Kayla Garcia	Kerry Hendel	Kim May
Kristen Bagenstose	Kristina Antonellos	Kylene Sanders	Laura Klawiter
Lisa Chlebowski	L. Ricards	Michelle Merkel	Michelle Stewart
Angela Szczecina	Dan Fair	Marci Harr	Michele McCammitt
Ashley Reed	Penny Vojtasek	Robert Rohrbach	Samantha Armstrong
Sarah Brown	Wendy Hromick	Shannon Painter	Sharon Kile
Sharon Lountzis	Stephanie Jablonski	Tara Pacharis	Teresa Pietruszewicz
Yahaira Feliciano	Michelle Chavoya	Alison Wallace	Becky Ellis
Joanne Pyott	Paul Miller	Beth Youse	Mark Dietrich
Nina Hook	Jennifer Rahn	Delilah Rodriguez	Michael Merkel
Teri Baller			

Educational Presentations

There were none.

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 Reports

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

Mr. Madara said last meeting was a routine meeting to approve normal monthly business.

B. Reading-Muhlenberg CTC

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12.

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

Mr. Mathias reported there was no meeting this month.

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

Mr. Voit reported that the only thing coming up is the PSERS board vacancy. The candidate must be a school board member from any school board in the state. Interested school board members must run for this seat by filing nominating papers, which he did. He said he is seeking the position to represent school boards on the Pennsylvania School Employee Retirement System's board. Mr. Voit said that voting will come out next month.

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

Mr. Madara said he had no formal report; however, in response to Mr. Hoffmaster's question earlier about the library. He said the company he worked for donated about 300 boxes because mostly everything must be removed from the library. There is a pod outside of the library that is filled with books. Mr. Madara said the other items in the library would be moved around while the asbestos removal takes place. This has been a slow process because much of the work that is being done is by volunteers along with a couple of full-time employees.

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

No report at this time.

G. Educational Programs – Dr. Alan S. Futrick

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time.

Superintendent's Comments - Dr. Joseph Macharola

Dr. Macharola did not have anything further to report but shared a quote from Frederick Douglas, an abolitionist during the Civil War, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." He said he thought that could be changed universally today to "It is easier to build strong children than to repair any other human being regardless of what you are."

Dr. Macharola said a parent who spoke last month, Mr. Daniel News, wrote a very nice letter to him. He said he responded back to Mr. News and got a very nice return. Dr. Macharola said Mr. News said something that he agreed with, "We will have to live with COVID-19 not in fear of COVID-19." Dr. Macharola said he understood that and would continue to reflect on that. He said that he did not think the District was at that point yet. Dr. Macharola said his heart ached for the parents that called in and he understood. He said continue to rise above this - steady as it goes. This pandemic will be defeated, but this will be a new country after this. Dr. Macharola said he is worried about this. He thanked everyone for their support and reminded them that he is there for them - mind, heart and soul.

Board Business

Personnel

Resolution Nos. 53A – 53L

Moved by Mr. Lupia and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Personnel Resolution Nos. 53A through 53L** in their entirety.

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

53A Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Ms. Chelsea Moyer, Communications/English Teacher, Muhlenberg Middle School, effective November 6, 2020.
- b. Ms. Diane Keebler, Technology & Engineering Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective upon release from the Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.

53B Administrative Appointment

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

- a. Mr. Kyle Crater, Principal (K. Venza), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective upon release from current school district as per PA School Code, at a prorated salary of \$109,750.

59C 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 employees:

- a. Mrs. Tara Pacharis, Family Consumer Science, Muhlenberg High School, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about January 15, 2021, through on or about April 6, 2021.
- b. Mrs. Sarah Brown, ESL Teacher, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about January 19, 2021, through on or about May 19, 2021.
- c. Mrs. Ashley Reed, Third Grade Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about December 23, 2020 through on or about March 29, 2021.
- d. Mrs. Erika Watson, Music Teacher, Muhlenberg Middle School, Leave of Absence/FMLA, effective on or about March 17, 2021, through the end of the 2020-2021 school year, returning the first day of the 2021-2022 school year.

53D Professional Salary Adjustments for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Professional Salary Adjustments for the 2020-2021 school year as presented (Exhibit #50).

53E Substitutes for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the listing of substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year as presented (Exhibit #51).

53F 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. Anna Limandri, Instructional Assistant, Muhlenberg Middle School, completion of probation as of September 8, 2020, and recommended for permanent employment as of September 9, 2020.
- b. Ms. Cathy Salesky, Clerical Assistant, Food and Nutrition Department, completion of thirty (30) day probation as of October 1, 2020 and recommended for permanent employment as of October 2, 2020.

53G Co-Curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Morgan Burr, Junior High Field Hockey Assistant Coach (M. Williams), effective September 22, 2020, at a salary of \$2,447 (year 1).
- b. Mr. Alberto Santiago, Volunteer Junior High Football Assistant Coach, effective September 22, 2020.
- c. Ms. Madison Button, Volunteer Junior High Field Hockey Assistant Coach, effective September 24, 2020.

53H Co-Curricular Resignations

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

- a. Mr. Christopher Thomas, Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach, effective September 22, 2020.
- b. Ms. Adara Wagner, Junior High Field Hockey Assistant Coach, effective August 23, 2020.

53I Sports Event Monitors for 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following Sports Event Monitors for the 2020-2021 School Year at the pay rate of \$10.50:

- a. Mr. Dan Brady
- b. Mr. Ian Laxton
- c. Mr. Gabriel Sharp

53J Termination of Employment

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the termination of the following employee:

- a. Ms. Stephanie Wagner, Cafeteria Worker, effective September 29, 2020.

53K Administrative (MAA I and MAA II) Salary Increases for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg Administrators' Association (MAAI and MAII) salary increases for the 2020-2021 school year (Exhibit #52).

53L Co-Curricular Assignment – Academic Challenge Advisor

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve Ms. Stacia Richmond, Academic Challenge Advisor, Muhlenberg High School, at a salary of \$1,901 (year 8).

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Mr. Hoffmaster said the District hired a great principal, Mr. Kyle Crater, for the Elementary Center. Mr. Lupia agreed.

Management

Resolution Nos. 54 and 55

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution Nos. 54 and 55** in their entirety.

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

54 2020-2021 Membership to National School Boards

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district's annual (2021) membership to the National School Boards Association in the amount of \$4,165 (Exhibit #53).

55 Act 80 Days for 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the submission of Act 80 Days for the 2020-2021 school year to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Exhibit #54).

Physical Plant and Transportation

Resolution No. 56

Moved by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Voit, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Physical Plant and Transportation Resolution No. 56** in its entirety.

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

56 Approval to Dispose of M8 Passenger Van

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the disposal of a 1997 Ford Econoline 9-passenger van due to safety reasons (Exhibit #55).

Budget and Finance

Resolution No. 57

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hyneman, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Budget and Finance Resolution No. 57** in its entirety.

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

57 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 #56):

Fund	Treasurer's Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	Aug 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020 Ck#48550-48715 V#26482-26542	Aug 2020	
Cafeteria	Aug 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020 Ck#6853-6890 V#2823-2827	Aug 2020	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Sept 2020	Sept 2020			
Capital Projects Fund (Fund 39)	Sept 2020	Sept 2020			
Activity	Aug 2020	Aug 2020			

Education

Resolution Nos. 58 - 67

Moved by Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Lupia, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Education Resolution Nos. 58 through 67** in their entirety.

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

58 Approval of River Rock Academy Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with River Rock Academy for secondary and elementary student services for the 2020-2021 school year as presented (Exhibit #57).

59 Settlement Agreement and Release

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the settlement agreement and release for the following student as presented (Exhibit #58):

- a. Student No. 34183

60 Student to Complete Senior Year as a Non-Resident Student

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the request for the following senior to complete the 2020-2021 school year as a non-resident student (Exhibit #59):

- a. Student No. 30520, grade 12, Muhlenberg High School

61 Purchase of Band Instruments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the purchase of the following band instruments for C. E. Cole Intermediate School at a total cost of \$4,465 (Capital Reserve fund) (Exhibit #60):

- a. One Prelude Student Trumpet - \$377
- b. One RS Berkeley Small Baritone Harp - \$869
- c. One Jupiter 700 Series Tuba - \$3,219

62 Berks County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement and Schedule "A" Agreement

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Special Education Agreement and Schedule "A" Agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit to provide special education services as presented (Exhibit #61).

63 Student Tuition Agreements for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following student tuition agreements for for the 2020-2021 school year as presented (Exhibit #62):

- a. Student #39082, New Story
- b. Student #37824, New Story-New Holland

64 New Story Contract Amendments

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the New Story contract amendments for the following students as presented (Exhibit #63):

- a. Student #31134
- b. Student #38475
- c. Student #36470
- d. Student #38549
- e. Student #38532
- f. Student #39082
- g. Student #37824

65 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 #64).

66 C. E. Cole Intermediate School TSI (Target Support and Improvement) Plan

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the C. E. Cole Intermediate School Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Plan as presented and in compliance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education required guidelines (Exhibit #65).

67 Purchase of HP ProBook Laptops

Resolved. that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the purchase of HP Probook Laptops for professional staff at an estimated cost of \$210,330 (COVID-19 funding and other federal government funding).

Student Activities - *There was none.*

Minutes

Resolution No. 68

68 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Voit, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2020 be approved as submitted.

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

Old Business

There was none.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Dr. Macharola said based on the earlier discussion with regards to continuing virtual learning, he recommended the Board vote and requested Mr. Boland prepare a resolution. Mr. Nelson said that would cover the District until a point in time that the Board would decide to change that either at the next meeting or at a special meeting.

Mr. Voit said he would recommend the administration prepare a plan for students to come back to school whether that is in stages or another recommendation. Dr. Macharola said administration would definitely do that, but there would also be the obligations of the Board; obligations required for that to happen would be included in the plan so that it is fully understood what would be needed for that to happen. Mr. Voit said the Board would have to vote on it. They just would need a game plan before reopening.

Mr. Lupia asked the date of the end of the first quarter. Dr. Macharola replied November 5th.

New Business

Resolution No. 69

Moved by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Voit, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 69** in its entirety.

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

69 Extension of Virtual Learning

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Virtual Learning program previously adopted by this Board be extended and continued as presently administered beyond the first marking period to a date to be determined by the Board of School Directors at a future meeting.

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 was none.

MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of the Month

October	Mr. S. Wayne Hardy	February	Mr. Mark Nelson
November	Mr. Randall R. Madara	March	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
December	Mr. Thomas W. Gross	April	Mrs. Cindy Mengle
January	Mr. Otto W. Voit, III	May	Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

October 7	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Mtg and Regular Board Mtg
November 4	7:00 PM	Committee of the Whole Mtg
November 11	7:00 PM	Regular Board Mtg
December 2	6:30 PM	Annual Reorganization Meeting; Committee of the Whole Mtg; Regular Board Meeting

70 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Mr. Voit and Mr. Hyneman, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 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