

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 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, December 2, 2020 at 7:41 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 M. Mathias, CPA
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 Technology – Mr. Daniel Houck
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 – Mr. Kyle Crater
Elementary Center Assistant Principal – Mrs. Ginny Hornberger

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

Jolyn Casper	Inga Hobbs
Sammi Noll	Laura Ricards
Jenn Doyle	Michele McCammitt
Kathi Wolfe	Linda Figueroa

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 a meeting was held November 19th and it was pretty much business as usual. He said there was nothing to report that was out of the ordinary.

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

Mrs. Mengle said they did not have a meeting this month. The re-organization meeting will be held in January.

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

No report at this time.

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

Mr. Voit said the ballots would be coming out in about a week to all Board members to vote for a PSERS representative on the trustee board. He said he is the endorsed candidate for PSBA to fill that seat and he was respectfully asking for the Board's consideration and vote. Mr. Voit said the ballots will get mailed to Board members' homes.

E. Muhlenberg Community Library – Mr. Terry Heckman

Mr. Madara said he did not have a report from Mr. Heckman. Mr. Patterson had a great report and covered what is happening with repairs at the library. He said his wife who is on the Board at the library shared that the library received a \$10,000 anonymous donation. Also, Mascaro donated \$5,000 this year and plans to donate another \$5,000 next year.

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

Mr. Lupia said the Parks and Recreation Board is planning a fundraiser for the library to make up for the insurance deductible. The Laureldale Borough offices will remain closed until further notice due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

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 said he has been keeping the Board up-to-date with a lot of information. Quoting John F. Kennedy, he said, "let us not seek the Democratic answer or the Republican answer, but the right answer. Let us not fix the blame for the past. Let us accept responsibility for the future." Dr. Macharola said he could not think of a more applicable quote than that when he thinks of what is coming upon public education across the state and the country, especially in this community. He said one of the things he was going to ask the Board to champion is to get Harrisburg to come on board with cyber legislation to change what is happening to all of the schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dr. Macharola said it is unfair for this school district to pay the amount of money it is required. There are 104 students who are attending external cyber charter schools. He said parents have the choice to do that and he does not mind the choice, but he believes the District does a much better job. Dr. Macharola said it is costing the District taxpayers \$1.568 million. He said he looked at the data and school districts could be in the hole thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen million dollars. Districts would not be able to operate. Dr. Macharola said one thing the District must look for is cyber school legislation and a change in Harrisburg. He said one thing local politicians could do when out individually – champion the fact that cyber legislation must be changed in Harrisburg. It is hurting the Muhlenberg School District and other districts and that is ridiculous and unfair. Dr. Macharola said it does not equate to the District's per pupil cost or the special education funding. He said local school districts are taking on more of the responsibility for special education funding. The District needs help from the state government and federal government. Dr. Macharola said the District does not know what the revenues will look like; no one in Harrisburg knows right now, but those are

two items that are important to the District. The House and Senate must look at somehow adjusting the cyber school formula in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dr. Macharola thanked everyone and said steady as she goes...this pandemic will be beaten...continue to trend forward and keep the faith.

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Mr. Hoffmaster asked if Dr. Macharola heard anything about the budget coming up that must be voted on in February or March. Will they extend the budget out for the school district? Dr. Macharola replied, the latest information he received was to basically stay tuned; they are looking at the revenues. He said it comes down to two things – revenues and expenditures – and then a balanced budget. Dr. Macharola said he heard they are looking at stimulus dollars, CARES money – how this will be allocated by Harrisburg and there is some hope that something will come from the federal government. He said as far as level funding, that is something that he does not know what it will look like or if it is possible given the revenue status; however, right now, this must be taken moment-by-moment and as this information comes out of Harrisburg the District will handle it.

Board Business

Personnel

Resolution Nos. 94A – 94E

Moved by Mrs. Mengle and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution Nos. 94A through 94E** 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.

94A Acceptance of Resignations

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

- a. Mr. John Spangler, Maintenance Mechanic, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 7, 2021.
- b. Ms. Lisa K. Sroka, Reading Specialist, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective December 31, 2020.
- c. Mrs. Pamela Schrift, Class A Secretary, Muhlenberg Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective December 1, 2020.

94B Professional Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Jade Fagley, Long-Term Substitute, 3rd Grade (E. Antosy), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective December 1, 2020 through on or about March 19, 2021, at a prorated salary of \$42,932 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).
- b. Ms. Laura Santangelo, Technology & Engineering Teacher, (D. Keebler), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective December 14, 2020, at a prorated salary of \$42,932 (B, 18 Steps from the Top).

94C 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. Mr. Brad Barskey, Clerical Assistant, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 11, 2020 and recommended for permanent employment as of November 12, 2020.
- b. Mr. Kyle Craig, Instructional Assistant, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of November 9, 2020 and recommended for permanent employment as of November 10, 2020.

94D Co-Curricular Appointments

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

- a. Ms. Talitha Poore, Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach (C. Thomas), effective November 10, 2020, at a salary of \$4,350 (year 1).
- b. Ms. Lori Steiner, Hall of Fame Coordinator, at a salary of \$1,450 (year 2).
- c. Mr. Jacob Conrad, Junior High Boys Basketball Head Coach, effective December 3, 2020, at a salary of \$4,350 (year 1).
- d. Ms. Miranda Olmeda, Junior High Girls Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach, effective December 3, 2020.
- e. Ms. Lori Morris, Varsity Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach, effective December 3, 2020.
- f. Mr. Zachariah Milch, Varsity Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach, effective December 3, 2020.

94E Co-Curricular Resignations

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

- a. Ms. Amy Gattone, Student Council Advisor, C. E. Cole Intermediate School, effective January 22, 2021.
- b. Ms. Lauren Yoder, Varsity Field Hockey Head Coach, effective November 16, 2020.

Management

Resolution No. 95

Moved by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Management Resolution No. 95** in its entirety.

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

95 Adoption of Policy

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the following district policy (Exhibit #75):

a. Policy No. 317.1, Educator Misconduct

Physical Plant and Transportation

Resolution No. 96

Moved by Mr. Lupia and Mr. Gross, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Physical Plant and Transportation Resolution No. 96** in its entirety.

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

96 Muhlenberg Middle School and C.E. Cole Intermediate Schools Transformer Repairs

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve repairs to the transformers at Muhlenberg Middle School and C. E. Cole Intermediate School at a cost of \$18,600 (Capital Reserve Fund) (Exhibit #76).

Budget and Finance

Resolution Nos. 113-116

Moved by Mr. Lupia and Mr. Voit, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Budget and Finance Resolution Nos. 113 through 116** 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.

97 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 #77):

Fund	Treasurer's Report	Financial Report	Bills Paid Month	Investments	Budget Transfers
General	Oct 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020 Ck#48920-49064 V#26613-26651	Oct 2020	
Cafeteria	Oct 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020 Ck#6929-6965 V#2836-2841	Oct 2020	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	Nov 2020	Nov 2020	Nov 2020 Ck#902-903		
Capital Projects Fund (Fund 39)	Nov 2020	Nov 2020			
Activity	Oct 2020	Oct 2020			

98 Tax Assessment Appeal - North Plaza Investors, LP

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District ratify and approve the tax assessment appeal filed on behalf of the School District by Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, the Solicitors of the School District in response to a decision by the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals in an assessment appeal filed by North Reading Plaza Investors, LP and the property located at 5370 Allentown Pike, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 66530908897993 as presented (Exhibit #78).

99 Tax Assessment Appeal – Pike Distributors, Inc.

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District ratify and approve the filing of a tax assessment appeal on behalf of the School District by Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, the Solicitors of the School District in response to a decision by the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals in an assessment appeal filed by Pike Distributors, Inc., property located at 2910 North Fifth Street Highway, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 66530811762080 as presented (Exhibit #79).

100 Tax Assessment Appeals - CCP Berks, LLC

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Muhlenberg School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeals filed by CCP Berks, LLC on behalf of the Muhlenberg School District as presented (Exhibit #80).

101 Tax Assessment Appeal - HCP Mezzanine Leader, LP

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District ratify and approve the filing of a tax assessment appeal on behalf of the School District by Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, the Solicitors of the School District in response to a decision by the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals in an assessment appeal filed by HCP Mezzanine Leader, LP., property located at 2125 Elizabeth Avenue, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 66531918401887 as presented (Exhibit #81).

102 Tax Assessment Appeal - MSCI 2006-HQ10 North Chancery Street (K-Mart)

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Muhlenberg School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeal filed by MSCI 2006-HQ10 North Chancery Street (K-Mart) located at 3045 Fifth Street Highway, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 66530812862670 on behalf of the Muhlenberg School District as presented (Exhibit #82).

103 Tax Assessment Appeal - Virbin Associates, Inc.

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District ratify and approve the filing of a tax assessment appeal on behalf of the School District by Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, the Solicitors of the School District in response to a decision by the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals in an assessment appeal filed by Virbin Associates, Inc., property located at 2310 Fraver Drive, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 66530816725927 as presented (Exhibit #83).

Education

Resolution Nos. 104-106

Moved by Mrs. Mengle and Mr. Lupia, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Education Resolution Nos. 104 through 106** 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.

104 Health Services Agreement for the 2020-2021 School Year

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the health services agreement with Dr. Jeffrey Gold to provide school physician services for the district for the 2020-2021 school year (Exhibit #84).

105 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 2020-2021 school year as listed (Exhibit #85).

106 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the following donations in accordance with district Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Donations (Exhibit #86):

- a. BJ's Wholesale Club, Kellogg's "Feeding Reading" Program, donation of books for third grade classroom libraries at Muhlenberg Elementary Center.
- b. Ms. Kaitlyn Huey, 2019 Muhlenberg High School Graduate, donation of assorted school supplies for Muhlenberg Middle School.

Student Activities

There was none.

Minutes

Resolution No. 107

107 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mrs. Mengle and Mr. Hyneman, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 4, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2020 be approved as submitted.

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

Old Business

Mr. Lupia said everyone should be sure to look at the video Mr. Kyle Crater put out.

New Business

Resolution No. 108

Moved by Mrs. Mengle and Mr. Nelson, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 108** 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.

108 Memoriam of Ms. Mary Sandra Delp

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Ms. Mary Sandra Delp who served in the Muhlenberg School District for thirty-two (32) years (1962-1994) as a secretary. 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.

Resolution No. 109

Moved by Mr. Madara and Mr. Hoffmaster, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve **Resolution No. 109** 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.

109 **Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts**

Be it Resolved by the Board of School Directors of the Muhlenberg School District that, the Board hereby ratifies and affirms the action of the Superintendent of Schools together with the President of the Board whereby they completed and filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education the Attestation Form as attached as Exhibit "A" on or before November 30, 2020.

Be it further resolved, that the Board acknowledges that the District will comply with:

- 1) the November 18, 2020 Revised Recommendation Regarding Face Coverings available at:
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/11/20201117-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order-Update.pdf>
and;
- 2) the Revised Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19
(available at SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx).

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/>

All as set forth in the Attestation Form (Exhibit #86).

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

December	Mr. Thomas W. Gross
January	Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
February	Mr. Mark Nelson
March	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
April	Mrs. Cindy Mengle
May	Mr. Richard E. Hoffmaster

Review of Board Meetings and Calendar of Events

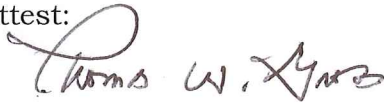
December 2	6:30 PM	Annual Reorganization Meeting; Committee of the Whole Mtg; Regular Board Meeting
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110 Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hyneman, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

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

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Gross", written over the printed name.

Thomas W. Gross
Secretary