

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2025  
Lecture Hall, Muhlenberg High School  
[www.muhsdk12.org](http://www.muhsdk12.org)

**Call to Order**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Wednesday, June, 2025 at 6:32 PM by Board President, Mr. Garrett Hyneman.

**Members Present**

President – Mr. Garrett E. Hyneman  
Vice President – Mrs. Kristyna Eagle  
Treasurer - Mr. Miguel Vasquez  
Member – Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, Sr.  
Member – Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.  
Member – Mr. S. Wayne Hardy  
Member – Mr. Otto W. Voit, III  
Solicitor – Mr. Brian F. Boland, Esq.  
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Tara L. Flowers

**Members Absent**

Secretary – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle  
Assistant Secretary – Ms. Janet Howard

**Administration Present**

Superintendent – Dr. Joseph E. Macharola  
Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Alan S. Futrick  
Business Manager - Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA  
Director of Physical Plant – Mr. Ken Patterson  
Director of Special Education - Dr. Nicole Huntbach  
Supervisor of Special Education - Mr. Byron Grosselfinger  
Licensed Behavior Specialist - Ms. Courtney Knittle  
Director of Technology - Dr. Juliana Ciccarelli  
Director of Federal Programs - Dr. Cathy Shappell  
Director of Food Services - Mr. Carey Kline  
Director of Human Resources - Dr. Jessica Heffner  
Director of Pupil Services - Mr. Michael Mish  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction K-12 - Mr. Kyle Crater  
Principal on Assignment - Mr. Steve Baylor  
Athletic Director - Dr. Timothy Moyer  
Community & Family Outreach Coord. & Distr. Interpreter – Ms. Elizabeth Laviena  
High School Principal - Mr. Haniff Skeete  
High School Vice Principal - Mr. Kevin Vanino  
High School Assistant Principal - Ms. Lori Morris  
Junior High Assistant Principal - Dr. Joseph Scoboria  
C.E. Cole Intermediate Principal - Dr. Janet Heilman

C.E. Cole Intermediate Assistant Principal - Dr. Tara Nelson  
C.E. Cole Intermediate Assistant Principal - Mr. William Dramby  
Elementary Principal - Ms. Ginny Hornberger  
Social Worker - Ms. Emily Carmichael  
Social Worker - Ms. Amanda Foulds

### **Visitors**

Emma Shealer	Linda Roebuck
Beth Slater	Michele McCammit
Don Raifsnyder	Susan Roeckle
Diane Benson	Diana West
Jessica Shuman	Heidi Heffner
Terry Guers	Donna Marburger
Stephane Kopetsky	Brian Kopetsky
Mark Horst	Denise Lewis
Heather DeTurck	Sharon Melone Orme
Enrique Castro	

### **Educational Presentations**

#### **A. Recognition of 2024 Retirees - Dr. Joseph Macharola**

Dr. Macharola took a moment to recognize employees who submitted their retirement notice:

- Ms. Karen Adams, Special Education Paraprofessional - twenty-three (23) years of service
- Mr. Jeffrey Beissel, Second Shift Custodian - five (5) years of service
- Ms. Karen Billger, Elementary Teacher - twenty-five (25) years of service
- Mr. Ernest Gring, Outside/Grounds Custodian - nineteen (19) years of service
- Ms. Susan Hawkins, Assistant Business Manager - four (4) years of service
- Ms. Marina Hiester, Special Education Paraprofessional - eight (8) years of service
- Mr. Brian Kopetsky, In-school Suspension Teacher - thirty-five (35) years of service
- Ms. Lori Marrinucci, Special Education Paraprofessional - eleven (11) years of service
- Ms. Michele McCammitt, Math Interventionist - thirty-four (34) years of service
- Ms. Carol Santo Domingo, Class A Secretary - twenty-seven (27) years of service
- Ms. Elizabeth Slater, Math Teacher - twenty-six (26) years of service

Dr. Macharola congratulated the retirees and thanked them for their dedication and service to the community and the Muhlenberg School District children.

#### **B. Physical Plant Update - Mr. Ken Patterson**

Mr. Patterson reported:

- Maintenance and Custodial Staff update - MEC received the honor and the outside grounds crew had the privilege of preparing the district's baseball and softball playing fields to host district playoffs and baseball PIAA championships games during May and June, including the semifinal baseball game that was played here on Monday. The grounds department has done a great job maintaining the district's baseball fields throughout the year. While those activities have ended, field prep remains for activities this summer. Outside crews are also keeping the grounds maintained and getting the buildings ready for next school year. Maintenance techs are repairing several items within the buildings getting them ready for the next school year. Inside custodians are beginning the process of room rearrangement, summer cleaning in all of the buildings and preparing to keep the high school clean daily for the upcoming Summer Style program. Inside custodians will continue to keep the district's campus facilities safe and clean for the staff and students enrolled in the various summer activities.
- Multi-Purpose Turf Field Update - The multi-purpose turf field continues progressing forward. Utilities and fencing for the field are being installed. The area being turfed has all been laid and is being prepped for turf. The turf is scheduled to begin arriving this Friday with installation beginning this week. Replacement of a sanitary line continues as well. Some base coat painting has also taken place on site. Substantial completion of this project is scheduled for July 3rd.
- New 5/6 Building Update - The new 5/6 middle school project is progressing on schedule. All development is in full swing as top soil and rock continue to be hauled off site. The concrete footers have been poured in numerous areas with masons following behind them and laying foundation blocks. In addition, underground sanitary lines are being installed as areas of the foundation are being completed. ECI has also begun with scheduled work on the district's interior campus access roads and the parking area at MEC. These items are scheduled to be completed by August 13th and August 21st.
- MUSCO Lighting Change Order - This is the light installation portion of the change order of the multi-purpose field. The rock that was encountered was specified so the district would only pay for what needed to be removed which is what took place. The board has copies of the drill logs and the confirmation letter from Marotta Main Architects.
- Construction of 3 SGI's in MEC in Lieu of Modulares - These SGI's (small group instruction) will free up classrooms that are being used as SGI's so that they can be used to house students for the 25-26 school year. The 3 SGI's were chosen in lieu of adding modulares.

C. 2025-2026 Final Budget Review - Mr. Shane M. Mathias, CPA

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Dr. Macharola spoke about working very hard to bring the budget into a very manageable position that the district can pay the bills and educate the district's students; deliver on the promise for the board that the district would not be at the index and reduce that rate below the 5%. He talked about not being able to go any lower than where the district is at right now. Dr. Macharola spoke about a construction project update that has been requested, things looking very good for the district next year.*

Mr. Mathias reported:

In terms of the budget the administration will be asking the board to approve a final 25-26 budget; total expenditures of \$92,223,808. This is a reduction of 377,503 from the proposed budget that was approved last month. In that budget the district eliminated all the new proposed positions, only one new position is in the budget for tonight. In terms of revenue it's a 1.75 mil increase, down from 2.089 in the May proposed final budget. That 1.75 will generate about 2.195 additional property tax, 2.15 million in additional property tax revenue and the budget does include 100% of the state funding proposed by Governor Shapiro in terms of Basic Ed, Special Ed and funding subsidies and the Ready to Learn Block Grant advocacy money which is a huge piece of it. Also in the budget for this evening an increase in debt service expense of 3.179 million dollars. It is a balanced budget, including a 3.179 million in new debt service in anticipation of issuing bonds this summer for the ongoing construction project.

In summary with the planning of the project; in the green section is where the district is currently right now; total bonds proceeds received so far are 64.7 million dollars, the district spent about 15.7 million dollars of the proceeds and the district earned interest of about 1.3 million dollars. At the end of May, the district has a balance of 50.44 million dollars available. The district has 62.1 million dollars of commitments; those are projects that the board has already awarded the 5/6 building, the multi-purpose field, so that's what remains to be paid on those projects. The district has a shortfall in the blue section of about 11.7 million dollars. The remaining project costs are estimated to be about 96 million dollars. The plan all along for the district has been to use some of the assigned fund dollars to help offset the cost of borrowing. This scenario proposes to use about 16 million dollars towards the tail end of the project; using that money up front could impact the district's bond rating to increase so the district is going to make sure to not use that money up front. The district does this, moving to the yellow section would have to borrow 91.8 million dollars in bonds. The cost annually for those bonds, the district is estimating about 5.9 million dollars, that is based on the two bond issues the district has already done, the average of the two bond issues the district has done. The district will have 2.179 million dollars built into the 25-26 budget that is getting approved tonight, so this means the district only needs (expecting) 2.7 million dollars of additional expense in the 26-27 budget for debt service. As he has been saying for years now, there are two bonds that will be falling off the books as of the end of 25-26. When those bonds come off, the net impact of that is going to be a positive variance of 2.57 million dollars. When looking at those two numbers, what the district needs to add to the budget next year 26-27 and what is

going to come off, that really almost nets to a zero, about \$215,000. The district is almost fully funded in terms of paying for the project where the district is at, if approving the 25-26 budget essentially built millage to pay for all the bonds the district used to borrow to do the project. In this scenario, it would be equivalent to about .169 mils of additional millage that would be needed actually to pay for this little bit of debt service which is a .4% increase, in terms of debt service related to the building project, not talking about general operations. Obviously a very positive thing in light of approving a parameter resolution and approving a budget, he thought it was important to know where the district stood with building a millage for the project itself.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit spoke about Mr. Mathias is doing a fantastic job and he commends him for how over the years he has developed this budget and really has a handle on it, and really looking out. He questioned what is all in the assigned fund balance. Mr. Mathias advised there is about a little over 18 million dollars in the assigned fund balance, agreed by the board a few years ago for the PSERS and when the building project started the district decided it would be a good idea to set that money aside to help offset the cost of borrowing. Mr. Voit talked about under revenue there is a million dollars of income from capital projects fund transfers. Mr. Mathias explained it is the plan the district worked out with Ryamond James to help ease the millage increases each year. Mr. Voit asked what is in the other department budgets. Mr. Mathias advised it is a lot including school resource officers, Kelly subs, business office, athletics, and all those other departments that are small enough the budget sheet would be two pages long if included. Mr. Voit spoke about all the hard work from the board and administration to cut some of the projected costs and asked Mr. Mathias to share what was chosen to be cut and what is the possible consequence of not doing that down the road if no. Dr. Macharola asked to respond.*

*Dr. Macharola spoke about it being a lot, being a growing school district and being the lowest per pupil cost district in Berks County. Dr. Macharola advised the district is on the top of being prudent, but with that comes sacrifice and had to cut six (proposed) teaching positions so that the district can balance the budget. He advised there were going to be two social workers, behavior specialist and a psychologist and teaching positions are much needed positions. He advised that in itself was well over a million dollars to be trimmed off of the budget. Dr. Macharola advised in addition to this, the district went down by line item, every line item of the budget, and talked about how there are line items that have to be there when you have employees. He talked about being able to pay your employees, paying their benefits, taking care of the health care, any kind of insurances and the district cannot trim from this. He spoke about cutting the summer wage for the teachers from \$70 to \$50 per hour which is still a very fair wage, saving the district about \$100,000 and there were benefits cut as well so the district recouped dollars on the benefit side. He advised the distinct will be bringing in the Caron SAP program into the school instead of paying for this on the outside. He talked about decreasing the special projects budget which is really important because through the year when the district has the students when they get into special competitions, or*



out there doing a science project, or the music department, or art department, or any scope here if something comes during the year it's not like the district can budget for this; but this was trimmed down. He talked about not wanting the kids short changed, but the district has to do this to balance the budget and the district is going to be prudent along the way administratively and teaching wise to help this. Dr. Macharola advised in addition to this, the district is going to be very proactive in the school when it comes to substitutes, it is already difficult to get substitutes and only graduating 4,000 teachers a year. He spoke about the district decreasing the subsidy with Kelly (Services), being careful who brings in and when bringing them in, and using as much internal transfers for the day as the district can. He advised this will be a net increase to the district of \$64,000; there are some salary and benefit costs through Title I. He spoke about this being a painful thing to do and not being able to go any lower than 1.75. Dr. Macharola advised when come April he does not want the business manager blamed, Dr. Futrick who will be superintendent on January 1 be blamed, and he does not want the board to hurt the students. He spoke about taking outstanding leadership to get the district through this 1.75, if the district goes any lower the students will be hurt.

Mr. Voit commented that to be clear it is the board members who are voting on this and they are responsible for any unintended or intended consequences as a result of this budget. Mr. Voit spoke about all the hard work with the budget and his concern is in mental health and what is being cut in mental health alone and why did the district want this. Dr. Macharola advised there are four positions proposed that are all being cut that are all important. He spoke about the Act 44 report, the district's suicide ideations are going through the ceiling. Dr. Macharola spoke about how during COVID, 70 of the district's children were hospitalized for taking steps to end their life. He spoke about not getting a life back and how important this all is that the district steps up on the mental health side; kids and their families and domestics that are scarring them beyond anyone's imagination. He spoke about having children in this district who have lost parents in front of them due to homicide and due to suicide. He talked about the district trying to educate these children and the district cannot educate if their mind is not healthy. He spoke about adding positions over the years methodically and being where it needs to be, the current enrollment of 4,424 students 33% of them questioning their mental stability. Dr. Macharola spoke about the necessity of these services to bridge and work with private sectors, hospitals, and the district's social workers are working one millionth percent each day with every child. Dr. Macharola spoke about this not being politics, not an election, it's about life. He talked about spending his entire career defending the health, safety, and welfare and education of children; and he will continue to do it. He spoke about the need for an additional social worker, this is to help the other current social workers that are busy everyday, it's not just sitting with someone it's a clinical therapeutic session. Dr. Macharola talked about what he sees, and the public not being permitted to, they would not want him to do it but it is coming down to the dollar and he gets it. He spoke about needing a psychologist, the district's psychologists are swamped and there is not enough to work with the district's kids. Dr. Macharola spoke about needing a behavior specialist, having one licensed behavior specialist who is outstanding but is having a hard time getting to everyone. He talked about nothing he is asking for that is not needed for the kids. He spoke about never

apologizing for his comments at graduation, the school district being an urban community with urban issues.

Mr. Voit questioned mental health, without increasing the 1.75 where can the district find 500 to 750,000 dollars to pay for these mental health professionals. He advised he is going to vote yes for the 1.75 because this is what the community wants irrespective of the consequences, but it's still their responsibility as a board. He talked about not taking money from a fund for long-term expenses, one-time expenses, yes. Dr. Macharola advised this is not a trick question and stated it is impossible. Mr. Eaton commented without tapping into the district's reserve. Dr. Macharola responded the professionals would need to be paid the year after and the district cannot do this. Mr. Hyneman advised if it was a one-time expense the district could do this, but the district cannot do this when hiring someone possibly twenty years. Mr. Eaton commented that the district was already looking at increasing the taxes next year already anyway even with this plan. He advised it was already budgeted that the district was going to have to increase the district's spending and tax increase for the next two years so why can't the district borrow it now from the reserve because the district is already expecting the increase. Mr. Eaton talked about the one thing he got from the mental health department is that they were being overused, being spread so thin and the district does not have enough of them. He talked about not being able to hire more people, this is a dire circumstance where the district should be thinking about if the district cannot cancel a program and the district is not going to take from other programs, why not tap into the reserve and approach the increase next year at a higher rate. Mr. Haas commented that the district would be chasing it forever. Mr. Voit talked about the one thing the district has: the best bond rating, the best financial position because the district faced these challenges every single year. Mr. Voit reiterated if there is a one-time expense like purchasing technical equipment this is fine there is no more expense. He advised if the district would take on 750,000 dollars next year besides the bond of 1.2, looking at 750 and 600, that is a half of mil and if the district does this the district is already looking at 1.7 for next year without incremental costs in that percentage going up; this will get the district further behind. Mr. Voit talked about wanting to have a discussion on mental health. He is in favor of getting this number as low as the district can because everyone is hurting, the board pays taxes and they are hurting as well, but when 5% of the kids here in the district use the word suicide in some way or fashion, the district needs to address this. He spoke about one way is the cell phone, no use of the cell phone, as this has been proven that has led to mental health issues among adolescents and has been documented. Mr. Voit spoke about any time between now and the first meeting in December, if there are any supplemental changes that the district can make he will vote yes because the district needs the mental health for the kids. Mrs. Eagle talked about if the district cannot meet the students basic needs and their mental health needs, she does not care how great the district's programs are or how great the district's teachers are, it's not going to make a difference. She advised she is on board with Mr. Voit and thanked him for bringing up the mental health part of it. Dr. Macharola spoke about the board willing to pass the budget that is proposed for tonight and open between now and December to look at another avenue, the district is going to stay on point and the board is going to have to agree after October for potential transfers. Dr. Macharola advised once the budget is passed, the district cannot do any transfers for a while. Mr. Voit

*spoke about having a plan by October 1st and having discussions specifically on mental health. Mr. Voit spoke about that the original budget had these positions in it and the unfortunately the decision of mental health having to be placed on the board. Mr. Haas spoke about his daughter who suffers from mental health issues and that strong of an advocate for this, why did the board choose a turf field over mental health. He commented the board should have looked at this first and he was not on the board when this took place and would have said mental health took place. Mr. Voit advised this is a fair statement but this is apples and oranges. He spoke about coming up with the turf on the football field when it was grass, only playing on the field but football players. He spoke about a good thing for kids to get involved in sports and what a turf field does, it allows the youth for the field all year round and not just for football and there is a majority of the community that supports it. Mr. Voit spoke about being an advocate for this because the district wants the kids playing sports, doesn't matter the sport because they are outside running around, they are expending energy, they are not getting into fights, and they are learning responsibility; however he respects their opinions.*

D. Act 44 - 2018

There was a brief executive session held regarding the Act 44 Safe Schools Report.

**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. ***This period of time is for comments only; it is not a time to engage in a question and answer or debate with the board. Comments from the Board are at the option of the Board.*** The Board retains the option to accept all public comment at this time. Presentations ***will*** 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.

Heather DeTurck-resident

She wanted to thank the board for their effort for this, it's notable and she applauds them all. What is really sad is the economy and it's not just the schools that are affected, it's the homes that are affected and the kids go home and they are in an environment that puts them in a really sick place and they come back. So it's a repetitive cycle that is hard so looking for solutions they are not looking for blames anymore. They are looking for solutions. She would like to offer help. She thinks that they don't want to say "you" "us" help. Peer counseling is excellent. They can help with some of this, that's free. They get the kids together to help each other, that is so effective. Peer counseling, they started that in different camps and in different social communities that she works with and its very effective. This is something the district can look at and it can be led by the counselors at school and the district would be getting groups of kids together and helping one another. They come from a situation when their children go to ivy schools and they try to hurt themselves, it's not just



sometimes coming from an urban area. It's just an effect everywhere so she did not want everyone to think it's because they are coming from a bad area or a stressed area. It's just the environment of today's thing. She wanted to thank the board and offer solutions, not blame. She asked if everyone can get together at some point, the board or the administration, and say "How can the community help? What can we do?" She asked if the district can get out there and get sponsors for the field to help get revenue to give back to counseling. How can the district get the community together by bringing them together by making more things that also help the kids so they feel loved. She advised that they are working with the elderly with the rebates which will help with the tax increase. So the people that are on fixed incomes, they are going to the library, with help from the senator's office, help with the representative's office and they are going to help the elderly community and the people with fixed income and disability with the rebates because it was extended til December.

#### Questions/Comments/Concerns

*Mr. Voit commented just as an FYI, the only time they can meet with the board as a whole is in public and cannot meet with five or more at any given time. Dr. Macharola advised this is the Sunshine Law. Dr. Macharola also advised Ms. DeTurck to speak with Mr. Mish, Director of Pupil Services, to discuss her helping and make it happen.*

#### Donna Marburger - resident

Being that she has been in education and as a special education department chair in her building, they had agencies that came in for social services and then they got paid through the child's medical assistance. Does the district have this here in the building? Has this been a plus and how many does the district have in the building? There were quite a few in Reading.

They have to be responsible for the state and their audits and things like that, but she just wondered if the district had outside help coming in. She is assuming the district does peer tutoring, peer relationships and things like this and she does not know what the district is doing in peer relationships with other students, she only knows what she is coming from.

She said she understands wholeheartedly they (school resource officers) are a really important part in the peer (relationships). She was just wondering if the district was having agencies in because she knows that there are not many funds in there and she is willing to help too.

#### Questions/Comments/Concerns

*Dr. Macharola advised that the district does have these services. Dr. Macharola advised the district's numbers are astounding, it helps but if you look at the agencies today, the district's demands surpass much of the agencies capability to help the district. He advised they are struggling with personnel, often the personnel the district has here have to line up with the behavior specialist, the director of special education, the school*

*counselors and social workers; there is a connection that has to occur there. Dr. Macharola talked about the district having it but it doesn't stop there, many times running into insurance issues. He spoke about what matters is what the board is concerned about keeping the services going. Dr. Macharola talked about the district actively working with the state agencies, private agencies, anywhere medical assistance can kick in, the district does. He spoke about the district having access funds and the district spending down the access funds every year not wasting any money. He talked about having 605 special education students when he first came to Muhlenberg, and there are now nearly 1,000 students. He advised six of those teaching positions proposed were for special education, when the advocates come back to point the finger at class sizes it will go back to this as well. Dr. Macharola spoke about seeing what the district's social workers do, doing peer mediation; it could be a textbook class for higher education, that is how effective it is. He spoke about how many times the peer mediation has to start at home, so the district works with the parents getting the parents in here. Dr. Macharola spoke about the district's school resource officers being an incredible addition to the school environment here. Dr. Macharola talked about the school resource officers being most important here for safety, however they provide almost classroom work with the students and he is very grateful to the Muhlenberg Township Police Department for stepping up and working with the district. Dr. Macharola asked Ms. Marburger to speak with Mr. Mish as well.*

Denise Lewis - resident/Muhlenberg Park

Her speech that started out the past few months has been a learning experience for all of them and she hopes she did not hear correctly that next year they are going to be paying a lot more taxes. School administration wants to implement new programs or build facilities they need to prioritize fundraising, sponsorships, and other means to generate financial support. They believe it is time to focus their energy on real solutions, no conflict. The schools deserve fresh perspectives and new ideas. Some board members have served lengthy terms without recent change training and its time for change. The school board is meant to be the voice of the people and it's essential that it reflects the needs and values of the community it serves. School board members are entrusted with managing the district's finances, holding the superintendent and staff accountable and led with transparency. Board meetings should not be directed by the superintendent, but led by elected representatives of the people. Above all, school boards have an obligation to engage with the public and remain connected to the community they represent and she is also going to be helping Ms. DeTurck.

Ms. Lewis questioned that at the meeting that he (superintendent) would be held accountable too for the rant.

Questions/Comments/Concerns

*Mr. Hyneman asked to respond to Ms. Lewis's comments. He spoke about how he and Mr. Boland chatted about this as Mr. Boland sits in with numerous school district boards and the district runs the board meetings the same way the other districts do. Mr.*

*Hyneman explained the superintendent takes care of the instruction and the management and the board takes care of policy. He spoke about being in public education for sixty years, being on the faculty at Alvernia and Albright for 18 years, working for seven school districts, being in charge of special education for the entire Schuylkill Valley School District, he is offended when somebody is telling him he is not doing his job here. Mr. Voit talked about the disappointing part is, he has many concerns about this, explained it at the last meeting and yet Ms. Lewis stands up here and says the superintendent is running the meeting. Mr. Voit asked what part she did not understand and explained this meeting starts with the president of the board, they are the school board, the school board hires the superintendent. Mr. Voit advised the board sets policy and everything the board does goes through the superintendent, the superintendent sets the original agenda and it goes to the president, if the board has any issues the board goes to the president, the president sits with Dr. Macharola and approves the agenda. He advised then the agenda comes here (board meeting) and asked who's going to talk to the agenda; the superintendent because it is his school. Mr. Voit explained the first meeting the Committee of the Whole and yes the majority is the superintendent and it's supposed to be and if it isn't he would be concerned. Mr. Voit advised the second meeting is the regular board meeting where the board votes, the superintendent speaks very little, the board goes through, they do the motions and he (president) passes it. Mr. Voit asked Ms. Lewis to please listen to what the board is telling her and it is not changing.*

*Dr. Macharola advised that he is not going to apologize for defending the district's children, never apologize for defending babies and children, and advised Ms. Lewis that she does not know the truth. He explained that there are people present this evening that know the truth and why he said what he said, if she doesn't like him that's okay. He advised he has no reason not to like her but he can see what she is projecting here, that she does not care for him and that's okay. He spoke about knowing what was said about the district's kids and he did not like the words that were used and he was so offended that this community would talk in such outrageous, disgusting terms to his face about the kids that live in this community because of the color of their skin and then threaten him about taxes. Ms. Lewis responded that she did not threaten him. Dr. Macharola advised her comments here about his rant, he wanted to get it clear. He advised there were words used that were so offensive, if they would keep it up they were going to get sued for ethnic harassment, sued for discrimination, and targeted harassment. Dr. Macharola advised this is a fact and Mr. Boland would stand by him and the board is going to stand by him. He spoke about if anyone is going to call the district's students racial names and words, this is what she meant by the rant, this community was making those comments and then going out into the farmers market and using him as an example. He explained this is why he took a stance because if anyone feels this comfortable to come in here and call the district ethnic names, that is what it was about and now the whole community knows what it was about. He talked about if anyone is still offended for him standing up for the district's children because nobody else would and the people that did all the complaining they are not going to, so he did stand up for the district's students and for Muhlenberg School District. He advised if Ms. Lewis did not like this, that's tough and he will not apologize. Ms. Lewis responded this was a nasty comment. Dr. Macharola advised this was not and should hear the*



words that were used to describe the color of the district's student's skin and where their families came from. Mr. Voit advised the subject is over, Dr. Macharola is not going to apologize, he stood up for the district's students and this discussion is over. Mr. Hyneman talked about how he and his wife are in the elementary school helping the students that are behind three days a week, all year long; he and his wife help run the school store, he puts in time seeing the superintendent three times a week in his office to go over things. He talked about adding up the hours to about 380 hours a year and asked Ms. Lewis how much he is getting paid for. He also asked her if she doesn't think he is doing the job to run for office. Ms. Lewis advised she is helping with the community. Mr. Hyneman advised he is also helping with the community. Mr. Eaton commented that he feels that there is a misconception and he thinks the community is not informed or not asking correct questions of the board. Mr. Eaton talked about the board would honestly not know anything what's going on in the school if it's not for the administration, staff and superintendent; so expecting the board to run a meeting, expecting the board to know everything that's going on in the school and not allow the superintendent to run the meeting, that's not realistic. He advised the board would be up there just talking about stuff they have no idea the numbers, no idea anything going on and the board is not even supposed to be that informed as to everything; the board only has set things that they are supposed to be discussing as a board. Mr. Eaton talked about when it comes down to behaviors and things like this going on in the school, they have to defer to the superintendent and he has to run that portion. Ms. Lewis commented that she keeps asking to let the community help the solutions because they want to be there. Mr. Eaton advised all she has to do is walk into the building, there is an administration building, she can ask for a meeting and she can sit down and be a part of it. He advised coming here and assuming that she is going to be able to get something out of chastising the board or the board president for not doing their job is not going to lead to solutions; going to the administration building and require a meeting and sit down in a conference room and figure out everything they want and then it can come to the board. He explained then the board can decide if they want to make it a policy. Mr. Voit advised the board loves any ideas that they may have, but there hasn't been any ideas that they heard in front of this board that they can implement today. Mr. Voit talked about their comments of community great, helping with the senior citizens outstanding; but this is not part of the school district. He talked about presenting the board with an idea. A community member mentioned reinstating the PTO as an idea. Mr. Voit advised this is a great discussion offline. Dr. Macharola advised he would be happy to reinstate the PTO as long as they have guidelines that hold them accountable and the district doesn't ever have again what happened before. Mr. Eaton commented that the board definitely wants to help and talked about getting approached in the community getting asked why or why not the district is doing things.

Enrique Castro - taxpayer

Thank you guys (board members) for keeping their commitment to really trying to lower it (taxes) and also thank you for really focusing on the mental health aspect and committing to going back to that because that is really important to him. He does not know what goes on behind the scenes but if it was up to him he would have picked the



mental health professional over the accountant as he looked down at it but he is not the superintendent she he does not know what he needs.

Mr. Castro thanked Dr. Macharola for the explanation.

He will help however he can too. He serves on the board of NAMI Berks and he knows they have programs that will come out into the schools and help as well and he can help make those connections. Mr. Mish does have his number, he is a dad and his kids go to school here. Thank you Ms. Deturk for what she is doing with the taxes, but call the senators because he knows the House just unanimously passed where they don't have to wait until the end of the year for seniors to get that tax rebate, they can get it as soon as it is approved. But the senate has to pass that, it went through the House already, once the senate passes it then as soon as their application is approved they can get that check. So call the senators and tell them to get on it.

#### Questions/Comments/Concerns

*Dr. Macharola talked about the proposed accountant position being there so he can move personnel to address the deficiency of six missing teachers that will be in special education. He talked about helping the new teachers coming out of school who do not have proper pedagogy, proper methodology, the district has to provide the professional development for them. He spoke about trying to put a band-aid on the fact that he won't have the six teachers and the only way he can do this to divide the director of curriculum who's already doing a magnificent job, have another curriculum person to go in there and work with the district's teachers to help address the swelled classrooms that are going to occur and the time on task that is going to be needed with kids in the classroom; so if there is 35 kids in a classroom, the districts going to have to have somebody in there working with those kids what to do and knows how to manage that. He talked about if the district would put the six people back in, the district still needs the accountant's position because the business department has stayed the same ever since he has been there for years, but the reports haven't changed, they have gone out into credible numbers. Dr. Macharola spoke about not wanting anyone to think the district is putting in an accountant over mental health, the district is not and it's there to help the six people.*

*Mr. Voit commented one way that Mr. Castro can help is between now and November 4th, knock on every single door, then he will be here come December.*

#### Terry Guers - resident

He wanted to speak his appreciation for Mr. Kopetsky. 30 some years ago his oldest son was in fourth grade and had Mr. Kopetsky as his teacher and he would come home and he would come home and say how much fun he had learning in Mr. Kopetsky's class. Five or six years later his son was on the baseball team when Mr. Kopetsky first became the baseball coach. A couple years later they made it to the Eastern FInals, they didn't win but they made it to the Eastern Finals. Mr. Kopetsky played here in the 80's for Leroy Seip, learned baseball from Leroy and probably back

to MTAA, went on and played professionally for the Los Angeles Dodgers, came to Muhlenberg and used that knowledge as head baseball coach. In addition to what the kids learned for baseball, Mr. Kopetsky has been an outstanding representative of the district when it comes to being the face of the baseball team and speaking to reporters he always comports himself professionally. A couple of years ago, the athletic department was in a bind and didn't have a girls tennis coach. Baseball might be his forte, but the district was in need and he stepped up. They weren't making district playoffs and playoffs, but he treats the girls with respect. They enjoy playing even though they might not be champions, they are champions because they get a chance to play. Thank you Mr. Kopetsky.

Don Raifsnyder - resident

First of all thank you for working on the budget. He sat where they are sitting, he sat her for 16 years. One of the things he will advise everybody to remember is that the superintendent is by law the tenth member of the board, while a non-voting member is still the teeth member of this school board. So when they talk about the school board and the way it operates, he is as much a part of this board as the rest of the nine elected board members are. He is also going to talk about Mr. Kopetsky for a second. His grandsons played for Mr. Kopetsky. One of the things that happened while Mr. Kopetsky was coaching and had his grandsons here, his elder grandson whose name was Scotty and his younger grandson whose name was Shawn. One was a freshman and one was a senior and the freshman actually got to pitch to the senior as the catcher. So the kids pitched to one another and Mr. Kopetsky sort of made this happen. A long time ago, there was an issue where some people wanted to get rid of Mr. Kopetsky and he will tell Mr. Kopetsky today because he is retiring but not from baseball, that he was actually the tie swing vote to keep him here as the baseball coach. He appreciates Mr. Kopetsky. He appreciates all the time he spends and what he does with and for the kids, so thank you.

## **Board Business**

### **Personnel**

#### **1. Professional Appointments**

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

- a. Ms. Lauren Thomas, Elementary Teacher (A. Arnold), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, pending verification of PA certification, effective May 21, 2025, at a salary of \$52,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top), prorated for days worked.
- b. Mr. Jacob Stoudt, Elementary Teacher (L. Santangelo), C.E. Cole Intermediate, pending PA Certification, effective the first contractual day of the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$54,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top).

- c. Mr. David Immendorf, Math Teacher (E. Slater), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective the first contractual day of the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$62,616 (B + 24, 15 Steps from the Top).
- d. Ms. Sarah Pacharis, Long-Term Substitute Teacher (A. Hawkins), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective the first contractual day of 2025-2026 school year through the end of the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$54,970 (B, 16 Steps from the Top).

## **2. Classified Appointments**

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

- a. Ms. Alexandria Zeller, Cafeteria Worker (J. Brady), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective May 19, 2025, at a pay rate of \$20.29 per hour.
- b. Ms. Keishla Sanchez, Cafeteria Assistant (A. Romagna), Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective May 19, 2025, at a pay rate of \$17.21 per hour.
- c. Mr. Harrison Stricker, Second Shift Custodian (J. Beissel), Muhlenberg High School, effective May 19, 2025, at a salary of \$53,255, prorated for days worked.
- d. Ms. Brittney Godfrey, Cafeteria Worker (J. Weyant), Muhlenberg High School, effective August 18, 2025, at a pay rate of \$21.04 per hour.
- e. Ms. Monica Brock, Cafeteria Worker (S. Mengel), Muhlenberg Junior High School, effective August 18, 2025, at a pay rate of \$21.04 per hour.

## **3. Acceptance of Resignations**

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

- a. Ms. Samantha Mengel, Cafeteria Worker, adjustment of effective date to April 25, 2025.
- b. Dr. Jason Miller, Special Education Supervisor, pending release from Muhlenberg School District per PA School Code.
- c. Mr. Ernest Gring, Outside/Grounds Custodian, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 7, 2025.
- d. Ms. Karen Billger, Elementary Teacher, C.E. Cole Intermediate, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 6, 2025.
- e. Ms. Taylor Sborz, Elementary Teacher, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, effective June 6, 2025.

## **4. 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 2024-2025 school year:

- a. Mr. Robert Wolfe, mentor for Mr. Joseph Cathy, Chemistry Teacher, Muhlenberg High School, for remaining twenty-one and a half (21.5) hours.
- b. Ms. Megan Migliore, mentor for Ms. Jenele Vadelund, Special Education Teacher, for sixty (60) hours.

**5. 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. Employee No. 3172, Teacher, FMLA/Leave of Absence, effective on or about May 19, 2025 through on or about June 6, 2025.
- b. Employee No. 3206, Teacher, FMLA/Leave of Absence, effective on or about August 20, 2025 through on or about January 2, 2026.
- c. Employee No. 3056, Teacher, FMLA/Leave of Absence, effective on or about August 25, 2025 through on or about October 28, 2025.

**6. Summer Hours for Professional Staff**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following employee for summer hours:

- a. Ms. Amy Madeira, sixty (60) hours to assist with alignment of curriculum and inventory of resources at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- b. Ms. Amy Chiarelli, sixty (60) hours to assist with alignment of curriculum and inventory of resources at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- c. Ms. Robey Williams, sixty (60) hours to assist with alignment of curriculum and inventory of resources at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- d. Dr. Maria Lester, sixty (60) hours to assist with alignment of curriculum and inventory of resources at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- e. Mr. Matthew Coldren, thirty (30) hours to assist with 2025-2026 school wide goals for MJHS at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- f. Ms. Jennifer Hausman, sixty (60) hours to assist with professional development planning and learning, planning and development of specialized programs, and to ensure compliance with special education paperwork at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- g. Ms. Elizabeth Chapman, sixty (60) hours to assist with professional development planning and learning, planning and development of specialized programs, and to ensure compliance with special education paperwork at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- h. Ms. Lisa Bowersox, sixty (60) hours to assist with professional development planning and learning, planning and development of specialized programs, and to ensure compliance with special education paperwork at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- i. Ms. Christine Law, sixty (60) hours to assist with professional development planning and learning, planning and development of specialized programs, and to ensure compliance with special education paperwork at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.



- j. Ms. Tianna Schaefer, fifteen (15) hours to assist with professional development planning and learning, planning and development of specialized programs, and to ensure compliance with special education paperwork at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- k. Mr. Jeffrey Reiniger, for sixty (60) hours to assist with 2025-2026 school-wide goals for C.E. Cole Intermediate at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- l. Ms. Stacy Wiza, sixty (60) hours for professional development planning and learning, software preparation, Classlink rollover, Infinite Campus maintenance and 2025-2026 school year preparation at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- m. Ms. Samantha Armstrong, sixty (60) hours for professional development planning and learning, software preparation, Virtual School preparation, Classlink rollover and 2025-2026 school year preparation at a professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.
- n. Ms. Emily Grube, sixty (60) hours for social media content over the summer break at the professional rate of \$30.00 per hour.

#### **7. Co-Curricular Adjustment**

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

- a. Mr. Robert Dudek, MHS Co-Ed Track and Field Assistant Coach, effective March 3, 2025, at an adjusted salary of \$5,648 (year 47).

#### **8. 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. Tanisha Chopra, Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of May 15, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of May 16, 2025.
- b. Ms. Kathrynne Thomas, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of May 20, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of May 21, 2025.
- c. Ms. Abi Shuman, Special Education Paraprofessional, Muhlenberg Elementary Center, completion of forty-five (45) day probation as of May 21, 2025 and recommended for permanent employment as of May 22, 2025.

#### **9. Approval of Summer 2025 Food Service Program Staff**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following staff for the Summer 2025 Food Service Program, at their contractual rates:

Cafeteria Workers

Mr. Joshua Acosta	Ms. Ann Love
Ms. Silvia Alcaraz	Ms. Michelle Mengel
Ms. Jenna-Marie Blackwell	Ms. Valerie Miller
Ms. Joleen Borrell	Ms. Nancy Miranda
Ms. Nicol Bricker	Ms. Amanda Moyer
Ms. Monica Brock	Ms. Stephanie Murphy
Ms. Justine Burkart	Mr. Jonathan Ortiz
Ms. Yahaira Colon	Ms. Kelly Quiles
Ms. Tanya Cooper	Ms. Jessica Quintero
Ms. Ashlee Crater	Ms. Ana Rodriguez
Ms. Cheryl Czechowski	Ms. Karen Roth
Ms. Deborah Dilanzo	Ms. Keishla Sanchez
Ms. Jennifer Eberhart	Ms. Valerie Sanchez
Ms. Lucille Ernst	Ms. Joan Sandritter
Ms. Michele Fetter	Ms. Jamie Shipe
Ms. Brittney Godfrey	Ms. Mi Oak Smeck
Ms. MaryAnn Grant	Ms. Sindel Strohecker
Ms. Patricia Greene	Mr. Ryan Syret
Ms. Judy Griesemer	Ms. Giselle Valencia-Diaz
Ms. Kathy Heckler	Ms. Alexandria Zeller
Ms. Rachel Kline	

**10. Professional Assignments for MSD Summer Style 2025**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following professional assignments for MSD Summer Style program, as presented:

Teachers:

Ms. Caitlin Ambruster	Mr. Matthew Fry	Mr. Tanner Pajakinas
Mr. David Angove	Mr. Alan Futrick, Jr.	Ms. Kaley Quillman
Ms. Jennier Anton	Ms. Autumn Gilmore	Ms. Kylie Redcay
Ms. Maria Avila	Ms. Laney Hefter	Mr. Jeffrey Reiniger
Ms. Kelly Barbon	Mr. Connnie Hillbish	Ms. Matthew Reiniger
Mr. John Barr	Ms. Inga Hobbs	Ms. Lee Rogers
Ms. Melissa Blickley	Mr. Joseph Houck	Mr. Nicholas Sager
Ms. Kathleen Brad	Ms. Demi James	Dr. Jullien Searfoss
Mr. Robert Brad	Mr. Scott Keller	Mr. Shane Shaffer
Ms. Jessica Gunter	Ms. Sarah Kopetsky	Ms. Paula Shea
Ms. Michelle Chavoya	Mr. Matthew Kramer	Mr. Benjamin Sneeringer
Ms. Amy Chiarelli	Ms. Cristina Lillis	Mr. Matthew Sola
Mr. Jacob Conrad	Ms. Nicole McGowan	Mr. Daniel Solvino
Mr. Dylan Delpiano	Mr. Joshua Messner	Mr. Jacob Stoudt
Mr. Tate Dewalt	Mr. Brandon Monk	Ms. Madison Szczecina
Mr. Christpoher Evans	Ms. Christy Oxenford	Ms. Xiomara Toledo
Ms. Jenna Fiorito	Ms. Shannon Painter	Mr. Robert Wolfe
Mr. Matthew Flowers	Ms. Jade Miller	Ms. Erika Yenser
Ms. Alison Franzone	Ms. Laurie Vlasak	Ms. Kaili Brinker
Ms. Jessica Heintzman	Ms. Amber Haraschak	Ms. Marci Harr
Ms. Amy Madeira		

#### **11. Pre-Educator Assignments for MSD Summer Style 2025**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following pre-educator assignments for the MSD Summer Style program, as presented:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>College</u>
Jaclyn Barbera	Alvernia University - graduate
Cameron Burr	Kutztown University
Mallory Buzydlowski	Temple University
Abby Chavoya	Penn State Beaver
Yana Colon	West Chester University
Robert Cornelius	Kutztown University
Troy Corson	West Chester University
Shelbi Crammer	Alvernia University
Rene Junior Duffault	West Chester University - graduate
Meghan Farrell	West Chester University
Emilia Ferreira	Kutztown University
Sofia Fioravanti	Kutztown University
Evan Franek	West Chester University
Nashli Galvez-Martinez	West Chester University
Jaxon Geddio	Ursinus University
Kaitlyn Gundersen	West Chester University
Sean Henry	West Chester University - graduate
Olivia Lorah	Albright College - graduate
Taylor Maryniak	Shippensburg University
Macy McDonough	Alvernia University
Samanatha Noll	Kutztown University
Ashley Parry	Olivet Nazarene University
Leticia Peguero de Olivo	Temple University
Liliana Petersen	Lebanon Valley College
Felicia Phillips	Penn State Berks



Heather Rosado	Albright College
Shane Rosenberry	Wilmington University
Nicole Sanchez Gonzalez	Messiah University - graduate
Evelyn Sanchez Morales	Albright College
Owen Schlegel	West Chester University
Briana Schroll Wood	University of Pittsburgh
Briana Silasavage	West Chester University
Justin Small	James Madison University
Blake Smith	Penn State University
Robert Sterley	MSD Paraprofessional
Nicole Sanchez Gonzalez	Messiah University
Andrew Stoudt	Graduate
Elizabeth Swoyer	Penn State Berks
Chase Walters	East Stroudsburg University
Bryn Williams	Penn State Berks
Julia Yeager	Kutztown University

## **12. 2025 Extended School Year Assignments**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following assignments for the 2025 Extended School Year Program, as presented:

### Teachers

Ms. Tamara Torres	Ms. Ashley Berkel
Ms. Jillian Ayers	Ms. Katelyn Dieffenbach
Ms. Jessica Mulutize	Ms. Francine Galuska
Ms. Megan Migliore	Ms. Jenele Vadelund
Ms. Amanda Kemmerer	Ms. Megan Goetz

Mr. Brian Hendricks

Mr. Shane Silas

Mr. George Dunda

Paraprofessionals

Ms. Jennifer Neuheimer

Ms. Rosemarie Sysenh

Ms. Shana Kelly

Ms. Holly Scheck

Ms. Lisa O'Brien

Ms. Kim Eschleman

Ms. Charlita Andrews

Ms. Damaris Montalvo

Ms. Claudia Barona

Ms. Elizabeth Pimental

Ms. Susan Garl

Mr. Robert Sterley

Ms. Carina Arana-Morales

Ms. Christine Garner

Ms. Cindy Wanamaker

Mr. Elias Santiago

Ms. Alexandria Martinez-Garcia

Ms. Yolanda Ortiz

Speech Language Pathologists:

Ms. Courtney Mitchell

Ms. Pamina Nieves

**13. MESPA Mentor Stipend**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District in accordance with the MESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article XVI, Wages, Section 8, approve a mentor stipend to the following support staff who has assisted in the induction of a new employee into the school district and new employee remains employed for one (1) continuous year after hire date, at a stipend of \$500.00:

- a. Ms. Beth Kaylor, mentor for Ms. Diana Albarran, Class A Secretary, Muhlenberg High School

**14. Award Professional Employee Contract for Tenured Teacher**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District in accordance with Section 1121 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 (as amended) and Act 66 of 1996, authorize awarding a Professional Employee

Contract to the following teachers who have performed on a satisfactory basis for three years:

- a. Ms. Kaili Brinker, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- b. Ms. Jessica Clements, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- c. Mr. Kip Domine, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- d. Mr. Andrew Evans, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- e. Ms. Meredith Feather, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- f. Ms. Jenna Fiorito, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- g. Ms. Alison Franzone, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- h. Ms. Jessica Gajewski, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- i. Ms. Demi James, C.E. Cole Intermediate
- j. Mr. Tanner Pajakinas, Muhlenberg Elementary Center
- k. Ms. Amneris Rodriguez, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- l. Mr. Nicholas Sager, Muhlenberg Junior High School
- m. Ms. Kelly Schroll Wood, Muhlenberg High School
- n. Mr. Thoedore Werkheiser, Muhlenberg High School
- o. Ms. Diamante White, Muhlenberg Junior High School

## **Management**

### **1. Superintendent's Authorization to Employ for 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Superintendent to employ qualified persons for open positions as budgeted for the 2025-2026 school year, subject to Board ratification of employment at the Board's next public meeting.

### **2. 2025-2026 Annual Membership to Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Inc.**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the annual membership to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Inc. in the amount of \$17,342.51 for 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026).

### **3. Voting Delegates to the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as the District's voting delegates to the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly.

### **4. Approval of Berks County Safety & Security Consortium Services**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the shared Consortium consulting and technical services provided by the BCIU Safety & Security Administrator for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of \$6,000 annually as presented.

**5. Memorandum of Understanding between Laureldale Police Department and Muhlenberg School District**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District authorize the Memorandum of Understanding Between Laureldale Police Department and Muhlenberg School District as in accordance with "Safe Schools Act", PA School Code, Article XIII-A as presented, subject to the solicitor's final approval.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Boland spoke about the added language that the 911 calls will first to the dispatch, then to Laureldale, but Laureldale is saying the district already has a SRO in the building. The proposed language, the parties also acknowledge that the school entity, that is the district, employs a school resource officer from the Muhlenberg Township police department that is present at the middle school (junior high) located in the borough of Laureldale. During school hours, the SRO should initially handle calls, but law enforcement authority, that's Laureldale, shall maintain contact with the SRO in the event that additional involvement is necessary or appropriate. So that they are still responding to the district's call because it may be something that's beyond just the SRO's capability to respond to. Mr. Eaton questioned if the call is going to the SRO before it goes to Laureldale. Mr. Boland explained it will go to the SRO, Berks County Dispatch will not take Laureldale off, they want Laureldale on the call. He advised this is just acknowledging the district already has an officer in the building and they should then be in contact with the SRO if handled, if not then they would respond.*

**Physical Plant and Transportation**

**1. Change Order Request**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the change order request for the MUSCO Lighting Installation of the multi-purpose turf field as presented.

**2. Construction of Small Group Instruction Areas**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the construction of three small group instruction areas at Muhlenberg Elementary Center at a cost not to exceed \$197,853.42 (Capital Reserve Funds) as presented.

**Budget and Finance**

**1. 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:



<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	Apr 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025 Ck#58550-58744 V#28310-28333	Apr 2025	May 2025
Cafeteria	Apr 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025 Ck#8598-8639 V#3170-3176	Apr 2025	
Capital Reserve (Fund 32)	May 2025	May 2025			
Capital Reserve (Fund 39)	May 2025	May 2025	May 2025 Ck#1039-1051		
Activity	Apr 2025	Apr 2025			

**2. Award Bids for School Supplies for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the award of bids, from the Berks County Joint Purchasing Cooperative, for the following school supplies for the 2025-2026 school year:

a.	Art Supplies	\$28,830.13
b.	Classroom and Office Supplies	75,3796.70
c.	Copy Paper	19,340.25
d.	Custodial Supplies	61,290.27

Total	\$185,257.35
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**3. Award Bids for Food Supplies for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District accept the award of bids, from the Cafeteria Food Cooperative (CAFCO), for the following food supplies for the 2025-2026 school year:

a.	Food Service Paper Products	\$68,763.26
b.	Fresh Bread	56,514.37
c.	Grocery	900,489.15
d.	Milk and Dairy	167,285.02
e.	NOI Food Products	257,839.80
Total		<hr/> \$1,450,891.60

#### 4. 2025-2026 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Resolved, by the Board of School Directors of Muhlenberg School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2025, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

**Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2025:

- a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$2,081,600.92.
- b. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$8,330.86.
- c. **Property Tax Reduction Funds.** Funds will be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax reduction funds received in 2024-2025. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$31.70.
- d. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$2,089,931.78.

**Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and farmsteads as follows:

- a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 5,179.

- b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 2.
- c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and farmsteads is 5,181.

**Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(d) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$2,089,931.78 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and farmsteads of 5,181, before considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount, the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$403.39.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$2,740.77 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 5,181 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$.53. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$403.39 the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$403.92.

**Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$403.92 by the School District real estate tax rate of 38.406 mills (.038406) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is 10,517 and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is 10,517.

**Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of 10,517. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of 9,465. The homestead exclusion and farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction will apply only to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

**5. District Insurance Programs**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the district's insurance programs for the 2025-2026 school year per the proposal submitted by Acrisure:

Type	7/1/2025– 6/30/2026
Property	\$137,355
General Liability & Crime	29,336
Automobile	9,080
Excess Liability	10,678
School Board E & O	35,545
Privacy and Network Liability	23,894
Student Accident	10,900
Boiler & Machinery	12,013
Total Premium	\$268,801

**6. General Fund Transfer**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District transfer zero percent (0%) of residual general fund balance, from fiscal year 2024-2025, greater than eight percent (8%) of the 2025-2026 budgeted expenditures to the Capital Reserve Fund and one hundred percent (100%) to be transferred to an appropriate account as directed by the Board of School Directors.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit spoke about already having the numbers for this coming year's budget and don't believe in plans for any transfers should there be an excess of 8%, then this says it'll go into the assigned building building projects. He would recommend that should anything exceed the 8%, that it go into a fund that the district could use potentially for mental health cost. Mr. Mathias advised that this is onetime money. Mr Voit advised they are all aware this is onetime money but it will at least give some options.*

**7. Reading-Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Reading-Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center Budget for the 2025-2026



school year at the district's share of \$2,966,070.33 for operations, \$154,651.65 for debt service related to the welding building, and \$30,000 for capital improvements.

#### **8. Parameter Bond Purchase Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District, authorize the parameter bond purchase agreement as presented.

#### Questions/Comments/Concerns:

*Mr. Voit questioned if the scope of the projects has changed; has anything changed in the order of projects or in the scope of each individual project. Dr. Macharola responded there has been some adjustments yes as they are consistently trying to reduce the cost of the buildings.*

#### **9. Adoption of the Final Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the 2025-2026 Final Budget as presented by the Administration. The Final Balanced Budget Expenditures total \$92,223,808; Revenues total \$92,223,808. The millage rate of 38.406 mils depicts a 1.75 millage increase.

Said budget shall set forth a levy of the following tax structure: a tax of 38.406 (\$38.406 per \$1,000.00) of assessed market value of real estate; and the district's share of a realty transfer tax of 1%; a local services tax of \$52.00 for Laureldale and an local services tax of \$52.00 for Muhlenberg Township; a 1% earned income tax; a mercantile tax consisting of one mil on wholesale transactions; and a business privilege tax at the rate of one and one-half mils on the gross volume of business, to provide the necessary revenue for same as presented.

### **Education**

#### **1. Muhlenberg Summer School 2025**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Muhlenberg Summer School 2025 program at the Muhlenberg High School as presented.

#### **2. Agreement to Participate in the ACCESS Program for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Pennsylvania School Based ACCESS Program Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

#### **3. 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 for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

**4. New Directions Treatment Services Linkage Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the Linkage Agreement between New Directions Treatment Services and the Muhlenberg School District, effective June 11, 2025 for a two (2) year period on an as needed basis as presented.

**5. Student Tuition Agreement for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following student tuition agreement for the 2025-2026 school year as presented:

- a. Student No. 33231, The Vanguard School

**6. Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc. Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the addendum to the contract for services agreement for Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc. for Occupational and Physical Therapy services as presented.

**7. Extended School Year Student Tuition Agreements**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following extended school year student tuition agreements as presented:

- a. Student No. 34901, Royer Greaves School for the Blind
- b. Student No. 34900, Overbrook

**8. Approval of River Rock Academy Act 48 Program Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with River Rock Academy for the Act 48 program services for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

**9. 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:

- a. Student No. 39383
- b. Student No. 40637
- c. Student No. 40309

**10. Conference Request**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the following conference request:

- a. Mr. Ken Patterson, to attend the Steel Eagle Leadership Institute in Bedford Springs, PA on July 8, 2025 to July 9, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$230 (funded through the Physical Plant budget).

**11. 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:

- a. Student "M", C.E. Cole Intermediate
- b. Student "N", Muhlenberg Junior High School

**12. Approval of Malvern Community Health Services Inc. Agreement**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District approve the agreement with Malvern Community Health Services Inc. for school based outpatient therapy services, as presented.

**13. 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 2024-2025 school year as listed.

**14. Adoption of Revised Curricula, Textbooks and Instructional Materials for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District adopt the revised curricula, textbooks and instructional materials as recommended and presented for the 2025-2026 school year as in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, Article VIII, Section 803.

**Minutes**

Review minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 7, 2025 and the Regular Board Meeting of May 14, 2025.

**Old Business**

*There was none.*

**New Business**

*There was none.*

**1. Memoriam of Ms. Irene C. Blatt**

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Ms. Irene C. Blatt who served in the Muhlenberg School District for thirty-two (32) years (1952-1985) as a 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.

**2. Memoriam of Mr. Edward W. Rutecky**

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mr. Edward W. Rutecky who served in the Muhlenberg School District for twenty-nine (29) years (1969-1998) as a Health and Physical Education teacher. We honor his memory for his dedicated service to the school district and community.

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

**Hearing of Visitors**

Presentation is limited to approximately two minutes per person. Should any citizen require more than the two minutes allocated, please contact the Superintendent prior to the meeting. He will coordinate such requests for the Board. Citizens addressing the Board should be aware that the meeting is being taped.

*There were none.*

**MSD/RMCTC Board Visitor of the Month**

Schedule 2025-2026

September	Ms. Janet Howard
October	Mr. Otto W. Voit, III
November	Mrs. Kristyna Eagle
December	Mr. Miguel Vasquez
January	Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle
February	Mr. S. Wayne Hardy
March	Mr. Garrett Hyneman
April	Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, Sr.
May	Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.

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

June 9	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
June 11	6:30 PM	COW and Regular Board Meeting
August 4	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
August 13	6:30 PM	COW and Regular Board Meeting
September 3	7:00 PM	COW Meeting
September 8	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
September 10	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
October 1	7:00 PM	COW Meeting
October 8	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
October 13	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
November 5	7:00 PM	COW Meeting
November 10	6:30 PM	RMCTC Board Meeting
November 12	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting
December 3	6:30 PM	Annual Organization Meeting; COW; Regular Board Meeting

**Adjourn Meeting**

Moved by Mrs. Eagle and Mr. Voit that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Attest:

  
Cindy L. Mengle  
Secretary