

The Regular Meeting of the Mohawk Area School District Board of Directors was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by the President, Ted Morrow, and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence. The following members were present: James Capalbo, Stephen Cardella, Harry J. Curatola, Jr., Lori Griffin, Mark Hiler and Jonathan Laughner. Eugene A. Butch, Jr. and Scott Singer were excused. Kathleen Kwolek, Superintendent, Lorree Houk, Assistant to the Superintendent, Greg Ferencak, Assistant High School Principal, Bradlee Meehan, Elementary Principal, John R. Seltzer, Solicitor and Janet Crum, Board Secretary also attended.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 8, 2014 were approved as written on the motion of Mr. Curatola, seconded by Mr. Hiler, verbal vote, motion carried.

Due to the inclement weather, Dr. Kwolek asked that the Student Delegates not attend the meeting this evening; however, each Administrator updated the Board. Some items of interest were the winter band and choral concerts in each building, the Sixth Grade field trip to Pittsburgh, the Backpack Program, the Lawrence County Brass Assembly, Family Fun Nights, All Star Band Concert, Santa Shuffle for Jr. High, Financial Aid Night, Keystone Exams, and the upcoming Snowball Dance. Mrs. Houk stated that the cancelled school day on Friday, January 9, 2015 was turned into an in-service day for the teachers and the regularly scheduled in-service day on February 13, 2015 will now be a school day. Dr. Kwolek shared that she had Todd Exposito, Transportation Coordinator, look into the cost for the smaller 54 passenger buses. He found that they are only \$1,000.00 less than a 72 passenger. Even though some of the buses seem to be a little less full, all the seats are assigned and this is part of the formula for transportation reimbursement. She also informed the Board that there are many considerations when deciding whether to delay or cancel school, and the safety of the students is of utmost importance. In addition, concerning the issue with the sewage treatment plant, she recently met with the engineers, and they are reviewing various options. She will continue to keep the Board updated.

There were no public comments this evening.

The Financial Report dated December 31, 2014 as well as the quarterly Budget Transfers were presented for approval. So moved on the motion of Mr. Hiler, seconded by Mr. Curatola, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Financial Report and Budget Transfers Attached)

Mr. Laughner motioned to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copies of all invoices on file in the Business Office)

General Fund,
School Lunch
bills approved

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| GENERAL FUND | |
| Prepaid | \$ 567,106.51 |
| Current | \$ 172,007.88 |
| SCHOOL LUNCH | |
| Prepaid | \$ 34,405.35 |

There no additions to the agenda.

Consideration was given to the following resignations/leave requests:

- David Bredl – Jr. High Science Teacher – retirement effective June 5, 2015.
- Britney Kwolek – Girl's Head Volleyball Coach – resignation effective immediately.
- Jamie Watkins – Elementary Science and Social Studies Teacher – leave for 10 weeks – effective approximately January 30, 2015.

Resignations/
leaves accepted
as presented

Mr. Cardella motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, verbal vote, motion carried.

Consideration was given to employing the following:

- Valerie Dearing – Elementary Special Education Instructional Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year.

Employment
approved as
presented

So moved on the motion of Mr. Laughner, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Likewise, consideration was given to adding the following to the list of daily substitutes:

- Julia Menarchek – Substitute Paraprofessional

Mr. Capalbo motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Addition to the
daily substitute
list approved

The 2015-2016 Budget Calendar was presented for approval. Mrs. Crum stated this is very similar to previous years with the draft of the budget ready for the Board in April, the first reading and adoption on May 11, 2015 and the final adoption on Monday, June 15, 2015. So moved by Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Budget Calendar Attached).

Approved
2015-16
Budget
Calendar

Consideration was given to the approval to solicit bids for the following:

- General Teaching Supplies
- Custodial Supplies
- Athletic Supplies

Granted
permission to
solicit bids for
General
Teaching,
Custodial and
Athletic Supplies

Mr. Curatola motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Cardella, verbal vote, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the annual approval of the PSBA Standards for Effective Governance and the PSBA Code of Conduct for Members of PA School Boards. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Approved the
PSBA Standards
for Effective
Governance and
the PSBA Code
of Conduct for
PA School Board
Members

Dr. Kwolek announced that January is School Board recognition month, and she wanted to thank the members for their dedication to the school. She presented each of them with a certificate, and asked them to state their years of service.

Consideration was given to permitting Thomas Welch to compete as an independent at the WPIAL Rifle Championship. This will be his third year of competition. Mr. Cardella motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Granted
permission for a
student to
compete at the
WPIAL Rifle
Championship

Consideration was given to the approval of the Board Committee's findings and recommendation to expel a student from the Mohawk Area School District effective December 17, 2014 through December 31, 2015, unless the student is reinstated by the Mohawk Administration at an earlier date with Board approval. So moved by Mr. Curatola, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Granted
permission to
expel a student

Likewise, consideration was given to the approval of the Board Committee's findings and recommendation regarding the adjudication and disposition in the case of another student. So moved by Mr. Curatola, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

The findings/
recommendation
regarding the
adjudication and
disposition of a
student approved

Consideration was given to the approval of a linkage agreement between Human Services Center and the Mohawk Area School District. Dr. Kwolek stated this will permit Human Services to come to the school to meet with students and families. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Linkage agreement
between Human
Services Ctr. and
MASD approved

Consideration was given to the acceptance of the Audit Report for the 2013-14 school year, as presented by Kim Turnley at the December 8, 2014 meeting. Mrs. Crum recapped some of the highlights such as there were no findings for this school year, the fund balance decreased by two million dollars due to capital outlay, and there was a minimal increase in the school lunch fund balance. The fund balance is still very healthy, but could diminish quickly due to fixed costs such as health care and retirement. The audit report was accepted on the motion of Mr. Hiler, seconded by Mr. Curatola, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Audit Report on file in the Business Office).

Audit Report for
2013-14 approved

Consideration was given to the approval of a resolution stipulating that Mohawk Area School District will limit any tax increase to the state index according to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006. The state index for Mohawk for 2015-16 is 2.6%. So moved by Mr. Laughner, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Resolution Attached).

Approved a
resolution that will
limit any tax
increase to the
state index

Consideration was given to the approval to enter into a "blend and extend" agreement with Direct Energy, formerly Hess, for the purchase of natural gas. Mrs. Crum explained that we participate in a consortium in Lawrence County and, although our current contract is to expire in October 2015, the company has offered to give us the lower price for the gas and extend the contract until October 2017. We would realize a savings of 18 – 23 percent. So moved on the motion of Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Agreement on file in Business Office).

Approved "blend
and extend"
agreement with
Direct Energy for
the purchase of
natural gas

Consideration was given to the approval of a resolution to accept the Fair Share Payment Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the 2014-15 school year. Dr. Kwolek explained that the three counties have had different rates for many years. It was agreed to appoint a committee to arrive at a figure that was equitable to all schools. As a result, it is the recommendation of the committee to set the 2014-15 Fair Share rate at \$1,600.00. This figure represents 50% of the total of the overhead costs per pupil taken directly from PDE-2061. The amount will remain in place for a three year period. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Curatola, roll call vote, Mr. Morrow "yes", Mr. Capalbo "no", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mr. Curatola "yes", Mrs. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", 6 yes, 1 no, 2 absent, motion carried.

Resolution to accept the Fair Share Payment Agreement with the Midwestern Int. Unit IV approved

Consideration was given to the approval of the following travel requests:

- Mary Fleming to accompany Katie Callahan, FCCLA State President, to the Career and Technical Education Celebration Dinner and activities from February 3 – 4, 2015, in Hershey, PA.
- Mary Fleming to accompany two state officers and one national officer to the State Executive Council work session from February 8 – 10, 2015 in Breezewood, PA.
- Mary Fleming to accompany two state officers and one national officer from March 15 – 20, 2015 and Pay Byers to accompany six students from March 18 – 20, 2015, to the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lake Harmony, PA.
- Marsha Karidis to accompany three students to compete at the PA FBLA State Leadership Conference from April 12 – 15, 2015 in Hershey, PA.

Requests for travel approved

Mr. Cardella motioned approval, seconded by Mrs. Griffin, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the approval for Cape Fox Professional Services to use various high school classrooms according to the schedule for Motorcycle Safety Training and Education. So moved on the motion of Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

The use of classrooms by Cape Fox Prof. Services for Motorcycle Safety Training approved

Real Estate Additions and Exonerations were presented for approval. The current exonerations total \$78,000 bringing the YTD exonerations to \$1,914,942 and YTD additions to \$744,800 which translates to a YTD loss of \$1,170,142 or \$15,317.16 in actual tax dollars. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, seconded by Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Real Estate Additions and Exonerations Attached)

Approved Real
Estate
Additions/
Exonerations

Mrs. Houk informed the Board of two new state mandates:

- 1) All employees are required to have their Child Abuse Clearance, Criminal History Report and FBI Clearance updated by the end 2015. The cost to the employee for all three clearances is currently \$48.75. The update will be required every three years. Mrs. Houk stated this law also applies to volunteers. They must have their clearances by July 1, 2015, and if they have been a PA resident for ten years, no FBI Clearance is required. However, they must swear by written affirmation that they are not disqualified due to a conviction for any crimes listed in the Child Protective Services Law.
- 2) Act 168 - Pass the Trash – new employees will be required to complete a form listing all past and current employers. We will then contact all employers listed to see if there was any type of misconduct by the employee or investigations into their behavior. The current or former employer is required to report any incidents.

Dr. Kwolek recognized the following:

-- FBLA members competing at the Region 2 FBLA Conference at Laurel High School on December 10, 2014. Three of these students will be advancing to PA FBLA State Conference in April, 2015.

Mr. Meehan reported on behalf of the Elementary P.T.O. and stated the Book Fair is upcoming as well as the Bagels and Books event.

There was no comment from the Mohawk Education Association.

At 8:37 P.M., the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel on the motion of Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Hiler, verbal vote, motion carried.

Janet L. Crum
Board Secretary