

The Regular Meeting of the Mohawk Area 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. The following members were present: Eugene A. Butch, Jr., Stephen Cardella, Harry J. Curatola, Jr., Mark E. Hiler, Jonathan Laughner and Scott Singer. James M. Capalbo and Lori Griffin were excused. Mr. Michael Leiterra, Superintendent, Ms. Lorree Houk, Assistant to the Superintendent, Ms. Kimberly Eaton, Board Secretary/Business Manager, High School Co-Principals: Mr. Raymond Omer and Mr. Gregory Ferencak, Mr. Bradlee Meehan, Elementary School Principal, Mr. George Sperdute, Assistant Elementary School Principal, Mr. John R. Seltzer, Solicitor and, Ms. Janet L. Crum, Interim Board Secretary, also attended.

The following minutes were approved as written:

Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2015  
Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 5, 2015

So moved by Mr. Laughner, seconded by Mr. Hiler, verbal vote, motion carried.

Student Delegates updated the Board on all the recent and upcoming activities and events.

Each Administrator updated the Board on recent activities and events.

Representatives from the Junior High Art Club gave a presentation on their Crayola Color Recycle Program.

Mr. Raymond Omer, a High School Co-Principal, updated the Board on the development and implementation of a student drug testing policy. Mr. Leiterra said “thank you” to Mr. Omer and commended him for using a measurable effort and putting data into his approach.

Visitor Participation included Jodie Huston, Brian Pierog, and Dr. Kathy Kwolek.

Public  
Comment

Jodie Huston of 535 West Poland Road, Bessemer, PA, addressed the board to ask them to look into an incident that occurred at a midget football game on Saturday, October 13 to her sister. Mr. Seltzer reminded the visitors they are invited to address agenda items per our school board policy.

Brian Pierog of 1690 East Poland Road, New Castle, PA, asked the board to consider hearing more about the issue. Mr. Seltzer stated this was not an agenda item. Mr. Seltzer stated visitors should contact either Mr. Leitera, the Superintendent or Ms. Crum, the Board Secretary to ask if an agenda item can be placed on the agenda. Mr. Leitera stated that he had not been contacted concerning this issue and he advised he should be contacted prior to a meeting. Mr. Seltzer stated the board should follow the school board policy. The policy is to follow the agenda. Mr. Morrow asked Ms. Huston to contact the superintendent.

Dr. Kathy Kwolek of 125 Knoll Drive, New Castle, PA addressed the Board to acknowledge the retiring board secretary, Ms. Janet Crum. Dr. Kwolek stated Ms. Crum worked for the district for over 40 years and she gave an admirable effort.

Mr. Hiler motioned to convene to an executive session however, the motion failed due to lack of a second motion.

The Financial Report dated September 30, 2015 and budget transfers, were presented for approval. Approval was granted on the motion of Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Financial Report Attached)

Financial Report approved

Mr. Curatola, motioned to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Mr. Cardella, 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 and Food Service Funds bills approved

GENERAL FUND	
Prepaid	\$ 604,692.72
Current	\$ 252,605.27
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
Current	\$ 24,658.00

Consideration was given to adding the following items to the agenda:

- Resignation of Ms. Denise Scala
- Extend family medical leave to Ms. Megan Hruska
- Employ Mr. Nick Suders as Transition Coordinator
- Ms. Melissa O'Shane – travel request
- Employ Mr. Mark Seminara and Ms. Cassey Hogue as Elementary Instructional Paraprofessionals

Approved additions to the agenda

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

Consideration was given to the approval of the following resignations/retirements/leaves:

- Ms. Amy Donston –special education instructional paraprofessional - resigned
- Ms. Rachal Bright – transition coordinator – resigned
- Mrs. Denise Scala – elementary instructional paraprofessional - resigned
- Mrs. Megan Hruska – extended family medical leave through December 1, 2015

Resignations/  
retirements/  
leaves  
approved as  
presented

So moved by Mr. Laughner, seconded by Mr. Singer, verbal vote, motion carried.

Consideration was given to employing:

- Ms. Angela Quear as a special education instructional paraprofessional
- Mr. Mark Seminara as an elementary instructional paraprofessional
- Ms. Cassey Hogue as an elementary instructional paraprofessional
- Mr. Nick Suders as a transition coordinator

Approved  
employment as  
presented

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

Consideration was given to the approval of Mr. Mark Schweikert as a substitute custodian. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, and Mr. Singer seconded the motion, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Daily  
Substitute  
Support Staff  
approved

Consideration was given to the approval of the following Individual Transportation Contracts for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Jamie Dickson - 1 student to Beaver County Christian School located in Beaver Falls, PA at \$12.50 per day
- Lisa Richard – 1 student to Beaver County Christian School located in Beaver Falls, PA at \$17.00 per day
- David & Valerie Shaw – 1 student to Beaver County Christian School located in Beaver Falls, PA at \$12.00 per day

Individual  
Transport-  
ation  
Contracts for  
15-16  
approved as  
presented

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

Consideration was given to the approval of the Student Representatives for Activity Clubs for the 2015-16 school year. This list is required by the auditors to be approved on an annual basis. Mr. Laughner motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (A Copy of the List of Representatives Attached).

Student Representatives for Activity Clubs approved

Consideration was given to the approval of the Mohawk Elementary Parental Involvement Policy for the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Houk explained that this is required annually since we receive Federal Funds, and is developed jointly with parents of children participating in Title I. 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. (Copy of Policy on file in Central Office)

Approved Mohawk Elem. Parental Involvement Policy for 2015-2016

Consideration was given to the approval of the Local Advisory Council, the Occupational Advisory Council and the VoAg Occupational Advisory Council for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Leitera informed the Board that we have three programs certified at the state level as part of the Career and Technical Education Program - Vocational Agriculture, Accounting and Administrative Assistant. The designation of the Advisory Councils is part of the annual requirements. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, Mr. Butch "abstain", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. Curatola "abstain", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Morrow "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", 5 yes, 2 absent, 2 abstained, motion carried. (Copy on file in the Office of the Superintendent)

Local Advisory Council, Occupational Advisory Council and VoAg Occupational Advisory Council approved

Consideration was given to the approval of the second reading to modify School Board Policy 351.1, 451.1 and 551.1 – Pre-Employment Drug Testing. Mr. Butch motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Approved second reading to modify School Board Policy 351.1, 451.1 and 551.1

The following travel requests were considered for approval:

- Mr. Clifford Wallace to attend the NOCTI customized assessment meeting from October 12 to 14, 2015 in State College, PA
- Mr. Jarred Stratton and Mr. Kevin Wrona to attend the 2015 Academics and Athletics Conference on October 21, 2015 in State College, PA
- Ms. Lou Ann Miller to present and attend the PCEC Conference from November 19-20, 2015 in Harrisburg, PA
- Mr. Jeff McNeish and Mrs. Lindsey Shimack to accompany senior class students to New York City on November 23-24, 2015.

Requests for travel approved as presented

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

The following Use of Facilities Requests were presented for approval:

- North Beaver Civic Club to use the elementary cafeteria for Breakfast with Santa on December 5, 2014
- Kathi's Dance & Gym to use the high school auditorium for their annual Benefit Christmas Show on December 12-13, 2015.

Approved  
Use of  
Facilities  
Requests

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

Per Capita exonerations were presented for approval. Mrs. Crum stated that all applicants met the criteria and recommended approval Mr. Butch motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 7 yes, 2 absent, motion carried. (Copy Attached)

Real Estate &  
Per Capita  
Additions/  
Exonerations  
approved

Mr. Leitera recognized the FCCLA students for receiving a grant, and creating a business called "Preserving Our Community" – they participated in a recent event at Sperdute Farms where they sold salsa, relish, shirts and other items.

Other  
Business

Mr. Meehan spoke on behalf of the Elementary PTO and informed the Board of some of the activities including the magazine sale, book fair, harvest party and fieldtrips.

Mr. David Caughey, MEA President, addressed the Board and he recognized Mr. Mark Iwanejko, an elementary teacher, for organizing a "clothing drive" on October 10, 2015 that benefited over 30 families. Mr. Iwanejko had several helpers including Ms. Harlan, Ms. Stoner, and Mrs. Burich. They had gathered clothing donations for numerous months prior to the event.

It was announced that an executive session would immediately follow the meeting.

At 9:06 PM, the meeting was adjourned on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Cardella, verbal vote, motion carried.

Kimberly J. Eaton  
Board Secretary