

The Regular Meeting of the Mohawk Area School District Board of Directors was called to order at 6:09 P.M. by the Temporary President, Mr. Mark Hiler, and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence. The following members were present: Eugene Butch, Jr., James Capalbo, Stephen Cardella, Lori Griffin, Jonathan Laughner, James McKim, Scott Singer and Mark Solley. Michael Leitera, Superintendent, Lorree Houk, Assistant to the Superintendent, Raymond Omer, High School Co-Principal, Greg Ferencak, High School Co-Principal, Bradlee Meehan, Elementary Principal, George Spurdute, Assistant Elementary Principal, John R. Seltzer, Solicitor and Kimberly Eaton, Board Secretary also attended.

The minutes of the Reorganization Meeting and the Committee of the Whole Meeting on December 7, 2015 were approved as written on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, verbal vote, motion carried.

Student Delegate, Matthew Fleck, as well as each Administrator updated the Board concerning recent events and activities. Mr. Leitera reported he had attended the High School's holiday concert and thoroughly enjoyed it. Mr. Leitera also said "thank you" to the central office staff members for preparing the agenda in the dark due to a power outage.

Mrs. Kim Turnley, local auditor, was in attendance and presented the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2015 in draft form. It will be prepared in final form after review by the Board and Administration. The audit report contains an unmodified opinion and it is in compliance with GAAP. She distributed a management letter, which would contain any findings, and she was happy to report that Mohawk had no findings for the 2014-15 year. The letter also reminded the district of various important subjects such as segregation of duties for real estate collections, keeping current on proper payroll procedures, etc. She pointed out the total revenues and expenditures for the year, the differences between the 2014-15 budgeted figures and actual expenses and revenues, which indicated that expenses exceeded revenues by \$1,833,175. This was mainly due to capital outlay and it was expected. This decreased the fund balance to \$10,067,692, and while this is still a healthy balance, she stated it could quickly be depleted due to the state of the economy, the future employer retirement costs and many other factors. She briefly reviewed the School Lunch Fund, saying that the revenue exceeded expenditures after transfers by \$13,000 and the cash balance increased by \$20,000 over last year. Mrs. Turnley also said the notes to the financial

Draft audited  
financial  
statements  
presented by  
Mrs. Turnley

statements changed significantly due to a mandate by the Governmental Standards Board. It required the District to report a full accrual liability of their portion of the state pension system in the amount of \$34-million. The pension system is in poor condition. In addition, she said that they did not have to perform a Single Audit, which is required if an entity receives \$500,000 or more in Federal Funds. She asked the Board to read the Management Discussion and Analysis Report, which is an overall review of the district's financial activities for the past year, and that she would be happy to answer any questions they may have. The audit report will be presented for approval at the January meeting. Ms. Eaton went over the fund balance classification definitions and amounts presented in the balance sheet in Exhibit C. Mr. Leitera offered to gather any questions from the Board members after they had time to review the report and he would contact Mrs. Turnley.

There was no public comment this evening.

Mr. Hiler mentioned there was one item of unfinished business – the nomination of president and vice-president.

On a motion by Mr. Laughner the tabled item was taken from the table and Mr. Solley seconded as approval, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried.

Mr. Hiler asked for nominations for President:

Mr. Singer nominated Mark Hiler as President and second approval by Mr. Capalbo. Mr. Solley nominated Eugene Butch, Jr. for the office and second approval by Mr. Laughner. Mr. Singer made a motion to close nominations and then Mr. Laughner second approval to the motion, a voice vote, all affirmative, motion carried. There was discussion on the motion. A roll call vote for the election of president was held. The following members voted for Mr. Butch: Mr. Butch, Mr. Laughner, Mr. McKim, and Mr. Solley. The following members voted for Mr. Hiler: Mr. Capalbo, Mr. Cardella, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Hiler, and Mr. Singer. The Board Secretary announced "Mr. Hiler" as president. He will serve a one-year term.

Mr. Hiler asked for nominations for Vice-President. On a motion by Mr. Laughner, Eugene Butch, Jr. was nominated for vice-president and second approval was given by Mr. Solley. Mr. Laughner made a motion to close nominations and second approval by Mr. Solley, a voice vote, motion carried. There was a roll call vote on the nomination, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried.

Mr. Leitera asked Mr. Butch to preside over the remainder meeting.

The Financial Report dated November 30, 2015 was presented for approval. So moved on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried. (Copy of Financial Report Attached)

Approved  
Financial  
Report

Mr. Cardella motioned to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Ms. Griffin, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried. (Copies of all invoices on file in the Business Office)

General Fund,  
School Lunch  
bills approved

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| GENERAL FUND |               |
| Prepaid      | \$ 484,195.15 |
| Current      | \$ 218,519.62 |
|              |               |
| SCHOOL LUNCH |               |
| Prepaid      | \$ 33,433.69  |

The following were approved as additions to the agenda, on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Hiler, verbal vote, motion carried:

Granted  
permission to  
make additions  
to the agenda

- Retirement resignation of Mrs. Barbara Ray effective January 4, 2016
- Re-assign Ms. Melissa Berchtold as a long-term substitute teacher

Consideration was given to the following resignations/leave requests/employment requests:

- Resignation of Ms. Trish DeVincentis as a secondary instructional paraprofessional
- Retirement resignation of Mr. Martin Krisuk as a full-time bus driver effective December 1, 2015
- Retirement resignation of Mrs. Barbara Ray as a cafeteria worker effective January 4, 2016
- Maternity leave request of Nicole McCombie as secondary teacher from approximately March 15, 2016 through June 6, 2016
- Employ Sara Milford as elementary special education instructional paraprofessional
- Employ Laura Wagner as secondary special education instructional paraprofessional
- Re-assign Ms. Melissa Berchtold as a long-term substitute teacher

Approved  
employment/  
leaves/  
resignations as  
presented

Mr. Solley motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, motion carried.

Approval was given to solicit bids for two new school buses for the 2016-2017 school year on the motion of Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried.

Granted permission to solicit bids for two new school buses for 16-17

Consideration was given to the approval for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Neshannock Township School District to attend the Mohawk Area School District to participate in the Itinerant Emotional Support/Learning Classroom retroactive to December 4, 2015 on the motion of Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Hiler, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried.

Accepted Non-Resident student

Consideration was given to the approval of the second reading of the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Policy for Athletic Programs, Extracurricular Activities, and Student Drivers policy on motion by Mr. Solley, second approval by Mr. Singer. There was discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken all members voted in the affirmative, motion carried.

Approved the Student Drug policy

Consideration was given to the approval for Mr. Clifford Wallace and Mr. Cameron Schirmer to accompany approximately 26 students to the Farm Show from January 11-13, 2016 in Harrisburg, PA.

Consideration was given to the approval for Mrs. Mary Fleming to accompany the FCCLA State Officer, Matthew Fleck, to the FCCLA State Work Session from January 29-31, 2016 in Breezewood, PA.

Travel requests approved as presented

Consideration was given to the approval for Mrs. Mary Fleming to accompany the FCCLA State Officer, Matthew Fleck, to the FCCLA State Leadership Conference from March 13-18, 2016 in Gettysburg, PA. She is also requesting approval for Mrs. Diane Laughner to accompany approximately 18 Mohawk students to compete at the conference from March 16-18, 2016.

Mr. Solley motioned approval, seconded by Ms. Griffin, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried.

Real Estate Exonerations were presented for approval. The current exonerations total \$4,500 bringing the year-to-date exonerations to \$386,744 and no change to the year-to-date additions at \$89,700 which translates to a year-to-date loss of \$297,044 or \$3,989.30 in actual tax dollars. Mr. Singer motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Laughner, roll call vote, all members voting in the affirmative, motion carried. (Copy of Real Estate Additions and Exonerations Attached)

Approved Real Estate Exonerations

**Discussion Items**

1. Mrs. Houk mentioned the Vo Ag Advisory Council has a vacancy. Mr. Solley volunteered.
2. Mr. Leitera stated in preparation for the 2016-2017 budget, the deadline to adopt a resolution or a proposed preliminary budget pursuant to Section 311 (d)(1) is January 7, 2016. We will put an action item on the agenda for our meeting on January 4, 2016. Ms. Eaton gave a copy of PDE's "Timeline for Events Related to 2016-2017 Budget Process." She reiterated that a resolution or a proposed preliminary budget must be adopted 110 days prior to the prior election.
3. Ms. Eaton stated the base index is 2.4% for the 2016-2017 school year. She also stated that the adjusted index for Mohawk is 3.4%. Mr. Leitera stated the adjusted index is based on the market value/personal income aid ratio.
4. Mr. Leitera spoke concerning the State budget impasse and Mohawk's ability to pay bills and payroll while not receiving state revenue. Ms. Eaton presented a draft copy a cumulative cash flow statement to the Board. It is a document that banks request when determining loan applications. Ms. Eaton stated the District would have enough cash to make it through the month of January. Ms. Eaton stated she contacted multiple local financial institutions to obtain quotes on obtaining a short-term promissory note. She received one quote which had a \$2,500 fee and interest rate of 1.07%. She is waiting on other quotes and she'll prepare a summary for the meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. She stated that if the Commonwealth's budget is passed; we'll receive approximately \$4-million. The Governor had stated PDE would be able to distribute the income within two weeks.

Discussion  
Items

**Awards & Recognition**

Mr. Leitera and Mrs. Houk recognized the following:

- Andrew Henley, a former student, received an international award for creating a Lewis and Clark game
- Victoria Johngrass – won 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award for Festival of Writing contest at YSU
- Cassandra Huston – extreme leaders; donations were made to the Crisis Center
- November students of the month were recognized

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Mr. David Caughey, MEA President distributed holiday cards to the board members and administration. He noted that students from Ms. Krisuk's classroom made the cards.

It was announced that an executive session for personnel and legal matters would immediately follow the meeting.

At 7:09 PM, on a motion by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Capalbo the meeting was adjourned.

Kimberly J. Eaton  
Board Secretary