

The Regular Meeting of the Mohawk Area Board of Directors was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by the President, Mark Hiler with the following members present: Eugene A. Butch, Jr., James Capalbo, Stephen Cardella, Lori L. Griffin, Jonathan Laughner, James McKim, Scott Singer and Mark Solley. Superintendent, Mr. Michael Leitera, Assistant to the Superintendent, Lorree Houk, High School Co-Principals, Gregory Ferencak and Raymond Omer, Elementary Principal, Bradlee Meehan, Assistant Principal, George Sperdute, Coordinator of Special Services, Jamie Stevens, Solicitor, John R. Seltzer, and Board Secretary, Kimberly Eaton, also attended.

An executive session was held to discuss legal and personnel matters.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 11, 2016 as corrected, Special Budget Planning Meeting on April 14, 2016, Special Budget Planning Meeting on April 21, 2016 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 2, 2016 were approved as written on the motion of Mr. Butch, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Emily Weingarten, Student Delegate, as well as each Administrator, updated the Board on recent activities and events.

Mr. Leitera reported that the proposed final budget will be presented this evening. A final budget must be adopted by June 30. He stated he looked at the personnel budget and he had to make hard decisions. He stated the proposed budget represents the well-being of the students and the District. He then presented the Enrollment and Scheduling Facts. There has been a 21% reduction in student population over ten years. Mr. Leitera stated that enrollment was 1,856 students in the 2005-2006 school year and now the current enrollment is 1,460 students. He proposed the elementary class sizes for the 2016-2017 school year; kindergarten will have approximately 120 students with 6 teachers which equals 20 students per classroom. He mentioned the other class sizes. He proposed to reduce the art department by one position due to 8 open periods at the High School. There will be ½ position reduced in music. English will be reduced by one position and physical education will see a reduction of 2 positions. One technology education position will also be cut. Mr. Leitera stated no courses or programs will be eliminated. He said he also looked at schedules. Mr. Leitera stated these are the maximum amount of positions due to decline in student enrollment.

Superintendent
Report

Mr. Alan Marsh invited the board members to attend the Annual Elementary Memorial Day Program.

Public
Comment

Mr. David Caughey, MEA President addressed the board; he stated he cannot quantify the reasons why teachers make a difference but he gave qualitative reasons. He stated the teacher union leadership would like to work with the board to find ways to reduce expenditures.

Ms. Tina Hairhoger addressed the board; she inquired why the board will cut these teachers.

Ms. Amy Howells addressed the board; she asked the board to find other ways to make cuts to the budget.

Another parent addressed the board; she asked the board to find a different way to balance the budget than cutting teachers.

Mr. Hiler stated the board has been working hard to balance the budget gap. Salaries and fringe benefits total 85%. Mr. Hiler it is all about the kids.

Mr. Solley stated the public comment does not fall on deaf ears that the board is trying to crunch numbers and find ways.

Ms. Brandy Weingartner addressed the board; she stated the paving and technology purchase could be put on hold

Ms. Michele Haviland addressed the board, she stated the board should look into athletics and transportation. She also stated that “pay to play” should be reviewed.

Ms. Eaton stated the budget process started in the early spring. The board had met in February, March and four times in April. Ms. Eaton also stated that the Board had looked into charging a fee for athletics and activities.

Tony Jones addressed the board; inquired about transportation cuts.

Mr. Leitera stated that he and the transportation manager review the bus routes throughout the school year. He feels they are efficient. We do cover a large amount of miles. He also looked into sharing services with local districts to cut costs.

Another parent addressed the board; inquired about reassessment.

Mr. Leitera stated that reassessment is a complex issue. Mr. Leitera also stated that he would put a tab on our website for the community to comment.

The Financial Report dated May 31, 2016, was presented for approval. Approval was granted on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copy of Financial Report Attached)

Financial
Report
Approved

Mr. Capalbo motioned to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copies of all invoices on file in the Business Office)

General Fund,
School Lunch
bills approved

GENERAL FUND	
Prepaid	\$ 425,748.20
Current	\$ 284,807.44
SCHOOL LUNCH	
Prepaid	\$ 34,553.27

There were five additions to the agenda this evening:

- 1) Approval of elimination of 9 ½ teaching positions due to substantial decrease in pupil enrollment
- 2) Approval of elimination of 2 custodial positions
- 3) Approval for the Mohawk Area Churches Association to host this year's Baccalaureate service
- 4) Approval of life insurance rates
- 5) Approval to accept resignation of Mr. Gregory Ferencak

Approved
additions to the
agenda

The additions were approved on the motion of Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the approval of a leave of absence for Mrs. Ashley Graziani starting approximately on September 9, 2016. So moved by Mr. Solley, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Leave of
absence granted
to Mrs. Ashley
Graziani

Consideration will be given to the approval of the tentative 2016 Mohawk Graduate List pending completion of all student graduation requirements. Mr. Capalbo motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copy of List Attached)

Approved tentative 2016 Mohawk Graduate List

Consideration will be given to the approval of the first reading of the Mohawk Area School District General Operating budget expenditures in the amount of \$24,406,697 for the 2016-17 school year. Ms. Eaton presented a power point presentation of the 2016-2017 Proposed Final Budget. Ms. Eaton stated the budget includes at tax increase of 0.4688 mil. She also stated expenditures exceed revenues by \$1,138,862 million. This amount will be taken from fund balance. Ms. Eaton stated the budget would go on public display after board approval. The second reading and final adoption will be on June 13, 2016. Mr. Cardella motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, Ms. Griffin, "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "yes", Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", nine yes, motion carried.

Approved first reading of the 2016-17 General Operating budget

Consideration will be given to the approval of the 2016-2017 Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Rates. Mr. Leitera explained the health insurance increased 5.3%, the dental and vision rates remain the same as last year. Mr. Singer motioned approval, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copy of Insurance Rates Attached)

2016-2017 Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Rates approved

The board approved the 2016-2017 All Sports Student Accident Insurance at the cost of \$6,740 through Blackwood Agency. Ms. Eaton said the rate would remain the same as prior year. So moved by Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (A copy of the insurance rates included)

Approved 2016-2017 All Sports Student Accident Insurance

On the motion of Mr. Butch and a second by Mr. Solley, Mr. Jonathan Laughner was appointed as the Board Treasurer for the 2016-2017 school year. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer, "yes", Mr. Solley "yes", Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", Ms. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "abstain", 8 yes, 1 abstain, motion carried.

Jonathan Laughner appointed Board Treasurer for 2016-2017

The board approved the bonded positions for 2016-2017 as follows:

Board Secretary	\$150,000	Bonded positions for 2016-2017 approved as presented
Treasurer	\$150,000	
Cafeteria	\$10,000	
Cafeteria	\$10,000	
Payroll Clerk	\$100,000	
H.S. Principal – Activity	\$25,000	
Elem. Principal – Activity	\$10,000	
Business Office – Activity	\$25,000	

So moved by Mr. McKim, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the approval of Depository and Investment Agencies for the 2016-17 school year as follows:

- First Commonwealth Bank
- Northwest Savings Bank
- PA Local Government Investment Trust (Wells Fargo Bank N.A. is the depository bank)
- First Choice Federal Credit Union

Approved Depository and Investment Agencies for 2016-2017

So moved by Mr. Solley, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Sharp Collection Agency was considered for the collection of Delinquent Per Capita Tax and Delinquent Wage Tax for prior to and including 2011. The rates remain the same as prior year. So moved by Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mrs. Griffin, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Sharp Collection Agency approved to collect delinquent taxes

Consideration was given to the approval of Legal Consultants, Andrews & Price at \$130.00/hour, and John R. Seltzer at \$120.00/hour for the 2016-2017 school year. The rates remain the same as prior year. Mr. Singer motioned approval seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Andrews & Price and John R. Seltzer approved as legal consultants

Consideration was given to the approval of the 2016-2017 Lawrence County Career and Technical Center Budget Resolution. The total operating cost is \$5,755,052. The total budget is \$6,991,824. The 2016-2017 tuition rates will remain the same as 2015-2016. So moved by Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Approved 2016-2017 Law. Co. Career/Tech. Center Budget Resolution

Consideration was given to the approval of the second reading of Board Policy 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult-Student Boundaries. So moved by Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copy of policy attached)

Second reading of Board Policy 824 approved

Consideration was given to the approval of the Uniform Grants Guidance (UGG) policies: 626-Federal Fiscal Compliance, 626.1-Conflict of Interest, 626.2-Travel Reimbursement, 626.3-Cash Management, 626.4-Allowability of Costs, and 626.5-Procurement for Federal Grants. (second reading). So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (Copy of policy attached)

Approved Uniform Grants Guidance Policies

The board rejected the bids for the North and South Parking Lot Paving Project on a motion by Mr. Solley and seconded by Mr. McKim, a roll call vote was taken, Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. McKim, "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "yes", Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mrs. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", 9 yes, motion carried.

North/South Parking Lot Paving Project bids rejected

Consideration was given to ratify the proposal by ACA Engineering to perform test boring and test coring services at the cost of \$6,435.00. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Butch, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

ACA Eng. proposal for test boring & test coring approved

On the motion of Mr. Butch, seconded by Solley was granted to table the travel request of Mr. Mike O'Lare and approximately 2-3 chaperones to accompany the girl's basketball team to the Wilmington Team Camp in North Carolina for a basketball team camp from June 16-23, 2016. A roll call vote was taken, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Girl's basketball travel request tabled

Real Estate Additions and Exonerations will be presented for approval. The current additions are \$113,800 and current exonerations are \$289,800 bringing the Year-to-Date additions to \$134,000 and the Year-to-Date exonerations to \$438,300 which translates to a Year-to-Date loss in assessed value of -\$304,300 or -\$4,086.85 in actual tax dollars.

Approved Real Estate Additions and Exon.

Approval was granted on the motion of Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, Mr. Solley, "no", Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mrs. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", 8 yes, 1 no, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the approval of the elimination of the following teaching positions due to substantial decrease in pupil enrollment in the school district and/or the curtailment and or alteration of the Art, Elementary Classrooms, English, Music, Physical Education, and Technology Education course(s)/class(es) as recommended by the Superintendent due to the substantial decline in course enrollment and/or to conform with standards of organization and/or to conform with educational activities recommended by the Department pursuant to 24 P.S. 11-1124: 1 Art position, 1 English Position, 1 First Grade Classroom Position, 1 Fourth Grade Classroom, ½ Music Position, 2 Physical Education Position, 1 Second Grade Position, 1 Technology Education Position, and 1 Third Grade Position. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote was taken, Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mrs. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "yes", nine yes, motion carried.

Approved the elimination of teaching positions as recommended by the Superintendent

Consideration was given to the approval of eliminating two custodial positions at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. So moved by Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote was taken, Mr. Butch "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Cardella "yes", Mrs. Griffin "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. Laughner "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "yes", nine yes, motion carried.

Granted permission to eliminate two custodial positions

Consideration was given to the approval for Mohawk Area Churches Association to host this year's Baccalaureate Service in the high school auditorium at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 22, 2016. So moved by Mr. Butch, seconded by Mr. Cardella, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Baccalaureate Services approved

Consideration was given to the approval of life insurance rates with Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019 at the rate of \$0.11 per \$1,000 of coverage. The rates reflect a decrease of one cent from the rates that covered 2009 through 2016. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried. (A copy of the insurance rates included)

Boston Mutual life insurance rates for 7/1/16 thru 6/30/19 approved

Consideration was given to the approval to accept the resignation of Mr. Gregory Ferencak, Secondary Co-Principal, effective June 30, 2016. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 9 yes, motion carried.

Accepted the resignation of Greg Ferencak effective 6/30/16

Discussion Items

1. Ms. Eaton mentioned that the County Assessor certified the values as of May 1, 2016 at \$445,485,177. The District had received a letter from the Lawrence County Tax Assessment office dated May 1, 2016. The District has 2,901 homesteads and 45 farmsteads. The homestead median is \$76,100. Ms. Eaton also stated that the District is expecting a significant loss in assessment due to a large commercial property tax appeal.
2. Ms. Eaton mentioned that the PA Department of Education had allocated \$483,354.97 as Mohawk Area School District's property tax reduction allocation for 2016-2017 – Act 1 of 2006. Mohawk Area must reduce property taxes by \$483,354.97 through a homestead and farmstead exclusion.

Awards & Recognition

Mr. Leitera recognized the Elementary Play/Musical – Peter Pan Jr. He said he really enjoyed it and it was sold out.

Reports

No report from the Mohawk Elementary P.T.O.

Mr. Caughey said “thank you” to the school board and he would like to work with the board of directors to cut expenditures.

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

At 10:16 P.M., Mr. Cardella motioned approval of adjournment and Mr. Solley seconded the motion.

Kimberly J. Eaton
Board Secretary