

The Regular Meeting of the Mohawk Area Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the President, Mark Hiler with the following members present: Eugene A. Butch, Jr., James Capalbo, James McKim, Scott Singer and Mark Solley. Stephen Cardella arrived at 8:25 p.m during executive session. Lori Griffin and Jonathan Laughner were absent. Superintendent, Mr. Michael Leitera, Assistant to the Superintendent, Lorree Houk, High School Principal, Raymond Omer, Elementary Principal, Bradlee Meehan, Solicitor, John R. Seltzer, and Board Secretary, Kimberly Eaton, also attended.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 11, 2017 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 2, 2017 were approved as written on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

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

Mr. Leitera complimented Mrs. Houk and Mrs. Maravola for organizing an amazing Hall of Fame presentation. He also said “thank you” to the students for giving a lot of effort during testing. He also mentioned the many efforts of the teachers, principals and administrators for giving the best opportunity for the students to succeed. He also mentioned he attended an Opioid Abuse Conference on Saturday, May 6, 2017. He stated Lawrence County is the hardest hit county in the state. He stated education is needed to save our young persons in our buildings. He mentioned the Elementary Track and Field day was good. He also said the Elementary Musical was fantastic. Next he presented the “2016-2017 State of Education Report.” This report is underwritten by the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation and it can be found on P.S.B.A.’s website. Mr. Leitera reported he had attended the Northwest Superintendents Summit on May 5, 2017. There were over 80 superintendents and 8 governmental officials present. They discussed the rules that Cyber and Charter Schools follow. They are not the same as school districts. These are woes that we have to battle. He said there was a speaker from the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting at the Summit – it re-invigorated our efforts to expand our safety plan.

Superintendent’s  
Report

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The following members of the audience were recognized:

Mrs. Pamela Pagley and Avery Sun (4<sup>th</sup> grader) presented art from the elementary art show.

Mrs. Carrie Tomon and Graecyn Pastore (5<sup>th</sup> grader) presented science fair experiments. Graecyn won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Elementary Science Fair.

Mr. Leitera and the building principals recognized the following:

- Mr. Pat Miller (athletic trainer) as High School Employee of the Month
- Mrs. Carrie Tomon (elementary science teacher) as Elementary School Employee of the Month

The Financial Report dated April 30, 2017, was presented for approval. Approval was granted on the motion of Mr. Solley, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Financial Report Attached)

Financial Report  
Approved

Mr. Capalbo motioned to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried. (Copies of all invoices on file in the Business Office)

General Fund,  
School Lunch  
bills approved

GENERAL FUND

Prepaid	\$ 60,725.98
Current	\$ 113,868.74

SCHOOL LUNCH

Prepaid	\$ 46,091.85
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There were six additions to the agenda this evening:

- 1) Approval of travel requests
- 2) Approval to accept retirement resignation of Robin Grebenz
- 3) Approval of separation agreement with Robin Grebenz
- 4) Approval of Intergovernmental agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the 2017-2018 school year
- 5) Approval of Mr. Schirmer to accompany students on state convention
- 6) Approval to partner with West Central Job Partnership

Approved  
additions to the  
agenda

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The additions were approved on the motion of Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

- Consideration was given to accept the retirement resignations from
- Robin Grebenz, Cafeteria Manager, effective June 16, 2017
  - Marthanne LeFebvre, Bus Driver, effective May 31, 2017
  - Catherine Jones, Bus Driver, effective June 5, 2017
  - Rosalind Werner, Bus Driver, effective May 31, 2017

Retirement resignations/employment requests were approved

Likewise, Katelyn Jones was approved to be added to the paraprofessional substitute listing and Amanda Hairhoger to be added to the bus driver substitute listing.

Mr. McKim motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent motion carried.

Consideration will be given to the approval of the tentative 2017 Mohawk Graduate List pending completion of all student graduation requirements. There are currently 99 students on the list. Mr. Capalbo motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried. (Copy of List Attached)

Approved tentative 2017 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 \$25,801,651 for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Eaton presented a power point presentation of the 2017-2018 Proposed Final Budget. Ms. Eaton stated the budget includes a tax increase of 0.50 mil. She also stated expenditures exceed revenues by \$2,399,971. Ms. Eaton noted that the largest increases in expenditures were: salaries, benefits, tuition for outside placements and capital outlays. Ms. Eaton explained the employer P.S.E.R.S. rate will increase from 30.03% of wages to 32.57% of wages. She explained that means for every dollar of salary, school districts must contribute \$0.3257 towards retirement. Medical insurance rates are expected to increase 3%. Ms. Eaton also mentioned the administration has put in place several cost-reducing and alternative revenue strategies for the upcoming year. The deficit 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, 2017. Mr. Capalbo motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote was taken, Mr. Butch, "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "no", 5 yes, 1 no, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved first reading of the 2017-2018 General Operating budget

Consideration will be given to the approval of the 2017-2018 Employee Health Insurance Rates. Mr. Leitera explained the health insurance rates increased 3% from the prior year while the school district had anticipated a 7% increase. Mr. Solley motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried. (Copy of Insurance Rates Attached)

2017-2018  
Employee Health  
Insurance Rates  
approved

The board approved the 2017-2018 All Sports Student Accident Insurance at the cost of \$5,800 and will include \$1,000,000 Catastrophic Coverage through Blackwood Agency. Ms. Eaton said the rate decreased by \$288 from prior year. The voluntary student accident insurance for K-12 is \$36.00 per year for school time and \$125.00 per year for 24 hour coverage. So moved by Mr. Cardella, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried. (A copy of the insurance rates included).

Approved 2017-  
2018 All Sports  
Student Accident  
Insurance

On the motion of Mr. Singer and a second by Mr. Butch, Mr. Jonathan Laughner was appointed as the Board Treasurer for the 2017-2018 school year. A roll call vote was taken, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Jonathan  
Laughner  
appointed Board  
Treasurer for  
2017-2018

The board approved the bonded positions for 2017-2018 as follows:

Board Secretary	\$150,000
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

Bonded  
positions for  
2017-2018  
approved as  
presented

So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Consideration was given to the approval of Depository and Investment Agencies for the 2017-2018 school year as follows:

Approved  
Depository  
and Investment  
Agencies for  
2017-2018

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

Ms. Eaton said there were no changes from prior year. So moved by Mr. Butch, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, 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. Berkheimer has been contracted to collect both current and delinquent wage tax from 2012 forward. Ms. Eaton stated \$50,000 was budgeted in delinquent collections for the 2017-2018 school year while \$57,000 was budgeted in the 2016-2017 school year. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Butch, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Sharp Collection Agency approved to collect delinquent taxes

Consideration was given to the approval of Legal Consultants, Andrews & Price at \$140.00 per hour, and John R. Seltzer at \$120.00 per hour for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Eaton stated that the hourly rate for Andrews & Price increased by \$10 per hour. The rate remained the same for Mr. Seltzer. Mr. Solley motioned approval seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

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

Consideration was given to the approval of the 2017-2018 Lawrence County Career and Technical Center Budget Resolution. The total operating cost is \$5,630,052. The total budget is \$6,872,743. Mr. Leitera explained the budgeted expenditures decreased \$119,081 from the prior year. The 2017-2018 tuition rates will remain the same as 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 at \$12,500 per ADM. Mr. Leitera stated this budget does not include the roof project. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Butch, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried (Copy of the Resolution attached)

Approved 2017-2018 Law. Co. Career/Tech. Center Budget Resolution

Consideration was given to the approval to contract with C&C Security for the 2017-2018 school year. So moved by Mr. Solley, seconded by Mr. Singer, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved contracted service agreement with C&C Security

Real Estate Additions and Exonerations will be presented for approval. The current exonerations are \$118,500 bringing the Year-to-Date additions to \$0 and the Year-to-Date exonerations to \$118,500 which translates to a Year-to-Date loss in assessed value of (\$118,500) or (\$1,644.78) in actual tax dollars. Approval was granted on the motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved Real Estate Additions and Exon.

Consideration was given to the approval of request for the Girls Basketball team to attend basketball camps at St. Vincent College (June 28-30, 2017), Edinboro University (July 14-16, 2017), and California University of PA (August 3-5, 2017) at no cost to the District except the use of the vans. Mr. Leitera stated the team will pay for the cost of gasoline. So moved by Mr. Capalbo, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, Mr. Butch, "yes", Mr. Capalbo "yes", Mr. Hiler "yes", Mr. McKim "yes", Mr. Singer "yes", Mr. Solley "abstain," 5 yes, 1 abstained, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved travel requests

Consideration was given to the approval of the separation agreement between Mohawk Area School District Board of Directors and Robin Grebenz. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Solley, roll call vote taken, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved separation agreement between the school board and Robin Grebenz

Consideration was given to the approval of the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Intergovernmental Agreement for the 2017-2018 school year. So moved by Mr. Butch, seconded by Mr. Capalbo, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved the inter-governmental agreement with MIU4

Consideration was given to the approval for Cameron Schirmer to accompany three students to the FFA State Convention from June 13-15, 2017 at State College. So moved by Mr. Solley, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved Mr. Schirmer to accompany FFA students

Consideration was given to the approval to participate in the Summer Youth Program through the West Central Job Partnership for the summer of 2017. So moved by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. McKim, roll call vote, all members present voting in the affirmative, 6 yes, 3 absent, motion carried.

Approved the school district to participate in the Summer Youth Program through the West Central Job Partnership for the summer of 2017

### **Discussion Items**

Mr. Omer reported that the old Chromebooks were given to the seniors. They were excited.

Ms. Eaton mentioned that the County Assessor certified the values as of May 1, 2017 at \$452,238,337. The District had received a letter from the Lawrence County Tax Assessment Office dated May 1, 2017. The District has 2,920 homesteads and 44 farmsteads. The homestead

median is \$76,300. Ms. Eaton also stated that the District is expecting a significant loss in assessment due to a large commercial property tax appeal. Per Mr. Hardester, the County Chief Assessor, the appeal is not reflected in the \$452-million figure.

Ms. Eaton and Mr. Leitera mentioned they will be planning another budget planning workshop in mid to late May.

Mr. Meehan mentioned the Elementary School Memorial Day Program will be held on May 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. He included an invitation in the packet.

Mrs. Houk announced that the Mohawk Education Foundation will be holding a fundraiser at Pizza Joes in Bessemer on May 16, 2017. The restaurant will donate 15% of the orders to the Foundation. She included a flier in the packet.

### **Reports**

No report from the Mohawk Elementary P.T.O. or the Mohawk Education Association.

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

At 8:16 P.M., Mr. Solley motioned approval of adjournment and Mr. Singer seconded the motion.

Kimberly J. Eaton  
Board Secretary