

# MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Work Session

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Monday, February 8, 2021

## ***A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL, FOR LIFE***

### I. **OPENING CEREMONY**

### II. **CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

### III. **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

<b><u>BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>	<b><u>LATE ARRIVAL</u></b>
Mr. Victor L. Abate, President	X		
Mr. Donald D. Pinci, Vice President	X		
Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman, Treasurer	X		
Mr. Terry L. Boonie	X		
Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson	X		
Mr. Justin T. Haynes		X	
Mrs. Wyona P. Lauver		X	
Mr. Christopher T. Nesbit	X		
Mrs. Sherryl L. Wagner	X		
Mr. Richard J. Musselman, Superintendent (Non-Voting Member)	X		
Ms. Allyson L. Folk, Secretary (Non-Member)	X		

### **OTHERS**

Mr. Joseph W. Stroup, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Attorney Orris C. Knepp, III, Solicitor  
Mr. Dane S. Aucker, Principal, Midd-West Middle School  
Mr. Jeremy D. Brown, Assistant Principal, Midd-West High School  
Mrs. Lee C. Bzdil, Supervisor of Special Education  
Mr. Thor R. Edmiston, Principal, Midd-West High School  
Mrs. Julie L. Lohr, Principal, Middleburg Elementary School  
Miss Erin C. Sheedy, Principal, West Snyder Elementary School  
Approximately 8 Concerned Citizens

### IV. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

*There were no scheduled speakers.*

### V. **ITEMS FOR WORK SESSION**

#### A. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman

1. **MINUTES**

- a. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the January 25, 2021, regular meeting of the Mid-West School District Board of School Directors.
- b. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the February 8, 2021, work session of the Mid-West School District Board of School Directors.

Discussion:

None

2. **LIST OF BILLS**

Approval is recommended of the list of bills for the period January 25, 2021, through February 19, 2021.

Discussion:

None

3. **TREASURER’S REPORTS**

Approval is recommended for the Treasurer’s Reports for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Food Service Fund and Activity Fund for the period ending January 31, 2021.

Discussion:

None

4. **BUS DRIVER**

Approval is recommended for the following individual as a bus driver for the 2020-2021 school year:

Weikel Busing, LLC

Catherine R. Branthoover to be effective January 25, 2021

Discussion:

None

5. **BUS STOPS**

Approval is recommended for the following bus stops:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

None

6. **SPRING ATHLETIC TRANSPORTATION BIDS**

Approval is recommended of the spring athletic transportation bids in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ as follows:

Hunters Valley, Inc.	\$ _____
Rohrer Bus Service	\$ _____
Spade Busing, LLC	\$ _____
Strawser Busing, LLC	\$ _____
Weikel Busing, LLC	\$ _____

Discussion:

None

7. **TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR BASEBALL PRACTICES AND HOME GAMES**

Approval is requested to accept the quote from \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per round-trip transport to provide transportation service to West Snyder Elementary School for baseball practices and home games for the 2020-2021 school year.

Discussion:

None

8. **2021-2022 SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

Approval is requested of the 2021-2022 SUN Area Technical Institute General Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,345,146.00. *{The 2020-2021 budget was \$7,521,519.00.}*

Discussion:

None

9. **2021-2022 CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT PRELIMINARY GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

Approval is requested of the 2021-2022 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Preliminary General Operating Budget in the amount of \$702,660.00. *{The 2020-2021 budget was \$886,527.00.}*

Discussion:

None

Mr. Pinci stated I have a question with regards to the SUN Area Tech. Have they finished the roof?

Mrs. Eriksson responded actually, well, this is kind of new for me so I'm still learning everything, and that's why the budget was less because that money is coming back to you. Mr. Pinci stated that's what I was wondering.

Mrs. Eriksson stated that was before me being the SUN rep. I apologize. I could probably find out more, but that's my understanding is that's why it's less is because the roof is, but I think there's some pieces they need to tweak yet.

**B. POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

**1. FIELD TRIPS**

Approval is recommended of the following field trips:

- a. DECA Club – Mid-West High School – February 17, 2021, through February 19, 2021 – Hershey, PA – 1 Student/1 Adult – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: \$263.22
- b. Senior Class – Mid-West High School – \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, through \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 – \_\_\_\_\_, PA – \_\_ Students/ \_\_ Adults – Cost to Organization: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ – Cost to District: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

None

**2. 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR – FIRST READING**

Approval is recommended of the 2021-2022 school calendar on first reading.

Discussion:

None

**3. PRACTICUM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT – LIBERTY UNIVERSITY**

Approval is requested of a Practicum Articulation Agreement between Liberty University and the Mid-West School District for candidates to complete a variety of course-embedded practicums as part of their degree program for the period from February 22, 2021, to June 30, 2023.

Discussion:

Mr. Pinci inquired where is this Liberty University? Is it on-line, or is this?

Mr. Stroup responded it's a university in Virginia. We have hosted a student teacher from there before a couple of years ago. The agreement ran out, and now we have another one asking to join. They're from our area and want to come back to do their student teaching.

4. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**

Approval is recommended of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Foster Grandparent Program of Central Pennsylvania and the Midd-West School District to be effective October 1, 2020, to October 31, 2023, self-certifying that Midd-West School District meets the requirements necessary to become a Foster Grandparent Program Volunteer Station.

Discussion:

None

5. **WAIVER TO POLICY GUIDE 121 – FIELD TRIPS**

Approval is recommended to waive Policy Guide 121, Field Trips, to allow less than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the senior class participate in the trip.

Discussion:

None

6. **WAIVER TO POLICY GUIDE 217 – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Approval is recommended to waive Policy Guide 217, Graduation Requirements, to allow any ninth through twelfth grade student participating in at least three (3) marking periods during the 2020-2021 school year in Midd-West School District's virtual program to earn 24.5 credits to be eligible for graduation provided they have met all other state and local District requirements. *{Twenty-seven (27) credits is required for graduation.}*

Discussion:

None

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Pinci, I have a question on the DECA Club trip. What actually is that? Does anybody have an explanation?

Mr. Edmiston responded, Mr. Abate, Mrs. Mason is on this evening. I had asked to come just so she could speak to the Board. With your permission, she will fill you in.

Mr. Abate stated yes, that would be fine, Mr. Edmiston.

Mrs. Mason stated hi, I'm here. So, what happened is this year due to COVID, we had to do the whole competition virtual. So, I held a one (1) day in-person field trip at school, and all of our students did all of their role plays in my classroom so we could all get them done with my assistance should there be any technology issues. As a Board, because currently I'm the president of the Pennsylvania DECA Board for the state, and Allie Keister is vice-president of membership, who we as a Board decided just so that we could kind of give the kids a little bit more of a real ceremony that we would still go to Hershey and try to hold the awards ceremony and have our state officers still go on stage and announce the kids' names like they would if it would have been in person at Hershey. This would start on Wednesday, and it would be

Thursday and Friday. There are a lot of workshops that are being held virtual. I'm going to hold a workshop for DECA students virtually, and then all the state officers will be holding different workshops on leadership, professional dress, role plays, public speaking and things like that. So, I'm asking permission for Allie and I to head out there to take part in this with me being president and her being a state officer, and one of the things that I fought for if we were able to do this is that each state officer would have their own room at the Hershey Lodge which was something when we talked about the senior class trip that Jenelle really focused on that if we did overnight that the kids would have to have a room by themselves. So, I told the Board that I would come to you guys for permission, but I wasn't 100% sure if Allie and I would be able to attend, but we were hoping to with giving our own workshops and Allie being a state officer that this could be a good opportunity for her.

Mr. Abate stated okay. Thank you very much, Mrs. Mason.

7. **REVISED POLICY GUIDE 815 – ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY**

Approval is recommended of revised Policy Guide 815, Acceptable Use and Internet Safety, on second and final reading.

Discussion:

None

8. **NEW POLICY GUIDES**

Approval is recommended of the following new policy guides on first reading:

- 304 – Employment of District Staff
- 305 – Employment of Substitutes
- 306 – Employment of Summer School Staff
- 307 – Student Teacher/Interns
- 318 – Attendance and Tardiness

Discussion:

None

9. **REVISED POLICY GUIDES**

Approval is recommended of the following revised policy guides on first reading:

- 301 – Creating a Position
- 302 – Employment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
- 308 – Board Resolution *{Formerly titled Employment Contract}*
- 309 – Assignment and Transfer
- 311 – Reduction in Staff *{Formerly titled Suspensions and Furloughs}*
- 312 – Performance Assessment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent *{Formerly titled Evaluation of Superintendent}*
- 313 – Evaluation of Employees *{Formerly titled Evaluation of Administrative Employees}*
- 314 – Physical Examination
- 314.1 – HIV Infection

- 317 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 319 – Outside Activities
- 320 – Freedom of Speech in Non-School Settings
- 321 – Political Activities
- 322 – Gifts
- 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products *{Formerly Tobacco/Nicotine Use}*
- 324 – Personnel Files

Discussion:

None

10. **REPEALED POLICY GUIDES**

Approval is recommended to repeal the following policy guides:

- 303 – Employment of Administrators
- 310 – Abolishing a Position
- 316 – Non-tenured Employees
- 327 – Management Team
- 401 – Creating a Position
- 404 – Employment of Professional Employees
- 405 – Employment of Substitute Professional Employees
- 406 – Employment of Summer Staff
- 407 – Student Teacher Interns
- 408 – Employment Contract
- 409 – Assignment and Transfer
- 410 – Abolishing a Position
- 411 – Suspensions and Furloughs
- 412 – Evaluation of Professional Employees
- 413 – Evaluation of Temporary Professional Employees
- 414 – Physical Examinations
- 414.1 – HIV Infection
- 416 – Non-tenured Staff Member
- 417 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 418 – Penalties for Tardiness
- 419 – Outside Activities
- 420 – Freedom of Speech in Non-Instructional Settings
- 421 – Political Activities
- 422 – Gifts
- 423 – Tobacco/Nicotine Use
- 424 – Personnel Files
- 501 – Creating a Position
- 504 – Employment of Classified Employees
- 505 – Employment of Substitute and Short-Term Employees
- 508 – Employment Contract
- 509 – Assignment and Transfer
- 511 – Suspensions and Furloughs
- 512 – Evaluation of Classified Employees
- 514 – Physical Examination
- 514.1 – HIV Infection
- 517 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 518 – Penalties for Tardiness
- 519 – Outside Activities
- 523 – Tobacco/Nicotine Use

- 524 – Personnel Files

Discussion:

None

Mr. Abate stated okay, Mr. Pinci, I have had a request from a member of the Board that we just pull Policy 302 and 312 for the voting meeting unless we can get a resolution. A member of the Board was concerned with the language is there regarding “Assistant Superintendent.” We don’t have one of those, so.

Mr. Pinci inquired so, you want me to pull all the 300s or just 302 and 312?

Mr. Abate responded no, just those two; Policy 302 and Policy 312. So, Mrs. Folk, if we could just pull those for first reading unless the we can get the Policy Committee to do a revision on those. We’ll just take them in March then.

C. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

1. **EMPLOYMENTS – CERTIFICATED**

Approval is requested to employ the following individuals:

- a. Extended-rate Substitute – Andrew L. Wagner – Mathematics Teacher – Midd-West Middle School – Effective: November 16, 2020, and continuing until a date unknown – \$100.00 per day for the first thirty (30) consecutive days and \$254.11 per day for the remainder of the assignment *{Replacement/Aucker}*
- b. Extended-rate Substitute – \_\_\_\_\_ – Vocal Music Teacher – Middleburg Elementary School – Effective: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114, 24 and 31 – Salary: \$90.00 per day for the first thirty (30) consecutive days and \$254.11 per day for the remainder of the assignment *{Replacement/Lohr}*

Discussion:

None

2. **EMPLOYMENT – CLASSIFIED**

Approval is requested to employ the following individual:

- a. Classified Employee – \_\_\_\_\_ – Personal Care Assistant – School-to-Work Transition Program – Midd-West High School – Effective: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114, 24 and 31 – Salary: \$13.50 per hour *{Replacement/Bzdil-Edmiston}*

Discussion:

None



3. **APPOINTMENTS**

a. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

Approval is requested to appoint the following individuals for the 2020-2021 school year:

_____	Assistant Junior Varsity Baseball Coach	MWHS	\$ _____
Jacob T. Keister	Junior High Boys Soccer Coach	MWMS	\$2,032.00

b. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

Approval is requested to reappoint the following individuals for the 2020-2021 school year:

Alisha A. Kurtz	Assistant Softball Coach	MWHS	\$3,203.00
_____	Assistant Baseball Coach	MWHS	\$ _____
Kelcie M. Crabb	Assistant Junior Varsity Softball Coach	MWHS	\$3,203.00
Chelsey R. Beaver	Assistant Track & Field Coach	MWHS	\$3,203.00
John J. Daku	Assistant Track & Field Coach	MWHS	\$2,947.00
Stanley L. Share	Assistant Track & Field Coach	MWHS	\$3,203.00
Lori A. Goodling	Junior High Girls Soccer Coach	MWMS	\$2,209.00
Jodie L. Sheaffer	Junior High Field Hockey Coach	MWMS	\$2,209.00

c. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR – VOLUNTEERS**

Approval is recommended of the following individuals as volunteers for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mark P. Ferster	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	MWHS
Nicole B. Horst	Volunteer Lacrosse Coach	MWHS
Katie M. Kreider	Volunteer Lacrosse Coach	MWHS
Kailey M. Wagner	Volunteer Lacrosse Coach – Head	MWHS

Discussion:

None

4. **ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE LIST**

a. **CERTIFICATED**

Approval is recommended of the following individuals as certificated substitutes at a rate of \$90.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year:

Area of Certification

_____	_____
_____	_____

Discussion:

None

5. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Approval is recommended of the following medical leaves of absence:

- a. Middleburg Elementary School – Effective: February 1, 2021, through June 1, 2021, or the last day of the 2020-2021 school year
- b. Middleburg Elementary School – Effective: February 5, 2021, through approximately February \_\_, 2021
- c. West Snyder Elementary School – Effective: March 8, 2021, through approximately March 28, 2021

Discussion:

None

6. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR TERMINATION**

Approval is requested to terminate the employment of Employee 11510 as assistant wrestling coach at Mid-West High School to be effective on January 26, 2021, through the remainder of the 2020-2021 season.

Discussion:

None

7. **RESIGNATION**

Approval is requested to accept the following resignation:

Jamie A. Portzline Effective: January 26, 2021  
Assistant Junior Varsity Baseball Coach  
Mid-West High School

Discussion:

None

D. **OTHER**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1. **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

The Administration recommends adoption of the student discipline recommendation and directs the Superintendent to give notice of the action to Student 01-2021 and the parents and advise them of the disciplinary recommendation.

Discussion:

None

2. **DISCUSSION ON PER CAPITA TAX**

Mr. Musselman stated as you know, the per capita tax, the county has decided that they would not continue to collect that tax. So, they did move forward with that. I know that Mr. Knepp has been looking into our options as a school district, and also Mr. Wagner talked with Berkheimer. They could actually collect those taxes for us and also manage that through some of the earned income tax information that they have. So, we would actually have to sit down and look at that. The fees that they would charge versus the amount of money that comes in to look at what that actual dollar and cents means to the District, but, Mr. Knepp, if you have anything, if you have any advice or information you'd like to share, now would be a good time.

Attorney Knepp stated Midd-West School District had passed a Resolution years ago to allow them to collect the per capita tax, and actually, the District can continue to collect that tax separate and apart from the county or the local municipalities what you choose to do, and I am not aware of what any of the local municipalities have indicated. If it's just going to be Snyder County opting out or if it's going to be the local governmental bodies in addition, but if you decide that you are no longer going to pursue the per capita, you're going to have to pass a Resolution basically to address the fact that you are going to discontinue that. You have to properly advertise it and give room for public comment and all of that, and then you'll have your budget hole, and that's where Mr. Wagner indicated that that could possibly be made up with an increase in the real estate taxes, so. All of that is a lot of effort procedurally on the Board's part to basically end that tax which we are not required to do just because the county's choosing to. The other question is is the timing. Would you be able to get all of that done in a manner that would be in compliance with the Acts such that you would be able to increase the property taxes to make up for it? I mean my advice for this year would be to talk to Berkheimer and kind of stick your toe in that water and see how they're able to do before you tackle all the extra legal expenses that would go into rescinding one Resolution and then tweaking your property tax which is also another thing that will bring folks out because that's generally not a popular decision a Board sometimes has to make in order to pay the bills to keep the lights on. So, I think for now until you get a better handle on all of that, I would definitely test it with Berkheimer and see what they can do for you so at least you have cash flow coming in without spending all the money that would be necessary to legally rescind the per capita tax in the school district.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Solicitor, is Berkheimer okay to manage this this year with the agreement we have with the local tax collectors?

Attorney Knepp responded since they are our current and have that capability, I think that they can do it. I guess we can wait and hear from the local tax collectors if they think that somehow that that has interfered with their elected duties which I think you as the taxing body can go with whom you need to be able to collect it, particularly since the county has kind of left you in a lurch with this.

Mr. Abate inquired it's my understanding, correct, Berkheimer is also going to manage the rolls, the tax rolls?

Attorney Knepp responded that's my understanding from the e-mails that I saw from Ryan Wagner.

Mr. Abate stated because they handle the ones currently, so they would have them.

Attorney Knepp stated correct. I guess they have access to the tax rolls to be able to figure that out.

Mr. Boonie inquired, Victor, may I chime in?

Mr. Abate responded absolutely, sir.

Mr. Boonie stated just my opinion on this is the per capita is spreading the cost amongst all of the residents of the county versus if we do away with that and shifted it to real estate, then you're putting more burden just on the real estate people not everybody who lives and benefits from our District. So, if at all possible, my recommendation would be that we try to continue the per capita so it more fairly distributes the burden rather than just strictly on those that have their own property.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Boonie, I agree 100% with you because I cannot really support doing away with the per capita.

Mr. Pinci stated I agree, too. I understand, and I like the fact that everyone pays the same amount whether it's \$10.00 or \$20.00 a year. This tax used to be called the occupation tax, and there's something that raises my blood pressure very quickly. I'm glad they got rid of that tax.

Mr. Musselman stated I think one of the questions I had asked Mr. Wagner. I wish he could be here to be able to talk a little bit more about it because he's talked with Berkheimer a little bit more, but one of the questions that I asked was this per capita tax is divided between the county got some of it and the school district received some, and there may have been other organizations. So, wouldn't that per capita tax actually be reduced comparatively since the county is not taking their portion of it? It's a smaller portion, but still it's a portion. So, what I don't know is if we would receive the exact same amount, or if the per capita would be lower, or how that impacts anything. So, there's a lot of questions on that. The other thing is is that Berkheimer said that they would manage it because they do also manage the earned income tax. So, that information, if I'm correct, Orris, you may know this, but our per capita tax is based on ones living in the District. So, if someone is living in the District doesn't necessarily mean that they're working. So, it's just 18 years of age and older and so there's per capita whether you're living in the District, and if that's the case, how does earned income tax allow you to manage that, I guess, is my question.

Attorney Knepp responded there would be a tax on anybody 18 years of age and older. There are certain exclusions that people can file for exemptions. I know there are different categories like retired. Also, students will have one designation so if somebody is in college and then

whenever they get out of college, the designation would change, but with the per capita, unlike the occupation tax which, Mr. Pinci, I wholly agree with you because as a broke, young lawyer I was categorized and some laborers in occupation tax because it's based on title and title alone. It was very unfair, and that's why a lot of places shifted to per capita to get rid of that, so, and it also spreads it out for anybody 18 years of age living in the county is responsible for that, and if somebody is living in the county and is not on those rolls, it is actually their obligation to make sure that they've notified because they still have the duty whether they've been served on the rolls or not, and that can be a problem sometimes is if after a few years you're found. Oh, gee, I've been living in Snyder County in Midd-West School District's geographic area and haven't been paying those taxes because they're like anything else. They're pretty certain. You're going to be responsible for those.

Mr. Abate stated I believe that those taxes were sent out twice a year. The first one went out with the county taxes, and then the second \$10.00 went out with Midd-West School District's real estate taxes. So, they were split for six months apart.

Mr. Musselman stated I still don't understand. I guess I'm concerned that Berkheimer is not going to be able to. There are move-ins and move-outs, and people, husband and wife, the wife maybe is working a full-time job, and the husband is not or he's not working at all for whatever reason or a student turns 18 years old and still living with mom and dad and maybe not working, but I guess those are the kinds of things that. I mean I don't know how the county tracked the numbers. I don't, but I believe the concept is is that when you have tax collectors, your own tax collectors, they get to know the people. They get to know what's going on in the community and, of course, they can certainly report that information. So, I don't know how all that works quite honestly. I'm not sure how it works because the county normally has taken care of that, but I believe that's something that the school district would have to assume those duties, or would Berkheimer be able to do all of that for us.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Solicitor, when we would have to take action needed to either remove or continue?

Attorney Knepp responded I'm not quite sure on your deadlines. I would have to look into that because of the fact that you are on a different schedule. I'm assuming that the county and local are going out first that they're on a calendar year; whereas, the District is on the fiscal year, and I would have to talk to Mr. Wagner about the timelines and deadlines that are implicated by his budget processes.

Mr. Abate inquired would you be able to have that completed within two weeks, you think?

Attorney Knepp responded depending on Mr. Wagner's availability.

Mr. Pinci stated the first ones come out March 1.

Mr. Abate stated yeah, that's for the county.

Attorney Knepp stated and that's my understanding. That's your county.

Mr. Pinci stated that \$10.00 doesn't come to us. So, all that \$10.00 goes to the county then originally.

Attorney Knepp stated county and the local municipalities is my understanding receives the first one, and then the second \$10.00 is exclusively to the school district.

**VI. CLOSING CEREMONIES**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Comment from the public is limited to three (3) minutes per person, and at the discretion of the Board President.

*There was no public comment.*

**VIII. SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

*There were no scheduled speakers.*

**IX. REPORTS**

**1. SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Richard J. Musselman

Mr. Musselman reported on the following item:

1) Status of District

We're back in school, and I do want to let the Board know that right now things are looking really good as far as COVID goes. The numbers are extremely low which is great. I hope I didn't just jinx that, but things are looking really, really well as far as that goes as far as in the schools at this point.

Mr. Boonie stated, Mr. Abate, this is Jennifer Arbogast who has her hand raised. I just don't think we saw her from the public.

Mrs. Arbogast stated yes, can you hear me?

Mr. Abate stated yes. Could you please state your name and address for the record, please?

Ms. Arbogast stated sure. Jennifer Arbogast, P. O. Box 273, Kreamer, PA, 17833. I just have a quick question for the Board. The seniors were told in a meeting today that for graduation they're probably looking at a drive-through graduation, and I guess my question is at this point, is this a definite situation, or is this something the Board is still in discussions with? Do we know at this point what the school district is looking towards? I know that in past meetings I've heard talks of it being held in the stadium and outside due to COVID, and I know that last year you guys did a fabulous job of keeping everybody safe and still allowing the kids to be able to walk across the stage and allowing them to have that right of passage. It's been a year now, and the kids are in school now. I just didn't know where we stand on that, and I know that there's a lot of really upset seniors tonight who went home with that thought in their head that they're going to lose one more thing because of this horrible virus. So, I guess my question is

is this something that's said and done, or is this still up for discussion? Where does the school district stand on that?

Mr. Abate responded, Mrs. Arbogast, that would have to come from Mr. Edmiston. We would not have that answer. So, Mr. Edmiston, if you wish to, you may respond.

Mr. Edmiston stated so, I don't think some of the seniors interpreted what they heard. I believe the message was that they are planning on doing the drive-through for the diploma hand-out again, any kind of awards they could get in school, any kind of other materials that they wanted to hand out that they would get usually after graduation. They want to do that before because it was such a popular thing, but I still believe there's still a plan to have a stage somewhere and have our students cross that stage, so.

Mr. Musselman stated in fact, that's exactly what we had talked about. The drive-through was a big success last year. We don't know what's going to happen, but what we did was have the seniors when they go across the stage, they don't actually get a diploma. They get a blank book. The diploma is something that's given to them at a different time. So, that drive-through is not a graduation ceremony. It's just a drive-through with them turning in some of their items. They got their diploma and other information. It was very successful last year. Now, do we need to have that this year? I don't really know if we do because we are in school so maybe some of that stuff can be done in school. It was very popular last year. We will have a graduation, and it may be similar to last year where we have to do a drive-in graduation, or maybe we can use the stadium. It's really going to depend on what some of the new orders or if there's changes in the orders from the Governor's Office, but we will have a graduation with a stage to walk across. This is just something that we are looking at that we did last year. It really helps us with turning things in and getting stuff out to the seniors, and then we still would have the formal graduation. I hope that answers your question.

Mrs. Arbogast responded it does, and you guys did a fabulous job last year, and you really pulled it out for the seniors so they could have a little bit of something when everything was falling apart, and I know the community appreciated it, and your answers tonight really helps a lot of people to feel a little bit better about what the seniors can expect going forward. So, thank you for putting some of us at ease with that. I appreciate it.

Mr. Abate stated, Mrs. Arbogast, I do suggest that if you have any further questions, I'm sure Mr. Musselman or Mr. Edmiston would be happy to answer them.

Mrs. Arbogast stated thank you.

Mrs. Eriksson stated I'm all over that, Jen, and my thing is to have it on that field for these kids. So, I'll be pushing for you guys.

Mrs. Arbogast stated thanks, Julie.

2. **DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION** Mr. Joseph W. Stroup

Mr. Stroup reported on the following item:

1) Act 80 Day on February 12, 2021

It's an Act 80 day for Mid-West High School and West Snyder Elementary while two of our buildings will be doing flexible instruction days making up the days we lost in November with the students. So, they'll actually be putting content out for them at West Snyder and at the middle school. The

purpose of our Act 80 day will be to have parent conferences. Last month, I gave you a sheet that indicated some of the struggles of our kids participating in virtual or the MWCA programs, and we're using that Act 80 day to make contact with those families to try and get them back into in-person instruction if they're willing or to offer some new supports to be more successful in what they're doing. That's the focus of that day in those buildings and even the two that are doing flexible instruction days.

Mr. Abate inquired any members of the Board who are planning on attending on Friday morning at 7:30, could you just drop me a quick note so we can get some sort of a number?

3. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL** Mr. Ryan L. Wagner

Due to Mr. Wagner's absence, there was no report.

4. **STUDENT ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES** Mrs. Bree A. Solomon

Due to Mrs. Solomon's absence, there was no report.

5. **FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS** Mr. John S. Rosselli

Due to Mr. Rosselli's absence, there was no report.

6. **CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT** Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate reported on the following item:

- 1) Next Meeting is Next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

7. **SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE** Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:

- 1) Next Meeting in Next Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

8. **PSBA LIAISON** Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci had no report.

9. **POLICY COMMITTEE** Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:

- 1) Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 17
- 2) Question on Policy Guide 302 and 312

We did have a question. We weren't sure what the scoop was because my mic didn't work earlier. I tried to butt in in the middle of the work session, but you didn't hear me. What were they looking for in the Assistant Superintendent, and I was going to defer to Erin to see if there's anything that we can fix right away so we could have the policies done for whoever wanted something fixed in the 300s?



Mr. Abate stated 302 and 312, I believe it was. I'll give you the actual call as soon as I can. There was a question on removing the language of Assistant Superintendent. We haven't had one here for a number of years.

Miss Sheedy stated Policy 302 as it's currently written which was readopted or revised in May, 2019, has the language of Assistant Superintendent. So, we were just leaving that the way it was, and that's why it would come up again in 312, but if the Board wants that removed, that was just why it was there was because it had been currently there.

Mr. Abate stated okay. That's understandable, Miss Sheedy. If there aren't any objections to that, we can just remove that language, and I think it would be good to go for the first reading in two weeks.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired that's all they want? They just want Assistant Superintendent taken out of that?

Mr. Abate responded yes, ma'am.

Mr. Nesbit inquired is there any problem leaving it in there?

Mrs. Eriksson stated yeah, that's kind of my question is why if you already approved it in 2019 and taking it out now? That's why we were a little confused, and I don't know if that person is here tonight.

Mr. Abate inquired how about if I just get back to you and Miss Sheedy on that once I get a definitive answer? Is that fair what they want?

Mrs. Eriksson responded yeah, no problem.

Mr. Abate stated I'll get back to you by Wednesday.

10. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Terry L. Boonie

Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:

1) February 4, 2021, Meeting Summary

There are a lot of needs for the Administrative Offices; a new roof, HVAC system. It's a lot of investments for a very old building, and one of the other needs or issues is the storage of all the documents that are stored up in the attic and down in the basement which are not good places to be storing documents, and we pray that there would be never be a fire. We have a lot of major issues with that. So, I know we discussed possibly finding somebody to get those documents stored off-site. There's a company that could take care of that for us. We also discussed just the need of so many repairs that it does it make sense to continue to put a lot of money into this building, or do we look, or try to hold off a year or two or three until we have a bond that finishes up, and do we look at maybe building a new District Office either tearing down this one and building it there or building at another site? So, we're having a lot of discussions with different options, but that building is old. A lot of repairs are needed.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Boonie, I was able to attend. You did a good job running that, and I did bring up the fact that I might be able to come up with some solution to storage. I don't know if Mr. Auman had an opportunity to contact anybody from there yet or not. I don't know if we still utilize them. I can make inquiries.

Mr. Boonie stated like I said, my concern is all those papers stored up in the attic, or I should say upstairs, that's a lot of weight on a structure that wasn't really designed to support that kind of weight. So, we definitely need to come up with a solution for that.

Mr. Abate stated and water damage should that roof decide to let loose. I will make the inquiries. I will report to you and see if Mr. Auman gets any information.

11. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Terry L. Boonie

Due to Mr. Haynes' absence, Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:

1) Tonight's Meeting Summary

We just had a meeting before this meeting, and we're still looking at costs for the filtering software. We use currently CIPA and comparing it with another company called Securely and just looking at the pros and cons of all of them. Hopefully, we'll be able to get something moved that would be done off-site and not running on servers in our network which would help maybe free up some bandwidth. We're also looking at options on laptops. We're still waiting for some prices to come in. One of the biggest issues is right now because of COVID the cost of computers has jumped. The same laptop that we got this past year has gone up I think \$150.00 for a laptop, and that's a substantial increase, and a lot of it is just because of availability because of COVID. Manufacturing has been down, and so we are facing some tough decisions. Joe, is there anything you want to add in there?

Mr. Stroup responded no, thank you.

Mr. Boonie stated so, yeah, we're still looking at pricing and trying to get that information as soon as possible because there is a several-month wait for once we place orders. So, there were concerns about getting them in time before school starts in the fall. So, we're trying to move as fast as we can and get pricing, but it is definitely challenging. So, I just want to put a shout out to Joe and to Giuls for all the work that they're doing because it's not easy to get all this wrapped together. So, thank you.

Mr. Abate stated there was talk a meeting or two ago about increasing the bandwidth. Are we just going to stay with what we have now, or what?

Mr. Boonie responded at this point it looks like we are going to stay where we're at. The hope to be is that when we can get moved to a web-based, all that traffic will go straight through the CIPA filter out on the web, CIPA or Securely, all that traffic would go through the web rather than coming through our building which would reduce the amount of load from our building and hopefully help with bandwidth, but according to Giuls, he's been monitoring the bandwidth, and we've been staying below our limit or

our top end of 250. So, at this point, until we get all that figured out with the filter and the pricing.

12. **FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman  
Mr. Sassaman had no report.
13. **PROFESSIONAL STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman  
Mr. Sassaman had no report.
14. **SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Donald D. Pinci  
Mr. Pinci had no report.
15. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Terry L. Boonie  
Mr. Boonie had no report.

Mr. Abate stated before we get into our administrator reports and/or comments, I do want to announce that we did have an Executive Session Thursday, February 4. We had two personnel issues which we discussed, and we did have one legal issue that we had to discuss as well.

16. **BOARD AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS** Mr. Victor L. Abate  
Mrs. Bzdil had no report.  
Mr. Edmiston had no report.  
Mr. Brown had no report.  
Mr. Aucker had no report.  
Miss Sheedy had no report.  
Mrs. Lohr had no report.

#### **INQUIRY REGARDING STUDENT STORE AT MIDD-WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Nesbit stated, Mr. Abate, I do have a question for Mr. Edmiston. How are things at the Student Store? Has that opened up?

Mr. Edmiston responded the Student Store is only on-line at this point in time because of the set-up of our cafeteria. We need to spread out our tables in that space, and the hallway is being utilized for lunches. So, we can't have. We're just sort of limited with space because of that to keep our students spread out. So, we do not have the opportunity to do anything besides on-line sales at this point.

Mr. Nesbit stated okay. I know that's something the students really enjoy. Is there any sort of work around that you guys have considered? Go out into operating in some capacity?

Mr. Edmiston responded the only thing that they would sell in the Student Store that the students are probably missing I think would be the chocolate chip cookies. So, I don't know if we could do. I could talk to Mrs. Mason and see if we could because there's only certain times

we're allowed to sell those cookies. I know we can't have the students lining up because of the social distancing. It's kind of difficult, but it's maybe something we could do a mobile sale. I'll talk to her about that and see if she has any ideas for that. So, there's the possibility of potentially doing the baking in her room and then potentially transporting things. So, that's something we can talk about, sure.

Mr. Nesbit stated okay. I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

**INQUIRY REGARDING GRADING SCALE AT SUN AREA TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Mr. Boonie stated if I could have a second to ask. I had a student request that I ask about this. It's a SUN Tech student. Currently, whenever they get their grades from SUN Tech, the SUN Tech scale is a 94 to 100 is an "A;" whereas, at Midd-West it's a 92 to 100, if I'm correct. So, if a student gets a 94% at SUN Tech, when it goes back to their report card at Midd-West, it gets reduced down to a 92 which hurts them in standing as far as competing for top of their class, valedictorian, salutatorian, etc., and I'm just curious why we have a policy of reducing or adjusting a student's grades and what they've earned at SUN Tech compared to coming back to Midd-West.

Mr. Edmiston stated I can get the answer for you. I know they've been using that for many years. I'm not sure if SUN Tech went from 90 to 100 for their "A" range; whereas, we are a 92 to 100 if there's some sort of translation there that doesn't effect that, but I can get that answer and get back to the Board.

Mr. Boonie stated at SUN Tech it's a 94 to 100 is an "A." The lowest "A" is a 94.

Mr. Edmiston stated that would probably make sense. I don't know without asking my counselors. Hopefully, they'll have that answer for me.

Mrs. Eriksson stated but that's messing up their cumulative. A 94 is a 94 regardless of whether it's a 92 or a 94. A 94 is a 94. A 92 is a 92.

Mr. Edmiston stated I'll talk to them and ask them how that scale came to be and get you an answer.

Mr. Abate stated don't forget tomorrow evening, ladies and gentlemen, 5:30 at Middleburg Elementary, Board members.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

There being no further business, Mr. Abate adjourned the work session at 7:53 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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