

MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Monday, January 25, 2021

A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL, FOR LIFE

I. **OPENING CEREMONY**

II. **CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

III. **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

<u>BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>LATE ARRIVAL</u>
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
Mr. Ryan L. Wagner, Business Manager
Attorney Orris C. Knepp, III, Solicitor
Mr. Dane S. Aucker, Principal, Midd-West Middle School
Mr. Daniel E. Auman,
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 12 Concerned Citizens

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Public comment is restricted to three (3) minutes per speaker and on the subject of Agenda Action Items only. Any individual who wishes to address the Board on an agenda item should contact the Board Secretary by 1:00 p.m. the day of the Board meeting at (570) 837-0046, Ext, 1100.

There was no public comment.

V. **SCHEDULED SPEAKER**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1) Mrs. Shannon T. Pyle, Senior Class Advisor – Senior Class Trip Ideas

Mrs. Pyle stated I had sent a paper that should have been placed in your packet explaining a little bit about where we were at with the senior class. At the very top is says, “President: Trey Wagner – Vice-President: Aubrey Isaacs – Secretary: Makenna Dietz – Treasurer: Allie Keister,” and those were all voted on by the senior class, and so we’ve met a couple times now. We’ve had a lot of meetings talking about different senior events and kind of what they wanted to do looking forward to this this year. So, what I gave to you is one of the questions that we have is the senior class trip. We’re not sure exactly what that can look like just given the protocols that are in place for COVID-19, and so we do have three ideas kind of that we have thrown around with the kids. These were voted on by the kids. They had looked over some different options. So, if you see that. Do you have the paper in front of you?

Mr. Musselman inquired is that what you dropped off at the District Office late today?

Mrs. Pyle responded yes, yeah.

Mr. Musselman stated their packets went out long before this afternoon, and they may not have them.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay, alright. Well, then I can’t screen share with you right now, but what it was.

Mrs. Eriksson stated Allyson e-mailed that to us.

Mrs. Pyle stated alright, awesome. So, the one plan that we had was to do a series of day trips, and so we’re looking at a day trip possibly to Pittsburgh where the kids would to do Kennywood Amusement Park, and then they would go on a dinner/dance cruise that night because a lot of them talked about the dinner/dance cruise as being like the epitome of the senior class trip. They all looked forward to that, and then a bunch of them talked about the possibility of going to Knoebels. I guess their class did not get to do that so they had talked about really wanting to look into that and do that. The next plan that they had. So, that’s Plan A if we’re not able to do anything else. Plan B is to do an overnight experience. So, we thought about going to the Poconos. Obviously, we have to stay in Pennsylvania. So, the Day 1 would be like a White Water Rafting. They could choose to do White Water Rafting or go paintballing. Then at night we would go go-cart racing and glow bowling that evening. Then that evening we would go back and stay in a hotel room, and then the next day we would go to some kind of water park. Now, given the timeframe, it would be either an outdoor waterpark at Camel Beach or the Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark. That is also in the Poconos, and then the third option. This was one that the kids really liked. They liked this idea of doing an overnight experience kind of recreating their fifth grade camping trip. They all, whenever we talked about what they looked forward to in school, what they loved about school, the fifth grade camping trip was something that they just loved. They wanted to recreate that. So, we found a campground. It’s called Pocono Valley Resort. They have cabins there, and whenever you go there, you would actually stay in a cabin. They have a police officer there patrolling the grounds, and everything that we would do would be right there on the campground. So, they have kayaking, canoeing, volleyball. They have

a high ropes course. We could do team building activities, but that is all-inclusive right there on the grounds. So, there wouldn't be really much else then, anywhere else that we would have to go, and then for that we can stay there for one night. We can stay there for two nights. It was just kind of up to what we would prefer. The kids really liked that idea. There's campfire there at night. There was a big building where we could hold like a dance or a movie night or something like that, and since we were doing everything right there at the grounds, we thought maybe that would be a safer option considering that it would just be us there. So, those were the three options that we threw around. Three totally different options just something that would give them some kind of a trip, but we're not sure if any of that is feasible at this point.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mrs. Pyle, do you have any idea how many students are willing to participate in this even though it would be a scaled-down version of the normal trip?

Mrs. Pyle responded I'm having trouble getting the kids to want to pay the \$50.00 because a lot of the parents are saying that they're not sure if they want to give the \$50.00, the down payment, for fear that we don't go anywhere. They're worried about getting their money back if we don't end up going up anywhere. They want to know where we're going. They want to know for how long, and so, it's been a bit of a struggle. We have only about 10% of the class has committed to want to go somewhere. So, I know that I've talked to a lot of the kids, and they're very interested in kind of what we're planning, but getting them to give the deposit has been quite tricky.

Mr. Abate inquired do you have any verbal commitments of those who have not made their cash down payment?

Mrs. Pyle responded yes, yeah, the kids, all of the kids in the Class Congress. So, that makes it 25, and only about three of them have given their down payments. So, I know that they're invested in this. The kids in the school have definitely been talking about it and asking what we're doing. It's giving them a direct answer; yes, we're going; no, we're not going. They're all kind of holding out, I guess. They're a little worried about. A lot of the parents have said, "Are we going to get our money back?" Which I have reassured them that the \$50.00 would come back. It's a little touchy. We did a fundraiser early in the year, and we sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and a lot of kids sold doughnuts. So, I know that there's kids trying to raise money. We just started our second fundraiser today. We're selling Klingler's salads. So, I expect this one to go really well, too, and I feel like the amount of kids that are selling in our fundraisers is an indication of kids wanting to go somewhere and do something.

Mr. Abate inquired do you have any tentative dates even scheduled, or is everything still up in the air with the students?

Mrs. Pyle responded no travel company is going to work with us until we're willing to give them a yes and no. I do have some feelers out there with travel companies. The company that we've used in the past, we actually have a voucher with them from last year. It's about \$2,500.00 that since they didn't go last year, it's been transferred over to this class to use. So, we would try and use them if we could just to use that voucher, but nobody will give me anything unless I'm willing to say, "Yes, we're going." So, it's kind of hard. I've been working, though, with other, like the sports teams and things that like, and it would be really nice if we could do this,

but even the seniors said the week before they graduate they said that that week there's not much going on. They don't have any tests. They don't have anything really that requires them to be at school. So, they said if we could do our trip that last final week, our last final kind of hurrah before we graduate, that's when they would like to do it. Mr. Gemberling has suggested that we do it towards the beginning of the week because there's track states that they would leave on Wednesday or Thursday for that. So, something like a leave on Sunday or go Monday/Tuesday would be ideal just given everything else that's going on in the month of May.

Mr. Abate stated, Mrs. Pyle, I can't speak for my other colleagues, but we could waive the 50% participation due to the arena we're in right now with this COVID virus. I will bring it up to my colleagues. I'm sure that they will respond in time. So, that 50% I don't think you'll need to worry about.

Mrs. Pyle stated yeah.

Mr. Boonie stated, Mrs. Pyle, one thing I would ask that you may be consider when you're setting your date to make sure it's not at the time of graduation for the SUN Tech students so that they would be able to participate. Sorry, Julie, I didn't mean to jump on your thunder, but.

Mrs. Pyle inquired do you know when that graduation is exactly?

Mr. Boonie responded I can get it for you. I'll e-mail it to you. I'll e-mail you the date. The 22nd/23rd sticks in my mind, but I don't know for sure. Maybe Julie has it.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay, and that's kind of where we're at. We're trying to avoid everything. I know in the past there was a big. It was a tug-of-war between the senior class trip and taking extra buses to get kids there and make sure that they could all experience it. So, this year we really did want to try and include everybody and not put anybody in a predicament where they had to choose between one thing or the other and especially attend graduation. We would definitely not want to hinder that at all. So, I would definitely want to avoid that for sure. So, yes, if you could please e-mail me that, I would really appreciate it.

Mr. Boonie stated okay. I will do that. Thank you so much.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mrs. Pyle, did you? I know, and maybe I already I asked this, but when do you think you'll have a date, or not so much the date, on where you're narrowing down your trip?

Mrs. Pyle responded okay, so, the dates that we kind of looked at. Now, of course, I want to factor in there the Tech graduation. I don't want to hinder that at all. So, we kind of looked at the May 23, 24, 25 in that timeframe there. The only thing is the 23rd, of course, would be Baccalaureate. So, staying away from that, I'm assuming we're going to do that again this year. So, the 24th, the 25th or even leaving after Baccalaureate having the kids load buses that night and possibly go right from there and then come back sometime, if we're allowed to do it, an overnight, if you would approve that.

Mr. Abate inquired and would you have your chaperones in line as well?

Mrs. Pyle responded yes, definitely.

Mr. Abate stated, Mrs. Pyle, I will go ahead and have Mrs. Folk put that waiver on the next voting meeting so we can get that out of the way for you.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay.

Mr. Abate stated the 50%. So, that's something. I mean it's minor, but you won't have to worry about, and then if you could coordinate that with Mr. Musselman and Mrs. Folk and when the students can come and make their request, we will make time for them regardless of what we have going.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay. Thank you so much. I just have one more question. Do you think that an overnight would be a possibility, and if it would be, like what kind of protocols would we have to follow? I'm just kind of trying to narrow down our options here for the kids.

Mr. Abate responded well, we've had overnights before in the past. They go to Boston. They went to Chicago. I don't foresee a problem with that. Again, I can't speak for the other Board members, but as long as you have the proper amount of chaperones as outlined in the policy, I don't see where that would be a problem.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay, and even with COVID, everything would be okay?

Mr. Abate responded well, that's a whole other animal, but you might want to coordinate this with Mrs. VanHorn as well and especially this time, this year, and Mr. Musselman or anybody else who is more familiar, and I don't think we can give you your answers.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay, but if we present this idea, there could be a possibility? Is that what you're saying?

Mr. Abate responded that's exactly what I'm saying.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay.

Mr. Boonie stated May 26, Shannon. Wednesday, May 26, is the Tech's graduation.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay, so, if we did potentially do the beginning of the week there, we would avoid that.

Mr. Boonie stated correct.

Mrs. Pyle stated great. Thank you.

Mr. Pinci stated just to follow up. Do you have a date on when you're going to finalize where you're going?

Mrs. Pyle responded we were really waiting to talk to all of you. I wanted to get feedback from you as a Board just kind of seeing what you thought about all of the this. Just with this being an unprecedented year, I did not want to give anybody any kind of false hope and have to retract anything that I said. I really wanted to talk to all of you first, gauge what you thought was appropriate to plan and move forward from there. Just with the way that the year has gone, I am treading very

lightly and wanting to make the right decisions, especially with this being our first time between me and the other advisors. We've spent a lot of time talking and researching and trying to come up with the best possible option because we really want these kids to have a good senior year. We want them to be able to do something. We just want to keep them safe and make sure that we are doing everything the right way this year. So, we thought maybe towards the end of the year would be our best option. Just by then, hopefully, things would be at a good place. We also did tell the seniors that we have an idea to do what's a senior sunset. They had done a thing at the beginning of the year where they watched the sun rise on their senior year. So, we were like what a great way to end the year. We'll do a senior sunset, and do something to kind of close the year, too. So, we told them for sure that we were definitely doing that the last day of their senior year just so we gave them something, but now they're really focusing on what this trip is going to look like. So, if those dates in May would work, that seems to be the best option for us either leaving after Baccalaureate or the 24th and the 25th, that Monday and Tuesday, of their last week of their senior year.

Mr. Abate stated I don't see a problem. So, again, Mrs. Pyle, just when you get your information, please forward that to Mrs. Folk to get those students on the agenda. Normally, there is a caveat with their trip that we do require is when they come back, they would present what they've done, but since it's the end of the year, I don't really expect them to really do that.

Mrs. Pyle stated okay.

Mr. Abate stated but we'll do everything we can to help these students out I'm sure, but I can't speak for the others.

Mrs. Pyle stated well, thank you so much, and I appreciate all of your time tonight. Thank you for listening and being receptive to what we're doing, and hopefully, we can give these seniors the best senior year possible.

Mr. Abate stated I would agree with that. Again, does any member of the Board have anything else they wish to ask or add to while you have Mrs. Pyle here?

Mrs. Eriksson stated thanks for all you're doing for them.

Mrs. Pyle stated you're welcome, Julie.

VI. **STUDENT REPORT**

Miss Liliana E. Shutt

Miss Shutt reported on the following items:

1) Bowling Teams

Girls bowling is currently is 15-5, and boys bowling is currently 11-9. Their next match will be on Friday at home against Central Columbia. They are selling meat sticks as a fundraiser which will be over on February 3.

2) Boys Basketball Team

Boys basketball is currently 1-3 on the season. They will be facing East Juniata away tonight.

3) Girls Basketball Team

Girls basketball is currently 1-3 on the season. They will be playing tonight at home versus Montgomery.

4) Wrestling Team

Wrestling is 0-9 on the season. They will be wrestling at Lewisburg on Thursday.

5) FFA Chapter

FFA recently packaged care packages for those in the military that are deployed. They are doing a "Giving Emblem" this year in place of the giving tree in order to help those in our community.

6) National Honor Society

Members handed in community service hours for the first semester and are now working on hours for the second semester.

7) DECA Club

DECA students will virtually be competing in DECA states on Friday.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired what's your feeling on a senior trip?

Miss Shutt responded I don't know. I think that. I mean I hope they get to do that.

Mrs. Eriksson stated well, we hope so, too.

VII. **SCHEDULED SPEAKER**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1) Mr. Jay P. Darkey, JPD Architects, LLC – Mid-West High School Stadium Project – Phase 2 Option of Athletic Field Master Plan

Mr. Darkey recapped Phase 1 of the Athletic Master Plan, recapped the general scope of Phase 2 and detailed the Phase 2 Option recommendation and projected soft costs of the Phase 2 Option and next steps and Phase 3.

Mr. Nesbit stated, Jay, this is Chris Nesbit. A couple questions. Your soft costs you said were \$150,000.00. When you put the numbers up there, my quick math, I think it was closer to \$175,000.00. Could you look at that again, please?

Mr. Darkey responded yeah. \$177,000.00.

Mr. Nesbit stated okay. The question I had with respect to the bleachers, you have that for a later phase. If I remember correctly, the estimated cost to do the bleachers was about \$900,000.00. Does that sound correct?

Mr. Darkey responded for the bleachers, I think it was 1,000 on the visitor side and 2,000 on the home side. I think that number was. I don't want to give you the wrong figure. So, please bear with me a second. I can find that out. Bleachers for the new stadium was \$1,067,000.00, and that was actually off of a CO-STARS bid. So, we're fairly comfortable with the number.

Mr. Nesbit inquired then there's press boxes for the existing soccer field as well as the football field, correct?

Mr. Darkey responded that's correct, yeah.

Mr. Nesbit inquired if you were to put the bleachers in in this phase, does that cause any problems for future development of the fieldhouses?

Mr. Darkey responded no, it doesn't. No, you've broken this apart so that it can all be done separately, if the Board chooses to do it that way, yes.

Mr. Abate stated so, Mr. Darkey, I'm going to chime in here with Mr. Nesbit. If we go ahead and approve your plan for this evening, we could discuss and possibly approve bleachers at any time between now and summer?

Mr. Darkey responded that's correct. You could do it at any time. We're recommending they're done through the CO-STARS because that's all bid out already, so.

Mr. Abate stated we know our number.

Mr. Darkey stated it wouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Abate inquired so, we would know our number? \$1,067,000.00?

Mr. Darkey responded yes, yes, and the one thing you'd have to agree upon is the number of seating you would actually want. We can make those adjustments one way or another.

Mrs. Eriksson stated I have another question for you. Are you done, Mr. Nesbit? I didn't want to.

Mr. Nesbit responded no, no, I'm good. Thank you.

Mrs. Eriksson stated okay. Weird question. With this construction going on and starting through the spring and through the summer, is this going to hinder any opportunity for the children that have their graduation on the field? Seniors.

Mr. Darkey responded no, if the plan is to have it on the current soccer field, it would not at all because we're really not.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired so, the parking wouldn't be all ripped up and that kind of stuff?

Mr. Darkey responded no, no. Actually, they'd still be fully accessible to that field. You could actually do sports if you wanted to, but construction things would go up on the east side. That's really where the construction area would be.

Mrs. Eriksson stated good.

Mr. Darkey stated actually a really great question.

Mr. Musselman inquired, Jay, could you pull up slide number three again, please?

Mr. Darkey responded absolutely, and I'll send this over to you, Mr. Musselman.

Mr. Musselman stated looking at soft costs here. So, we would add that \$177,000.00 onto that?

Mr. Darkey responded yes. So, remember some of those soft costs are just estimates.

Mr. Musselman inquired but what you have here are actual quotes, correct? This slide number three, that \$2.995 is an actual cost to do the work?

Mr. Darkey responded yes. That's what CO-STARS gave as a quote.

Mr. Musselman inquired you do not see any reason for it to go above that?

Mr. Darkey responded no, it should not, and that will be part of the agreement if this were to be vote and approved. You would get a whole detailed spreadsheet of everything. Everything would be broken out in detail with costs as well.

Mr. Musselman stated the last time we did this, there was also, you know, you can a stripe here, and you can add something over here. You can do it all, and they'll add on some costs to the entire project. So, I was just curious what all was added on that. Do you happen to know that off the top of your head?

Mr. Darkey inquired when you say add, are you talking about the lining of it?

Mr. Musselman responded no, not just the lining, but we added like a border that went around, logo in the middle. What do they have? Do they have a logo in the middle? Do you know? Do they have in the end zones that says MUSTANGS? I'm just curious what kind of package there.

Mr. Darkey responded so, we did an actual carpet design on it. This is what was bid. It has a logo in the middle. They don't have the end zone with MUSTANGS on anything like that. It's pretty straight forward as far as that goes, but it's the same logo that's on the other soccer field.

Mr. Abate stated on the soccer field, Mr. Darkey, we also have MUSTANGS on the home side. Is that also included in this version as well or not?

Mr. Darkey responded it's not. What you're seeing on this plan is what was on the current bid. I'm not saying it can't be added. You can do whatever you want.

Mr. Abate inquired so, when is the drop dead date on that if we were to add something else to it?

Mr. Darkey responded well, I'd ask you to take a look at it and probably negotiate that.

Mr. Musselman stated if I remember correctly, it was right before they ordered the carpet we had the opportunity to make those changes. If you recall, they sent us a, "Hey, do you want this in "X," "Y" and "Z?," and there was one or two things we wanted and nothing more than that, but, again, there's always a cost associated with that anytime there's changes orders or upgrades. My thinking was is there something that we wanted that we knew we wanted such as MUSTANGS on the

sideline or in the end zone, whatever. If we wanted something like that, would it not be better to possibly ask them to regive us a new price with those included, or would a change order be just the same amount of money?

Mr. Darkey responded well, my recommendation to that would be before we execute the agreement we would finalize, it was typically, we'll pick that up during submittal process. They'll ask the Owner. This is your last drop dead date, and once you approve this, we're going with it, and that would happen probably sometime in March/April timeframe; however, we haven't executed any agreements right now so, maybe it would be best to take a look at this right now and before we actually do the agreement, we negotiate that into it. It would definitely, I think, cost less that way. My goal would be for them to actually do that for us.

Mr. Abate stated my only personal preference would be to keep both fields the same just having MUSTANGS on the sideline like we do the existing field.

Mr. Darkey inquired the home side?

Mr. Abate responded yes.

Mr. Darkey stated yes, that's doable.

Mr. Nesbit stated yeah, I definitely want to have that on the sideline. Do you have any estimate to what it would cost to add that into the end zones?

Mr. Darkey responded at this point I really don't. Like I said, I think I would ask them to include that in their costs. That would be my first approach.

Mr. Nesbit stated I don't recall the exact layout of the other lines for the other sports. Would the wording of the MUSTANGS in the end zones be a distraction for any other lines for any of the sports?

Mr. Darkey responded I don't think so. I mean I think that's the back portion of the lacrosse field, and if you've ever seen a lot of the college lacrosse games they have, they're playing it on the football or even lacrosse games that have those logos sometimes in the back. So, I wouldn't think that would be an odd look if that's something the Board would like.

Mr. Nesbit stated I think it would be great to have to that in the end zones for the football field particular if that's an option, especially if they'll do that at no additional charge or a very nominal charge.

Mr. Darkey stated it's something we can find out very quickly.

Mr. Nesbit stated one of the things when we had talked about when we renovated the soccer field on the current home side, we put in some rubber mulch, and the intention at the time was we discussed putting a solid rubber when we put the track and field in and do that as part of that project. Did we get a bid for that portion as well?

Mr. Darkey inquired you're talking about a similar material that what the track is made of, right?

Mr. Nesbit responded that's what we discussed originally. We thought it would be more advantageous cost wise to do it when they did the track and field.

Mr. Darkey stated it doesn't hurt to ask.

Mr. Abate stated you're correct, Mr. Nesbit. We did discuss that.

Mr. Nesbit stated I'm just really concerned with that cut blacktop transitioning into that rubber mulch. It's just a safety concern for me and has been from the beginning.

Mr. Darkey stated sure. I will ask the question for sure.

Mr. Nesbit stated I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Darkey, with these potential additional changes, are we still good to go with the motion this evening?

Mr. Darkey responded yes, I think so. I think so. I mean with any new change to the agreement, they can, but I would think that it would still be fine to move forward because the Board would have to review those. If there is additional cost, the Board would have to review those anyway before they're approved.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mr. Darkey stated or we would just do them as a change order in essence.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mr. Darkey stated I will say I was pleased with how the bids came in. This is the contractor that performed the work on the soccer field. They were the low base bid. It's a local excavator.

Mr. Boonie stated, Mr. Darkey, this is Terry Boonie. I was looking at the proposal that was presented previously, and if we would include the bleachers into this, will that effect the current lighting at the existing soccer field? Will some of that existing lighting have to go away in order to put those bleachers in? Wouldn't that also force us to pretty much have to address the lighting as well?

Mr. Darkey responded well, the way we designed this is that you could leave the existing lighting in place. They were actually going to leave it all in place and just reseed it. That was what the lighting proposal was. How it was set up. So, when we designed this, we really tried to keep it so it could be separated so knowing that would not effect it. You would want to get at least the rough in of the power to the field sometime in the summer probably even if you chose not to do the lighting at the time. We would want to at least get that rough in just so we weren't disturbed anything moving forward.

Mr. Boonie stated okay. Thank you. Another quick question, Mr. Musselman. We talked about we were going to use money that we were getting back from a previous project to help fund this. What was that amount again, if you'd happen to have it handy?

Mr. Musselman responded it was over \$2 million. It was somewhere between \$2 and \$3 million dollars, and that was for the West Snyder project. We haven't heard anything back on documents. I don't know if Mr. Wagner has heard any more about it, but we're in the pipeline. I do know that other places have gotten some money more recently. So, we should be, hopefully, getting ours soon, but I can't tell you exactly when we'll see those dollars.

Mr. Boonie stated okay. Thank you.

Mr. Abate stated does anybody else have anything for Mr. Darkey this evening? Okay, Mr. Darkey, if you want to stick around, we'll bring up the motion here later on this evening, and if not, I'm sure Mr. Musselman will get in contact with regards to our decision.

Mr. Darkey stated I'll hang around. I'll do some other things.

Mr. Abate stated thank you, Mr. Darkey. Before we get started this evening, I'm going to move Item 7. on Page 4 to under C., Other.

VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters taken under this section are considered to be routine, and action will be taken with one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

IX. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

A. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate stated on Page 2, Items for Action, under A., Business and Fiscal, I will be taking Items 1. through 7.? Does anybody wish to have anything pulled and voted on separately?

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded approval of Items 1. through 7.

1. **MINUTES**

- a. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the November 16, 2020, regular meeting of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors.
- b. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the December 7, 2020, Reorganization and regular meeting of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors.
- c. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the January 11, 2021, regular meeting and work session of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors.

2. **LIST OF BILLS**

Approval is recommended of the list of bills for the period November 17, 2020, through January 22, 2021.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

- a. 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 November 30, 2020.
- b. 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 December 31, 2020.

4. **BUS STOP**

Approval is recommended for the following bus stop:

Intersection Route 235 & Water Company Road, Beaver Springs

5. **BID FROM REPOSITORY OF UNSOLD PROPERTY**

Approval is recommended to accept a bid on a mobile home from the Repository of Unsold Property for Parcel #14-01-118L-T01 in the amount of \$25.00.

6. **QUOTE FOR EPSON BRIGHTLINK PROJECTORS**

Approval is recommended to accept the quote from AVI-SPL, Audubon, PA, to purchase five (5) Epson Brightlink Projectors at a total cost of \$10,533.00.

7. **LETTER OF AGENCY FOR E-RATE FUNDING SERVICES – CSIU**

Approval is recommended to accept the Letter of Agency for E-Rate Funding services through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for five (5) fiscal years beginning with 2021-2022 through 2025-2026 at a yearly cost of \$5,000.00.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Haynes, Sassaman, Wagner
6-0-3-0
MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Lauver stated, Mr. Abate, I'd like to see Number 5 pulled if I could. I'm a little late. I'm sorry.

Mr. Abate stated we just voted on everything, Mrs. Lauver.

Mrs. Lauver stated I know. Okay.

Mr. Abate stated I don't think we can do that. I'm sorry.

B. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci stated I'd like to take 1. through 6. then.

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Abate seconded approval of Items 1. through 6.

1. **EMPLOYMENT – CLASSIFIED**

Approval is requested to employ the following individual:

- a. Classified Employee – Danielle I. Lantz – Instructional Assistant/
 Permanent Substitute – Mid-West School District – Effective:
 February 1, 2021, pending receipt of Act 114, 24, 31 and 168 –
 Salary: \$13.50 per hour {Replacement/Bzdil}

2. **APPOINTMENTS**

a. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

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

Jason A. Gemberling	Track & Field Coach – Head	MWHS	\$4,288.00
Peter J. Voss	Softball Coach – Head	MWHS	\$3,976.00
Scott A. Wright	Baseball Coach – Head	MWHS	\$3,976.00

b. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR – VOLUNTEER**

Approval is recommended of the following individual as a volunteer for the 2020-2021 school year:

Bradley A. Wilt	Volunteer Softball Coach	MWHS
-----------------	--------------------------	------

c. **HOMEBOUND/IN-HOME INSTRUCTION INSTRUCTOR**

Approval is recommended of the following individual as a homebound/in-home instruction instructor for the 2020-2021 school year at the hourly rate of \$23.00 as indicated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Emily M. Klingler

3. **ADDITION TO SUBSTITUTE LIST**

a. **CERTIFICATED**

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

Area of Certification

Alexis N. Hicks	Health & Physical Education PK – 12
-----------------	-------------------------------------

4. **ATHLETIC EVENT PERSONNEL**

Approval is recommended of the following individuals as winter athletic event personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Ticket Taker/Ticket Seller</u> (\$20.00/game)	Beth J. Keister Justin O. Keister
---	--------------------------------------

5. **MODIFICATION TO UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Approval is requested to modify the ending date of the uncompensated leave request for an employee at Mid-West Middle School to be effective December 31, 2020, rather than approximately May 7, 2021, as previously approved at the December 7, 2020, regular meeting.

6. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Approval is recommended of the following leaves of absence:

- a. Sabbatical Leave – Mid-West Middle School – Effective: January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021 – Purpose: Assisting in the care of dependent
- b. Mid-West Middle School – Effective: January 29, 2021, through February 7, 2021

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
 No: None
 Absent: Haynes, Sassaman, Wagner
 6-0-3-0
 MOTION CARRIED

C. **OTHER**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1. **RETIREMENT**

Mr. Pinci moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval to accept the following retirement:

Richard J. Musselman	Effective: June 30, 2021
Superintendent of Schools	
Mid-West School District	

Discussion:

Mr. Nesbit stated well, I'm sorry to see it on the agenda.

Mr. Boonie stated I'll second that.

Mr. Musselman stated I do really appreciate all the support I've received from you guys for the entire seven years I've been here. It's been a great reward for me, and I just wanted to thank you all. Just the opportunity. It is an opportunity. While it's an employment, it's just an opportunity to serve such a great and wonderful school district from the Board to administrators to teachers and the students and support staff. I've been blessed. I'm the one saying thank you. So, thank you very much.

Mr. Nesbit stated I can't believe it's been seven years. It's been good. You've got some big shoes to fill, literally and figuratively.

Mr. Musselman stated thank you.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci

No: None
Absent: Haynes, Sassaman, Wagner
6-0-3-0
MOTION CARRIED

2. **PHASE 2 OPTION OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Nesbit moved and _____ seconded approval to proceed with the Phase 2 Option of the Athletic Field Master Plan through a CO-STARS Cooperative Purchasing Agreement in the amount of \$2,995,000.00 as submitted by Keystone Sports Construction for the construction scope of work as follows:

- New 8-lane 400-meter all-weather track
- New multi-purpose synthetic turf sports field
- Track and field events, long jump/triple jump, pole vault, discus, javelin, shot put
- Football, lacrosse and field hockey goals, pole vault and high jump uprights and cross bars
- Pedestrian access and circulation walks
- New paved spectator drop-off and ADA parking area
- Expanded parking area adjacent to the Mid-West Middle School rear parking lot
- Stormwater management facilities for the track, field and new paved areas
- Stone access road and grading to connect to Long Lane
- New water vault, water line tap and lateral extension for future connection (Alternate #2)
- Extended sanitary sewer service for future connection (Alternate #3)

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Haynes, Sassaman, Wagner
6-0-3-0
MOTION CARRIED

X. **CLOSING CEREMONIES**

XI. **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.

XII. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

There were no scheduled speakers.

XIII. **REPORTS**

Mr. Musselman reported on the following item:

- 1) Mid-West School District to Receive \$2,709,194.00 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II

There's been some information that has come out. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II which is a second part. We received some money earlier on, but Mid-West will be receiving \$2,709,194.00 from that. From what I understand, we can go all the way back to March, 2020, and possibly cover expenses from there through this year, and I believe until 23, I believe. I'll have to look at some more information on that, but there's a list of different things that we can look at, but one of the quotes that I saw was that ESSER II funding can be leveraged for a wide range of activities, and that came out of the Department of Education. As Superintendent, something that kind of concerns me is the possibility of the federal government putting out a federal minimum wage across the board for everybody. It does scare me just a little bit being that it's \$15.00 an hour, and part of that is how is that going to impact us as a school district, not just for new employees, but employees we currently have and also is there a ripple effect that can come back from that? So, while we do have some of those monies, one of the things we can do is we can look at possibly trying to leverage ourselves to be in a little bit better position when that hits, but, again, I've said it for the past seven years and other places I've been is that when you take one-time money, you don't want to pay salaries or benefits with that because you create a hole in your budget, and then you have to fill it sometime. So, I think we need to be strategic about this. It's a nice size pot of money, but we really need to be strategic as far as how we do this so that at the end of that money we actually have our budget that would cover those expenses. For example, the \$15.00 an hour, if that comes about, if it hits public schools and how quickly it does, and whether it stays in or not, we need to be prepared, and what you could do. The truth of the matter is you either increase your revenue source coming in, or you decrease your funding, and those are both very difficult to do, and it's going to be something that this Board is going to have to deal with, but you're going to have to look at how do you increase your revenue source. Do you raise your taxes? Do you decrease your spending? Do you look at people and programs? And those are some very, very tough decisions that this Board is going to have to be looking at. Now, we don't know exactly how everything is going to come out from the federal government, but I just wanted to give you guys just an oversight of some of the anxiety that I've been feeling when I look at this, and as I am thankful Mr. Wagner has been able to be back with us this week. I know he's been out for a few things, but we will be sitting down starting to look at some of that and ways we can leverage that money that we're getting from the federal government. So, it's a big topic. It has a lot of moving parts, I'm sure, but I think we really need to be strategic as far as how this can benefit us well into the future not just immediately right now, and I know everybody gets excited. I want this. I want that. I want this. I want that. We really need to look at this strategically as far as what positions us to be in a good place well into the future. So, that's just a real big broad picture, some of my feelings as far as where we need to go with some of that money and some of my concerns with this possible \$15.00 an hour minimum wage.

Mr. Nesbit inquired that funding you're talking about, Mr. Musselman, is that required to be used for anything specifically?

Mr. Musselman responded it's a very broad. It is a very broad definition of what we can use it for, and I think if we look at that, there may be some creativity and different things, but it's pretty broad. A lot of times when you get these, and focusing in narrow like it's going to be for technology, or it's going to be for this or that. Miss Sheedy and Mr. Stroup and I were looking at some of these definitions, and it's pretty broad. It's a pretty broad scope.

Mr. Nesbit inquired can it be used for debt service to free up cash flow?

Mr. Musselman responded I don't know if it's that broad. I'm not really sure. I'd have to look at it to see if we could use it for that. Like I said, there was a whole big list of things we could use it for, but I don't know if we can use it for debt service. It's something we could look at.

Mr. Nesbit inquired would you, please? I'd appreciate that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Stroup reported on the following items:

1) Academic Performance of Students in Cyber and Virtual Programs

The first thing I wanted to discuss was the academic performance of students participating in cyber programs or virtual programs. I've had some conversations with individuals, parents in particular, just about how our kids were doing in these systems. I wanted to provide the Board with the information. Kids that are in MWCA or virtual tend to be struggling a little more than those in the in-person classroom. We anticipated that. There are some challenges with communication, with getting work back from students, with providing that timely interaction that's needed to just maybe give them that nudge that would put them over the finish line in some instances. So, there are more kids at risk than we normally experience in the District, and you can see that in the chart. Now, I will say the numbers in person are changing somewhat that show the kids at risk because these include some kids that we've already counseled into coming back from MWCA or virtual programs, and therefore, that those in-person numbers may be inflated because of the struggles they had in some other experience before coming back, and we'll continue to work on and try to counsel students into getting in the best possible program whether the MWCA or virtual isn't working or vice versa, but ultimately we'd like to have them all back, and the sooner the better because we think that is our best instructional option.

2) Potential Policy Guide 217 Waiver for Students in Virtual Programs

Another thing that I have that goes along with that is a potential policy waiver for Policy 217. This deals with those students that are participating in virtual programs. We have just entered the second semester of our instructional program, and we decided to wait until this point because we weren't sure exactly how long there would be a need for virtual programming. Our virtual programming provides kids with access to their classroom that is livestreamed through the Internet for major subject areas

only, and because of that, anybody who participated for three quarters or three marking periods of the year, we're going to ask that Board Policy 217 is waived for them and the number of credits that are required for them to graduate, and the suggestion is there printed on the report that I have up, and we'll be looking at getting it on the Board agenda for February, but we'd ask that those students be allowed to graduate with 24.5 credits as opposed to the normal 27 if they did participate in a virtual program for three quarters of the school year.

3) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II

The last thing on my agenda was talking about the federal stimulus funding that Rick covered. I think he covered that pretty well. Ryan, Erin, myself, the building administrators and Rick will be working together to develop some ideas. We'll also be using several committees to discuss what's important to us and try to prioritize. For example, the Technology Committee met tonight, and we had some of those conversations which ultimately can help provide some insight into what people are thinking our needs are, and we can go from there to prioritize.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Stroup, I did some quick math here, and is this Risk at Failure Rate high as far as the MWCA and the virtual?

Mr. Stroup responded it is high, and I don't want to put a number on it for all grade levels because there's grade levels that have more jeopardy of it. I didn't even include the elementary on that chart because there's not much of a problem going on in any parts of the program whether it's virtual, in person. The MWCA is at the elementary level. There's a little bit of a problem, and there's two or three that aren't completing their work but as compared to the middle school and high school kids, it's really insignificant. Now, if you consider about 5% are in danger of failing on a given year in the District, those numbers are higher, and it's a lot of trouble getting work, a lot of trouble communicating provided that positive reinforcement. We're trying as best as we can to convince parents of the building safety and effectiveness of the in-person program, and many of the decisions are rooted in other factors; health for one, but also in IEPs of students, etc.

Mr. Abate inquired if I understand correctly, then you guys are working on a solution to try at least bring that number down?

Mr. Stroup responded we are working on it.

3. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Ryan L. Wagner

Mr. Wagner reported on the following items:

1) Per Capita Tax Abolished by Snyder County Commissioners

We were notified that Snyder County passed their preliminary budget and in doing so, they abolished the per capita tax which is approximately \$120,000.00 hole created in our budget. So, that's something we're going to have to look at as we start to develop our budget, and by abolishing it, they eliminate maintaining the per capita tax rolls. So, it makes it sort of difficult

on our end. There are some options, but it's something we need to be keeping in mind. I think I sent that to Orris and you as well, Mr. Abate.

2) Status of Audit Process

The audit process is still going on. We have the Skyward puzzle almost pieced together. So, that's good news. It's been taking us forever. My goal is to have the audit completed by the end of February, and then it be presented to the Board at a March meeting at Krista's convenience.

Mr. Abate stated the per capita tax, I just want to get back on. I didn't realize that. So, you're telling me the county handled it all for our portion of that as well?

Mr. Wagner responded they maintain the rolls that we use for billing, yes, and they are going to be revising the Inter-District Agreement that we had with them for that portion of it.

Mr. Abate inquired so, we would have to take that role on then?

Mr. Wagner responded I believe Berkheimer could do that is what they tell us. So, if that's the direction that you would like to go, we can certainly get in touch with them and see how that would work out for us.

Mr. Abate inquired how will that work out for our agreement with our tax collectors, or are they not involved in this aspect?

Mr. Wagner responded that's a question for Mr. Knepp.

Attorney Knepp stated well, they are your tax collectors. You do have a contract. We'll have to talk to them, and, Ryan, do you know when the county decided to? Did they pass that?

Mr. Wagner responded whenever they passed their preliminary budget, they said that they were eliminating that per capita tax.

Attorney Knepp stated okay, because I had reached out a long time ago to the county solicitor, and I still have not heard anything back on that. So, when I got your e-mail today, I was like, okay, that's the first news we've had from Snyder County for a while on this. So, I'll have to follow up again and see exactly what now from the legal perspective where they're at because I've received nothing.

Mr. Wagner stated I have some calculations done, too, if we need to. I know that we don't want to consider a tax increase, but if we would need to do that, I have figured out approximately what it would be to replace that revenue.

Mr. Abate inquired that per capita tax, that's on everybody not just property owners? Is that correct?

Mr. Wagner responded yes, yes. By increasing property taxes, you're putting the burden of more onto property owners.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Knepp and Mr. Wagner, can you get something for us here on our February meeting, first or second one, at your discretion so we can figure out what direction we want to take?

Mr. Wagner responded will do.

Attorney Knepp responded sure thing.

Mr. Abate stated thank you both very much.

Attorney Knepp stated assuming Snyder County answers our inquiries.

Mr. Abate stated well, we can try.

Mr. Pinci stated I just have a quick question on the electricity. I was pleased to see the cost of the electricity go down at least for October and November. November went down to \$7,000.00, and then it went way back up in December. I was hoping to see a little better savings, and maybe the solar there's not as much sun in December.

Mr. Wagner stated I think what happened there was we had to terminate some contracts with a third-party supplier, and I think there was timing issues with how those contracts were terminated because of issues with PPL, and I think going forward you should see decreased billings.

Mr. Pinci stated oh, okay. Thank you.

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 had no report.

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

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:

- 1) Next Meeting

We have a meeting coming up later this week. We haven't had one since December.

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

Mr. Pinci reported on the following items:

- 1) Federal Testing Waiver

PSBA education groups called for federal testing waiver. This was presented by the two Senators, Toomey and Casey.

2) 2021-2022 State Budget

Governor Wolf's budget should be out February 2.

9. **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:

1) Next Meeting

The Policy Committee is rejoining this Thursday again to go over and start looking at merging those 4's and 5's into the 300's. We're going to be meeting on Thursday at 4 or 5 p.m. I can't remember, Erin. 4 p.m.

10. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Terry L. Boonie

Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:

1) Speed Bump Concern at Midd-West Middle School

We had a concern about the speed bumps between the middle school and elementary school, and somebody concerned about bottoming out on them and not seeing them. They did repaint them nice bright yellow, and there are also signs up warning about the speed bumps. So, if people bottom out now, it's because they're going too fast.

Mr. Abate stated and thank you very much, Mr. Boonie. That was like record time. Thank you very much for taking care of that for us.

Mr. Boonie stated yeah, they moved on that really quick.

Mr. Abate stated they did.

Mr. Auman stated I was on that, boss.

Mr. Boonie stated thank you, Dan, for taking care of that.

Mr. Auman stated you're welcome.

11. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Terry L. Boonie

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

1) Meeting

We just had a meeting before this one. We were discussing the Internet bandwidth and discussions of what it would cost to upgrade and whether we can do that right now or if it's something we're going to hold off. At this point, we're probably not going to need to upgrade to a faster speed, but certainly that's something we'll continue to look at.

Another issue we looked at was the CIPA filter. Looking at possibly when the life of this runs out, looking at some other possibilities that would move some of the bandwidth demands out onto the cloud rather than having to pass through our network. So, that is something that is going to be looked at. We still have a contract with CIPA, I think for another year or two. So, once that terminates, we may look at a different path.

Also, we're going to continue to try to look at one-to-one. We're looking at the challenges for being able to get the technology. There's a huge wait list or wait time, I should say, on getting pcs. They're saying 14 to 16 weeks from the time you order something. We're trying to get prices, and, of course, everything seems to be going up because of COVID. So, we're still looking at challenges with that and trying to find a way to continue to be able to do the one-to-one even after COVID. So, those are some of the things that we talked about, and we still have a lot more to talk about with them.

Mr. Nesbit inquired, Mr. Boonie, what are the reservations on upgrading the Internet speed at this time?

Mr. Boonie responded well, at this time, Giuls has been monitoring the bandwidth, and he has said that we have not hit our 250-megabit percent and cap. So, at this point, it would be a healthy investment. I don't have the numbers off the top of my head, but it would be pretty substantial to bump up to 750 megabits per second as far as any equipment, and again, I don't have any of those numbers in front of me, but I don't know if Mr. Stroup has anything he would like to add.

Mr. Stroup stated it would be about \$40 to \$50,000.00 initial investment to be prepared to do the 750 per second plus an ongoing cost of \$900.00 per month additional from what we pay now. So, that was a big consideration.

Mr. Nesbit stated so, where we are right now, if I remember correctly, we were running about 85% capacity. Is that correct?

Mr. Boonie responded Giuls would be the one that would know that for sure, but he was saying we were running, if I remember correctly, somewhere between the 180 to 210/220 megabits per second. Does that sound realistic, Joe? I don't know if you recall.

Mr. Stroup responded yeah, yes, he said that the majority of the day that we are in the 125 to 175 range, but there are peak times when people are on for whatever reason, he said at the beginning of the day is one. There's another time right after lunch that it can get higher, but he's comfortable where we are, and we're hoping that our program is not as maybe demanding on streaming and doing TEAMS meetings next year as it has been this year.

Mr. Nesbit inquired so, there's no plan in between what we currently have and then the upgrade that you were looking at with that substantial investment?

Mr. Boonie responded that's Giuls' recommendation at this point from what I understand. Certainly, I had some concerns in that if we continue to have to do a lot of video, TEAMS, video chat, video conferencing with students. I have reservations that it will be a serious load on the bandwidth, and I don't

know if it's going to be the quality that we want, but I also understand financial costs, so. That's something certainly, I think, that probably needs to be still discussed.

Mr. Stroup stated I think the discussion centered around on that maintaining the one-to-one and the funding for computers in that program was more significant than increasing the bandwidth. The CIPA filter versus some other format which would be cloud-based would have the ability possibly to reduce the amount bandwidth required or being used by the District. So, it seemed like maybe looking at that step down the road might be more advantageous than at this time moving forward with the 750. That being the thought process that when the CIPA filter runs out in 2022, at least the agreement with the unit that goes with it, and then if we were making that decision at that time, some of these funds still could be available at that point.

Mr. Nesbit stated okay. Thank you for the information.

Mr. Boonie stated and, Chris, I understand your question and concern about the bandwidth, and, certainly, I think, it would be nice to hear a lot more feedback from teachers on how has it been working when they try to do one-to-one virtual learning with the students rather than just putting up assignments and having them do instruction that way. How is the bandwidth and the quality of connectivity? Is it extremely lagged? That's certainly something I think would be beneficial. I know it's an investment and money, but it's also difficult, and that could be leading to why we're having seeing some number issues with kids failing, or not failing, but danger of failing because of the virtual seemed like the students are doing virtual, both ours and the other on-line, are a lot higher percentage than in person, and, of course, there are a lot of factors, but certainly the quality of Internet connection might have part of it or something to do with it.

Mr. Nesbit stated that's a good a point. I just don't want the teachers being hindered or not utilizing all of their resources simply because they are trying to conserve bandwidth going back to your point, so.

Mr. Boonie stated and I expressed that exact thing in our meeting. So, it is something we are discussing, and it's certainly. Right now is not a great time for costs going up for anything as we keep hearing with revenues going down. So, yeah, it's something we have to certainly consider.

Mr. Nesbit stated very good. Thank you for your feedback.

Mrs. Lauver stated, Mr. Abate, I do have a question. Years ago, prior to most everybody else being on the Board, I remember we had, and I think Mr. Boonie had brought this up in his last report, but I don't have his report. I just know what he had said about replacement of computers, and I remember we had gotten computers with a grant and at that time, it was brought to our attention. I think Elaine Sautner was the person that was here, but it was brought to our attention as the Board that we didn't have a replacement plan in place to replace old computers, and I think about the technology people have retired, many of them have retired, most of the Board members aren't here either that would remember, but I just, and we've had several business managers since, but we were supposed to be putting money

into the budget each year, and there was supposed to be a replacement plan. I don't know what happened to it, but there was a replacement plan for the computers. So every year you'd be replacing some and not like all of them at one time.

Mr. Stroup stated we do have a replacement plan on a five-year cycle. One of the big drains on the system will be is that we went one-to-one across the District. So, every student that goes to our District has a computer device on their own that they have to use, and we never had technology to that level before, but the pandemic necessitated it. So, we're there now, and that was what a lot of the talk about Technology Committee was about. Do we want to keep it now that we have it there? And kindergarteners and kindergarten teachers have been working with these machines and have new skills, and that's what the Technology Committee thought was a priority in our conversations.

Mrs. Lauver inquired so that plan would need to be revised to update it or revise, and you might want to wait perhaps until we're through this pandemic to know which direction to go, I assume, is what you're saying with the number, the range of numbers is so much higher than had been. Did I understand you correctly, Mr. Stroup?

Mr. Stroup responded I'm not if you understood me correctly or not. What I was trying to explain was that the Committee would like to keep the one-to-one even if we're entirely in-person instruction next year. We would like to use the technology and continuing to use it as a teaching technique and strategy. So, that creates more expense because we have to replace more computers on a yearly basis.

Mrs. Lauver stated right, okay, alright. Thank you for the clarification.

12. **FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman

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

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Wagner, are you able to update us on where we stand with our budget?

Mr. Wagner inquired next year's budget?

Mr. Abate responded yes, sir.

Mr. Wagner stated it's a very rough draft. Rick and I have plans to sit down and go over that. I can probably give you a better report at the next meeting if that's okay.

Mr. Abate stated that would be fine, sir.

13. **PROFESSIONAL STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman

Due to Mr. Sassaman's absence, there was 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.

16. **BOARD AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS** Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Edmiston reported our students have started the course selection process today. Next year's seniors started selecting courses, and for the remainder of this week and into next week, all students will have the opportunity to start selecting their courses.

Mr. Brown had no report.

Mrs. Bzdil had no report.

Mr. Aucker had no report.

Miss Sheedy stated you should have received the elementary Board report this afternoon in an e-mail.

Mrs. Lohr had no report.

Mr. Auman stated I just want to thank the Board and all the administrators for bringing me on board to be an administrator. I appreciate everybody's input and help that they give me throughout the years that I've been in this position.

Mr. Pinci stated you're welcome. Thank you.

Mr. Boonie stated just to note, you've heard it before, Dan, but thank you for taking care of the speed bumps so quickly. Thank you.

Mr. Auman stated you're welcome.

Mr. Musselman stated, Mr. President, if I could just remind the Board members that an e-mail was sent out about a hearing that we need to have folks to attend. If they could get back to us, please do so. We need to have some members of the Board sit in on that. So, please, if you can just reply to the e-mail, let us know. We do need to get that set up. I don't know if Mr. Knepp's on here. I don't know if it's possible to do it personally, but I was under the impression that it had to be done in person, but I need to have members that attend that.

Attorney Knepp stated that's one of the things I wanted to discuss with parents' counsel, if they were agreeable to that, particularly since we're possibly looking at a Friday evening hearing. So, once I have an opportunity to speak to the parents' counsel, I hope to be able to answer that question because if they'll stipulate to it, then that could make it a lot easier for a lot of people because Mr. Etter would be coming from State College. I'd be coming from Lewistown.

Mr. Musselman stated, Board members, if you can find that e-mail, if you'd be willing to, and some of the final details will have to be left up to Mr. Knepp and also the other parties that are involved. So, thank you.

Mr. Abate inquired it would be safe to assume that as of now it's in person until we hear otherwise?

Attorney Knepp responded yeah, I think we have to go under that assumption at this point.

Mr. Abate stated okay. Mrs. Wagner did tell me she would be available on a Friday.

Attorney Knepp stated that would be five then.

Mr. Musselman inquired did you say, "would" or "wouldn't?" I'm sorry.

Mr. Abate stated would be. She would prefer virtual, but she understands.

Attorney Knepp stated I personally would have no issue with the virtual, but I have to get the parents' consent to do that, and I also understand there's a way to record, and I'm showing my ignorance here with Zoom, but there's a way to record with Zoom that we could also use as a back-up for the record for that if need be.

Mr. Abate inquired so, we would not be needing a stenographer then for this?

Attorney Knepp responded I'm trying to see, yeah.

Mrs. Eriksson stated you'd have to have Joe or somebody there that sets up the meeting to make sure that it gets recorded appropriately.

Attorney Knepp stated I know it wouldn't be me. That's for sure.

Mr. Pinci inquired well, when would you know that it could go virtual?

Attorney Knepp responded after we speak to counsel for the student's parents, which I understand Mr. Edmiston has reached out, and we have not heard anything back.

Mr. Abate inquired do you have a timeframe on this, Mr. Solicitor? Ten days from the date of their request?

Attorney Knepp responded well, I don't want to get into this since this is public. There's some issues where that may not be a problem with the student coming back after ten days.

Mr. Abate stated okay. Let's just table this, and we'll find out what's going on.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Haynes, Sassaman, Wagner
6-0-3-0
MOTION CARRIED

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
