

# MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Regular Meeting*

Middleburg Elementary School

Large Group Conference Room

and

Virtual via Zoom

Monday, April 26, 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

<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			7:04 p.m.
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  
Dr. Dane S. Aucker, Principal, Midd-West Middle School  
Mr. Daniel E. Auman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Jeremy D. Brown, Assistant Principal, Midd-West High School  
Dr. Lee C. Bzdil, Supervisor of Special Education  
Dr. Thor R. Edmiston, Principal, Midd-West High School  
Mrs. Julie L. Lohr, Principal, Middleburg Elementary School  
Mr. Umberto G. Porzi, Senior Network Administrator  
Mr. John S. Rosselli, Director of Food Services  
Miss Erin C. Sheedy, Principal, West Snyder Elementary School  
Mrs. Bree A. Solomon, Athletic Director  
Mrs. Robin A. Kauffman  
Unknown number of 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.*

Mr. Abate announced before we start with our meeting, we did hold an Executive Session on April 12, 2021. We did speak of contractual issues, and we had a personnel issue.

**V. STUDENT REPORT**

Miss Makenna M. Dietz

Miss Dietz reported on the following items:

1) Senior Class

The seniors will be going on a senior class trip at the end of May. They will be going to Kalahari Indoor Water Park, a major league baseball game and Top Golf.

2) Junior Class

The juniors held a prom on Saturday night themed the “Midnight Gardens,” and there were quite a few students in attendance, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

3) Sports Teams

Track and Field has a meet this Thursday at Penns Valley, and then they will have three meets next week, and they have Districts and Leagues coming up.

Girls lacrosse is 1-5, and they play at Selinsgrove tonight.

Baseball will be playing at home on Wednesday night, and they are currently 7-2.

Softball has three games this week; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. They play Juniata at home tonight.

4) FFA Chapter

FFA had their annual banquet last week, and various awards were given to many different members.

5) PSSAs

Students have been taking the PSSAs, and those will finish up this week, and then Keystones and AP testing will begin soon.

6) Spring Musical

There is also rehearsal for the spring musical going on.

*Mr. Nesbit arrived at 7:04 p.m.*

VI. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1) Ms. Lauren Stadel, RBC Capital Markets – Debt Refinancing

*Ms. Stadel gave a PowerPoint presentation on Midd-West School District's Debt and Refinancing Review.*

Ms. Stadel reviewed the following data/information pertaining to the District's debt and refinancing review:

- Gross Outstanding Debt Service as of July 1, 2020
- Net Outstanding Debt Service as of July 1, 2020
- Current Municipal Market Conditions: "AAA" MMD
- 2016, 2016A, 2019 and 2020 Issues – Current Refunding Summary (tax-exempt)
- 2016B Issue – Advance Refunding Summary (taxable)
- Restructuring Option 1 (Restructuring with Approximately \$1,000,000 Relief)
- Restructuring Option 2 (Restructuring with Approximately \$500,000 Relief)

Mr. Abate inquired, Lauren, if you went the bank route, would it be able to be amortized the same as these are here? So, it would be interest on the outstanding balance, correct?

Ms. Stadel responded yes.

Mr. Abate inquired so, you would amortize it for ten years on Page 7 scenario and then 11 or 12 years on the other one?

Ms. Stadel responded that's correct. So, the new amortization you looked at on Page 7, the new amortization is contained within that proposed annual net debt service column. What's also in there is the debt that we're not refinancing; those two QZAB loans. So, that's included within that because I wanted to give you an overall picture of debt. So, we're taking in account the fact that we're not touching those two issues, but, yes, we would be extending your debt out into a ten-year amortization for this \$500,000.00 relief scenario. It would be an 11-year scenario for the \$1,000,000.00 relief option.

Mr. Abate inquired so, in theory then, in theory, you could make additional principal payments and reduce your interest rate even more going the bank route?

Ms. Stadel responded yes. If we were to go bank route which I would recommend that we pursue at this point in time given what *inaudible* banks currently and just the prepayment provisions. If you were to secure a new bank financing for this, and you had additional cash that you wanted to throw in principal, you could definitely do that at any point in time assuming that we got a loan that was prepayable in parts. Some banks only like you to prepay I whole, but we can evaluate those when we send out a bank RFP if they would like the ability to prepay in part, and then most likely what you would do is you would throw any additional principal payments if you wanted to make on an early basis, throw it back in the principal to reduce your debt to the greatest ability. We can do it however you want, but that would be our recommendation that if you have cash next year or the year after, whenever, that you'd throw it. We'd tell the bank prepay the 2032 maturity and then go reduce your debt to the greatest extent. Again, it's a good option to consider because with money being as cheap as it is, we haven't had too many opportunities in the past to look at such massive restructuring options because money hasn't

been quite this cheap and additionally because your debt is so short, it makes it pretty palpable to look ahead.

*Ms. Stadel reviewed the Next Steps & Proposed Financing Timeline.*

Mr. Abate stated, Lauren, I can put an item on the first meeting in May as a Board discussion if you would be available. You could either come in person. We'd love to see you, or you can do the Zoom should the Board have any questions. They're going to need some time to mull this over, and we can hopefully may or may not decide what we want to do at that point. So, if that sounds like a viable option to the Board.

Ms. Stadel stated yeah, that's perfect. What I'm going to do is reach out to your bond counsel and just make them aware of the situation so that they can at least get a draft resolution together so that once we know what route the Board wishes to go, if any, that they'll be able to quickly and easily get that to you in final form for all the necessary advertisements, etc.

Mr. Abate stated if you can just make note, the second Monday in May, and if anything would change, we obviously would let you know, but if you could plan on that.

Mr. Pinci stated I do have a question. To clarify, I'm not sure if I understand. So, we have \$24 million in debt. So, we want to increase it to \$26 million, but we get a savings each year. Is that what you're saying?

Ms. Stadel stated the \$24 and \$26 million, I'm not quite sure where those numbers are coming from.

Mr. Pinci stated well, you said something about a \$2,000,000.00 increase to set it up. Did I hear that correctly?

Ms. Stadel stated perhaps what you're asking is it related to why we're borrowing more than what we're paying off.

Mr. Abate stated I think that's his question.

Mr. Pinci stated yes.

Ms. Stadel stated so, when we refinance the existing debt issues, we have to pay the amount to call all the bonds or the related bank loans that we're redeeming or refinancing, and so the principal amounts of those we have to pay off. Additionally, any accrued interest, and so, when the school district makes its bond payments, let's just say for example you make them on October 1 and April 1. If you make a payment, a prepayment in between those two dates, you'll have some interest that you owe that's accrued from your last payment. So, we are financing that accrued interest amount as well. So, taking the principal that we're paying, now just add a little more to the new financing to pay the accrued interest, and then we also have to have some money on for the issuance costs. You could certainly pay issuance costs from cash if you want, but 99.9% of the time districts opt to finance those issuance costs much like you often finance your closing costs for a home mortgage. So, that's why we borrow a little bit more than what we're actually paying, but the savings numbers that I showed you on sort of a traditional debt refinancing reflects

that. Even though we're borrowing more, we're actually saving money because interest rates are that much lower now than they are *inaudible* if that makes.

Mr. Pinci inquired so, we are? We could save \$150,000.00 if we kept it at nine years?

Ms. Stadel responded that's correct. The 2016B savings is about \$150,000.00, and on the larger refinancing which is four issues put together now into one new one, that estimate is approximately \$280,000.00. If anyone has any questions that come up between now and our next meeting, I'm sure your Administration would be more than happy to pass them along my way, but if I don't hear from you all, I'll look forward to seeing you then.

Mr. Abate stated, Lauren, one more thing here real quick or Mr. Stroup. Do you have this PowerPoint that you can send?

Mr. Stroup responded yes.

VII. **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.*

VIII. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

A. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman

Mr. Sassaman stated we'll do the first one individually, and then if there's no objections, we'll do the rest together unless somebody wants one pulled out.

Mr. Abate stated I think we'll pull 5. out.

Mrs. Lauver stated and 2.

Mrs. Wagner stated and 8., 9. and 13.

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mrs. Lauver seconded approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2021, regular meeting of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors and the minutes the April 12, 2021, regular meeting/work session of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors.

Discussion:

None

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

No: None

Abstain: Eriksson, Haynes, Sassaman

6-0-3-0

MOTION CARRIED

2. **LIST OF BILLS**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded approval of the list of bills for the period March 23, 2021, through April 26, 2021.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lauver stated I have a question on Page 12 under General Fund. A credit card payment to Amazon in the amount of \$9,839. Is that one item or several items? I don't know what the codes were like what building it went to or anything?

Mr. Wagner responded I don't think that was necessarily just to Amazon. I think sometimes the CSIU system carries over those descriptions. I will find out exactly what that is and let you know. I don't think that's just one item.

Mrs. Lauver stated and then I have a question on Page 13. We paid McAndrews Law Office \$15,000.00. It says, "Other Professional Services." I wasn't sure.

Attorney Knepp stated that's a settlement of a special ed case.

Mrs. Lauver inquired what is VOYA?

Mr. Wagner responded that is part of retirement for new employees. New employees go into a new system where they have a defined contribution account like a 401(K). It's a separate account from PSERS.

Mrs. Lauver stated and I saw the word, "NOCTI."

Mr. Brown responded that's an agricultural test in the areas of Agriculture Mechanics and Production Agriculture their senior year. They test two years. As juniors, they take a pre-test, and as seniors they take a post-test.

Mrs. Lauver stated I just saw it and wasn't sure.

Mr. Brown stated so we tested these students at the high school.

Mrs. Lauver stated and then more one question. On Page 14, we did a boat registration. I didn't know the District owned a boat. That was a 2-year registration.

Mr. Abate stated we've been going through this for the last 12 years. We have a boat. We have a row boat. The helicopter we sold, but we do have the row boat.

*Laughter occurred at this time.*

Mr. Abate stated I believe the biology department used to use that boat.

Mrs. Lauver stated I just wondered. I saw it.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner  
No: None  
9-0-0-0  
MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Haynes seconded approval of Items 3. and 4.

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 March 31, 2021.

4. **AGREEMENT – DILIGENT CORPORATION**

Approval is recommended of the Agreement between Midd-West School District and Diligent Corporation to purchase an annual subscription for BoardDocs LT and a non-recurring subscription for Remote Implementation at a cost of \$3,700.00 to be effective on June 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. *{The non-recurring subscription is \$1,000.00 for training and set up through the months of May and June, 2021.} {This will be for use as a posting tool for Board agendas and minutes.}*

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner  
No: None  
9-0-0-0  
MOTION CARRIED

5. **NEW MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR MATHEMATICS**

Approval is requested to purchase the following new materials and resources for mathematics for a period of six (6) years beginning July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2027:

<u>McGraw Hill, LLC</u>		
Glencoe Algebra I	190 Annual Licenses	\$21,329.40
Glencoe Geometry	150 Annual Licenses	\$16,839.00
Glencoe Algebra II	125 Annual Licenses	\$14,032.50
ALEKS	465 Annual Subscriptions	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

*(Includes Shipping & Handling)* \$74,931.33

*{This purchase includes hard copies of texts, online e-texts/ resources and teacher resources. The subscription for the ALEKS programs generates personal learning paths for students with deficits or strengths in particular areas of mathematics. This will be paid using ESSER II funds.}*

<u>SAVVAS {Formerly Pearson}</u>		
Pearson Trigonometry, 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition	60 Annual Licenses	\$13,498.20
Pearson Pre-Calculus: Graphical,		

Numerical, Algebraic, 10 <sup>th</sup> Edition	30 Annual Licenses	\$ 6,749.10
Pearson Personal Financial Literacy, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	120 Annual Licenses	\$15,598.80
Pearson Statistics (E-text only)	40 Annual Licenses	<u>\$ 5,098.80</u>

(Includes Shipping & Handling) \$42,365.45

*{This purchase includes hard copies of texts, online e-texts/ resources and teacher resources This purchase includes equal numbers of Pearson MyMathLab which is an online practice resource for those subject areas. This will be paid using ESSER II funds.}*

Discussion:

Mr. Abate stated I have a question. Mr. Musselman, I'm still a little in the dark. I remember in the past when we had hard copies of textbooks it was the Superintendent needed to review those books. Have you done this? Is the e-books the same way? But I do see where we're getting hard copies of these books as well.

Mr. Musselman responded I have not looked at a lot of these. Typically, your mathematics books are not necessarily filled with things that are usually questionable. Sometimes you want to look at your social studies. There may be some health-related books, different things like that, that may have some questionable materials in, but for mathematics I haven't looked at those, so.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Haynes seconded approval of Items 6. and 7.

**6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR MATHEMATICS**

Approval is requested to purchase 100 Texas Instruments® TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculators from EAI Education at an approximate cost of \$10,200.00 and to purchase one set of downloadable PDE resources for Algebra I at a cost of \$520.00, one set of downloadable PDE resources for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math at a cost of \$335.00 and Pre-Calculus resources in the amount of \$210.00 from Teachers Pay Teachers for a total cost of \$11,265.00. *{These will be paid using ESSER II funds.}*

**7. NEW MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE**

Approval is requested to purchase the following new materials and resources for science for a period of six (6) years beginning July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2027:

Cengage Learning

World of Chemistry, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition	125 Annual Licenses	\$16,968.75
Exploring Environmental Science		

for AP® Updated, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition      15 Annual Licenses      \$ 2,662.50  
(Includes Shipping and/or Process Fee) \$20,416.50

SAVVAS {Formerly Pearson}  
Biology in Focus                      25 Annual Licenses      \$ 4,199.25  
Chemistry: The Central Science      20 Annual Licenses      \$ 3,639.40  
Miller Levine Biology                175 Annual Licenses      \$19,244.75

(Includes Shipping & Handling) \$29,114.66

{This purchase includes hard copies of texts, online e-texts/ resources and teacher resources. This will be paid using ESSER II funds.}

McGraw Hill, LLC  
Glencoe Science Edition (Grade 7) 175 Annual Licenses      \$14,222.25  
Glencoe Science Edition (Grade 8) 25 Hard Copies              \$ 2,175.00

(Includes Shipping & Handling) \$16,575.32

{This purchase will be paid using ESSER II funds.}

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner  
No: None  
9-0-0-0  
MOTION CARRIED

8. **AGREEMENT – H. A. BERKHEIMER, INC.**

Mr. Haynes moved and Mrs. Lauver seconded approval of the Agreement between Midd-West School District and H. A. Berkheimer, Inc., for the administration and collection of per capita taxes for the term commencing January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2023, at \$.50 per bill (plus postage).

Discussion:

Mrs. Wagner inquired I had asked before, but is there an estimated revenue looking at here? I'm not looking for a definite figure. I'm looking for an estimated.

Mr. Wagner responded between \$100,000.00 and \$105,000.00.

Mr. Abate inquired have we come to an agreement, Mr. Solicitor, with the tax collectors on this, or is there any concern for that?

Attorney Knepp responded no, not at this point. You'll have to go back with them as per usual when the other agreement ends, and as we discussed before, it's been a considerable period of time.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner  
No: None  
9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

9. **APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION**

Mr. Haynes moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval of the Resolution to appoint Berkheimer as Midd-West School District's exclusive collector of its per capita tax for the initial term commencing January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2023, and any subsequent renewal term thereafter, said initial and renewal periods to include all quarterly and annual collections pertinent to the tax years therein.

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Boonie moved and Mrs. Wagner seconded approval of Items 10., 11. and 12.

10. **IMPOSITION OF COST RESOLUTION**

Approval is recommended of the Resolution authorizing and empowering Berkheimer to impose and retain costs of collection on delinquent taxes.

11. **CONFIDENTIALITY RESOLUTION**

Approval is recommended of the Resolution to appoint Ryan L. Wagner as its authorized representative to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer relative to the collection of taxes for Midd-West School District as desired and deemed necessary by Midd-West School District to be used for official purposes only.

12. **TAX HEARING OFFICER RESOLUTION**

Approval is recommended of the Resolution to appoint Berkheimer as Midd-West School District's Tax Hearing Officer under and pursuant to the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights for the express purpose of adjudicating appeals thereunder.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

13. **TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – WEIKEL BUSING, LLC**

Mr. Pinci moved and Mr. Boonie seconded approval of the Transportation Management Agreement between the Midd-West School District and Weikel Busing, LLC, beginning on May 1, 2021, for a three-year term through the 2023-2024 school year to provide pupil transportation management at a rate of \$3,920.00 per month for the first 24 months of the contract and \$3,978.80 for the duration of the contract through June 30, 2024.

Discussion:

Mrs. Wagner stated I do actually like the idea. The one question I have is under the pandemic we're allowing ten days for closure, and I know prior to what happened before this was a topic of discussion for bussing. So, I guess I was just asking why we have that ten-day proration built in.

Mr. Musselman responded I think that was actually put in just in case there was something minor. Obviously, with the pandemic it was to a broader scale. So, when we looked at this, we looked at something more minor for like if there was only a day or two or whatever, but just kind of came up. Ten was kind of like a maximum. I don't know if there's any real science or anything.

Mr. Stroup stated with flexible instruction days you're allowed five. In the event the District wants to use them instead of snow days in the future, we built that in that the bus drivers wouldn't be hurt by decisions for snow days.

Mrs. Lauver stated if I added up the cost correctly, this is like a \$141,825.00 contract. It's what it's going to cost at the end of the three years. Are we stuck with the three years? What if we try it for let's say a year, and it didn't work out, are we stuck with it for three years?

Mr. Musselman responded we're signing a contract for three years. I don't think it says anything about early withdrawal either way, though. I don't think it has anything in there that if either party has an issue with it, I think we can sit down just like we did with this, and we'd be able to talk with them as far as, "Hey, it's not working the way it's supposed to," but we don't have any language built in for either party to be able to back out necessarily due to that.

Mrs. Lauver inquired so, if I understand it correctly, we would give them a room in the District Office to do this?

Mr. Musselman responded I'm not real sure if they would actually have somebody physically there. Right now, they would take it May 1 and move forward. There wouldn't be somebody there, but you may have somebody that comes in throughout the day, but we have that room where we had somebody before. So, we do have that. We would also provide storage facilities for them. We're required to keep all the same information that we have for bus drivers as far as clearances and their training and their physicals. So, we're still going to provide some of that

office space which we already have anyway. So, they would possibly come in and use our building to some extent in the mornings and maybe in the evenings.

Mrs. Lauver inquired so, we provide the initial training? If I understood correctly, their people are training, but it's kind of using our software. Is that the idea?

Mr. Musselman responded no, they would be required to do the training for their software. Now we have, Sue, whose been doing it. She could certainly show them some things on that, but it would be their responsibility to pick up some of that training for the software. That's not the District's responsibility to actually train them or pay for the training for them. The only thing that they wouldn't know necessarily would be that software; that piece of it. So, that would be their requirement to take care of that. I will let you know, too, that we met with all the contractors. We sat down with all the contractors, and we had a meeting actually here with them last week, and we told them we were going to the Board to present this because we were concerned there would be some, "Hey, you have one person that's doing this, and it's not going to be equitable to us," and one of the things that we wanted to assure them was is that there is a process, and it will be a rotational basis as there is new routes or if there's things that are done in the future. I believe one of the big things, too, is the optimization of routes. As any business person knows, you want them to have your routes to be profitable, and that's one of the biggest things is that you may have 30 routes, but if they're not profitable, it doesn't matter. You want to have profitable routes even reducing it down to 25. It actually makes more money by less because you're not spending that money. So, we did have that meeting with them, and we talked with them about that, and we gave them copies of the same agreement so that they were well aware of it as well.

Mr. Haynes inquired who is managing our transportation now?

Mr. Musselman responded we have someone in our District Office that is doing it. Sue Lessman actually does transportation. So, she's been here for about seven years or seven and a half years, and she kind of picked that up and had to learn on her own so to speak. So, we do have Transfinder which is software that we purchase that she utilizes to help with some of the routes. So, Sue has been doing it, but one of the things that we're doing is we have somebody who is retiring at the end of this month, this current month that we're in, she's retiring. Sue would take over that position. We would not replace Sue. She also does accounts receivable, and so, those duties Mr. Wagner has a plan to divvy up those duties, but that was a small portion of her day. The major part of her day, about 60%, we're figuring, and not all year long necessarily, but 60% of her day averages transportation.

Mr. Haynes inquired do we know potentially how much this would save us over these three years?

Mr. Musselman inquired, Mr. Wagner, do you? I know you had looked at it.

Mr. Wagner responded \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 per year.

Mrs. Lauver stated the first 24 months is \$94,080.00, and then the last year is \$47,745.60. So, yeah, together it's \$141,000.00.

*Mrs. Eriksson made a statement, but it was inaudible.*

*Mr. Haynes made a statement, but it was inaudible.*

Mr. Stroup stated the big savings would be in your PSERS reduction and your benefits. So, if you assume how much they cost, you can extravagant the savings.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Abate stated before we continue with Policy and Programs, I'm going to call a brief Executive Session where we have a small personnel issue that we would need to discuss. Mrs. Solomon, Mr. Musselman and Mr. Stroup, if you could, please.

*The Board went into Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.*

*The Board reconvened at 8:05 p.m.*

Mr. Abate stated we're back from Executive Session where we did discuss a small personnel issue.

**B. POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Boonie moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval of Items 1. through 5.

**1. OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM – CAMP MOUNT LUTHER**

Approval is recommended of the two-day trips to Camp Mount Luther on May 20 and 21, 2021, for Grade 5 at Middleburg Elementary School and West Snyder Elementary School.

**2. SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Approval is recommended of the Summer School Program to be held June 7, 2021, through June 30, 2021, at Midd-West High School.

**3. KINDERGARTEN CAMP**

Approval is recommended to implement a Kindergarten Camp for all incoming kindergarten students beginning the 2021-2022 school year to be held August 16, 2021, through August 18, 2021, at Middleburg Elementary School and West Snyder Elementary School at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. *{This will be paid with Title I funds.}*

4. **NEW POLICY GUIDES**

Approval is recommended of the following new policy guides on second and final reading:

- 330 – Overtime
- 332 – Working Periods
- 338.1 – Compensated Professional Leaves
- 341 – Benefits for Part-Time Employees
- 343 – Paid Holidays

5. **REVISED POLICY GUIDES**

Approval is recommended of the following revised policy guides on second and final reading:

- 302 – Employment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
- 312 – Performance Assessment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent *{Formerly titled Evaluation of Superintendent}*
- 325 – Dress and Grooming
- 326 – Complaint Process
- 328 – Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules *{Formerly Compensation Plan}*
- 331 – Job Related Expenses
- 333 – Professional Development
- 334 – Sick Leave
- 335 – Family and Medical Leaves
- 336 – Personal Necessity Leave
- 337 – Vacation
- 338 – Sabbatical Leave
- 339 – Uncompensated Leave *{Formerly Uncompensated}*
- 340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare
- 342 – Jury Duty
- 347 – Workers’ Compensation Transitional Return-to-Work Program
- 351 – Drug and Substance Abuse

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

C. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mrs. Eriksson stated I’d like 2. and 6. pulled.

Mrs. Wagner moved and Mr. Sassaman seconded approval of Items 1., 3., 4., 5., 7., 8., 9. and 10.

1. **PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT**

Approval is recommended to grant a professional employee contract to the following individual:

Linette M. Lantz

Elementary Teacher  
West Snyder Elementary School

3. **APPOINTMENT**

a. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

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

Justin B. Yoder Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach MWHS \$2,691.00

4. **ADDITION TO SUBSTITUTE LIST**

a. **CLASSIFIED/CUSTODIAL**

Approval is recommended of the following individual as a custodial substitute at a rate of \$12.35 per hour for the 2020-2021 school year:

Patricia A. Laughman

5. **SUMMER EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS**

a. **SUMMER MAINTENANCE ASSISTANTS**

Approval is recommended of the employment of three (3) summer maintenance assistants at an hourly rate of \$7.25 for the period of June 7, 2021, through August 12, 2021.

b. **SUMMER CUSTODIAL ASSISTANTS**

Approval is recommended of the employment of six (6) summer custodial assistants at an hourly rate of \$7.25 for the period of June 7, 2021, through August 12, 2021.

c. **SUMMER PAINTER**

Approval is recommended of the employment of one (1) summer painter at an hourly rate of \$9.05 per hour for the period of June 7, 2021, through August 12, 2021.

d. **SUMMER TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANTS**

Approval is recommended of the employment of two (2) summer technology assistants at an hourly rate of \$7.25 for the period of June 7, 2021, through August 12, 2021.

7. **UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Approval is recommended of the following uncompensated leave of absence:

- a. Mid-West High School – Family Medical Leave – Effective: April 8, 2021, through June 30, 2021



2. **PERMISSION TO CREATE DEAN OF STUDENTS POSITION FOR THE MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mrs. Lauver moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval for permission to create a full-time Dean of Students administrative position for the Midd-West School District and to include the position in the Act 93 Administrative Compensation and Benefit Program beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

Discussion:

Mrs. Eriksson inquired why?

Mr. Stroup responded I think the thought process there is to advertise both for an assistant principal and/or dean of students. We have some people that are in the program right now that would make attractive candidates for the position. Because of that, we're opening it up to people that right now that you may be paying for their education getting a Master's degree in Educational Administration.

Mr. Pinci inquired and the Dean is not able to evaluate teachers?

Mr. Stroup responded evaluate teachers or suspend students.

Mr. Haynes stated so, say we approve this position, and that is the position that we select a candidate for, and what's the progression for that person if they are acting without the ability to evaluate and discipline?

Mr. Stroup responded well, they can discipline. They just can't suspend a student.

Mr. Haynes stated so, let's say that they achieve the credentials to where they could do that. Is this going to change into an assistant principal position?

Mr. Stroup responded that would be up to the Board, but that's what I see happening probably if not before by the beginning next school year; the 2022-2023 school year, and then the Dean of Students position would go away. So, there wouldn't be then another person hired, if that's what you were thinking.

Mr. Boonie inquired do we have a number of people within the District that already currently have the credentials for principal?

Mr. Stroup responded we do, yes.

Mr. Boonie inquired how many people actually already qualify for the position of assistant principal?

Mr. Stroup responded it would just be a guess right now without paperwork in front of me. Four or five.

Mr. Musselman stated about five that I know of.

Mr. Boonie inquired any idea on how many this would open up?

Mr. Stroup responded probably another four or five are working on their degree.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: Eriksson, Haynes

7-2-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

6. **NEW JOB DESCRIPTION**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mrs. Wagner seconded approval of the following new job description:

Dean of Students

Discussion:

Mr. Haynes stated we've already approved the position. You have to have a job description.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

D. **OTHER**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate stated we have some items under OTHER this evening. We will skip to Item 2. and do that one first. We will do the preliminary budget last this evening.

2. **CHANGE ORDER AUTHORIZATIONS – STADIUM PROJECT – PHASE 2**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Sassaman seconded approval to grant Richard J. Musselman, Superintendent of Schools, authorization to approve change orders through June 30, 2021, on the Stadium Project – Phase 2 up to \$25,000.00 and to Joseph W. Stroup, Superintendent of Schools, authorization to approve change orders beginning July 1, 2021, on the Stadium Project – Phase 2 up to \$25,000.00 and to subsequently report to the Board all such change order approvals.

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

4. **CHANGE ORDER C02 – STADIUM PROJECT – PHASE 2**

Mr. Pinci moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval of Change Order C02 for Keystone Sports Construction in the amount of \$13,093.60 for the following:

Bulk Cut/Bulk Fill	\$9,075.30
FES 26-A – R3 Rip Rap & Geotextile	\$ 287.80
FES 29-A – R4 Rip Rap & Geotextile	\$ 856.10
Swale “A” NAG-S75 Erosion Matting	\$ 503.05
Swale “B” NAG-S75 Erosion Matting	\$ 110.67
Swale “C” NAG-P300 Erosion Matting	\$ 114.33
Mechanically Driven Fence Posts	\$2,082.93
Brutus 100m Safety Flag Reel #SM-2025	\$ 63.41

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

5. **DEVELOPER’S AGREEMENT – SNYDER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – STADIUM PROJECT – PHASE 2**

Mr. Sassaman moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval of the Developer’s Agreement between the Snyder County Planning Commission and the Mid-West School District detailing the obligations of both parties and specifying the standards and conditions that will govern development of a certain tract or tracts or land development parcel or parcel, and the location and dimensions improvements to be made thereon, as applicable, for purposes of a new stadium and related athletic facilities for the Mid-West School District.

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

6. **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF EASEMENT – SNYDER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – STADIUM PROJECT – PHASE 2**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Haynes seconded approval of the Storm Water Management Agreement and Declaration of Easement between the Snyder County Planning Commission and the Mid-West School District for the Stadium Project – Phase 2 as presented.

Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman,  
Wagner

No: None

9-0-0-0

MOTION CARRIED

1. **2021-2022 PROPOSED PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Pinci seconded approval to adopt the 2021-2022 Proposed Preliminary General Fund Operating Budget which includes expenditures totaling \$39,922,728.00.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lauver stated I would just like to express that I am uncomfortable passing a preliminary budget when we don't have our audit report yet. I feel like it's a big piece of the puzzle that's missing, and I didn't feel like we had a whole lot of intricate details. We just had summary sheets of things. It wasn't like details of how you got to the summaries, and that's also a concern for me.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Wagner, I understand that the audit report is again late this year of no fault of yours. Have you been in contact with Krista, Mrs. Gardner?

Mr. Wagner responded yes. She was up last Wednesday, and she will be here next Wednesday, the fifth.

Mr. Abate inquired when is Mrs. Gardner planning on coming to this Board to present this?

Mr. Wagner responded I'll ask her to send you a proposed schedule of how she plans to proceed.

Mr. Abate stated I understand we had some serious issues with that. Again, of no fault of yours.

Mr. Wagner stated it was just getting that information to the point where we could present it to be audited.

Mr. Abate inquired in your discussions with Mrs. Gardner, were there any items that she pointed out that might have been of concern of hers?

Mr. Wagner responded no, she was actually quite pleased with how things came together. No, she was pleased with where things stood.

Mr. Abate stated not like last year's concerns.

Mr. Musselman stated I just want to say, and I know that that's not the motion that were working on right now with the audit, but quite honestly Mr. Wagner, Mrs. Hassinger, and I also see we have Robin that's here, Robin Kauffman. A lot of work went into quite honestly making these Changes and stuff because the software that we had created quite a mess quite frankly, and so, I know that there were endless hours. I would actually go in sometimes and talk with Mr. Wagner and just hope and pray he wasn't going to quit on us because it was a lot of stress, and those guys. I have to hand it to at least those three for the work that they put into cleaning this up and getting it to the point where now we have good numbers, and we have accurate information. So, kudos to them, and I do feel. I kind of wish we never would have gone that route. It was a recommendation. We took it, and we moved forward with it, and should have, could have, would have, but kudos to the folks that turned that around. I know that's not the motion that's being voted on, but we brought up about the audit, and I just wanted the Board to know that I'm really pleased with how that's going. I know Mr. Wagner feels a lot better with the state of the District than what he did a couple of months ago or even a month ago, so.

Mrs. Wagner inquired do we know when it will be finished?

Mr. Abate responded I don't know, but, Mrs. Lauver, it's a preliminary budget which can be changed.

Mrs. Lauver inquired it can't go down, but it can go up, or it can't go up?

Mr. Abate responded it can't go up. It can come down.

Mrs. Lauver stated I understand that.

Mr. Abate stated we'll get you an answer on where we stand with that.

Mrs. Wagner stated one question I have is what is the figure for one mill?

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Wagner, do you have the number? What a one mill equates to?

Mr. Wagner responded about \$167,000.00.

Mrs. Wagner stated I'm just going to ask my questions. Not sure which slides there on, but can you explain? I saw that there's a trend in the health care.

Mr. Wagner responded we had some adverse claims that are just the result of having a large group. I think some of those claims fall off next year. Some of the larger claims came off of the claims history, and rates go down as a result.

Mrs. Wagner stated I do have a question on the Projected Budget Growth/Budget Deficit from 2020-21 and 2021-22. Under the line Potential savings from positions, that's a half a million dollars. What occurred that we know that or can project that for 21-22?

Mr. Stroup responded it's several positions that we are not planning on replacing. The Sue Lessman thing that you voted on with the bus contract. There's savings in that position. There are several other positions that the District is not replacing to reduce costs in the District.

Mrs. Wagner inquired and that figure encompasses what? Are we talking salaries?

Mr. Stroup responded salaries, benefits, teachers' contributions, everything.

Mr. Abate inquired and those reductions, Mr. Stroup, are going to have no adverse effect on our students or their education?

Mr. Stroup responded that's certainly the goal, yes.

Mrs. Wagner stated I don't know that I've ever seen that amount of money. That's very odd to me. So, that's why I was thinking. It is a lot of money. I'm just asking here because I'm still not sure on the example that you're giving me. That's a lot of money.

Mr. Stroup responded there's several teaching positions that we're not going to replace. We are going to consume and find other ways to staff them, and when you think about somebody who's at the top of the pay scale retiring with family benefits maybe, it is a significant amount. So, there may be 5 to 8 positions. It is a pretty high number.

*Miscellaneous conversations were occurring between Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Nesbit.*

Mr. Stroup stated there's a para. There's two secretarial positions. There's teaching positions that have been identified as not replacing.

Mr. Musselman stated and if I can also say, and these are all based on retirements. We're not furloughing anybody. We're not losing any jobs. We sat down and worked with our support staff, too, as far as some of these positions where we can kind of consolidate some of these, and they've been great to work with as far as a secretary position, this transportation piece. They could have said absolutely not, but we worked with them and got those positions kind of like a gentleman's agreement so to speak to make sure that we were good to move forward. We're also looking at any time somebody retires we really want to take and focus on is it necessary to replace that position because while we're thankful for the ESSERs money. It's a one-shot deal, and we're really concerned about what's going to happen in the future, and if we save those dollars now, and we're more conservative now, we'll be in better shape in the future. What we don't want to do is ever get to the point where we're cutting programs or taking services away from our kids, and that's quite a juggle. If you talk to some of our other administrators in here, they may say, "Boy, I really wish I could have that position back, but we can make it work without it," and that's where we're at. We're really trying to conserve. Mr. Wagner went through and talked and cut everybody. He asked for supply budgets to drop by a certain percentage, and so the building principals went through and said, "Okay. So, what are some of the things we can do to cut some of those costs?" So, we're

really trying to have a very conservative type of budget going forward because we just see. I don't know what minimum wage is going to do. I don't know about inflation. There's a lot I don't know, and I don't want this Board to be shell shocked in two years, and that's what we are all concerned with.

Mr. Stroup stated and with the ESSERs money we do have a window of opportunity in three years. It's the 2024-25 and 2025-26 that we're really concerned about right now because we know we have to be another \$2,000,000.00 down the road, and we know our District is going to be impacted greatly by this pandemic and what may come next with future state and federal budgets.

Mrs. Wagner stated I have a few things that I really want to talk about as far as proposals looking forward, and maybe you are working on these areas to see what we could do. *Inaudible* on them and not let the ball drop, but I also think right now is a pivotal time for PSBA and our representation of what's happening at our governmental legislation. I want to be at this point proactive in whatever we can do. That means that we're writing letters. I did talk to Mr. Abate today. Just kind of wanted to discuss what was happening here with the budget and kind of get a little bit of an idea of some areas that I had some questions about, but I do want to talk about that, but I have one more question before I go there. The fund balance, I didn't see anywhere in here what we're looking at as far as fund balance, and what I would like to see is a projection of the fund balance just like we did with the estimated budget deficits. I'd like to see that from. I'm going to take it back to 2017-18. If you can get me that as well what the proposed budget was as well as the fund balances, if I could get that, please. The other thing back to what I was going to say here is I looked at the projections. I looked at the cyber schooling. I also looked at the health care and what is the needs of *inaudible* as a District. Of course, first priority is moving forward with education. So, I didn't know if there was something pertaining to where we can go with the whole cyber schooling part of this, and I know *inaudible*. I didn't know if there's something we could do as a Board to move forward.

Mr. Abate stated, Mrs. Wagner, I know Mr. Pinci's been on top of this with PSBA. Okay? And you've been reporting at our meetings. Has there been any movement?

Mr. Pinci responded it's been at the same stage for the last two years.

Mr. Abate inquired is that with our legislators?

Mr. Pinci responded the legislators. The Governor is getting a little more active, but I'll tell you to be truthful, the last time I went to Harrisburg you could not get these representatives to look you in the eye on this issue. They look away.

Mr. Abate stated which brings us to our next point.

Mrs. Wagner stated this is a point I was talking to him today.

Mr. Abate stated I would like to invite Representative Rowe to a meeting here, and if he's available, Congressman Keller because it's taking a big bite, not only of our budget, but I'm sure of your budget in Mifflinburg, Danville, everybody's around here. I know if we send one of our Mid-West students, and they want to go to Selinsgrove, for instance, to go to school or Mifflinburg to go to school, they have to pay that school district to go there. We operate our own cyber school. We have in-person instruction. Of course, we have the self-taught parental teaching. I lost my train of thought.

Mr. Haynes stated home schooling.

Mr. Abate stated home schooling. Thank you. So, is there a way, Mr. Solicitor, I guess I'm going to throw this question, and I'm sorry for interrupting you, Mrs. Wagner. Is there a way, because these are not free, and they're being advertised as they're being free; a free education. It's not free. It's costing us a pile of money.

Attorney Knepp stated no, it's not free at all.

Mr. Abate stated it's \$2,000,000.00. Is there a way that you could charge these parents or people that are sending their kids outside of our District the difference between what it would cost us to educate that student here at Mid-West and what they're charging us?

Attorney Knepp responded the problem is the legislation is so very pro. These cyber charter schools that districts are paying millions and millions and millions, and it's growing every year. I mean every school district board that I have attended meetings for, Mifflin, Juniata, Mid-West, their budgets increase every year more and more with this particular issue, and then if you get the double whammy of having a special education student enrolled, my goodness.

Mr. Abate stated yeah, I saw that.

Attorney Knepp stated the amount is just astounding that gets charged.

Mr. Abate stated Mr. Wagner sent me, and I can't for the life of me believe that they're getting a quality education for a special education student at cyber school.

Attorney Knepp stated and that is the other part of the problem is they're not being held to the same standards as a public school which is completely bogus. It's like if these are supposed to be so good for these students and help them out and be so very special, then why aren't they held to the same standards, at the very least, as the public schools which they're so quick to slander about why students should leave what the public schools are doing and go there. The problem is the legislation, and I agree with Mr. Pinci. You talk to a legislator about it. They won't be honest or look you in the eye about it because there is a huge lobbying effort being paid to try to keep the laws the way that they are. We just had a Secretary of Education who made billions of dollars because her family owned private schools. So, until you break that, unfortunately, there's no legal way to do it because the legislators won't

touch it. Right now, it's a third rail. It's steady lobbying coming at them from that because it's a billion-dollar industry.

Mr. Abate stated we don't have those funds to counteract that lobbying effort.

Attorney Knepp stated you got 50 states, and whereas the private school industries, that's what it is. There's a lot of people like the DeVoses that are in it making a lot of money on it. It's really a racquet.

Mr. Abate inquired we went from what, Mr. Wagner, \$1.2 million up to close to up over \$2 million in one year?

Mr. Wagner responded yes.

Mr. Abate stated so, you're talking \$1,000,000.00. We would have no budget deficit.

Mrs. Wagner inquired is there something as far as taking it to the CSIU?

Mr. Abate responded I just had a meeting last Wednesday, but I certainly. While we're on the topic, Dr. Kurelja, who will be the new Executive Director at the CSIU, will be here at our next meeting.

Mrs. Wagner stated okay.

Mr. Abate stated I'm going to warn him about the topic that we're going to discuss because I surely don't want to blindside the man, and Mr. Brenchley will be here, too, and he's going to discuss the Keystone Purchasing Network and everything for the new Board members who don't quite understand how that goes, but if you guys are in agreement, I would be happy to invite Representative Rowe to our upcoming meeting.

Mr. Boonie stated I've already posted on his Facebook page explaining the major problem we have of the School Board because of this increase in cost, and I have not gotten a response back from him yet, but I certainly think, yeah. If we get him here, he can't run and hide, and certainly if we can get Mr. Keller as well.

Mr. Sassaman stated I agree with getting them here. I'd just like to say we have a cyber school, correct?

Mr. Abate responded correct.

Mr. Sassaman inquired why do we have a cyber school?

Mr. Stroup responded competing with outside cyber schools and try to maintain some of these kids in our placement which is much more cost effective than sending them outside.

Mr. Musselman stated plus there's a need. We have students that physically can't come to school.

Mr. Sassaman stated I'm hearing that somebody is taking our kids' share away from us. So, it sounds an awful lot like free market words that we tend to think make a product better.

Mr. Musselman stated but it's not equitable, Shawn. That's the problem.

Mr. Sassaman stated I understand it's a flawed system.

Mr. Musselman stated and how it's funded is certainly offset differently than what it is for public education, and I think that's the issue.

Mr. Sassaman stated I just think that the solution might not be go back to a single source of *inaudible*. I might be on the other end of the spectrum. So, I'm just saying well, I agree with bringing people in here. I might be the decenter as far as how the solution looks to this because I don't think that the single entity because if we went back to that, we wouldn't even have the cyber option.

Mr. Abate stated but my point, Mr. Sassaman, is if they choose that outside cyber school, and that's well within their rights to do so, and I would applaud them for that, but we have to fund that 100%. So, the tv advertising of "free education." It's not free at all. If somebody from an outside district wants to come here, we charge them \$7,000.00 to do that.

Mr. Boonie stated we should not be spending more on that student than what we would do if we were having that student be in our District in-house. Our amount we should be paying to those districts, in my opinion, should be the same as if whatever we're paying per student out of our current budget for our students. If it's costing us \$10,000.00 per student to educate our students that are in-house, then that's what they should be getting from us. If the state takes away our subsidy for paying for that student, and the states gives them that subsidy to them for that student, that's great, but that's where it should stop. The idea that we should be getting hit with a double whammy of paying whatever fee this for-profit company hit wants to charge us and then get nailed with the state subsidy for that student on top of it. I just read an article yesterday. I was doing some research on this. I had a lot of time on my hands yesterday, and some of these cyber schools are cherry picking special needs students who have lower needs than some of the higher-level tier state students, and yet they're still billing us for the same rate as a student who would need a full-time aide, etc. So, they're cherry picking, and there's no law against them doing that. Right now, we educate every child because we care about every child, and we want to help every student succeed to their fullest potential, and the funding right now just enables them to milk the system and our local taxpayers because that ultimately is where the burden is getting shifted is the local taxpayers, and I don't want to see us and other property owners getting hammered to death.

Mr. Sassaman stated I don't think the system is right the way it's out there, but I also think that the reason the system was put in place; you had the Libertarian idea, right, of actual free market economy in the education system. Nobody was willing to go that far, right? So, we pulled up way, way short, and we got the mess we have which nobody

wants on either side, I'm sure, and that's kind of your typical government compromise. Let's give everybody something that nobody wanted, and that's what we have.

Mr. Abate stated well, to Mr. Boonie's point, and Mr. Wagner sent me these afternoon because I asked for them. It costs here in Mid-West, and correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Wagner, as an elementary student it costs us \$9,850.00 a year to educate that student, and the high school is about \$10 (\$10,000.00). The outside cyber school is \$12,000.00 for non-special education. Special education is \$31,000.00 per student.

Mr. Stroup stated and if you think about it this way, we can educate a kid in our cyber program. This year we have over 200 kids. I haven't done the calculations recently, but I think our total cost would be about \$150,000.00 which has greatly expanded. So, divide 200 into that \$150,000.00, and you know how much profit these large companies are making.

Mr. Nesbit stated well, not only that, they can participate in everything else we have to offer not just the cyber program.

Mr. Abate stated that's correct, yes.

Mr. Nesbit stated there's a lot of extra-curricular that they are not getting.

Mr. Musselman stated and that's why I kind of disagree with you, Mr. Boonie, I don't think that they should get the same amount because of cyber school, especially the cyber-charter schools, especially those. They do not have the infrastructure that we have, and so those kids can come back here and participate, but we're basically, we're paying what it costs us because that cost includes all the options; the nurse, guidance counselors, all of our programs. That includes everything. So, we're paying it out to them, and they get to come back and get the same goodies. So, we're paying twice for a kiddo for number one. My thing is is that the state pays 50% basically in basic ed funds. If the state wants to do this, send that 50%. Make payments right to the cyber school. Make them have the infrastructure set up to do child accounting and everything else, and they can go ahead and get their money right from the state taken away from us. It filters through us now, but I don't know why your local dollars, why that other 50% goes to another organization to Mr. Abate's point of we don't do that for somebody who is paying tuition to Selinsgrove. We don't pay Selinsgrove. They pay tuition. So, my idea it would be basic ed funding can go follow the child, but the local funding stays local in my point for that, and I know people would disagree with that, and there's probably other arguments like well, we're also raising taxes to educate all of our students. We are, but they're choosing to go to another school district, basically.

Mr. Abate stated they are, and so we're contemplating raising taxes because the bulk of our deficit is the cyber-charter school which we have no control over. So, we're taking that money and just throwing it out.

Mr. Musselman stated without that big chunk, we would be in good shape.

*Mr. Boonie made a statement, but it was inaudible.*

Mr. Musselman stated well, they've allowed it to grow to those numbers that Mr. Abate shared with you, and to your point, the students that leave here maybe were in regular education. When they get there, all of a sudden they have an IEP because they can charge twice as much for that child now.

Mr. Abate stated three times as much.

Mr. Musselman stated yeah, they can charge three times as much for that child because they have an IEP, and so, it becomes profitable for them to have an IEP, and the quality of services, I can't speak to that necessarily, but I can hardly believe it's the same as what we offer here, but I do not know that.

Mr. Abate stated well, I'm going to ask Dr. Bzdil. Would you, in your estimate, are they getting the same education in special ed that they would be getting here?

Dr. Bzdil responded no, absolutely not. They don't have direct instruction with a teacher.

Mr. Abate inquired and is there a level of the special needs children no matter what their level is that they go there?

Dr. Bzdil responded it seems like they take any.

Mr. Abate inquired any and all?

Dr. Bzdil responded yes.

Mr. Boonie stated correct me if I'm wrong. With graduation, they're not as stringent with as many credits *inaudible* compared to ours. Am I correct in that?

Mr. Musselman responded well, they can be, but each school district sets their own number of credits for graduation. So, that could be same as going up the road or down the road.

Mr. Abate stated well, we're not going to solve this cyber-charter problem tonight. So, I will extend the invitation to both Congressman Keller and to Representative Rowe to come to a meeting.

Mrs. Wagner stated could I request a breakdown of the charter school tuition? I see the trend here.

Mr. Abate inquired do you mean you want special ed and regular ed? Can you do that, Mr. Wagner?

Mr. Wagner inquired so, one for regular and one for special ed?

Mrs. Wagner responded no, I'm talking about our students.

Mr. Abate stated number of students.

Mr. Boonie stated, Mr. Sassaman, I'm not against students having free. I mean parents having free choice of where they send their kids. I'm frustrated with the funding of it.

Mr. Sassaman stated oh, I'm sure.

Mr. Boonie stated that's the part that I think *inaudible*.

Mr. Sassaman stated Mr. Abate said that there's nothing we can do which is absolutely untrue. There's something we could do. We did a great job of starting a cyber school pulling kids back in or offering them even like a hybrid-type opportunity which I think fit the needs of a lot of kids. It maybe wasn't even available before. So, I think it helped us rise to the occasion. I'm just saying that was part of the intent. I think it was really poorly. I mean it's not anywhere close to what anybody wanted, but.

Mr. Boonie stated and I brought this up at the last meeting, we, as a Board and a District, need to get the word out to taxpayers and parents because a lot of them probably don't understand. It's not free when they see the advertisement for free. That is costing them local tax dollars. Their property taxes are going to be going up because of this if this trend continues, and the state doesn't change the funding.

Mr. Sassaman stated and I just want to note I'm not a fan of cyber-charter schools. I am a fan of free marketing *inaudible*.

Mr. Boonie stated I understand. So, am I. I understand that.

Mrs. Lauver stated if you send your child to a private school, the parents pay that out of pocket.

Mr. Sassaman inquired is that right? That's the question, Onie.

*Mr. Nesbit made a statement, but it was inaudible.*

Mr. Boonie stated but ultimately it needs to be apples to apples. The level that we are held to in public education compared to *inaudible*. So, when you're having apples to apples, they aren't held as tight and stringent standards as what we are. I think we have some of the best teachers in the country and best schools, Administration, and I just think it's frustrating, and it's not, again, *inaudible* but this past year they've done an amazing job, and they need to be commended.

Mrs. Wagner stated I'm not finished. I'm looking at *inaudible* 2019, I understand *inaudible*, but are we also seeing a trend in other districts as well?

Mr. Stroup responded I think a lot, and no, I haven't looked at anything recently, but I think a lot of other districts had it a little worse than we did at the beginning of this year I think on the onset of COVID and families making decisions. I think we lost something like, and I don't have a figure here from at the beginning of the year 43 kids that we didn't anticipate. Our problem has been since, they are trying to hold kids accountable for doing work in our cyber school or our virtual

program, and then them not making the grade or doing the work and then leaving to go elsewhere when we try to bring them back in the building, so.

Mrs. Wagner inquired so do we know *inaudible*. Is there something? So, why did that occur? Why did that occur that they went? Do we have those answers?

*Attorney Knepp left the meeting at 8:47 p.m.*

Mr. Stroup inquired why are they not following through what we want them to do? There's a lot of reasons cyber education, and I used to meet with all the kids that would go, and I would tell them they really need to be self-motivated or have high support at home, and if one or both of the things isn't there, the kids tend not to be successful. So, if you just think your 7, 8, 9, 14-year old child is going to take his computer home and make good decisions all the time, that's not the case, and that's what many of them are left to, and there's some do that do really well, and that's the program for them, and they should stick with it because it's meeting their needs, but for those that are not, they have to choose another option. Despite trying to counsel them, it's a way to be on their own and be independent. It's still very big for some.

Mrs. Wagner inquired are any of these numbers on the escalation due to the fact of school not being in session with COVID?

Mr. Stroup responded I think that was the initiative that pushed some of them into making the decision of doing another thing. We're going to try our best to be bringing these kids back and do some messaging and get the students back in our buildings. We have been trying all year long different things. I know Mrs. Lohr, for instance, we just brought in a student who is doing a different type of program into test, and we did that with the understanding that maybe they'd get him back around some of their friends and then want to come back to school. So, any help that we can do to accommodate them and show them we're offering a safe environment, and there's an opportunity for the in-person, face-to-face interaction both with peers and adults. We're trying.

Mrs. Lauver stated I have a question on the budget revenues on the ESSER II. I looked, and it said Mid-West got \$2,709,294.00 yet on the budget revenue you only see \$2,000,000.00.

Mr. Wagner stated we chose to reconcile this amount for 21-22.

Mrs. Lauver stated that was of January 15 of this year.

Mr. Wagner stated okay. Rules were not complete at the time.

Mrs. Lauver inquired and we have until September, 2023, to use those funds?

Mr. Wagner responded yes.

Mr. Boonie inquired, Joe, looking at the Projected Budget Growth/ Budget Deficit page that you have in the PowerPoint here for 2025-26,

the amount that we have indicated here is for cyber. Are you holding it steady at like \$2 million or \$2.1 million, whatever it is, this year, or did you estimate it going down?

Mr. Stroup responded I'll have to defer to Mr. Wagner because he gave me those figures.

Mr. Wagner stated we averaged over the past few years and applied a percentage across the board. It's just an overall increase.

Mr. Boonie inquired so, this is more of a, I don't want to say worse-case scenario, but hopefully it could be better when we get the students coming back after this pandemic?

Mr. Wagner responded yes, correct.

Mrs. Wagner stated I'm going to request to look at a budget with no increase with options of what we can look at as far as for what we're doing in the future; what are the needs verses what are not the needs. The reason I'm going to request that is because of this. I do follow the *inaudible* legislation, and I'm going to use a simple example. I went to the grocery store Saturday; first time in a month. Make my family starve, but anyhow, \$270.00 for groceries. Gas prices – \$3.00. We do not live in an industrial district. We're coming out bouncing back off of COVID. We've got families that still are not back to work. We've got businesses in this area that still are not housing capacity, but I also can tell you that I look at what Governor Wolf is supporting anyone that's saying, "I don't want to go back to work because I'm making more money off unemployment." I have issue with that. So, I'm going to just ask that we have that proposal because I'm flat out. I'm just going to be honest with each and every one of you. I will not vote for a tax increase because we're hitting the very people. That's why I asked for the figure of what we're going to be looking at for Berkheimer. I'm agreeable to that because I can't remember what Board member said that way everybody is involved giving a portion of something toward meaning as far as District revenue. The proposal that we have here at this point I'm not willing to move forward with. So, I'm asking for a proposal for a zero tax increase because we still are one of the top Districts in the state of Pennsylvania with a rate higher for your occupational taxes.

Mrs. Lauver stated earned income.

Mrs. Wagner stated earned income. Thank you, Onie. So, I think you really, really need to take a look at where we are as a District, and I want to thank our Administration because, Rick, when you tell me that we're looking ahead at that \$500,000.00. Thank you because we are looking, and we are projecting ahead, and I understand that's where we need to be, but at this point in time where we are in an economy, I'm just saying I think we need to start looking at what are we spending money on. What is necessary to spend money on verses what it isn't, and I think we're heading in the right direction, and I understand that we have areas that we can't touch, but those projections, we need to move forward. We do need to move forward with if that means we go to legislation. We start *inaudible*. Let's get other districts involved, but I'm going to ask if that could be given as well to review.

Mrs. Lauver stated in addition to that, I would say, and if you're in a farming community, especially, those are the people that take the biggest hit when you raise a mill of tax or half a mill of tax. They do take the biggest hit, and the farmers have unpredictable income, and a lot of the chicken farmers so to speak have been hit hard because of production, etc. They are getting less flocks of chickens per year in their houses. So, their income is down, and now we're asking for them to pay more, and they, yes, they have the land. I understand that, but it's not always meaning that they have the income to go with that. So, I feel for those who, landowners, who have debts, land debts, and so on. So, I look at it that way from that perspective. They are agriculture which is where revenue comes from.

Mr. Musselman stated well, I will say one of the things that we looked at, and you brought up here that we have and receive money for, we're not looking at a decrease in that. So, for whatever reason and our population that we have our folks, people are still making money, and we're not seeing a reduction because that was something that I was concerned with, and I went to Mr. Wagner and said, "Are we seeing any?" We're not seeing a reduction necessarily in the earned income, so. Because I was concerned. How people are laid off? How many people aren't working? How many people are not going to be able to pay their taxes, and we're going to ask for homeowners, farmers, whoever. We're going to go ahead and ask them to pay a little bit more. That's what you do when you're raising your taxes. You ask them to pay a little more, but can we see? That earned income index gives us a good feel for what's happening out there, and we're not seeing a reduction in that. So, I don't know if we have a lot of people that are working from home, and they're still getting paid or why that is, but I expected for Mr. Wagner to say, "Oh, we're seeing a significant decrease because people aren't working," and we haven't seen that yet. So, that kind of shows me that people are still working for whatever reason, and the other thing is we're looking at half a mill. I'm not looking at a mill or anything else, and one of the things is because we're looking at these ESSER dollars. We're also looking at those costs, and you had brought up what's going to happen in the future. We don't know. The gas prices, the food prices, they impact us as well. We have to pay more for our food. We have to pay more for fuel. We have to pay more to run our schools. It gets expensive. It really does. You know. You look at it. So, what we're worried about is once those ESSER dollars come out, you may not be able to raise your taxes enough to cover your debt, and then you are at the point of okay, now we're going to cut something. I've been there where we said we're not going to have athletics. We're going to cut those, or we're going to cut this program or that program. It's not a fun place to be at all. It really isn't fun to do that. That's why you look at when there's a retirement whether you fill it or don't fill it because sitting across from the table and saying, "I'm sorry, but your job is no longer here." That's not where you want to be. Quite honestly, I've been there. So, what we wanted to do is look at it, if we could go ahead and raise it a small amount now and possibly in the future you may have to do that, but what you want to do is you want to be prepared for those increases. They're going to happen. Absolutely, they're going to happen. How are we going to deal with that? What are we going to do if they raise the minimum wage? That's scary as all get out for a school district.

Mrs. Wagner stated I understand. I get your point. I really do, Rick; however, you've got to look at where we're at. I've talked to neighbors. I've talked to friends. I didn't come here tonight *inaudible*. I came here because I've been talking, too. Here's where we are. What do you do? So, if we can find, and again, I think we're moving in the right direction. I think there's areas that we could start to discuss. Do we really need? Where are our needs verses where they're not because really our objective as a school and a School Board is to ensure that our kids get the best education period. Aside from that, that's where we need to focus so that they're ready for these colleges or ready to move forward. So, I get what you're saying, and again, if you go out there and tell the person who isn't able to manage at this point and because of what's happening in their homes and their land, tell them that you want to raise just half a mill. I'm having a hard time.

Mr. Musselman stated right, and overall if this one gets approved, it would be one mill in eight years, and if you look around at every other school district around us, everybody, people are. I'm just saying one mill in eight years is not much.

Mrs. Wagner stated but the other school districts do not have the high percentage on their earned income either.

Mr. Musselman stated I'm not arguing.

Mrs. Wagner stated we have one of the highest rates.

Mr. Musselman stated I understand that, but property assessment is not the same.

Mr. Nesbit stated *inaudible* you have to look at what is the millage that they have in their area already. You can't just look at the earned income and not the millage rate.

Mrs. Wagner stated well, you can look at the earned income just as what Rick said. It's a projection.

Mr. Nesbit stated so, we may have a higher earned income, but if our millage rate is lower than somebody else comparably it's offsets. So, you have to look at the whole picture. You can't just look at one part of it, and then just say, "Well, we're higher than everybody else so we can't raise it a half a mill."

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Wagner, when you looked at the earned income, did you look at this year verses last year, or did you look at? How many years did you look at these?

Mr. Wagner responded I was just comparing last. The projection looks like we should reach the budgeted amount of revenue, but that amount is at 2017-2018 levels that Mike Miller rolled it back due to the uncertainty at the time the budget was prepared.

Mr. Abate inquired for what year, though? From what?

Mr. Wagner responded 2020-2021.

Mr. Abate inquired this year over last year?

Mr. Wagner responded the current year.

Mr. Abate inquired the current year?

Mr. Wagner responded yes, 20-21.

Mr. Abate stated okay. What we're asking to approve tonight is just the preliminary budget.

Mrs. Wagner stated I understand that.

Mr. Abate stated there's no tax or anything in that, but also we as a Board should be looking at this budget monthly not well, it's budget season here in October, let's everybody get together and figure this out. We should probably be looking at these monthly. Are there other opportunities as we come before us to save money? I don't want to say \$5 to \$10 bucks, but if we can save \$1,000,.00, \$15,000.00, \$20,000.00.

Mrs. Wagner inquired is there a fund balance projection? How do you make these decisions?

Mr. Abate inquired what is our fund balance? Do you know?

Mr. Wagner responded I sent that out after the last meeting.

*Miscellaneous conversations were occurring at this time.*

Mr. Wagner responded \$7,437,504.00. \$216,644.00 for textbooks; \$2,601,000.00 for PSERS, future PSERS; \$1,400,000.00 assigned capital projects; \$3,219,860.00 is unrestricted.

Mrs. Wagner inquired what's unrestricted?

Mr. Wagner responded \$3,219,860.00.

Mrs. Lauver inquired so, we're looking at, if I understand, \$39,922,728.00.

Mr. Wagner responded yes.

Mr. Boonie stated I'm probably going to say something unpopular, but it's my doing. So, I think it's irresponsible to not look out and see where our projections are and not attempt to do something about it in small increments rather than in four years suddenly hit them with a max of whatever we could and still not be enough, and then we have to furlough people or close programs. I don't think it's. We certainly don't want to raise taxes more than we have to, but we also can't stick our head in the sand. We have to face the truth is when there are unfunded mandates that cost us money, our hands are tied. We have to come up with the money. There's set costs that doesn't help how much we sharpen our pencil and how much we tighten the belt. There's still set costs that it's

going to take *inaudible* on this District. A half mill, my guess, is probably considered as only \$85,000.00 District-wide is all that half mill will generate. I'm assuming that's probably \$20.00-\$30.00 or less. Maybe I'm wrong, but I would rather, and I do, as a taxpayer, would rather pay a little bit at a time than all of a sudden you get hit with a \$4 or \$500.00 bill above and beyond in one year because of pushing it off and pushing it off and pushing it off. I think we've done. This Board has been, I wasn't a part of it, but I think this Board has done a great job to be going seven years without an increase, but right now, we're up against a wall. I'd rather consider a small increment rather than go down the road getting hammered. I understand that some people may be off work by choice or working from home. We just don't know it, but I do know that I drive down 522 every day, and I have been seeing for the last six months signs for work wanted at Bingaman's Lumber, employees wanted for two shifts at Bingaman's Lumber; employees wanted off and on at Wood-Mode; and I can't think of the other place. They have big three flags out waving. Companies are having a hard time finding workers. So, our economy is not doing poorly in this area in our region. I'm not saying that's license to raise taxes, but I don't think a half mill is outrageous. I mean honestly it does very little to actually help cover the deficit.

Mrs. Wagner inquired are you aware of the 2016 bond issue *inaudible*, Terry?

Mr. Boonie responded enlighten me because I do not know what you are referring to.

Mrs. Wagner stated okay.

Mrs. Eriksson stated I'm waiting, too. I don't know.

Mrs. Wagner stated so, I'm looking at the figures. I'm coming to the conclusion by looking at these figures that were given to us and figures that were not given to us, so, what I'm saying is based upon the information that I have here, and I agree with you, that you go down. You can see the signs, Help Wanted. That still doesn't. I'm not discrediting that. I'm not disagreeing with that, but the person that is paying right now for property taxes are your hard working people. We don't live in an industrial area. I just want to make that clear, and I thank you for what you're saying, but what I'm looking at right here and what I see in this budget, I'm having a hard time justifying even a half a mill, and the reason that you see, the reason that we haven't had tax increases is because if you back into history, our people were being hit with six, seven, four mills for our building projects. Okay? So, that's why you see where we are right now. So, I understand where we are. All I'm asking is we're moving in the right direction. I think what has happened as far as looking at where we are with staffing or where we are with programs and moving forward with that, that we work towards improving or trying to change something because continuing to raise your taxes is not just going to be the solution that we need. *Inaudible* together with this. I think it's been really going in the right direction, but the figures that I see right here in front of me when you have \$2.7 million coming in from the state. We don't even have the state's allocation in here. This is not. I'm going to say this, and I'm going to get in trouble.

This is not complete. I'm asking for a completion *inaudible* for something that *inaudible* with a no tax increase *inaudible*.

Mr. Musselman inquired what is missing? I'm sorry.

Mr. Stroup stated the state budget hasn't been finalized.

Mr. Musselman stated so we just level-funded that because we don't know.

Mrs. Wagner stated I understand. I understand *inaudible*.

*Multiple conversations were occurring at this time.*

Mr. Boonie stated under the page, this is the electronic version I'm looking at, but 2021-2022 Budget Revenue, Basic Education Grant, \$9,300,000.00; Special Education. So, I mean they do have it listed here what the state revenue is.

Mr. Abate stated \$18,775,000.00.

Mr. Boonie stated it's about two slides earlier.

*Mrs. Wagner made a statement, but it was inaudible.*

Mr. Boonie stated and I go back to that's why we, as a Board, need to get off our tuchuses and get out the word to everybody we can including our representatives that something needs to be done. *Inaudible* increase a year is this cyber education piece. So, we need to get the word out there. I've been trying to contact as many people as I can, spreading it on Facebook and everywhere I can that people need to be contacting their representatives, senators, state level and get them to come to the table and fix it. *Inaudible* playing politics. It's not a Democrat. It's not a Republican thing. It's our local community *inaudible*. I understand nobody wants to raise taxes, and I wish the state would fix this, and we wouldn't even have to consider it, but we still right now our hands are tied at where we're at.

Mr. Stroup stated and you have some different options. You just saw a presentation tonight on refinancing, too, that could create some available cash and room for us to work with the budget. I'm not for or against it. It's kind of like kicking the can down the road. If you want to, you're eventually going to pay for it and pay more. Where do you want it to come from? That is the question. *Inaudible statement*. Again, 24-25 and 25-26 are our big concerns. The last two years the Budget Committee has recommended small increases in taxes, and when we came other things had been happening in our environment. Wood-Mode two years ago. Last year, the pandemic. So, I mean that's why the Budget Committee is looking at a half mill this year as being part of that being in the meeting, and they're just trying to put ourselves in a position that we can *inaudible* that *inaudible* those larger numbers without having major potential furloughs or programs being lost because we don't know for sure what's going to happen, but that puts us in a position where we can be more flexible and creative moving forward.

Mr. Haynes stated and the *inaudible* for us to vote tonight. It's for a preliminary budget.

Mrs. Wagner stated right, right, and I understand that.

Mr. Sassaman stated yeah, but I think where Sherryl's going is we're approaching the subject now so that we're having the conversation.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired are you on the Budget Committee or not on the Budget Committee?

Mrs. Wagner responded I am.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired should we schedule a meeting prior to the next meeting so that Sherryl can get these issues worked out?

Mrs. Wagner inquired do we not need to pass this?

Mr. Abate responded we need 30 days from tomorrow until the.

Mrs. Wagner stated honestly, I'm going to vote yes for this just so you know. I'm not going to vote no. I'm just giving you where I'm at.

Mr. Sassaman stated if we get together, though, and *inaudible* some of these?

Mrs. Wagner responded yeah, because I'd like to *inaudible* what you said as well because I appreciate what you said.

Mrs. Lauver stated you can lower the budget. You can't increase it.

Mrs. Wagner stated correct. So, *inaudible*, but I think there's some areas we can continue to search more.

*Miscellaneous conversations were occurring at this time.*

Mr. Abate inquired what do you want to do? A Board of the whole? Yeah?

Mr. Haynes responded yeah.

Mrs. Wagner stated that's fine.

Mr. Haynes stated this is great discussion. It really is. It's something we need to discuss as a group, but my concern is some of this stuff may be things that we need to discuss or some of the questions we may ask may be things that are inappropriate for public discussion.

Mrs. Lauver stated finances need to be an open book.

Mr. Abate stated there could be some personnel concerns that we cannot discuss in public.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner

No: Lauver

8-1-0-0  
MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Abate stated in consideration of time, we will take Item 3., the discussion on the student activity fee, and we will move that to the first meeting in May.

**3. DISCUSSION ON INCREASING STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE**

- *The fee was initiated beginning with the 2015-2016 school year at \$50.00 per sport.*

Mr. Abate stated there are informational items under E., Transfers/Change in Assignments, for your review.

**E. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. TRANSFERS/CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENTS**

- Elizabeth J. Gaugler as elementary teacher (Grade 4) at Middleburg Elementary School to elementary teacher (Grade 3) at Middleburg Elementary School to be effective on July 1, 2021.
- Courtney L. Trawitz as elementary teacher (Grade 3) at West Snyder Elementary School to elementary teacher (Grade 2) – Class Size Reduction at West Snyder Elementary School to be effective on July 1, 2021.

**IX. CLOSING CEREMONIES**

**X. 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.

**1) Mrs. Robin A. Kauffman – Review of Tasks Completed During Employment**

Mrs. Kauffman stated I just want to give you a review of what I've done since I've been here in my second stint here. You guys hired me back in November of 19 to fill in for a maternity leave, and in that time you purchased a new software which I was made aware of but not made aware of how unusual it was. There were a lot of discrepancies in this software. There was questions when you ran a report, you didn't get the same answer twice. One of the first days after being here, the auditors were here at that time trying to finalize that audit, and the first thing that came to mind when I looked at the balance sheet was there was a negative balance for June 30. I can honestly say that never would have occurred during my tenure or would have it been allowed during my tenure. So, that was one of the first things we needed to fix. Well, I was learning the new software to do payroll thinking that I would only be here until like February/March, then Gracie resigned. So, then they asked me to stay on to fill in until they hired someone. Then the pandemic hit. So, back to the issues with the software when I was working on that trying to get that squared away with payroll and everything, there were two big issues with the payroll itself with Skyward, one of which was the earned income tax report. I worked from number one, when I got here, it wasn't sent it. So, I had to do the third quarter and the fourth quarter all in one fail swoop. I had to train them how

to do that report because they didn't know how local earned income tax worked. So, that was scary enough in itself. They also did not know the PSERS portion of it meaning the VOYA that you talked about earlier which is the VOYA that has been instituted since I left which is a combination of the Defined Contribution and a 401(K) where an employee can put some of their own money into a VOYA account. That's what that means. Then we started the process. We finally convinced you guys that we needed to go back to the CSIU. So, we started that process. In that process we discovered that when we went to go back, the IU could not read Skyward's information.

Mrs. Lauver stated they said it would be comparable.

Mrs. Kauffman stated well, I know that other than the payroll transactions, but the fund accounting payroll transactions, I reentered everything by hand from July 1, 2019, to June, 2020, while Ryan was working on the General Fund. I also did it to the Student Activity Fund. Got them back up and running. They were appreciative of that. Amidst all that, you hired Cheryl Kahl. So, I was training her. Cheryl was good, but I am very thankful to her that she realized she was not the person for this position and decided to quit so that you could hire someone who could fulfill that position in a better manner. So, after that, you hired Joan Hassinger. She has fit in exceptionally well. I don't think you'll get another person who will fit in. She knows the payroll. In fact, I probably could have stopped after about six weeks had it not been for me trying to fix up the Skyward information so that you could get an audit report, and I was helping Ryan balance the treasurer's reports so that you could get actual treasurer's reports. I understand you got those for the first time tonight. She knows spreadsheets. She knows insurances. She knows unemployment comp. She is very good. She helped me balance the accounts to date. I just want you to know that I feel that she is a very good person in this position, and I hope you look at her and compensate her accordingly for that position because if you lose her, you're going to be back where you were before, and let me tell you, it is a big undertaking. I just finished the Wednesday before Easter trying to straighten all that up. So, I thank you for your time and wanted to be brief, but I felt you should know what I was doing for the last year and a half.

Mr. Abate stated, Robin, we thank you very much.

XI. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

*There were no scheduled speakers.*

XII. **REPORTS**

1. **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Richard J. Musselman

Mr. Musselman reported on the following item:

1) Goal Posts

I just wanted to give you a real quick update on the stadium. It's something that may come up, and it's just a minor thing, but there was discussion at one point of taking the goal posts from our current stadium and putting those over into the new stadium and to some degree that makes sense to do that because once we have a new stadium, at some point in time, we're not going to necessarily need to use the goal posts over in an older stadium

which is fairly new. So, I asked to get a price from the contractor as to what that would be for a credit for us, and we're looking at. The credit would be like \$6,500.00 if they were to take and put a brand new in the new stadium put a base in there that would receive the goal posts and the *inaudible*, the uprights and everything else and receive that into the new stadium; however, we would have to take down the goal posts. We would have to remove those with our personnel, take them over and put them up in the construction zone because they actually have to have those in place, so I'm told, to put the carpet in. They need them for alignment and everything else. It sounded like an important piece. They line up the field somehow. So, we would have to do that. If they were to do that, it would be saving about \$3,000.00. My point is in all this is that we could do a change order which we would utilize our current goal posts and do that, but we would then also have to take them back down and bring them back over to our current stadium because you're going to have to play football there. You don't have lights. You don't have bleachers or anything else in your new stadium. So, you'd have to play football over in your old stadium at least until you have some of those other things set up. So, I don't know that that dollar amount is worth it; the \$3,000.00 to save that, but then the question is going to be, "Why do you have these goal posts laying around?" Because at some point in time, you're going to have to take them down. We need to take them down to play softball as well. So, I'm just trying to tell you there's a lot of different moving parts with this. I'm not sure that the best thing is necessarily to go forward and make that change, but there may be goal posts over in the soccer stadium, if you want to call it a soccer stadium, but the old stadium, and we may have to leave those there for a while, and then at some point when we take them down, they may be stored, and sometimes there's criticism in the public. Why did you order? Why did you pay for another set of goal posts? Well, the change we're looking at is either \$6,500.00 if we do the work, or \$3,000.00 difference if they do the work. So, if anybody has any comments or input on that, I know that may be confusing, but it's a micro detail that quite honestly right now they're looking at the possibility of changing it, and that was information between Jay Darkey and Keystone Sports who has the contract to install the field. Make a lot of sense? Probably not.

Mr. Abate stated it did, actually. So, it's \$3,000.00 if they take it out of the soccer field and put it on the new field, align the carpet, take them back off the new field and put them back on the soccer field?

Mr. Musselman responded yes, we save \$3,000.00.

Mr. Abate stated save. That's what I meant. You save \$3,000.00.

Mrs. Eriksson stated that's a no brainer.

Mr. Abate stated I don't have a problem with that.

Mrs. Lauver stated I think you're getting people that know how to do that rather than us trying to figure it all out, too.

Mr. Musselman stated right, right.

Mrs. Lauver stated so, it makes sense.

Mr. Abate stated and then we can ruin, if everything's ready to go, we can screw it up by taking them off the soccer field and putting them on the football field.

Mr. Musselman stated we will have to move them at some point off of our current field to the new field. That is correct.

Mr. Abate stated but we don't know that timeframe. It could be a year. It could be three years.

Mr. Musselman stated it depends on your. Yeah, it depends on when you want to move forward with another phase of this project. I don't see you being able to have a football game there necessarily without bleachers. I mean you can do them on Sundays, but no bleachers, and once you put bleachers on.

Mr. Abate stated you got to have bathrooms, yes.

Mr. Stroup stated I have a quick question. Would the timing of this impact potential games in the fall because you'll need to have the goal posts in the stadium for home games, but if they're still working on the stadium, do they need the goal posts in place in order to set the field?

Mr. Musselman responded and that I don't know about the timeline. They didn't say anything at all about the timeline as far as that goes, but it's a good question to ask.

Mr. Nesbit stated *inaudible* construction of the goal posts from *inaudible* installed if we had a new set on the new stadium. Is it the same goal posts?

Mr. Musselman responded no, the one we have now in the current stadium that we have, they are removable, and they also can rotate, and the reason that they put that in is at the other end for softball they can rotate that upright so that it is not along the foul line; however, umpires have told us that nope, that's not acceptable. We actually had P.I.A.A. come. They looked at it and said, "Nope, as long as that pole is in there, you can't play softball on this field with that pole there." So, we would have to take it down. Now we have the spec sheets on it, and we think that it does come apart. We can take it down with our manpower. We can do that. We can remove that, take it down and take it off the field for softball, and then you'd have to put it back up again for football.

Mr. Nesbit inquired as far as the new goal posts in the new stadium?

Mr. Musselman responded those are fixed. Those are not movable or anything else, and that's what they originally had planned on. This would be a change order.

Mr. Nesbit inquired do you think they're better quality?

Mr. Musselman responded I think they're the exact same. I think they're the same, but they don't have the option of being pulled out. There's a special base you put in. There's a pin you can pull. Two things you loosen, and then you can actually pivot it very easily, right?

Mr. Auman responded yeah.

Mr. Musselman stated you guys turned them, and they're easy to turn. So, the ones we have now are very simple to turn and to move. The ones they'll put in will be a permanent goal post.

Mr. Nesbit inquired any idea what the cost of just the new ones are?

Mr. Musselman responded well, no, I don't know. I just looked at what is the credit to us if we use our current goal posts over there; either \$6,500.00 or \$3,000.00. It depends on who does the work.

Mr. Nesbit stated I guess what I'm getting at is there are resale market for something like that?

Mr. Musselman responded without the base, I mean the ones we currently have, without that special base in the ground, I wouldn't know that there would be finding somebody that needed it that type right at that time. I don't know that we'd be able to sell it, and I'm not sure when we would be able to stop playing. That really depends on some finances and stuff when you're going to be able to move onto the next phase, but you'll be able to have track meets. You can have lacrosse. You can have some of the other things if people want to bring bag chairs, but with football the amount of people that you typically bring in, you'd probably want to use your old stadium. That would be my recommendation, but if you guys want, I can certainly say, and we can look at the \$3,000.00 or the \$6,500.00. I mean that's a lot of work to take them off and go onto a construction site and put them in for Dan and his guys, or I can have them do it, and we can still save \$3,000.00. \$3,000.00 is \$3,000.00, so, but that is a change order that I just find out about tonight before coming here around 3 something.

Mr. Abate inquired so, if we use that field next year for softball, we're either going to do?

Mr. Musselman responded you have to take that one down.

Mr. Abate stated it would have to come down anyway.

Mr. Musselman stated the one has to come down.

Mr. Abate stated well, they'll have practice taking them down then.

Mr. Musselman stated well, hopefully, by next spring the other one is finished. So, they'll have to take them down sometime this summer, I would hope, when they start to do that, but like Mr. Stroup said, if it runs into your fall season during football season, that could be an issue as well.

Mr. Stroup stated that's what I just envision that they'll be putting the field and finishing aligning the field up.

Mr. Musselman stated we saw that last time.

Mr. Stroup stated and we'll be wanting to host home games. So, it's Murphy's Law.

Mrs. Lauver stated I have a question. If we do this, and we would use the current goal posts we have on the new field, is that what you're thinking? Potentially? Possibly?

Mr. Musselman responded yeah, instead of having an extra set of goal posts laying around, can we use them on the new field, and I thought the savings would be bigger, honestly.

Mrs. Lauver inquired and they would be removable on the, kept removable that you could remove them on the new field?

Mr. Musselman responded you could remove them on the new field as well, yes, with that system because they put the same base in.

Mrs. Lauver stated it seems the other sports don't like having those goal posts there either. Am I correct?

Mr. Musselman responded I don't know if there would be a problem with it. Bree, with the goal posts there for lacrosse?

Mrs. Solomon responded no, most of your schools in the area already have four and five sports on the same field playing lacrosse and soccer and hockey and football.

Mr. Boonie stated just not softball.

Mrs. Solomon stated right.

Mr. Boonie stated that's the one *inaudible*. Now I'm assuming that price that you gave us included the base being put in the new field.

Mr. Musselman stated yeah. The *inaudible* would have to upgrade what they were going to put in the new field. So, there's an additional cost for that, but we get the credit for the goal posts. So, once everything is all swapped out and said and done, it's those two different prices that we could save. It's a credit, but \$3,000.00 or \$6,500.00.

*Miscellaneous conversations were occurring at this time.*

Mr. Musselman stated we're going to have to do it at some point. You have to do it for softball. As many as years as we use the current stadium for football, we're going to have to do it every spring for softball, and at least it didn't look like it would be that terrible because they do come apart. I just worry that boy, if you ding up the connections or anything else like that and getting it back together, they're big pieces to line up. You know what I mean? It's not something small. It's big, and the uprights I think were what? Like 30-some pounds? So, that's not too bad, but that's a big long piece up in the air you're trying to.

Mr. Auman stated yeah, if you get any of it out around, you're not going to get it back together too easily. It's aluminum.

Mr. Musselman stated so, if anybody has any thoughts on that, that's fine. I know it's one of the change orders. It doesn't say anything about to the positive, but this is a credit, but still it's a change order that came. I got that information tonight before coming here, and I wanted to share it with you guys.

Mr. Abate inquired when do we have to know by? Like tomorrow?

Mr. Musselman responded well, the sooner the better, obviously, because they have to order stuff, so. Everything is a rush. Rush, rush, rush, and they do look at May 17 as being, hopefully, equipment will be on site that they could start doing some of the excavation work that's needed. They were waiting on some of these documents to be approved, and Mr. Abate can sign a lot of those tonight before we leave. So, everything else seems to be good to go. We're moving forward, but they dropped this one on me tonight because I asked a question about why are we keeping these old ones. Can't we just use them? I thought we would get a credit, and then I got the numbers, so.

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

Mr. Stroup reported on the following items:

- 1) Thank You for Support of Mid-West School District Materials and Resources for Mathematics and Science
- 2) Presentations Promoting District Initiatives

Mr. Abate had a great idea the other day as we were talking. He was thinking of ways for our faculty to promote some of the great things we're doing in the buildings, new projects, new programs that are happening, and it's our hope in the fall and next spring to be presenting some of those things to you. I would actually like to do a sample run in June, if time prevails, and I'll have some teachers in here to have a conversation with you.

- 3) Administrative Retreat on July 7 and 8

Currently, Dr. Edmiston, Dr. Bzdil and myself are working on our Administrative Retreat that is set for July 7 and 8, and as we're all changing positions, it's going to be a very important time for us. We will be coordinating with the CSIU, and we'll be spending two half days down there and working on things that are important to our staff and development as a team.

- 4) Act 93 Position Posting

Since you approved a new position possibly, I will be posting an ad tomorrow morning for Assistant Principal/Dean of Students. As I said earlier, we have a number of excellent candidates in-house both who are certified and working toward certifications. So, we're going to give an opportunity for our employees to apply. We'll leave that open for ten days and then look at the list of names and do some interviewing hopefully on Thursday, May 13. We have a committee from the high school. We have some administrative members, central office and hopefully two Board members. I do have one

Board member, but I would take another certainly if anybody is interested in sitting in on those. We would like to start them shortly after lunch that day because I'm expecting seven or eight applicants. So, you need to have some availability that day.

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

Mr. Wagner reported on the following item:

- 1) Tonight's Treasurer's Reports

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

Mrs. Solomon had no report.

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

Mr. Rosselli had no report.

6. **MAINTENANCE AND FACILITIES** Mr. Daniel E. Auman

Mr. Auman had no report.

7. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** Mr. Umberto G. Porzi

Mr. Porzi reported on the following item:

- 1) Technology Committee Meeting

We met tonight, and we went over a few things. I'll be preparing some quotes to present to you.

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

Mr. Abate reported on the following items:

- 1) Ballot for 2021 Election of CSIU Directors

There is a ballot at your place today for directors that are up. I would recommend voting for all of them. They're very good people.

- 2) Recognition Night

- 3) Scheduled Speakers for May 10

As I said earlier, Dr. Kurelja will be here, the new Executive Director, at our next meeting, and Mr. Brenchley will be here discussing the Keystone Purchasing Network, and if you have any questions, he will give you low down on how that works.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired are you collecting these (ballots), or do you want me to fax or mail them?

Mr. Abate responded you can just fax them or mail them to Mrs. Folk.

9. **SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE** Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson  
 Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:  
 1) Meeting Minutes  
 I e-mailed the J.O.C. minutes.
10. **PSBA LIAISON** Mr. Donald D. Pinci  
 Mr. Pinci had no report.
11. **POLICY COMMITTEE** Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson  
 Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:  
 1) Policy Committee Meeting  
 We weren't able to get together last week. Our next meeting is the 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to finalize the *inaudible*.
12. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** Mr. Terry L. Boonie  
 Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:  
 1) Next Meeting is May 6
13. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE** Mr. Justin T. Haynes  
 Mr. Haynes had no report.
14. **FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman  
 Mr. Sassaman had no report.  
 Mr. Abate stated we're going to do a Board of the whole, I guess.
15. **PROFESSIONAL STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman  
 Mr. Sassaman had no report.
16. **SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Donald D. Pinci  
 Mr. Pinci had no report.
17. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Terry L. Boonie  
 Mr. Boonie had no report.
18. **BOARD AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS** Mr. Victor L. Abate  
 Dr. Bzdil reported that the District is receiving about \$6,000.00 in a grant through the CMSU for a sensory/calming room and tools for a couple of our buildings, and in special ed we're working on the staffing for Extended School

Year (ESY) summer program.

Dr. Edmiston reported there is an End-of-the-Year Schedule for some of the events that are coming up that you might be interested in attending; some virtual/some live. I also want to just echo what Makenna said about prom. This venue was very beautiful. I believe the students *inaudible*. I know that the Prom Committee is looking at going back there again next year. So, they're probably going to be coming and asking your permission to do that again. May 14 Choral Concert is going to be recorded except for our senior solos where those senior parents can attend, and our band looking at a live stream band performance on May 25.

Mr. Brown reported the high school Board report should be in front of you for March.

Dr. Aucker had no report.

Miss Sheedy reported the Board report was sent earlier today. We're in the middle of PSSAs.

Mrs. Lohr had no report.

**BASEBALL FIELD AT WEST SNYDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Auman, there was some issues up at West Snyder with the baseball field. Have they been looked into and being?

Mr. Auman responded the pitcher's mound, we were waiting on to get some clay for that, and that's ordered. We dressed it up the best we could, and the batting cage, we need to get some hanging pulleys; rope pulley things to be able to put up the new net.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci, Sassaman, Wagner  
No: None  
9-0-0-0  
MOTION CARRIED

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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