

MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

Middleburg Elementary School

Large Group Conference Room

Monday, April 27, 2020

A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL, FOR LIFE

I. OPENING CEREMONY

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

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate stated we will try to accommodate everybody here for the public. I understand there's about 34 members of the public, and if everybody could just be patient, and if you have questions at the end of the meeting, Mr. Stroup will be happy to call on you, and we will take questions at that time. We will. I don't have a picture of a flag, but I'd like to have the Pledge of Allegiance if we could.

III. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Victor L. Abate

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

PRESENT

ABSENT

LATE ARRIVAL

Mr. Victor L. Abate, President	X		
Mr. Donald D. Pinci, Vice President	X		
Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman, Treasurer		X	
Mr. Terry L. Boonie	X		
Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson	X		
Mr. Justin T. Haynes	X		
Mrs. Wyona P. Lauver	X		
Mr. Christopher T. Nesbit	X		
Mrs. Sherryl L. Wagner		X	
Mr. Richard J. Musselman, Superintendent (Non-Voting Member)	X		
Ms. Allyson L. Folk, Secretary (Non-Member)	X		

OTHERS

Mr. Joseph W. Stroup, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Ryan L. Wagner, Business Manager
Attorney Orris C. Knepp, III, Solicitor
Mr. Jeremy D. Brown, Assistant Principal, Midd-West High School
Mrs. Lee C. Bzdil, Supervisor of Special Education
Mr. Thor R. Edmiston, Principal, Midd-West High School
Mrs. Julie L. Lohr, Principal, Middleburg Elementary School
Mr. John S. Rosselli, Director of Food Service
Miss Erin C. Sheedy, Principal, West Snyder Elementary School
Approximately 34 Concerned Citizens

Mr. Abate inquired, Mrs. Folk, do we have a quorum this evening?

Ms. Folk responded we have five.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mr. Nesbit stated I wanted to let you know that I'm here.

Mr. Abate inquired who is that? Mr. Nesbit?

Mr. Nesbit responded yes, it is.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Ms. Folk stated thank you.

Mr. Abate stated please let the minutes reflect, Mrs. Folk, this meeting is being conducted virtually over the Zoom platform.

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 were no public comments.

V. SCHEDULED SPEAKERS

Mr. Victor L. Abate

There were no scheduled speakers.

Mr. Abate stated we will have Mr. Miller give his presentation this evening on the budget prior to the vote which will be under D., OTHER. Then, there will questions taken at that time should the Board have any questions. Hopefully, you all had an opportunity to review the preliminary budget.

VI. 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.

VII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Mr. Abate stated we will go on then with the Action Items. In lieu of Mr. Sassaman, I will take Items A., Business and Fiscal, 1. through 3., and look for a motion to accept.

A. BUSINESS AND FISCAL

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1. MINUTES

- a. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the April 14, 2020, work session and special meeting of the Midd-West School District Board of School Directors.

2. **LIST OF BILLS**

Approval is recommended of the list of bills for the period March 21, 2020, through April 27, 2020.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

- a. Approval is recommended for the Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Food Service Fund and Activity Fund for the period ending February 29, 2020.
- b. Approval is recommended for the Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Food Service Fund and Activity Fund for the period ending March 31, 2020.

Mr. Pinci moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval to accept Items A., Business and Fiscal, 1. through 3.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Sassaman, Wagner
7-0-2-0
MOTION CARRIED

B. **POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

1. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY**

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Haynes seconded approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Midd-West School District and Bloomsburg University for the ACE Program for a period of five (5) years that will allow a tuition reduction for high school students taking college level classes.

Discussion:

Mr. Pinci inquired just are they? Do they have any online programs that students could get into?

Mr. Nesbit responded I believe there's some online courses.

Mr. Abate stated yes. The answer is yes.

Mr. Pinci stated okay. Thank you.

Mr. Abate stated thanks, Mr. Nesbit.

Mr. Nesbit stated you're welcome. I do have a question, though, regarding the ACES Program. I know that at the end of last school year we had some issues with GPA calculations and what have you with the students that were attending Bloomsburg. Do we have somebody in place now that moving forward is going to be a liaison for students at Bloomsburg University to make sure the school district has the necessary information prior to graduation?

Mr. Musselman inquired, Mr. Edmiston, do you have any updated information to answer Mr. Nesbit's question?

Mr. Edmiston responded so Karen Murtin is the liaison that all students go through when they're taking classes at Bloomsburg University. As far as the GPA is concerned, I'm not exactly following what you're asking, Mr. Nesbit. As far as this year, hopefully, we don't run into this situation again, but the GPA is going to be a pass/fail, but it's not. We have spoken to Sapphire, and it's not going to affect anybody's overall grade positively or negatively. I don't know if that answers your question or not.

Mr. Nesbit stated I don't. I mean the *(inaudible words here)* is we're talking about is the Valedictorian from this last year, the last school year. There was an issue with that situation. You're telling me that the GPA is not impacted by the classes that the students are taking at Bloomsburg?

Mr. Edmiston responded these classes taken in the second semester, if it's a pass/fail, it will not impact them at all. No, it won't impact them one way or the other, and I know that we met as an admin team, and we met with Sapphire folks, and they're going to take care of running our rank for us and freezing it so that it's set up and taken care of.

Mr. Nesbit stated okay, all right. Thank you.

Mr. Abate inquired are there any further discussion? We're going to go to roll call votes from here on out, folks. Mrs. Folk.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Sassaman, Wagner

Mrs. Lauver stated and I'm on, too. Onie's on now.

Mr. Abate inquired did you get that, Mrs. Folk?

Mrs. Folk responded I did.

Mr. Abate stated all right. How's your vote, Mrs. Lauver?

Mrs. Lauver responded yes.

7-0-2-0
MOTION CARRIED

C. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci stated under Personnel, we will take 1. by itself, 1.a. – Classified Employee.

Mr. Abate inquired you're just taking Item a. by itself, Mr. Pinci?

Mr. Pinci responded yes.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mr. Pinci stated as well as authorization for use of the facsimile signature.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

1. **EMPLOYMENTS – CLASSIFIED**

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Haynes seconded approval to employ the following individual and to grant authorization for Cheryl L. Kahl to use the facsimile signature of the Board President and Board Treasurer for the period April 28, 2020, through the 2019-2020 school year on behalf of the Activity Fund, Capital Reserve and Capital Projects Funds, Food Service Fund, General Fund and Payroll Fund:

- a. Classified Employee – Cheryl L. Kahl – Administrative Secretary – Payroll/Tax Collection – Mid-West School District – Effective: April 28, 2020, pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114, 24 and 31 – Salary: \$17.00 per hour *{Replacement/Wagner}*

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

No: None

Absent: Sassaman, Wagner

7-0-2-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Pinci stated let me take 1.b. through 4., 2., 3. and 4.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired can I ask you to pull out 2., please?

Mr. Pinci stated pull out 2. Okay. So, we'll be taking 1.b., 3. and 4.

Approval is requested to employ the following individual:

- b. Classified Employee – John W. Morrison – Full-time Night-shift Custodian – Mid-West Middle School – Effective: May 26, 2020, pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114, 24 and 31 – Salary: \$12.05 per hour *{Replacement/Aucker}*

3. **UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE RESCISSION**

Approval is requested to rescind the uncompensated leave of absence granted on January 13, 2020, to be effective on or about April 16, 2020, through May 28, 2020, or the last day of the 2019-2020 school year.

4. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Approval is recommended of the following medical leave of absence:

- a. Mid-West High School – Effective: April 9, 2020, through April 20, 2020

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval to accept under C., Personnel, Items b., 3. and 4.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Sassaman, Wagner
7-0-2-0
MOTION CARRIED

2. **APPOINTMENT**

a. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

Mr. Boonie moved and Mr. Nesbit seconded approval to appoint the following individual for the 2019-2020 school year:

Jamie A. Portzline Assistant Junior Varsity Baseball Coach MWHS \$2,638.00

Discussion:

Mrs. Eriksson stated the only reason I pulled it out is because I wanted to vote consistent to my last vote.

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Haynes, Nesbit, Pinci
No: Eriksson, Lauver
Absent: Sassaman, Wagner
5-2-2-0
MOTION CARRIED

5. **RETIREMENTS**

Mr. Haynes moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded approval to accept the following retirements:

Kim L. Butcosk Cafeteria Manager West Snyder Elementary School	Effective: May 28, 2020, pending no snow days
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Tracy J. Vargas Mathematics Teacher Mid-West Middle School	Effective: Last day of the 2019- 2020 school year
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Discussion:

None

Yes: Abate, Boonie, Eriksson, Haynes, Lauver, Nesbit, Pinci
No: None
Absent: Sassaman, Wagner
7-0-2-0
MOTION CARRIED

D. **OTHER**

Mr. Abate stated as I stated earlier, Mr. Miller will be doing a presentation on this preliminary budget at this time and in conclusion of his presentation and following any questions, we will be voting on the preliminary budget. So, with that being said, Mr. Miller, it's all yours, sir.

Mr. Miller stated okay. Good evening. Hopefully, everyone can hear me.

Mrs. Eriksson stated we can.

Mr. Miller stated I'm going to share my screen now, a PowerPoint presentation of the budget. So, this budget was originally presented on the 8th. I did not make changes. So, some slides I'll talk through. If some information has changed in the meantime, I'll talk through those changes, but overall, the numbers that I presented on the 8th should hold tonight, and so, I'll dive into the presentation.

20-21, the adjusted index was set at 3.5% for next year. The base index 2.6%. What the base index is an index based on economic statistics around the state and based on the wealth of a school district, they get an adjusted index. That's the difference between the two index.

Mrs. Eriksson stated I'm not seeing the screen. The presentation is not coming through.

Mr. Miller stated okay.

Mrs. Eriksson stated sorry.

Mr. Haynes stated I can see it.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired you can?

Mr. Musselman stated yeah, it's coming through. Actually, Mr. Miller's is doing okay. It probably is. You probably have to click on something on your screen there, Mrs. Eriksson, to get it, but it's coming through.

Mrs. Eriksson stated let me get out of full screen. Okay. My apologies.

Mr. Miller stated if the District chose to do a max millage increase this year, it would be 2.47 mills and change total rate up to 73 mills with the current rate at 70.6120 mills. Assessment is currently just over \$177 million; \$177.6 million, and if the District chose to go to their adjusted index, it would be \$440,000.00 at 100% collection rate. 100% collection rate never happens. The rate is more so closer to 95-96% of the bill, the taxes. Timeline for this year. The District approved a Resolution of Not-to-Exceed the Adjusted Index. They did that on November 19 way back several months ago. May 31 is the deadline for adopting the proposed final budget. It is a motion for tonight, and then June 30 would be a deadline for adopting the final budget. The Act 1 rate history since the law went into effect which basically gives an index for a school district to increase taxes every year. Prior to that, there was no limits. The adjusted index for the District sits higher than the base index. Again, it's due to a wealth factor. I do want to make a point. You see a spread in 07-08 and 08-09, and then it gets closer in 09-10, 10-11 and lower as we go through the recession. Again, the base index statistics are based on. They're economic statistics. As those decrease, the index gets tighter, and the adjusted and the base index gets tighter. What we may see in the years out from 20-21 is a tighter index, but for this year, they're based on statistics for the 19-20 year. Millage rate history of the District. The millage rate has been pretty stable going through the construction projects at the Middleburg campus through the end of 12-13 and 13-14 years. Since that point, the millage rate of the District has been pretty stable. It was 70.112 mills for several years, and then 18-19 year, it was

brought up to 70.612 mills, and it's been that rate since that point. This budget does not have a tax increase in it as well. Assessment history of the District. The assessment through looking back just over ten years, there's been growth in the assessment base. There was one year where it did dip down. This year \$177.6 million would be the assessment, and I use this chart to illustrate what the School Board is doing when they pass their budget. Local, state, federal policies, mandates and the initiatives become buckets of federal, state and local revenue which then flow to the District. Then the District takes those, and those become expenditures whether they be salary/benefits and other areas of the budget. Basically, there's two budgets. There's a revenue side, and there's an expenditure side budget. One is, again, buckets of funds sent for various policies, mandates, initiatives, and then the expenditure side becomes the expenses of educating the District's children, and I originally presented this budget on April 8. I presented a preliminary budget in February. These are the changes since from February to April 8, and then if there's items that need to be updated for the three weeks since that point, I'll speak through those. The pandemic resulted in a District closure on March 13 and in all public schools on March 16. The schools are closed for the rest of the year. It also required a closure of all businesses except essential businesses. This is having a widespread impact around the Commonwealth and the nation impacting everyone from all walks of life including businesses, consumers, residents and taxpayers. The immediate result of the pandemic will be a reduction in local revenues, specifically, based on bearable sources of taxes. Those being earned income taxes which are based on wages and other income that is earned. Transfer taxes from sales of real estate. The real estate revenue is more stable, but there is a chance that there will be a decline in the percent of collection rate for next year. Also with that, the Federal Reserve made two emergency adjustments to your interest rates to move them effectively to 0%. Up through March, school districts were getting around 2% on their deposits, and now, without locking into a CD, they're getting between 0 and .25 or what they say is 25 basis points on their deposits. So, that is significant revenue lost. So, those changes as evidenced line item by line item in the budget. Earned income tax is forecasted to drop by \$400,000.00 which will take the District back several years to 17-18 levels. Real estate revenue was already forecasted at a lower rate in the prior year. Real estate transfer tax is forecasted to drop by \$50,000.00. Interest income due to the Federal Reserve two emergency adjustments to interest rates effectively to 0% will drop the District's interest earnings \$125,000.00. I'm forecasting, while some taxpayers may not pay their taxes between July and December, they may pay their taxes following the year when we hopefully see improvements from the pandemic. I'm forecasting a small increase in delinquent revenue due to that. Overall, a drop in revenue of \$475,000.00 in local revenue accounts. There is a little news out of Harrisburg as far as the state budget, and it is having immediate impact on their large sources of school district revenue subsidies such as income taxes and sales tax which those large revenues impact what subsidies are going to school districts. Right now, I have the Governor's budget numbers in the budget. There is some talk out of Harrisburg of going to a six-month budget as opposed to a year budget and other items, but there is no solid news out of Harrisburg what they're going to do for the next budget year. With that said, there is some reserve built into the budget. The Federal Cares Act was passed last month. It's going to result in a bucket of \$650 to \$700,000.00 of revenue to Mid-West which there will be various uses of those funds. There's several uses of those funds a District can do. Right now, they're not being accounted for in this budget which means there is a bucket of about \$650 to \$700,000.00 that is coming to the District that is not accounted for in the budget. I want the School

Board and the community to keep that in mind while I could be more conservative in some numbers there. There is a large reserve built into the budget, which if my numbers aren't conservative enough, would hopefully offset some of those amounts. Expenditure and fund balance changes from February budget. This new budget in April, while I don't generally if I can get by without adjusting the salary amounts and have some buffer built into the budget, I prefer to do that, but I made adjustments in April to take out the known retirees of the District which to offset the lost revenues lowered the expenditures as well as there's a recent refi of a school district bank note. I took those expenditures out of the budget. Out of those \$475,000.00 in revenue reduction, I was able to offset \$332,000.00 of that reduction. It did grow the deficit of the school district to \$292,000.00. Again, I want to make the point that this is has not taken into account those Cares revenues that are coming to the District. Here is the budget of the District. Some numbers in this slide I've gone over. Some I have not. On assessment about \$177.7 million. No tax increases to the millage at 70.6120 mills would result in an \$11.2 million in real estate revenue. The other key local revenue, earned income tax, which is down \$400,000.00. Real estate transfer, \$150,000.00 was reduced from \$200,000.00. Overall, out of the local revenue, \$18.7 million. It makes up 48.3% of the Mid-West's General Fund budget. State revenues, a key one, Basic Education subsidy, is the largest one at \$9.2 million, and then special education subsidy of \$1.5 million. The gaming revenue is a reduction on the tax bill taken every year. Transportation subsidy, while it will have an impact. Recently, the District was negotiating with their transportation contractors. While expense for the year would be lower effecting the revenue for the following year, there will be some surplus in those accounts this year to offset that. Overall, a total state revenue, \$18.5 million. Makes up 47.8% of the budget. Federal sources, Title I, which is the largest piece there, \$780,000.00; Title II, which is a smaller program; QZAB subsidy, that is an interest subsidy from the federal government on two of the District's bond issues. Total federal revenue, \$1.5 million, which makes just shy of 4% of Mid-West's budget, and if the Cares revenue was reflected on this page, it would be under the federal revenue area of the budget. Overall, \$38.7 million dollar budget. Again, a reduction of \$475,000.00 from the preliminary budget before the pandemic. Here's a slide of trends in revenues. It's a lot of data to go over in this presentation. I believe the presentation will be posted on the District website after tonight. So, therefore, Board members and residents can analyze the slide trends in revenues, but, again, it's a lot of data to go over. Expenditures of the District, between the 100 and 200 area, those are your people expenditures, salaries and benefits. They make up about 63% of the budget. Almost two-thirds of the budget are people expenditures. The 300 area of the budget, the largest piece of that is intermediate unit expenditures. It makes of 2.2% of the budget. 400 area, those are mainly expenditures spent on buildings. It makes up about 1% of the budget. 500 area, this includes transportation expenditures, tuitions to charter schools. It makes up 16.7% of the budget. 600 area, includes classroom supplies. It also includes some utility expenses. It makes up 3.9% of the budget. Equipment is your equipment that can be capitalized as fixed asset type expenditures makes up just shy of 1% of the budget. Dues, Fees and Interest, the largest piece of this part is bond interest. There's not many dues and fees in the budget. The largest chunk of this area again is expenditures on bond interest makes up 3.3% of the budget, and then your debt principal makes up just over 9% of the budget. Overall, it is a \$39 million dollar, just over \$39 million dollar budget. Again, revenue is \$38.7 million against expenditures of about \$39 million. Again, as said on the previous slide, a \$292,000.00 deficit, and again, just like I said before, here is trends in the expenditure accounts going back several years. Again, this can be

analyzed when the presentation is put on the website. This is tracking fund balance and how it changed through the years, and a key point to make with this, while general fund results are a key component, also the District made several capital transfers in these years which also reduced fund balance. In the 17-18 year there was a \$1,000,000.00 capital transfer. With that transfer out, the District still ran a surplus of \$454,000.00. The year after, 18-19 year, there was a very large capital transfer of \$5.4 million. A lot of that was. A majority of that came out of the fund balance. 19-20, I have that the budget was balanced. I have budget numbers in there. Those aren't actual results. So, the revenues and expenditure budget were balanced. That's what that is reflecting, and then the 20-21 year shows a deficit of \$292,000.00. So, 19-20, \$7.3 million dollars of fund balance. The deficit being made up by fund balance puts the District at about \$7.1 million in General Fund fund balance. Taxpayer Impact, so, again, there's no tax increase in this budget, but here's some scenarios in what it will look like. A lot of data here. I'll go over an average residential, average farm and average commercial/industrial property. If the Board went half of the adjusted index, it would be an increase of just shy of \$20.00 for residential, just shy of \$30.00 for a farm and just shy of \$60.00 for an average commercial/industrial property. If they went to the full index, it would be just shy of a \$40.00 increase for residential, just shy of \$60.00 for an average farm and just shy of \$120.00 increase for an average commercial/industrial property. Here are cost drivers of Mid-West's budget. Here are trends in salaries, the 100 area. Generally, there is a 2 to 3% increase every year, and it increases with labor contracts, with inflation, with added positions. Between 18-19 and 19-20, there were a lot of contractual changes at the District, and then between 19-20 and 20-21, there's a slight increase, specifically, retirees out of the budget. It took that number down significantly from the original preliminary budget. 230 area of the budget, which is in the 200 Benefits area, which is this is the state pension program. We saw a large increase in employer rate starting in 11-12 and ending in 17-18, 18-19 year. The rate is still projected to increase but not to the extent that it did increase in those years. So, whereas, a lot of school budgets around the Commonwealth had to increase millage to afford PSERS increases during that time period. Now while PSERS is increasing, it's easier for school budgets to absorb every year. The rate for this year is 34.51, and I want to make a key point. If there was no unfunded liability at PSERS, the employer rate would be 7.6% this year. 78% of that rate is reflected by past service that was not paid for in prior years. So, that is the story on the pension fund, and what that means for the District is as you see there were large jumps. I don't have all the years going back to 11-12, but the jumps were very large, specifically illustrated between the 15-16 and the 16-17 and the 17-18 year, as their rate has hit in the mid 30s, and it rises about half a percentage a year. The increases aren't as large as they were in years prior. It's still increasing but not to the extent it was. Trends in Cost vs. State Revenues, this was a big point pushed by a statewide organization such as PASBO before the pandemic. The reason you see growth in millage around the state, not specific. It's not really a story at Mid-West since they were able to hold their millage steady, but at other districts, a lot of the millage was, a lot of the increases were seen in having to use local revenues to make up the growth in expenditures that state revenues are not keeping up with. That's the point of this slide. It shows salaries growing between 12-13 to this year's budget by 20%. PSERS growth from 12-13 to this year's budget, 230%, and then the special ed growing just shy of 70%, and the revenues that were designed to keep up with those expenditures, the Basic Education subsidy, a growth of 14% in that time period. The special ed subsidy which is a subsidy that illustrates this story well. That has grown nearly 11% offset by a 70% growth in expenditures; whereas, Mid-West did not have to raise millage greatly

in this time period. Other districts had to increase their millage to keep up with these expenditures. It would have been a key focus point of my budget presentation this year if the pandemic did not happen which kind of put this behind that. The Debt Overview of the District, through the years the debt is structured at pretty level payments for the District, but over the years, more principal is being paid similar to a household mortgage and less interest is being paid. It comes off at the 29-30 year. All the debt of the District is paid off. Total Expenditure History of the District, if you back out. I have the capital transfers illustrated in this slide, but if you would back those out, it would be a pretty steady upward rising line, 2 to 3% a year, but with those capital transfers, you see peaks and valleys, but it still illustrates the point of growth in expenditures every year. You see a \$39 million in 16-17 with a \$4.5 million dollar transfer. It dips down after a \$1 million dollar transfer. In the 18-19 year after a very large transfer, it dips up again. Two budgets, 19-20/20-21 with no transfers showing. Just growth in expenditures illustrated. So, a lot of peaks and valleys but overall if you back those out, you see an upward trend in the growth of expenditures of the District, and tonight that concludes the presentation slides. I'm moving to a question and answer session for the Board.

Mr. Boonie stated this is Terry Boonie. I have two questions for you. The first one, on your slide with the federal contribution, the amount of federal contribution, again, you said that does not include the \$600 to \$700,000.00 that was just passed in the. That was the Cares Act or.

Mr. Miller responded yes.

Mr. Boonie stated yes. Okay, I just want to double check. Secondly, since we have revised this since the February or the initial presentation of this, has there been any cuts in any areas like the supplies, textbooks, technology, etc.? Has there been any cuts in those in the budget?

Mr. Miller responded no, there has not. Since the February presentation and then going to March and presenting the pandemic, no, I did not go back to the administrators and ask for cuts. I was able to make up the drop in local revenue with taking retirees out and a refi of a District debt issue. Again, it still grew the deficit of the District slightly. I presented \$150,000.00 in February. That grew it to \$292,000.00 in this budget, but no, I did not seek those changes from the administrators in this budget.

Mr. Boonie stated okay. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Eriksson stated for being a newbie, is the deficit a normal thing, or is it something you try to balance or the administrators try to balance out throughout the year and figure it out to make it become a balanced budget?

Mr. Miller responded so, that's a good question. A lot of it's district by district what you're going to see across the state. Some districts will have to pass deficit budgets. I say deficit. It's just the revenues and expenditures, but technically speaking, that \$292,000.00 is covered by fund balance. Technically speaking, it's not a deficit because it's covered by fund balance, but backing the fund balance off, I'm calling it a deficit because the revenues are not covering the expenditures. Specifically, this year I would, and if you're anticipating, and I am since it's a pandemic and the government shut down pretty quickly, I'm anticipating at some point economic activity will open up again. A lot of districts have to make hard choices. That local revenue is just going away, but at some

point, the economies will open up again. So, I anticipate if this year some of the "deficit" is covered by fund balance because the IT revenue and other local revenues are lowered, I anticipate next year and then the future years if the impacts of the pandemic aren't there, your local revenue should return. As far as it being normal, again, that's district to district. My Board at ELCO demands that revenues meet expenditures in their budget and that fund balance is not used. That's a local decision. Here I'm presenting revenues not meeting expenditures. Like the prior question, the District may have to use other areas to balance the budget such as going into departmental budgets, things of that nature, to balance the budget as well as also. Like I said before and mentioned that there are revenues that are not reflected in the budget. So, I'm being conservative here with the deficit, but again, there's a very large bucket of \$650 to \$700,000.00 in revenue that's not reflected as well.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired have we passed deficit budgets before?

Mr. Miller responded I, when I was at Mid-West, yes, I distinctly remember a budget with \$300,000.00 but again, I'm a conservative business manager. That budget ended up running a healthy surplus.

Mr. Boonie inquired have we considered any savings from the electricity at all our buildings and heating and cooling since they are basically closed down? Have we seen any kind of numbers on that?

Mr. Miller responded I can't speak per the impact for the 19-20 budget. I have. I'm anticipating at some point the buildings will open up, and the educational process will happen. So as far as the closure impacting the building, it's not reflected in the 20-21 budget. I can't speak to 19-20, but it's possible. Yes, there may be surpluses in those accounts.

Mr. Musselman stated and as Mike had said, if I can interject here, Mike had said the school district has in the past we've passed budgets that had a deficit knowing that we typically underspend our budget and then because of conservative management; however, there's a lot of unknowns coming up this year. We do not know about the state budget. We don't know about some of the other things. I know there's been discussions about the possibility of when we find out what we're going to receive from the Cares Act. Our Technology Committee has had discussions on certain things. So, those are not necessarily revenues that are going to come in to offset your current expenses. They would be revenues that would come in to look at possibly upgrades or add additional technology or something else for the school district. So, that's a concerning thing. This Board, we have some new Board members, and has to make the decision, too. Are you looking at passing a budget that does not have expenses that exceed the revenues that are coming in? If that is the case, then there are some decisions that you should be making or should be considering and thinking about. One would be, are there things that you don't want to see continue? It's not as if we have programs or folks that are in a closet that we can just pull out and say, "Here. Get rid of this, or get rid of that." Everything that we do is going to impact the student one way or the other. So, those are considerations that you have to make. We are in a unique position right now. We have a lot of folks that are retiring. That Mike has reflected into our budget as far as hiring a new person. Typically, people that are retiring are at the top of the pay schedule, and so when they leave, we can hire somebody that is actually cheaper. So, Mike calculated some of that in not knowing exactly where we would hire somebody. So, you have to figure that out, but the other piece of

that goes is whenever you do have people that are retiring, do you look at the attrition, and do you look at filling those positions? Is that a position that you wanted to take because of the uncertainty? Not something that I like to sit here and say or even recommend, but it is a reality of where we're at right now. Do we want to look at filling all of those positions? Do we want to be on a conservative side and maybe start the year without some of those? I mean those are tough decisions, but it certainly. There's a lot in the future I just don't know, and so, that's where we're at.

Mr. Pinci stated I just want to make sure I'm clear on the. What was it? \$600 or \$700,000.00 that you mentioned?

Mr. Miller responded yes.

Mr. Pinci inquired is that for the Title I money that's from the federal government?

Mr. Miller responded no, that's a separate program. So, the Cares Act was passed in regards to the pandemic at the federal level. Included in that bill, you may otherwise know that bill as the legislation that is going to send stimulus checks out to all taxpayers around the country. Imbedded in that bill was a revenue source going to K-12 districts across the country, and so, it is at this point there's still work that needs to be done at the federal level, and then it will go to PDE, and they got to do their piece of it, but as far as we know, and as far as it has been communicated, there are buckets of money that are going out to all districts in Pennsylvania, and it's throughout the nation, but there are estimates going around about the funds that are going to be sent through Pennsylvania. It's going to go through, while it is not Title I funds, they're going to send the funds out by the same, the formula, of Title I. So, the basket of funds is slightly smaller than the Title I funding that goes out every year. That's why Title I funding is \$780,000.00, and that's why we're talking about \$650 to \$700,000.00. That's because the basket of funding is smaller than the bucket of Title I, but it is being spread out. At least the allocation is using a Title I allocation, but there are many more wider uses of the funds than Title I funding is. With that said, one, I don't have it shown in the budget, and two, Mr. Musselman, your Superintendent, already has some ideas for the funding so I can't really speak to that. I just want to make the point that there is a large bucket of funding that's not accounted for here.

Mr. Pinci stated thank you.

Mrs. Lauver stated I have a question. It's the enrollment of our students. Is that going to go down or up, or is there any change?

Mr. Miller inquired, Mr. Musselman, did you want to take that question?

Mr. Musselman responded well, that is unknown. We can speculate that there may be some people that decide to either use our cyber school or use another cyber school to send their students to school out of fear. There's a lot of unknowns as far as the social impact that this pandemic will have on society. So, I don't know whether we'll see an increase or a decrease. We were looking at a decrease in our kindergarten classes, but it seems to be growing at this point in time to where typically where we would normally would be, so. I would, on a conservative side, I would say no, we don't anticipate any huge change in our students. We usually fluctuate a little bit. We stick around 2,100-2,200

students or so, and I would assume that it would be roughly the same. If people do decide to use cyber school, we obviously would hope that they would choose ours versus a private cyber school which costs us a much higher rate to pay for.

Mrs. Lauver stated thank you. I have another quick question. PlanCon J. I didn't hear anything about that. That was not figured into our capital funds or fund balance or anywhere?

Mr. Musselman responded PlanCon, we have not received. If you're referring to West Snyder, we haven't received any payments for West Snyder. Typically, we get PlanCon through. When we make payments, we receive PlanCon back on some of the prior projects that we had, but we should be looking at a lump sum from the state; however, I don't know with everything that's going on from the state when or if those dollars will come to us. I believe that they will, but I don't know when they'll come, and those are one-time dollars that you're going to receive.

Mrs. Lauver stated right.

Mr. Musselman stated and typically you probably want to put those back onto some type of capital reserve fund but not necessarily use those to pay for your budget.

Mrs. Lauver stated right. I understand. Just wondered. That's all.

Mr. Abate stated, Mike, I have a question with regard to PSERS when we had the huge spike because of the financial crisis back in 2007-08. Obviously, there's a lot going on with this pandemic as well. Do you see that there might be a spike in PSERS contributions? I mean anybody who has a 401K doesn't want to look at it because they're scared to death to, but do you see? Should we prepare for something, or am I just a little scared right now?

Mr. Miller responded great question, Victor, and yes, I think it would impact the pension fund, though I think they're diversified. They have a lot of. I can't tell you specifically what they invest in, but it's not 100% equities or stocks. They do have some alternate investments. They do have some real estate. They do have some alternate investments, but yes, they do invest in stocks, and yes, this will impact their stock investments. While the markets did make a sharp dip several weeks ago, they have recovered some. I would say they're about half way from their ties or near half ways. So, yes, I would think it would be reflected. This graph, you might see it tick upward in the out rates. Instead of 34.95 next year, it might be 35.50. So, in essence, instead of a half a percentage raise every year, you might see a percent or a percent and a half every year to make up for it, but here's hoping the economy opens up quickly, and the pandemic is solved, and it isn't so much of an impact on the 21-22 budget. With that said, keep in mind that the PSERS Board certifies the new rate in December. So, if there's no improvement by December or there's still worries, I would imagine the PSERS Board will take a conservative stance on their rate for the next year. So, those are some items to keep in mind. I'm fully anticipating. This chart shows 34.95 for the next year. I'm expecting to see 35.50 or something higher for the following year based on the impacts from the pandemic, but so, to answer your question, that's what I'm anticipating to see.

Mr. Abate inquired you're not looking for long term, though, just maybe a year or two spike to try to make up the loss?

Mr. Miller responded possibly. I'm hoping that. So, I don't have a crystal ball, but, and we're in unprecedented times; whereas, most recessions are caused by an issue in the economy or industry. This is different. There's nothing structurally wrong with industry or the economy. There's just a health issue that prevents the economy from operating. So, which is different and unprecedented. Hopefully, the governments will get a handle on that, and the economy can open up within reasonable timeframes. With that said, we went into this with nothing structurally wrong with any industry or anything wrong with the economy. So, I'm hoping for. I guess you could say I'm optimistic about the recovery.

Mr. Abate stated that's good.

Mr. Pinci inquired can I just add something here?

Mr. Abate responded sure.

Mr. Pinci stated I listened to a meeting on Thursday from PSERS, from the Pennsylvania School Board, and they said something about PSERS will not change from last. Its rate will not change from last year. I just throw that out. I don't know if anyone else has heard that, though.

Mr. Miller stated so, to make your point, again, I want to go back to it. PSERS certifies their rate in December. So, they certified the 34.51 last December before the pandemic. They're making the point that their rate they certified for the 20-21 school year is not going to change.

Mr. Pinci stated okay.

Mr. Miller stated that was that point.

Mr. Pinci stated okay.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired could you explain to me, and I apologize and maybe we were given that at another time or after the meeting somebody can explain to me, what exactly is the 35%? Are we paying 35% above and beyond as a fringe to the employees?

Mr. Miller responded so, it's possibly a long-winded answer. I'll try to get through the abbreviated version, but the school district pays about 35% of every dollar in salary to the PSERS fund. So, for just using rounded dollars here, if a group of employees makes \$100,000.00, the District is then sending \$35,000.00 to the pension fund. A quarter later after that money is sent, PSERS reimburses about half of that based on your aid ratio. Mid-West gets a little more than half, but that money then comes a quarter later. So, effectively on the expenditure side. So, I want to make for Board new members, the PSERS expense is shown here in the retirement account under.

Mrs. Eriksson stated expenditures.

Mr. Miller stated and, yeah, expenditures, and then half of it comes later as you're a little, for Mid-West it's more than half, comes about a quarter later as your retirement subsidy. So, that's how it works, but as making the expenditure as the subsidies on a retirement side and the expenditure to PSERS is in your expenditure budget, you cannot just net the two and have them about. It shows

17%. You have to show the full expense on expenditure, and then the revenue on the.

Several conversations were occurring at this time.

Mr. Miller stated so, yeah, to answer your question, yeah, you do. For every dollar in salary, you send 35% to the pension fund. Part of my point in making saying in the past service debt makes up 78% of that amount. Part of my point is if there was no unfunded liability, the retirement expense would be somewhat normal or closer to normal at 7.6%. So, that's part of the point there.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired we have no other option to pension funds, I assume?

Mr. Miller responded it's the state multi-employer plan, no. Charter schools can opt out, but school districts do not have a choice.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired so, if they're really terrible at their job, we're the ones that are paying for it in other words? Because I see the rates are going up and up and up. I'm just doing it as a business person, and I'm like, you know, if I were a business person, I'd be going to another place to look because obviously someone isn't investing correctly.

Mr. Miller responded partly, also want to make. A lot of the problems arose out of legislation so it's not. I wouldn't put the blame all on the PSERS fund itself which seems to be somewhat conservative. A lot of decisions are made in the legislature. A lot of the, going back a decade, two decades back, keep in mind that politicians had a very short-term timeframe. It's usually election, election, and make decisions, but then they don't see their. They could be out of office by the time the long-term implications of those decisions actually happen. With the point being, some decisions were made, and this is a result of those decisions. I will say for the point of conversation to make my point, around the year 2000 with the tax stocks at all-time highs, the legislature voted for a pension increase for themselves and school employees and state employees. That multiplier went from 2 to 2.5 meaning that every year an employee works, they get 2.5 of the percentage of their salary instead of 2. That was a raise given around 2000. A recession immediately happened. The markets did okay until the financial crisis which really exacerbated the pension fund and the changes. Those increases were rolled back in 2011. The 2.5 then became a 2 multiplier, and then just this year effective, the multi is now a three plans now with a lower multiplier than 2 now, but really the key decisions were the pension increases around the year 2000, and then the great recession starting in 2008 were the biggest decisions why school districts in the Commonwealth find themselves in this position.

Mrs. Eriksson stated it's a 30% increase in ten years. Okay.

Mr. Boonie inquired am I correct in that there was a ten-plus-year span where the state pretty much decided to take a holiday from putting into the PSERS account as well?

Mr. Miller responded yes. As you can see, specifically, here's a good example. By the 09-10 and the 10-11 year, the fund knew about poor investment returns but were only funding the fund with a 4.78 and a 5.64 employer contribution. Those are good examples, but then you see after that the legislature and others finally got their act together and decided to actually make change. That's why

you see the large increase from that point forward, but between 2000 and 2010, the employer rate didn't really get above. I don't have the exact percentages in front of me, but it didn't get above 5%, and some years if I recall, it was at or less than 2%. So, that's the holiday that you're referring to, and yes, that year, while it wasn't causing issues until the great recession happened, then basically, the whole plan fell apart after that.

Mrs. Eriksson stated thank you. I appreciate the input. It gives me a little bit better idea of what's going on there.

Mr. Abate stated okay, if we have no further questions for Mr. Miller, and by all means if you do have questions between now and the time the final budget, which is in 30 days, just e-mail Mr. Miller, and don't forget to copy the Board so we all have that same information. I'm sure he'd be more than happy to answer your questions. So, we will move to vote on the preliminary budget this evening.

1. **2020-2021 PROPOSED PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Nesbit moved and Mr. Pinci seconded approval to adopt the 2020-2021 Proposed Preliminary General Fund Operating Budget which includes expenditures totaling \$39,035,826.00.

Discussion:

None

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

No: None

Absent: Sassaman, Wagner

7-0-2-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Musselman, you'll see that this gets distributed properly and 30-day public inspection and put in the papers?

Mr. Musselman responded yes, Mr. Wagner has that all under control.

Mr. Abate stated okay. I figured he would. Just wanted to remind him. Do we have anything else under the Board this evening wishes to come up under "Other?" Okay. We will move to Public Comment. Mr. Stroup, do we have anybody this evening that wishes to talk with the Board?

VIII. **CLOSING CEREMONIES**

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

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

There was no public comment.

X. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

There were no scheduled speakers.

Mr. Abate stated okay. We will now move into the Reports, Mr. Musselman. Before we do, I was wondering, Mr. Edmiston, do you and Mr. Musselman do have an update that you wanted to give the Board this evening? Would you like to do that right now with regards to some of the ideas that are floating around for graduation?

Mr. Edmiston responded sure. So, obviously, we'd love to have a regular commencement which would probably have to occur later this summer due to social distancing, but should social distancing extend into the better part of the summer, there are a couple of plans formulating which would utilize actually the West Snyder campus to host sort of a, we're going to call it a drive-in style virtual ceremony. With that being said, all seniors are going to be surveyed in the coming days, and would be given a couple options, and once the decision has been made, the seniors and their families will be given specific details of the ceremony and what it's going to look like, when it's going to occur, etc. Additionally, the plan is to distribute diplomas on May 29. That's the date they would have originally been distributed. Assuming outdoor distribution will be allowed at that time, we are also going to invite the Board members to attend and participate if they wish. Specific details of these planned proceedings will be relayed to our seniors and the families through the senior class advisors, and if there are any Board members who wish to attend, specific times have yet to be established, but as soon as they are, I'm going to relay that to the Board. We're hopefully targeting an afternoon/early evening time on that date, Friday, May 29, so that working families can still retrieve their senior items.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Musselman, do you have anything you wish to add?

Mr. Musselman responded not concerning that, but I have a few other things I wanted to give in my report.

Mr. Abate stated okay, well, we'll get to your report.

Mr. Musselman stated okay.

Mr. Abate inquired anybody have any questions for Mr. Edmiston on that topic?

Mrs. Eriksson responded not that one, but I saw a thing today about Prom. Are we actually considering having Prom?

Mr. Edmiston responded what was put out a few weeks ago was that the Prom was rescheduled to the end of June barring social distancing. The contingency is that as of June 5, if there is still social distancing, that does not give the Prom Committee enough time to prepare for the 26th, and at that point in time, it looks like they would have to cancel the Prom, but for now, they're holding onto hope.

Mrs. Eriksson stated I don't know if the boys would be able to get their tuxes in time if you don't have any stores open up. Okay. That was my question. I saw a post on it, and I wasn't sure if that was true or not. I thought I'd ask tonight.

Mr. Abate stated, Mr. Musselman, if you wish then to continue with your report.

XI. REPORTS

1. SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Richard J. Musselman

Mr. Musselman reported on the following items:

1) Paraprofessionals to Return on May 11

I just have a few things I wanted to just make the Board aware of that pending no changes, we are looking at on May 11 our paraprofessionals will be actually reporting back to work. We are going to limit the number of employees per building to try to maintain at least a 25-people maximum, no more than ten people in one area at a time, and primarily what they're going to be doing in the high school and in middle school and even in the elementary schools clean out lockers for our students. They'll be actually. A lot of our students have personal belongings and things that were left in lockers and in desks. So, they'll be coming in to help us to remove all those items, put those into bags and label those, and then we'll set up a time coordinating a time with parents and students to come in and actually pick up their items that are there, and we're also going to ask the paraprofessionals to actually help us to move some of those student desks and chairs out of the classrooms so that they can actually start to, or not they, but our custodial staff can start the cleaning process. So, we will be having those in. We will have personal protective equipment for them as far as masks and gloves. We'll have hand sanitizer for them as well. So, we want to make sure we keep people safe. We are going to try to look at any physical concerns that people may have. Our principals will be talking individually with some of the paraprofessionals age wise, had a recent surgery, family members and maybe try to isolate them to a little bit more. So, there may be some flexible days and times because in the high school we're preparing meals still. We'll still continue that process staying within that 25-employee minimum. They may have to fluctuate the days and the times that folks come in. So, we're working on that plan. I did send a call out to paraprofessionals inviting them back to work on the 11th. That is if nothing changes, obviously. If anything changes, we'll have to reboot from that point.

2) Continuity of Education Grant Received

I did want to let the Board know we did receive. We were lucky enough to get the Continuity of Education Grant which is \$14,850.00, and that will primarily be used for hot spots or jet packs that we can distribute to students. They have been ordered. They're not received yet. They were supposed to be here on Friday, and as of today, we still don't have those. That will pay for the Jet packs and also service for those Jet packs. We have to have the money spent by June 30. So, we may have to. I don't know. We're running out of time, but we at least have those dollars, and it's not going to cost the District anything to provide that service for our students.

3) Recognition of Retirees

Lastly, you know, we do have a lot of retirees and traditionally we do have a meal, and we provide a gift for them at the end of the year, and unfortunately, the way it looks now, we obviously won't be able to do that.

Typically, looked at one of our meetings in May, and our cafeteria staff prepare a really nice meal. The Board is invited, the retirees and their spouses are included. We usually get students from the elementary school, the choir, to come in and sing, and we have a little presentation and gift that we give them, and we're just going to have to punt on that one as far as what we're going to do. I don't know if possible later on even at the beginning of next year, we can invite people back if there's interest. I'll reach out to our retirees and ask them if they would come back possibly in the fall, and we can have them come in and still recognize them for retirement, but obviously, I can't do that here in May. So, that's kind of where we're at, and obviously, things do change. I'm not sure what the future is going to hold for Pennsylvania, and I know they're looking at opening up things. So, we'll just have to look at this on a case-by-case basis as far as things that we have to cancel, reschedule or modify. Any questions from the Board?

Mr. Boonie inquired, Rick, has there been any discussion or talk with PDE about possibly going back into this online teaching in the fall?

Mr. Musselman responded you know, it's been hinted around that that may be the case, and one of the things that Mr. Stroup's going to bring up is the, later on, and I don't know if he's going to bring it up in his presentation tonight and talk about it a little bit, but flexibility and plan, instructional plan. It used to be when it first came out with this that you'd only have a certain number of days. Now, it's kind of an indefinite number of days. So, it does sound like they're gearing up for school districts to be able to possibly use that format to educate kids in the future. So, in the fall, if we think about this, in the fall if we still have that you're not allowed to assemble people greater than 25 in a group, will that preclude schools from opening? So, there's that possibility. I just think it's too soon to say, "Yep, we're not going to have classes in the fall, or yep, we're going to have classes in the fall." I think we're just going to have to kind of sit back and wait. If you can recall, it was March 13 we closed our school because we were in fear that we had an employee in contact with somebody that may had been exposed, and it was that day, unexpected that day, they came out, and they closed the school districts. So, you know, we were planning on how we were going to move forward individually, and all of a sudden, entire school districts across Pennsylvania were closed. So, I just. I really can't answer that question with a positive yes or no, and I think they're setting us up that we will be able to do that.

Mr. Boonie stated okay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Stroup reported on the following items:

1) Mobile Learning Platform

The first thing I wanted to talk about was the Mobile Learning Platform. It continues to go fantastic in all levels K to 12. We're very proud of both our staff and students for the great things they're doing in the virtual classrooms during this time in education which is quite unprecedented.

Last week, we've added something to this program called Connection Credits where students can earn points for logging in to check on their assignments each day and making an authentic attempt to complete these activities that teachers prepared for them.

At the elementary through these Connection Credits, students are earning reward experiences for participating in the activities. While at the high school, they can earn points to put towards the third marking period grades that were interrupted and shortened by the COVID-19.

With these Connection Credits in place, our students' rate of logging in last week increased by 12.8% from the previous week. So, a big thank you goes out to all the teachers, principals and just everybody involved in this for coming up with a plan, and incentivizing our students' participation which is really important at this point given that we won't be back that they can learn and continue to grow with the instruction as nearly as they could of if they were in the brick and mortar setting.

2) Mobile Instruction in 2020-2021

So, you heard a lot tonight from Mike about these funds coming from the state; the Care in federal funds which are somewhere between \$650 and \$700,000.00. We hope to use some of these funds and some money the District has wisely set aside in the Capital Reserve account for curriculum purchases to help us even get in a better position for mobile instruction in the 2020-21 school year. It is going really good, but there are some challenges, and the challenges we face are getting this content online out to all students. We have a percentage that have trouble accessing the Internet. If they have Internet capabilities, it's poor service where they live. So, we're trying to come up with a way to overcome those challenges. Some of the things that we'll be bringing to the Board to consider along those lines would be going to a one-to-one initiative K-12 across the board. Believe it or not, we are really, really close now as we are set up in the District. We're probably 100 to 200 computers short. We were able to get all the students that needed technology in their home the opportunity to have a computer from the District even at this time. So, that move would be something we'd be proposing and using some of the stimulus funds for, and it will help us be able to meet FAPE which is required for the equity within all students to have the same access to a quality education. The second thing we'll do, we'll develop and submit a plan for Flexible Instruction Days to PDE. As Rick was talking about, these used to be capped. Last year was actually the first year for them, but they were capped at five. They have taken off the cap for the 2020-21 school year, and districts can use as many of these to promote online learning as needed. So, our plan is actually in draft stage, and we'll be submitting that a vote to the Board for approval and to PDE for approval in the future. Next, we're hoping to build up the network infrastructure so it continues to support high speed access for our students and teachers. In this form that we're in now, a mobile learning platform that is critical. So, we'll be looking to do some upgrades there in buildings that are slowly being outdated. Next, we would look at providing for different Internet needs. We just had a grant that we received where we added the 100 hot spots which helps in a big way, but we have to find a way to get connectivity for students that are in poor cell phone areas that don't benefit from the hot spot. We have to come up with a plan to get them this digital content one way or

another, and we're hashing out ideas as good vehicles for that, and also want to use those vehicles to provide services that are provided in GIEPs, IEPs and 504 Plans which were mandated to do through FAPE. Additionally, we want to expand some content offerings in the digital platforms for social studies which is the high school subject area that is going through the process of resource development, and at the elementary level, we're looking at English Language Arts (ELA) materials and resources to help better educate our students in this online environment. And finally, we need to provide training for teachers. They're doing a great job now, but we have some things we need to expand upon and grow skills such as the use of Microsoft Teams and softwares like ScreenCastomatic which makes things totally interactive with students. So, that's my report. I'll answer any questions about what we're doing currently or where we're hoping to go in some of these areas.

Mrs. Lauver stated I have a question. With the online classes, were they all, like all subjects, like including science?

Mr. Stroup responded yes.

Mrs. Lauver stated because there was one parent asked me about that because their son didn't have.

Mr. Stroup stated well, at the elementary, science would not be in the fourth marking period rotation.

Mrs. Lauver stated this is high school, high school science.

Mr. Stroup stated high school it would be. High school, if a student has a high school schedule, they'd be receiving content for each class that they have in their schedule. That is supposed to be pushed out by the teacher. In the circumstance where a student in no way can get Internet access either by the Verizon box or at home, then we would have a packet that we're distributing and mailing to them in order to complete.

Mrs. Lauver inquired is it possible that a student could be missed if they have that subject but hadn't heard from the, hadn't had anything on it because this person didn't get anything, the student?

Mr. Stroup responded well, the student would need to be checking in the Sapphire portal if they have Internet access to receive the information or the content that's being delivered, and if you touch base with me offline, I can go in and check that to see if the student has been accessing in any way.

Mrs. Lauver stated okay. They've gotten their other subjects. Just not that subject. That's why I was. I didn't know if all subjects were included. That's why I asked.

Mr. Stroup stated they should be definitely, and that's something we'll have to look into.

Mrs. Lauver stated okay, and then also one parent was concerned that how they're getting the fourth grade marking period. So, what marks? So, what do you tell them? That it's just pass/fail, or is?

Mr. Stroup responded the fourth marking period will not carry a grade, not elementary or middle or high school. There will be no grade for the marking period of the fourth. The Connection Credits at the middle school and the high school level go to support third marking period grades. So, when a student receives their report card, they'll get a first marking period grade, a second marking period grade and a third marking period grade, and those three grades are averaged together to give the final grade.

Mrs. Lauver inquired and that's how you'll figure GPA for like say a high school senior or junior?

Mr. Stroup responded a high school senior would be cut off at the end of the second marking period, but for everybody else, the juniors, sophomores and freshman, it would include all three marking periods.

Mrs. Lauver stated thank you.

3. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Ryan L. Wagner

Mr. Wagner stated a few statements, but they were inaudible.

Mr. Abate stated I'm sorry, sir. We just didn't understand a word you said.

Laughter occurred at this time.

Mr. Abate stated I'm sorry.

Mrs. Eriksson stated it sounded like you were in slow mode, Ryan.

Mr. Abate stated well, I tell you what. I watched a thing on the Discovery Channel about worm holes, and it's like.

Laughter occurred at this time.

Mr. Abate stated that's alright. That's why I was laughing.

Mrs. Eriksson stated it was classic.

Mr. Abate stated oh, my God. Okay.

4. **STUDENT ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

Mrs. Bree A. Solomon

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

5. **FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS**

Mr. John S. Rosselli

Mr. Rosselli stated I really don't have anything. We are continuing with our meal service. It's going really well. Trying to figure out how it's going to look through the end of the school year, if it's going to continue. Just trying to piece it together as we go. So, nothing really new to report.

Mr. Abate inquired account balances?

Mr. Rosselli responded it's a conversation. I've been trying to just talk to other food service directors about what they've been thinking and what other districts are doing. We received a donation recently. I just applied it to accounts this morning, actually. I have another on my calendar to call a couple other places that had expressed that they wanted to make a donation at the end of the school year. That was before all of this happened. So, I'm going to still reach out and see if they want to do that, but as far as the negative account balances and things like that, the conversations that we need to have or that I need to have with someone, the Business Manager, Mr. Musselman, regarding what direction we're going to take with that, I don't know that. I don't know what everybody's thinking on that. So, it's a conversation that we'll have to have.

Mr. Abate stated okay. Actually, I was thinking more on the lines of positive account balances.

Mr. Rosselli inquired oh, in what regard?

Mr. Abate responded well, for instance, we paid on our son's account. Three days later the school closed for the year. So, is that just going to carry over? Not just for me, but for everybody who has done that.

Mrs. Eriksson stated that's a valid point. I wondered that, too.

Mr. Abate stated see, Mrs. Eriksson over there's smiling.

Mr. Rosselli responded any positive balance carries over to the next school year. If it's a senior, if there's other students in the household, we can transfer the funds to that student, or if not, we can issue a refund if it's over a certain dollar amount.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mr. Rosselli stated if it's only like \$.30, then I don't think it's worth cutting a check for, but, you know, if it's \$100.00 or \$50.00 or whatever, we can do that.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

Mrs. Eriksson stated (*inaudible statement*) and that kind of stuff. I think it's. I just want to throw that out there to you and all the teachers and staff that are helping you. A big thank you for the community.

Mr. Rosselli stated thank you. I appreciate that. My staff actually received a stack of thank you letters from some kiddos today. It was nice to know that they're appreciating it, and.

Mrs. Eriksson stated aahhh.

Mr. Rosselli stated they're working very hard. My staff is doing a wonderful job, and the credit goes to them more than anybody. So, I'll pass that along. Thank you.

Mrs. Eriksson stated you bet you. Thank you.

6. **CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate reported on the following item:

1) Meeting on April 22

At the CSIU last Wednesday night, we obviously met with on Zoom. We did pass Mr. Kurelja's contract. He will be taking over when the current Executive Director, Dr. Singer, retires which could be any time, but up until next summer. So, we're excited about Mr. Kurelja filling in for Mr. Singer. He'll do a fabulous job. He was the superintendent of Warrior Run High School, Warrior Run School District. So, fabulous man, and I'll see if I can get him to come down and talk to us here when we're allowed to have people back in our buildings.

Mr. Abate stated, Mrs. Eriksson, SUN Tech, thank you for sending that out last week. That's very much appreciated.

Mrs. Eriksson stated absolutely.

7. **SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following items:

1) Superintendent of Record

The only thing that was different that I don't think I included in my report was that the Superintendent from Mifflinburg will be the Superintendent, not Superintendent in Charge. I can't think of the correct term, but he'll be the new Superintendent, Acting Superintendent for the next two years coming on. Everything else I sent.

2) Summer Camp

There will be no summer camp this year because of the pandemic. They decided not to do that.

3) Cut-Off Date Extended

The other thing of note for the teachers who probably didn't get my update was that June 1 now is the cut-off for the SUN Tech. So, if we have kids that are still interested in trying to get in, they still have a chance to reapply or apply. They've extended that deadline, and then we will find out more until the middle of June is when the letters, I guess, of acceptance will go out, if I'm saying it the right way.

4) Course Completion Concerns for Certifications

There were concerns. There were people that asked about how would the SUN Tech kids move forward. A lot of teachers are stepping up and anything they can, you know, as far as cosmetology, they're planning on trying to complete theirs in July. They had a couple of CNAs that still have to complete some service as well as some of the HVACs, but the staff and those

kind of things we'll help them get their certifications. That's pretty much all we had from my notes.

8. **PSBA LIAISON**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci reported on the following item:

1) Sectional Meetings

I just want to mention that every Thursday at 1:30, there's a Sectional Meeting, and I attended. I listened to the one this week. They covered things on the budget, the state budget. As Mr. Miller pointed out, it's up in the air. They're talking about a partial budget. I don't know what's that supposed to do in the end. The other thing that they threw out is the state is apt to lose \$4 billion dollars because of the pandemic, and I was. I just found that quite challenging there, and then the only thing they were talking about were some of the things that school districts are doing for graduation; drive-ins and using the universities' parking lots.

9. **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson reported on the following item:

1) Committee Meeting

We met. I met with Erin and Joe and Rick this week to go over some things to kind of get us caught up. We are working on some policies that came down through PSBA. We had six of them in February that came through that Erin had worked on. Four of them are done already. We have three new policies that will be coming through. The Drug and Alcohol policy from Orris is being sent to the DA, and there were two or three other policies that Joe was working on. So, we should have like nine or ten. I forget what the actual number was where we ended up there, Erin and Joe, but that we will working on coming down the pike.

2) Next Committee Meeting

Then we have an actual Policy Committee meeting coming up on Thursday that we'll have a Zoom meeting that Erin sent out invitations for everybody.

Attorney Knepp stated, Mr. Abate.

Mr. Abate stated yes.

Attorney Knepp stated I received an e-mail from the District Attorney indicating he had received the policy. He's reviewing it and will get back to us as soon as possible. If I have that before Thursday's Policy Committee meeting, I'll send an e-mail out to Mrs. Eriksson so she can update the Committee on that.

Mr. Abate stated that would be fabulous, Mr. Solicitor.

Mrs. Eriksson stated thanks, Orris.

Mr. Abate stated thank you.

Attorney Knepp stated you're welcome.

10. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** Mr. Terry L. Boonie

Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:

1) Next Committee Meeting

We have a meeting on Thursday, the Buildings and Grounds. So, we'll have a report ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Abate inquired the 7th, right? May 7?

Mr. Boonie responded correct, May 7th.

Mr. Abate stated okay.

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

Due to Mr. Sassaman's absence, there was no report, but Mr. Abate stated we just passed the preliminary budget.

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

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

13. **SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci had no report.

14. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** Mr. Terry L. Boonie

Mr. Boonie stated nothing to report since the last meeting.

Attorney Knepp stated, Mr. Abate.

Mr. Abate stated yes.

Attorney Knepp stated actually, PDE has issued its guidelines and regulations as far as subsidy reimbursement, and since you all have paid the full 180, you'll get the subsidy that as if the schools were never closed. So, that's good news for your District. You'll get all that money.

Mr. Abate stated very good.

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

Mrs. Bzdil stated hello. I would share that we continue to hold virtual and phone IEP and GIEP meetings. That's going well once we got started, and the paras are doing some online training while they're at home as well as I know they've been helping out here and there with food distribution and things that like, and I also had some of them create some how-to videos and some other

videos to share with students. So, I think that was a nice touch and a way to keep them connected to the students, and teachers are doing their thing every day working with the kiddos.

Mr. Abate stated excellent.

Mr. Edmiston had no report.

Mr. Brown had no report.

Miss Sheedy had no report.

Mrs. Lohr had no report.

Mr. Abate inquired did I miss anybody?

Mr. Haynes stated I'd like to speak about the Technology Committee for just a moment.

Mr. Abate stated yes, you may, and I'm. Yeah, okay. I'm going to have to. Yeah, go ahead.

16. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Justin T. Haynes

Mr. Haynes reported on the following item:

1) Committee Meeting on April 14

I just want to let everybody know most of this was already covered by Mr. Stroup's update earlier. I just want to make mention we did have a meeting back on the 14th, and part of that we did discuss the Continuity of Education Equity Grant which now we have the results of that. So, you've seen that. We also talked about our mobile platform which again we kind of talked about that already in Mr. Stroup's presentation. We're looking at some teacher machines, teacher/student machines. There have been some issues with those in the past where (*inaudible*) try to find hardware that will work and meet the needs of some of the challenges that we've seen. We also talked about the technology infrastructure, and we're working with a company to just kind evaluate where we're at and where we need to go, and where we could benefit from, you know, some additional upgrades for our infrastructure to make it more ready to accept our continued initiatives for an online learning even inside the building as we move forward because I do personally believe that this is going to really change how we do things in education. With that, that's really all we talked about. I have some notes that I will provide. Mr. Stroup was nice enough to take some notes for us. I will provide those out for everyone on the Board to see. I just wanted to give you guys (*inaudible*) and let you know that we had met recently.

Mr. Abate stated very good. Thank you, Mr. Haynes. Does anybody else on the Board have anything they wish to bring up this evening?

Mrs. Lauver stated I was wondering have you gotten? Done any surveys on the online so that you could find out like what some of the parents are concerned with? I mean I know you've had contact with teachers, but I was

thinking of a survey to help you with your mobile platform for like say in the fall or an ongoing or for approval from PDE from the state. Would there be a way to do a survey with parents to find out what would be helpful to them and perhaps help us look at it through their eyes instead of just through a teacher's eyes or whatever or a student's eyes even?

Mr. Stroup responded we have not done a survey such as that, but that is a great idea/suggestion. That's something we will work on putting together. We did survey all families early about Internet connectivity and issues like that. We got responses as far as parents who would need packets. So, we did some of those things to lay the groundwork, but you're exactly right. We need to keep communication and keep getting information in as this thing moves along. We'll develop and work something out with that.

Mrs. Lauver stated and another thing I thought of for hearing impaired children, for children who have. I know that's part of a challenge, and I think for online learning is how do you reach students who might have a disability or special needs, but I was thinking of closed caption. I don't know how. I'm not technically sound or know anything about that, but I was thinking about how we could make closed caption perhaps available for students who have hearing impaired or maybe their microphones aren't working on their computers or. You know, it just might help them to see it verbally as well as hear it. That's just a suggestion. It's something to perhaps explore.

Mr. Stroup stated correct. Thank you, and we're still trying to meet all the needs and objectives that are identified in the IEP. The support teachers are working very hard on that, and there are challenges to present. Like you said, different needs that we haven't had to address before using this capacity, but they're figuring out ways, and they're doing a really, really quality job. So, and that's the feedback I get from parents as well as teachers that a lot of people are happy with the efforts on both sides. Students giving back as well have been doing some phenomenal things.

Mrs. Lauver stated I did hear one parent say that with her son in vo-tech that not only were they in contact with the teacher, but I'm not sure who it was because I'm not familiar with how vo-tech works, but that another person like an aide or someone that would help him would call, physically call them on the phone. I think it was daily and make sure that if he had any questions or anything that he needed help with, and she said that was just a nice follow up, and with her other students in high school, and I think there's a middle school student in that family, that wasn't done, but that might be. That's why I'm thinking a survey to find out what would be helpful, and you know, that was just something else that possibly could utilize an aide because normally with a group of students that they would follow up on helping that child that they normally would help if you have to go to online classes. I'm just saying that might be a nice suggestion also.

Mr. Brown stated, Mrs. Lauver.

Mrs. Lauver stated yes.

Mr. Brown stated this is Mr. Brown. Just want to let you know that our teachers do have scheduled office hours that the students can check in with

their students on. So, they can get in there. They have access to that, and the teachers let them know when their hours are scheduled for. So, they do have some communication with them regarding those things that they're learning.

Mrs. Lauver stated okay. Thank you.

Mr. Musselman stated and if I could also interject as well. I just. Just be aware, too, at SUN Tech those folks do a great job, but they also have one class, one set of students, that they work with for the entire day where our high school teachers are working with a lot more students throughout the day. So, to make that contact with them, you know, obviously, would take a lot more time to do that. So, I do know teachers are reaching out many different methods to students, but actually calling them every single day probably is not going to be something that can be sustained.

Mrs. Lauver stated right. It wasn't a teacher that was making the calls. It was like a teacher's aide.

Mr. Musselman stated and I understand, right.

Mrs. Lauver stated that's what I meant.

Mr. Musselman stated right, and just the volume of students is a lot different at a high school than it is at SUN Tech.

Mrs. Lauver stated correct.

Mr. Abate inquired is there anything else that anybody wishes to bring up before the Board this evening?

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Haynes moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

No: None

Absent: Sassaman, Wagner

7-0-2-0

MOTION CARRIED

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
