

# MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

West Snyder Elementary School

Music Room

Monday, January 27, 2020

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

I. **OPENING CEREMONY**

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

Mr. Victor L. Abate

III. **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

<b><u>BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>	<b><u>LATE ARRIVAL</u></b>
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Mr. Victor L. Abate, President	X		
Mr. Donald D. Pinci, Vice President	X		
Mr. Shawn A. Sassaman, Treasurer		X	
Mr. Terry L. Boonie			7:01 p.m.
Mrs. Julie R. Eriksson			7:01 p.m.
Mr. Justin T. Haynes			7:01 p.m.
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**

Attorney Orris C. Knepp, III, Solicitor  
Mr. Dane S. Aucker, Principal, Midd-West Middle School  
Mr. Jeremy D. Brown, Assistant Principal, Midd-West High School  
Mr. Thor R. Edmiston, Principal, Midd-West High School  
Mrs. Julie L. Lohr, Principal, Middleburg Elementary School  
Miss Erin C. Sheedy, Principal, West Snyder Elementary School  
Mr. Brian Knepp  
Master Carter Knepp  
Mrs. Erica Knepp

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

Ms. Folk responded no, we do not.

IV. **STUDENT REPORT**

Master Andrew B. Oldt

Master Oldt reported on the following items:

1) Grade 12 Fundraiser

Currently, our seniors are selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

2) Grade 11 Fundraiser

Our Juniors in February will be selling Gertrude Hawk candy. Currently, they are planning for the 2020 Junior-Senior Prom that will be held in the high school gymnasium on the evening of Saturday, April 25. Promenade starts at 6:30 p.m., and then Prom starts at 7:30.

3) Grade 10 Fundraiser

Sophomores in late February will be selling chocolate and flowers from the Kids First (Spring Magic) catalog.

4) Boys Basketball Team

In sports, the boys basketball team is 6-10 and is ranked eighth in District play-offs. The team plays Wednesday at Lewisburg.

5) Girls Basketball Team

The girls team is currently 0-17. They play tonight against Hughesville and tomorrow against Lewisburg which are both at home.

Coach Erica Wagner was recognized Saturday at Lycoming for her induction into the MAC Hall of Fame for softball and basketball.

6) Wrestling Team

For our wrestling team, they are 12-5, and wrestle Danville next on February 4, and Aiden Steininger over the weekend reached his 100<sup>th</sup> win.

7) Bowling Team

The boys are 22-3, and the girls are 17-8. Their next match is against Central Columbia on Wednesday.

8) FFA Chapter

As far as FFA, they have a Floriculture Contest coming up on February 5. The National FFA Week will be held February 24 through 28, and they are also asking for donations to be sent to Puerto Rico for hurricane relief.

9) Student Council

The Student Council is currently preparing for its annual "Mid-West's Got Talent Show," and that will be held Thursday, March 19, in the afternoon. Underclassmen Spring Ball will be held on Friday, April 17, from 7 to 10, and they are preparing for a Washington, D.C., trip on Wednesday, May 20, along with the AP history class.

10) DECA Club

In DECA, they have a DECA dance on Friday, February 7, and DECA States is February 19 through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 11) Spring Musical

Our spring musical, the theatre department will hold their spring musical April 2 through 5. This year they will be performing “Bye, Bye Birdie.”

### 12) Susquehanna University Student Teachers

In the school we have three Susquehanna University student teachers with us this spring. They are Senor Gorman who is with Mr. Copenheaver in Spanish, Mr. Helock who is with Mrs. Stugart in English and Miss Price who is with Mrs. Oldt in biology.

### 13) Bucknell University Guest

This Friday, January 31, Mrs. Karen Knisely from Bucknell University, author of “A Student Handbook for Writing in Biology,” will be joining our biology classes to teach about the reproduction of the C-fern.

Mr. Pinci inquired reproduction of C-fern, did you say?

Master Oldt responded C-fern, yeah. Yeah, she’s from Bucknell. She comes over and teaches with Mrs. Oldt and Mrs. Shellenberger and I think Mr. Hammond, and she goes back and forth helping us do labs.

### **RECOGNITION OF CARTER KNEPP**

Mr. Abate stated this evening we have another student here that I’d like to recognize. Here at Midd-West we have an exceptional student body, and our students have showed excellence in our FFA program, DECA, SUN Tech, on the stage with drama, band, chorus and on the athletic field, but more importantly, in our classrooms. We are very proud of each and every one of our students for all they have accomplished through the years. The Board has recognized our students for their excellence over the years, and this year is no exception. I would like to take this time to introduce you to Master Carter Knepp. Carter has exemplified the true meaning of “Student Athlete.” His performance in athletics is only overshadowed by his outstanding achievements in the classroom. Some of his athletic accomplishments – For his junior year, he was named the United Soccer Coaches All-East Region, PHAC Player of the Year, All-State, The Daily Item Player of the Year. For his senior year, he had 33 goals, 18 assists and a total of 84 points. This 2019 season he was named again to the United Soccer Coaches All-East Region, PHAC First Team, PHAC Player of the Year, All-State, The Daily Item Scholar Athlete of the Week. He had 35 goals this past season, 29 assists and a total of 99 points. Carter also holds the Midd-West records for soccer for 92 career goals, 72 assists and a total of 256 points, but Carter’s crowning moment is when he was named or when he became the first Midd-West athlete in history to be named United Soccer Coaches National All-American Team. He was one of four players in Pennsylvania to receive this honor. Now we’ll go onto Carter’s academic achievements. Carter has completed AP chemistry and is currently taking AP biology. He has completed three college classes during this time: 1) Interculturalism and Global Expansion at Southern New Hampshire University; 2) Microeconomics at Bloomsburg University and 3) Statistics at Susquehanna University, and you’re currently enrolled for Macroeconomics. At the end of Carter’s first marking period, his GPA was 101.11. At the end of the second marking period, you had a little lapse there, didn’t you?

Master Carter stated yeah.

Mr. Abate stated you only had 100.85.

*Laughter occurred at this time.*

Mr. Abate stated and he is currently ranked first in his class. After graduation, Carter plans to study Biomedical Engineering. Carter, I believe I can speak for the Board when I tell you we're extremely proud of what you've accomplished here at Mid-West. We hope that your dedication and drive on the athletic field and in the classroom will be an inspiration to all of our students now and for years to come.

*A round of applause occurred at this time.*

Mr. Abate inquired is there anything else you'd like to share?

Master Carter responded no.

*Laughter occurred at this time.*

Mr. Abate inquired any questions for this outstanding young man?

Mr. Boonie stated just congratulations on all the hard work.

*Additional Board members made comments as well.*

Mr. Abate stated Carter's extremely shy and humble, so.

**V. 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.*

Mr. Abate stated our scheduled speaker is delayed so we will move on. Before we move with the business items, I do have something I'd like to request is when members of the Board are asked questions or in discussion, if we could please show them courtesy and allow them to complete their thoughts and questions and try not to talk over them or interrupt them, it would be greatly appreciated by all.

**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.*

Mr. Abate stated now we will move to Items for Action on Page 2, we will take A., Business and Fiscal, 2., List of Bills; 3., Bus Drivers; 4., Quote for Piper Classroom; 5. and 6. ending on Page 3. Is there a motion to accept?

**VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

A. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

1. **MINUTES**

- a. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the November 18, 2019, regular meeting of the Mid-West School District Board of School Directors.
- b. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the December 2, 2019, reorganization and regular meeting of the Mid-West School District Board of School Directors.
- c. Approval is recommended of the minutes of the January 13, 2020, regular meeting and work session of the Mid-West School District Board of School Directors.

2. **LIST OF BILLS**

Approval is recommended of the list of bills for the period November 19, 2019, through January 27, 2020.

3. **BUS DRIVERS**

Approval is recommended for the following individuals as bus drivers for the 2019-2020 school year:

Rohrer Bus Service

Benjamin E. Pilko effective January 16, 2020

Weikel Busing, LLC

Michael P. Clark effective January 20, 2020  
Glenda A. Sipe effective January 20, 2020  
Frederick J. Wagner effective January 20, 2020

4. **QUOTE FOR PIPER CLASSROOM BUNDLES**

Approval is recommended of the quote from Piper, Inc., for five (5) Classroom Bundles as a project-based learning solution for teaching computer science for Grades 5, 6 and 7 beginning for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$10,276.00. *{This will be part of a computer science program being implemented through the PA Smart Grant.} {This will be paid with Title IV funds.}*

5. **AGREEMENT FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN ASSESSMENT APPEAL LITIGATION COST AND SETTLEMENT – W.D.F. REAL ESTATE, LLC (WOOD-MODE, INC.)**

Approval is recommended of the Agreement for Intergovernmental Cooperation in Assessment Appeal Litigation Cost and Settlement for W.D.F. Real Estate, LLC, Snyder County, Middlecreek Township and Mid-West School District in proportion to their respective real estate millage as of January 1, 2020, which is 21.8125 mills for Snyder County; 1.86 mills, .325 seated light mills, .080 unseated light mills and .75

Hydrant mills for Middlecreek Township and 70.612 mills for Mid-West School District.

6. **INTERIM AGREEMENT AND ISBA SERVICES AGREEMENT  
ADDENDUM – PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS  
OFFICIALS (PASBO)**

Approval is recommended of the Interim Agreement and the ISBA Services Agreement Addendum between Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the Mid-West School District to provide interim management services to be effective on January 17, 2020.

Mr. Haynes moved and Mrs. Wagner seconded approval to accept.

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

B. **POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci stated under Policy and Programs, I'd like to take 1. through 3. 1. is Field Trips. There are two, four, six of them. Seven of them, excuse me. And Affiliation Agreement with Bloomsburg University and Memorandum of Understanding with Southern New Hampshire. That's 3.

1. **FIELD TRIPS**

Approval is recommended of the following field trips:

- a. Varsity Wrestling Team – Mid-West High School – February 21, 2020, through February 22, 2020 – Williamsport, PA – *TBD* Students/2 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: *Unknown at this time*
- b. Select Choral Student – Mid-West High School – February 26, 2020, through February 28, 2020 – Nanticoke, PA – 1 Student/1 Adult – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: \$815.29
- c. Varsity Wrestling Team – Mid-West High School – February 28, 2020, through February 29, 2020 – Williamsport, PA – *TBD* Students/2 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: *Unknown at this time*
- d. Varsity Bowling Team – Mid-West High School – February 28, 2020, through March 1, 2020 – Lancaster, PA – *TBD* Students/2 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: *Unknown at this time*
- e. Varsity Wrestling Team – Mid-West High School – March 4, 2020, through March 7, 2020 – Hershey, PA – *TBD* Students/2 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$0.00 – Cost to District: *Unknown at this time*

- f. Key Club – Mid-West High School – March 13, 2020, through March 15, 2020 – State College, PA – 5 Students/2 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$1,723.00 – Cost to District: \$258.76
- g. Student Council/AP History Class – Mid-West High School – May 20, 2020 – Washington, D.C. – 35 Students/3 Adults – Cost to Organization: \$2,000.00 – Cost to District: \$290.67

2. **AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY**

Approval is requested of an Affiliation Agreement with Bloomsburg University to participate in field placements and/or student teaching assignments within the schools in the District to be effective on February 1, 2020, through January 31, 2025.

3. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY**

Approval is requested of a Memorandum of Understanding between Southern New Hampshire University and Mid-West High School for a dual enrollment program providing high school students the opportunity to earn early college credit and high school credit while enrolled in the high school to be effective January 3, 2020, and continuing as long as Mid-West High School identifies course(s) equivalent to Southern New Hampshire University.

Mr. Abate inquired is there a motion to accept Items 1. through 3. on Page 3 and Page 4?

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Haynes seconded to approve.

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

C. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Donald D. Pinci

Mr. Pinci stated under Personnel, I'll take 1. through 5. first. 1. is Interim Business Manager, approval of Ronald G. Kabonick; and 2. is Employment – Certificated for extended-rate substitute, Tricia L. Sullivan; 2. Is Employment – Classified, Todd E. Wagner; and Appointments – Extra-Curricular, we have Jason A. Gemberling, Track & Field Coach; Peter J. Voss, Softball Coach; Scott A. Wright, Baseball Coach; Extra-Curricular – Volunteers, we have several for soccer, lacrosse and softball and then appointees to substitute list. We have two, Megan D. Boyd and Cheryl P. Wagner.

1. **INTERIM BUSINESS MANAGER**

Approval is recommended to appoint Ronald G. Kabonick as an Interim Business Manager, as needed, at the PASBO contracted rate of \$75.00 per hour to provide interim management services to be effective on January 20, 2020.

2. **EMPLOYMENT – CERTIFICATED**

Approval is requested to employ the following individual:

- a. Extended-rate Substitute – Tricia L. Sullivan – Elementary Teacher (Grade 5) – West Snyder Elementary School – Effective: February 20, 2020, through May 28, 2020, or the last day of the 2019-2020 school year pending receipt of Act 24 and 168 – Salary: \$90.00 per day for the first thirty (30) consecutive days and \$249.82 per day for the remainder of the assignment *{Replacement/Sheedy}*

3. **EMPLOYMENT – CLASSIFIED**

Approval is requested to employ the following individual:

- a. Classified Employee – Todd E. Wagner – Full-time Night-shift Custodian – Midd-West High School – Effective: January 28, 2020, pending receipt of Act 24 and 31 – Salary: \$12.05 per hour *{Replacement/Edmiston}*

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

a. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

Approval is requested to reappoint the following individuals for the 2019-2020 school year:

Jason A. Gemberling	Track & Field Coach – Head	MWHS	\$4,204.00
Peter J. Voss	Softball Coach – Head	MWHS	\$3,898.00
Scott A. Wright	Baseball Coach – Head	MWHS	\$3,898.00

b. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR – VOLUNTEERS**

Approval is recommended of the following individuals as volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year:

Andrew C. Goodling	Volunteer Junior High Girls Soccer Coach	MWMS
Chad S. Keister	Volunteer Junior High Girls Soccer Coach	MWMS
Katie M. Kreider*	Volunteer Assistant Lacrosse Coach	MWHS
Tabatha L. Spriggle	Volunteer Softball Coach	MWHS
Bradley A. Wilt**	Volunteer Softball Coach	MWHS

\*Pending receipt of Act 34, 151 and 31  
 \*\*Pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114, 24 and 31

5. **ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE LIST**

a. **CLASSIFIED/INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT**

Approval is recommended of the following individuals as instructional assistant substitutes at a rate of \$13.20 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year:

Megan D. Boyd\*





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

Mr. Abate stated we will move under Other for PSBA – Principles for Governance and Leadership.

D. **OTHER** Mr. Victor L. Abate

1. **PSBA – PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

Mrs. Lauver moved and Mrs. Eriksson seconded approval to adopt PSBA’s Principles for Governance and Leadership to assure the School Board, individual school directors, and chief school administrators adhere to the same principles across our Commonwealth.

Mr. Abate inquired, Mr. Pinci, is there anything else you wish to elaborate on, sir?

Mr. Pinci responded no, I just had these cards sent. You have them now. They describe the seven principles on which hopefully we can all agree on.

Discussion:

None

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

Mr. Pinci inquired can I say something now?

Mr. Abate responded absolutely.

Mr. Pinci stated we’ll be getting. We’ll be sending this in, and they will send us a chart of the seven principles that we all get to sign, and we’ll put it up for view and the public.

Mr. Abate stated very good. Do you have any questions for Mr. Pinci?

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.

*There were no public comments.*

XI. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mr. Abate stated we have no scheduled speakers because he's running late. He better.

Mr. Musselman stated he went to the wrong school. He was over at ME. So, he thought he'd be here in a few minutes, and a few minutes has come and gone.

Mr. Abate stated that's okay.

Mr. Musselman stated I sent him a text.

XII. **REPORTS**

1. **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Richard J. Musselman

Mr. Musselman reported on the following items:

1) Meeting with Representative Rowe

I did want to let the Board know that I have a meeting with Representative Rowe on Thursday. The Selinsgrove Superintendent and myself will be meeting with him. So, we're going to have a chat. We've not met with him before. So, it's a good time for us to sit down and share some of our concerns for public education. Obviously, some of the things we'll be discussing with him, or least we hope to discuss just a little bit about, cyber-charter schools and some of the drain that they have on schools. Also, Safe Schools Grants as far as they're competitive, and I'd like to just share some concerns with that because right now, currently, a larger percent goes to non-public schools than go to public schools which have a greater potential for risks. So, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense and how they do that doesn't make sense. So, we're going to hopefully have some discussions on that, and whatever else comes up. So, I've not met him before so I'm kind of excited to go and just meet with him and start opening that line of communications. When Fred Keller was here, he used to frequently have meetings, and he would bring the superintendents in the area and have sit-down meetings and go over stuff. So, we're hoping to get something like that started with him as well.

2) PSERS Exit Interview for 2020 Retirees

I will let you know that we. It looks like potentially we have a large group of retirees in the District. Could be up to around 12 retirees in the District from support staff to teachers that will be retiring. So, we have. I have contacted PSERS. They're actually going to come here and do an Exit Interview with those folks, and that's scheduled for May 12. Just wanted to let you know that because we do have a large, large, significantly large group of potential folks, so. It's certainly the largest since I've been here. So, just wanted the Board to be aware of that.

2. **DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Joseph W. Stroup

You have Mr. Stroup's report. He couldn't be here tonight. Actually, I guess he could have been here tonight, but his daughter is a senior and has a very important basketball game tonight, and he said he'd really like to be there, and

you know what? That's more important than sitting and listening to us. Not for you guys. It's more important to be here, but, no, it's important. It's important sometimes. Those family events are important to be at. So, he asked me if I would share. He did have a report.

Due to Mr. Stroup's absence, Mr. Musselman reported on the following items:

1) PA Smart Grant and Community Partnership Grant

He has the grant applications – PA Smart Grant. That was part of his report the last time he didn't get to, but we did receive a grant for \$35,000.00, and it will be used for computer science and STEM offerings for students.

There's a Community Partnership Grant which is part of that, and we're going to be working with Harrisburg University and Greenwood School District. They'll be offering classes through Harrisburg University at Greenwood. So, our students will have the ability to go there and actually have Network Technology, Cyber Security Operations Specialist and Digital Marketing Specialist classes for students to take. So, it's an opportunity. One of the things that, in the past, School Boards, our School Board has looked at as other opportunities for our kids and so, we're just continuing to expand that.

2) Resource and Material Acquisition Cycle

One thing we started when we got here was a cycle that we're reviewing the different curriculums in our school. So, he's actually reviewing with the high school social studies and elementary ELA. So, they're working. He's working with teachers to look at resources and materials that they can best deliver their curriculum. So, again, it's a five-year cycle that we cycle through, and he's working with our teacher representatives and the education committee to go through that process.

3) Kindergarten Camp Concept

Finally, Number 3, is Kindergarten Camp Concept. I know our elementary principals have been working on a concept to bring incoming kindergarten students into school over summer to acclimate them to the new building and to help us get some data on the students. I will say that I've had the opportunity while I was an elementary principal to do some things similar, but this is a really. I think it's a really good idea to try to build those bonds and relationships with those kindergarten students and their parents prior to them coming to school. Title I will be utilized to pay for this, but I'm sure once we get closer, Erin and Julie will go ahead and give a presentation on some of the details if the Board would like to hear to that, but it's a concept that we've been working on recently.

*Mr. Neidich arrived at 7:17 p.m.*

3. **BUSINESS AND FISCAL**

Mr. Abate inquired you (Mr. Musselman) didn't get a report from Ron or anything of that sort?

Mr. Musselman responded no. Ron, I'll tell you what, it's been nice to have him there. He came in, and the first day he had a meeting with all his staff. He pulled them together and calmed their fears. Come to him. He'll work on some stuff. He's been working on trying to get an understanding of the way some things were. He's been setting up operational procedures. He's been doing this for a long time, and one thing that's really nice is he's sat down and said here's some ways that we did things before so that you have a better accountability. You have double check systems set up in your Business Office so when auditors do come in, it's very quick and easy, but it's not just relying solely on that software system. You have a double-check system that you can make sure that your funds are accounted for. So, he's been working on some of those. Most recently, he's been going through and actually making sure everything is reconciled and our accounts are right. So, he's been that. He is waiting on some information from the auditor which we haven't received that yet. Today she said that we would have it by the end of this week. So, anxiously awaiting that because we have several reports that have to be submitted. We have agencies that need that report to continue to do what they need to do; one being PDE. PDE needs to have that report as well. So, but he's been doing a great job as far as that goes having him there. He would like to come and address the Board. He just at this point in time wasn't ready to do that, but he will have some information to come in, and I think he's really getting some things set up, too, for our new business manager to come on board. So, it's really. I wanted to thank you very much to allow me to bring him in and even bring him in early because it's been a positive influence, I think, for our staff down there.

Mr. Pinci stated I do have a question.

Mr. Musselman stated yes.

Mr. Pinci inquired is this? There's a spreadsheet here. Is that something we should be concerned about?

Mrs. Lauver responded it's just your codes.

Mr. Abate stated it's just your codes.

Mr. Musselman stated it was something that you guys had asked for, and it's all the codes, and it kind of spells them out as far as what they cover. It's really. I would hope that maybe by the next meeting all the Board members can have it memorized. I don't, but that's a challenge I'll put out there.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Abate reported on the following item:

- 1) Meeting

We met on last Wednesday. We will be reviewing the General Operating Budget. I think it's in February or first week in March. February, I think it is. So, we will be reviewing that and voting on the adoption of that.

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

Mrs. Eriksson had no report.

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

Mr. Pinci reported on the following items:

- 1) Mental Health Initiative

There's a mental health initiative being pushed by the State for staffing and services and school districts including certificates for school social workers.

- 2) State Budget

Also, the state budget. The Governor is coming out with that on February 4.

- 3) House Resolution Bill 1897

The House Resolution Bill 1897, all school districts to offer three full-time cyber education programs by 21-22. Existing cyber-charter schools would be required to cease operations. Yes, if it goes through.

Mr. Abate stated uh, interesting.

Mrs. Lauver inquired does that mean immediately they're going to cease operations?

Mr. Pinci responded well, if it passes, by 21-22.

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

Mr. Boonie reported on the following item:

- 1) Next Meeting

We'll be having a meeting next Thursday.

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

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

Mr. Abate stated I believe we're scheduled to have a meeting. Is it next work session with Mr. Miller?

Mr. Musselman responded yes.

Mr. Abate stated to go over the budget.

Mr. Musselman responded yes, yes.

Mr. Abate stated okay, next would be February the work session.

Mr. Musselman stated February 10.

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

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

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

Mr. Pinci had no report.

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

Mr. Boonie had no report.

Mr. Abate inquired did I miss you? Oh, yeah, Mrs. Eriksson, I'm sorry.

Mrs. Eriksson stated that's okay.

Mr. Abate inquired Policy?

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

Mrs. Eriksson stated I don't really have anything to report. We're working on getting back together, and hopefully. I was just looking at Joe's notes here. It's like, okay, wait a second. Yeah, we'll probably have readings on the 24<sup>th</sup> or in March.

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

Mr. Edmiston reported we have one student qualify for Regional Chorus, Miss Kelsey Bishop. She moves on to represent Midd-West.

Mr. Abate stated very good.

Mr. Pinci stated I have a question.

Mr. Abate stated yeah, absolutely.

Mr. Pinci inquired how's the aluminum horse?

Mr. Edmiston inquired the horse?

Mr. Pinci responded yes.

Mr. Edmiston stated it's great.

Mr. Pinci stated I saw a picture of it on the web page. He's all set up?

Mr. Edmiston stated well, he's almost set up. We're waiting on a base. Once the base is complete, then that will be it.

Mr. Abate stated it's got some pretty lights over top of it.

Mr. Pinci inquired oh, it does?

Mr. Abate responded yeah. Looks real good on the palette.

Mr. Edmiston stated nice LED, and it changes colors and rotates through all colors.

Mr. Abate stated you don't even notice the stains on the wooden palette.

Mr. Musselman stated if we could just get somebody to volunteer to make a base.

Mr. Abate inquired who in here has a wood shop?

Mr. Musselman inquired wood? It's a terrible base. Horses don't stand on wood.

Mr. Abate stated they are right now.

Mr. Brown had no report.

Mr. Aucker reported we just have National History Day coming up, and that's an exciting time for our kids. I was looking. I had a chance looking at some art projects today, and I think they have a pretty good chance of competing and placing in the competition coming up. So, Friday, if you have any free time, come on into the library. They're on display.

Miss Sheedy stated you should have your elementary report at your seats as well as a couple of cards and letters from our second graders for Board Appreciation Month. We wanted to say thank you, and just wanted to let the Board know Cooper Hostetler was supposed to be here tonight to do the Pledge, but he's sick, and he was looking forward to, and today's his birthday so he was going to come and spend his birthday with you.

Mrs. Lohr stated you have our Board report. Just to highlight, Gabe Romig was one of our fifth graders who placed fourth in the State for the Stock Market Challenge Games.

Mr. Abate inquired how much did he make?

Mrs. Lohr responded \$20.00. Well, that's what he was awarded. I don't know what his end winnings were. He did Tesla and Target. Those were his two.

VI. **SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

- 1) Mr. Doug Neidich, CEO, GreenWorks Development, LLC – Status of Solar Farm at Middleburg and West Snyder Campuses

Mr. Neidich stated just a really quick update. I haven't been in front of you since we approved the project a couple of months ago now, and so, once we approve a project like this one, the next thing we do is we bring our engineering group up to do an analysis of the site and really kind of do all the hard, the start of all of the harder work on the project to make sure that everything makes sense. What we originally talked about and what I presented to you a couple of months ago on what you



approved was this, and that was putting a solar array about 2½ acres or 6 acres of a solar array south of the buildings behind your main campus. That site looked good when you looked right down on it from Google Maps which is what we were working with at the time. When we brought our engineers up here a couple of months ago now to look at the site, there were a couple of issues. The first issue was that the field that we chose for the array was fairly distant from the school buildings. It was on a north-facing slope which is the biggest issue with the site. Obviously, when you're dealing with a solar array, you want to face the sun. So, when you're dealing with a north-facing slope, you can kind of do it, but it cuts your productivity of the array significantly, and it reflects in the numbers, in the financials. So, that was the biggest reason why this was an issue. There's a creek that runs just north of the site. You guys know where the creek is better than I do I'm sure. So, that creek is a cost factor as well, and there's a small electric meter on the site, but the electric meter was going to need a significant wiring upgrade back to the buildings which was going to be cost as well. So, we looked at all of that and looked at the rest of the opportunity that you have available to you. As Midd-West, you're in a great situation when you've got land around you. You know we're dealing with other school districts at this point that don't have the advantage of all of the land that you've got around you. Jeff Zwiebel and I at Pottsville have been driving each other crazy trying to figure out how in the middle of town we're going to get him close to 100% solar offset when he doesn't want to use practice fields. He doesn't have land available. Some of his roofs aren't in the shape that they need to be in order to put solar on it. In your case we had other options. What we eventually wound up working out with Rick and with your group is to take some of your acreage that's immediately south of your buildings on your main campus and working around all of the planned ballfields that you've got on the docket right now. You guys could host the Olympics, I think, in 2028 with the number of ballfields that you're putting up here. Working around all of the planned fitness or sports fields and such with an array that will do two things, it will sit kind of in between or on the side of a lot of your main ballfield activity that you're going to do, and then it will sit right on the other side of the creek. It will let you get as close to 100% offset as possible. So, this array is on a field that is significantly closer to the school buildings. These are relatively level fields. If anything, there's a gentle south-facing slope to them which is a really good thing, and it just makes sense all the way around. Now, we didn't have quite the acreage here to do 100 or actually 105% of your current electricity offset as what we had planned on the other site. If that site would have laid level and would have been as close to the buildings as this site, we were able to do 105% offset of your current electricity use. With this layout, we squeezed in as hard as we could working around everything else that you have planned and got to 96% offset versus the 105. So, at the end of the day, there's advantages here cost wise that are working to your advantage. The disadvantage is we didn't have quite the amount of land that we did when you moved a little bit further from the buildings, but that's just the way it worked. So, there's where we are. So, we're planning to start construction on this project in early May of this year, finish up September of 20. We're trying to not interrupt school activities as much as possible. So, we're trying to keep the entire construction project happening over the summer. Please ask me questions if you've got them. The current plan for or the initial plan for the smaller array here (West Snyder Elementary School) hasn't changed at all. That site worked. We brought the engineers in. They liked it a lot. So, the same schedule as the main array. It's going to start in early May. It's going to finish in September. This site (West Snyder Elementary School) worked out really well.

Mr. Abate stated I do have a question. Can you please go back to the previous slide? That, the shed you guys are talking about, is that up there in the upper right-hand corner?

Mr. Neidich responded yeah, there's a planned maintenance shed right there that we've worked the array around. You've designed specifically for that, and the way the project is slated right now, we're going to run, or you're going to run, I guess, three-phase out to that maintenance shed because you're going to need it for the activity of the shed, and that's the meter then that's going to be a three-phase meter that we're going to be able to use for the array to connect the array to your system. So, that all just made complete sense, and that was something I guess that you guys were planning to do anyway. So, that all tied together. That was all part of the reason for moving things down this way. It all lined up.

Mr. Abate stated thank you.

Mr. Neidich inquired other questions there?

Mr. Pinci inquired is the array at West Snyder, is that over 100%?

Mr. Neidich responded the array at West Snyder, I think, is 100, and we sized that for 100% offset of the West Snyder building, and so, overall, you're at 96% offset for your entire use. West Snyder, I think, is at 100%, and then everything else is slightly less than 96 which brings you to a 96% roll up. On the whole, when I look at, you know we do a lot of solar projects, and you always have to figure out what I call the solar puzzle, right? Once you got a project approved, and then you get the engineers in there, and you start to do the analysis, and you figure out what conditions roofs are in versus what you thought they were and where the land is available and whether there's a creek in the way and whether the slope faces north or south or whatever, those sorts of things are the solar puzzle. This was a really pretty straight forward project. We ran into an issue with the initial site, but when we came up and looked at different options, it came together pretty quickly. You know in Pottsville's case, going back to them, it's taken us six or seven months, and we're still not completely figured out on the project. I threw this one in just for grins. I don't think I talked to you about this last time I was up because I couldn't announce it yet because of some political things, but we just finished this up last summer. This is a project we finished in Sayrebrook, New Jersey. It's a floating array, and you can't do a floating array in Pennsylvania because the state incentives solar aren't strong enough yet, but we're working on that. In New Jersey, the incentives are a lot stronger than in Pennsylvania. I talked to you the last time I was here about the solar renewable energy certificate program. The state incentives are what's called SRECS, and those are the green certificates you get when you produce a megawatt hour of solar. You get a green certificate. Pennsylvania sells those green certificates for \$50.00 per certificate. In New Jersey, they're about \$220.00 per certificate. So, Pennsylvania's is the equivalent of about \$.05 per kilowatt hours' worth of electricity is the value of those certificates. In New Jersey, it's \$.22 a kilowatt hours' worth of value. Your electricity here is like \$.07 a kilowatt hour. In Jersey, those green certificates are worth three times the value of electricity here. It's nuts. They've managed their program really well because there's greater incentives in New Jersey. So, we're working in this case with a Water Authority in Sayreville, New Jersey. They have a 17-acre pond that they created years ago where they bring water in off the river, let it sit in this pond, and they let all the heavier stuff settle out of the water, and then they pull water off the top of the pond and treat it, and that's what they use for the community. They recognized

the opportunity that they could put a solar array on that 17-acre pond. So, we built an 11-acre floating solar array. We actually built the dock. We started putting the array, the first row of the array together on the edge of the dock, moved it out one panel width, put the next row up and moved it out, put the next row up and moved it out, put the next row up and moved it out, and then floated all those modules out into the middle and tied them together. We are working on an array right now, again, in New Jersey that's about twice that size. This one's the largest in the U.S. The one we're working on now will be the largest floating array in the world. Kind of cool. Has nothing to do with your project whatsoever, but I thought it was fun. So, I threw it in. Go to the next slide. It's just our contact info there, and if you can go to the Excel spreadsheet, I'll talk you through the revised numbers. So, this is the same form of spreadsheet that I showed you the last time that I was in, and the last time I was in, that 96% number would have showed 105% of your current electricity use. We're down a little bit to 96%. So, that's a little bit of a compromise over the numbers that I showed you earlier. That's the downside. The upside is, when I was here last, I think that number was 42 or \$45.00 per certificate. It's gone up actually to \$52.00. So, we showed \$50.00 per certificate here. It's gone up to \$52.00 versus \$42.00 to \$45.00 when I was here last, and we talked, I think, when I was here the last time about the fact that there is legislation in Pennsylvania that's looking to increase Pennsylvania's solar quota that it requires its generators to produce by 10x, from half a percent to five percent. At the same time the two years ago we knocked out all out-of-state solar generations so you can only get credit now for those green certificates if you generate those certificates in Pennsylvania. Prior to two years ago, you could generate them out of the state in certain states and sell them into Pennsylvania's market, and I don't know if you remember the details, but 70% of Pennsylvania's solar generation two years ago was coming in from North Carolina. So, Pennsylvania was basically putting money in briefcases and shipping it down to Duke Energy, and we worked hard on the legislation to get the borders closed out-of-state generation. So, 70% of Pennsylvania's certificates in the market dropped out; 70% of the supply dropped out. At the same time, Pennsylvania is talking about increasing its demand by 10x. So, we think that that number is going to continue to climb and could get to \$100.00 or \$120.00 per certificate. If that happens, right now you're SREC income at \$50.00 per certificate is showing \$183,000.00 a year. If that number goes to \$100.00 from \$50.00, that number doubles. You double \$183,000.00 annually, and that starts to get really interesting. I can't guarantee that because it's politics, and you can't guarantee anything about politics, but the mechanisms are in place, and in a supply and demand market to take 70% of the supply out within two years of increasing the demand by 10x, that's pretty cool. So, the numbers are still intact there. If you can scroll down to the bottom here. So, basically, what this is showing is \$85,000.00 worth of cash flow going up to maybe \$290 - \$300,000.00 worth of cash flow every year down to a bottom line savings of \$11,535,000.00 with all of the variables included the way that I included them here. I can't guarantee the SREC market, but it's going to stay at \$50.00, although I think it's going to climb. At least for the foreseeable future, it's going to climb significantly. There is more and more and more push for sustainability initiatives nationally and internationally. You see the news, right? Every news article you see is about weather issues and storms and floods and droughts and fires and God knows what else. There's a lot more political pressure around this stuff so I think the market dynamics for increasing that SREC value are going to stay in place, and if that number starts to go up closer to \$100.00 per certificate than \$50.00, that \$11,500,000.00 number changes considerably, right? You start adding up it \$180,000.00 a year or so. I can't guarantee that, but all the mechanisms are in place. That's why I've added solar to, more solar to one of our GreenWorks commercial buildings in Harrisburg. I'm living it. It just makes sense.

So, that's where the project is. We've gotten through a lot of the approvals now with the utility, and we are working on the engineering design and getting everything else ready so that we can get started in early May. I kept it under two hours.

Mr. Abate stated you sure did.

Mr. Musselman stated you also built into your schedule, replacement like inverters and different things like that. You had that built in there. I don't remember what years you had those built in.

Mr. Neidich stated yeah, so, Erin, if you can scroll up to Year 21 in the analysis. So, the inverters, if you remember, the inverters are the devices that turn DC electricity that the solar array produces into AC electricity that you can use. Those inverters are the only piece of the system that will go belly up within the 40-year life span in the overall system. So, what we did. So, we put a. We used to use just a 10-year warranty on the inverters. About a year ago, the industry started to offer an extended 20-year warranty for a price, and we figured out the cost of that extended 20-year warranty and looked at the numbers and figured out that that was a good thing. So, we've included that 20-year warranty in the numbers. So, what we did is put a full cost of inverter replacement at today's cost, and it's going to get cheaper because of technology evolution over the next 20 years, but we put the full cost of inverter replacement in Year 21 knowing that somewhere in Year 21 to 25 your inverters are going to go bad. So, we put a full cost of replacement at today's cost in your total estimate.

Mr. Musselman stated so, I want you guys to remember that. I won't be here.

*Laughter occurred at this time.*

Mr. Neidich inquired more questions?

Mr. Boonie stated the only question I would have is with technology and the rate it advances, by Year 25 how obsolete will our panels be compared to the newest technology out there in 25 years? Because when you think back 25 years ago what technology was like, you know, we didn't have cell phones, etc. So, my only question or wonder is 40 years is a long period of time.

Mr. Neidich responded well, it is. So, the answer to that is that the technology is, I hope, going to change, and I hope it's going to get better over a 40-year or a 20-year period, but the fact that this will work financially, and it's set up now with all the federal and state incentives. The federal incentives are one-time, up-front incentives. Cost of solar in current technology is about as low as it's going to get, and the state incentives are good, and I think getting better. So, if you got technology that works, there may be denser technology that maybe we'll use a little bit less land, or there may be technology that does, if it's film technology that you can put on buildings, but if this system works now financially and continues to work financially, you wouldn't want to upgrade it. The analogy here is a computer. You know? Why would I want to buy a computer right now if three years from now there's going to be newer, faster, better stuff? The answer is that this is different than a computer because a computer may do things in the next three years that you just can't do with the current system. I'm an engineer by training so I'm real sensitive to computer technology and how much CAD work you can do on computers. A computer three years from now may do things that you just can't do with the current system. In this case, if it makes sense financially now, and it

makes sense financially for the length of the system, it makes sense to do it. The only thing that's really going to change the game here is going to be revolutionary technology, and I don't know if we talked about it the last time I was up, but personally I've been working with a professor up at Penn State University Park on nanotechnology based solar for the last dozen years or so, and we're getting closer to that doing a thin film, really thin film, half the thickness of a piece of paper, power-enabled film. It's really fascinating work, but it's elusive. I mean it's taking some time and some money to try to develop that kind of a thing. If that kind of a thing comes out at some point, this will still make sense. There's nothing that would mean that you would want to replace this system because financially it's going to work. It's kind of sort of like any other generating system. If you've got it in place, and it's working, there may be somewhat better technology out there, but your system is working and doesn't make financial sense for you to swap it out. That's a long answer. Sorry about that.

Mr. Boonie stated no, that's okay.

Mr. Neidich inquired other questions?

Mr. Abate inquired, Doug, when do you think we could actually start realizing our savings? Right after it's up and running?

Mr. Neidich responded after it turns on, and I think we talked the last time I was up about the fact that the question will be whether you sell all of your SRECs on a month-by-month basis or whether you keep some of them in your pocket and wait for the value of those guys to appreciate, and that's going to be something we'll work with you on. You'll start saving electricity right away because you'll have the system that generates 96% of your use. You'll start generating renewable energy certificates right away, and then the conversation that we'll have is how many do you want to sell, or do you want to hold, right?

Mr. Pinci inquired so, you don't see it being turned on until September?

Mr. Neidich responded it will be turned on in September. Yeah, the way it works is we'll get the project.

*The tape stopped in midst of Mr. Neidich's response. Mrs. Eriksson and Mrs. Lauver were having dialogue with Mr. Neidich before the tape was running again.*

Mrs. Lauver inquired can you clarify again the warranty on the panels?

Mr. Neidich responded yeah, I sure will. So, the panel. The warranty is on just the panels themselves are a 30-year production warranty. So, after 30 years if you don't see 80%, at least 80%, of the rated generating capacity in each panel, those panels will be replaced free of cost to you which is great. The inverters will have a 20-year extended warranty on them, and then you'll have to replace them at some point. All of the other parts of the system, well, everything else is pretty mechanical. It's driving posts in the ground, putting the racking system up and put the panels on.

Mrs. Lauver inquired if damage would happen to occur on the panel, inadvertently?

Mr. Neidich stated yep, sure.

Mrs. Eriksson inquired who insures it?

Mr. Neidich responded well, so, you cover that under your property insurance. So, it's a really low cost to put a rider on your building property insurance so that if something happens to a panel, it will be covered by your insurance. We put up, as a developer, over a million panels over the last ten years. We've had to replace six, and those six were because a commercial lawnmower hit a rock, and threw it in a panel, and there's not a lot you can do to protect against that. So, six out of a million is pretty small odds.

Mrs. Lauver stated now, it used to be that if panels did not produce, and I remember you telling us the computer is very sensitive to what is producing and which panel isn't. I believe you told me that.

Mr. Neidich stated say it again.

Mrs. Lauver stated that a computer will can tell us which panel is not producing.

Mr. Neidich stated yes, well, exactly, so.

Mrs. Lauver stated up to the 80%. So, that's the one if there would be an issue with, you'd know which one it is.

Mr. Neidich stated yes, we would be able to see that. So, once we put the array up, we're going to put it on an aided monitoring system on the array. That's what we do with every system that we install. You'll get access to the data that come off of that monitoring system as well as we will, and that automated monitoring system looks at the output of your array every 15 minutes. So, if there's a problem in any portion of the array, we'll know it right away, and you'll know it, too. We're more sensitive to it than you are. So, we'll call you right away, and get someone up here. We haven't had to do that yet. So, typically, what will happen is you'll have an inverter that won't start up. Actually, I just added more solar to one of our buildings down in Harrisburg, and one of our inverters didn't work out of the box. It happens. So, we knew that right away, and we just got other inverter in and put it in place. Short of that, we haven't had anything else that's really gone bad.

Mrs. Lauver inquired panels prior to these years ago, I think that's maybe where some of us are at yet with our thinking, is they would tell us that after so many years you just panels are not efficient anymore which I know you have that 80%, but are the panels better made than they were?

Mr. Neidich responded panels are better made now, and the panels are solid state. So, there's no moving parts in a solar panel. I think we talked about that the last time I was up. Semi-conductor material is the same semi-conductor material that's in these things. It's the main operating piece of a solar panel, and this converts data and does the multiplication and division and all the things that you need to have done. In the solar panel, it converts photons and sunlight into electricity or direct current. So, there's no moving parts to a solar panel so there's really nothing that goes wrong, and the panels themselves have evolved in technology to the point where they are just as cheap as they could be, and it works. More questions? These are good questions.

Mr. Abate stated thank you very much.

Mr. Neidich stated absolutely.

Mr. Abate stated I would request as we get moving here, did you said May?

Mr. Neidich responded we'll start in early May.

Mr. Musselman stated well, they're actually doing stuff now.

Mr. Abate stated well, I meant as you're progressing, can you update us?

Mr. Neidich responded we will. If you'd like me to come up in May when we're kicking off the project, I can do that. If you need me to come in and do updates, let me know, and I'll be here.

Mr. Abate stated very good. I'm sure the Board would be interested. Thank you, Doug.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Victor L. Abate

Mrs. Eriksson moved and Mr. Haynes seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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

No: None

Absent: Nesbit, Sassaman

7-0-2-0

MOTION CARRIED

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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