

5:30 p.m.

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
201 EIGHTH STREET, HIGHLAND PARK
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044-1197

Mission Statement: *Educate each student to meet life's challenges.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

A budget meeting of the Board of Education of the Mifflin County School District was held Monday evening, May 20, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. at the Administration Building, 201 Eighth Street, Highland Park, Lewistown, Pennsylvania. The following members were present at roll call:

II. BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT W. HAMMOND

JOHN E. KNEPP

JULIE B. MAIDENS arrived 5:32 PM

KRISTEN L. SHARP arrived 5:31 PM

MARY LOU M. SIGLER

E. TERRY STYERS

MICHELLE M. TERRY

NOAH D. WISE

BETH M. LAUGHLIN-ABSENT

Also present were Mr. James A. Estep, Superintendent, Mr. Vance S. Varner, Director of Secondary Education; Mrs. Melinda Kenepf, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Amy Smith, Board Secretary; Mr. Orris Knepp III, Knepp & Snook; Mrs. Cindi Marsh, Director of Student Services, Mrs. Dianne Shearer, Ms. Amy Remy, Ms. Jaime Reigle, Ms. Krystal Fultz, Ms. Becca Zook, Ms. Amber Scaringi, Mr. Gavin Calgaro, Ms. Loni Shawver, Mrs. Kim Stewart, Ms. Lisa Hackenberg, Mrs. Cheryl Himes, Mrs. Amanda Hertzler, Ms. Tammy Henry, Mrs. Gail Wagner, Mrs. Lori Mowery, Mr. Martin McKelvey, Mrs. Nancy Kline, Mrs. Sara Lyter, Mrs. Melissa Basom, Mrs. Debra Stringfellow, Ms. Dawn Croisette, Ms. Ruth Kurtz, Mrs. Cheyenne Wagner, Ms. Chelsea Schwartz, Mr. Cody Lorson, Mr. Robin French, Mr. Matt Yerger, Ms. Melinda Parson, Ms. Sue Wagner, Mrs. Brandy Erb, Mrs. Monica Cox, Ms. Amanda Kristula, Mrs. Rose Schulz, Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert, Mrs. Jennifer L. Hartzler, Mr. Daniel Lichtenwalner, Ms. Nicole Hosler, Mrs. Maralee Seeley, Mr. Brandon Dolin, Ms. Kaylee Knouse, Mrs. Sandra Hertto, Ms. Jennifer Knode, Ms. Mandy Gallo, Ms. Kayleen Czankner, Mrs. Jennifer McElwain, Mr. Cody McElwain, Mrs. Monica Maxwell, Mrs. Lindsay Gehman, Ms. Kaby-Ann Speck, Ms. Barbara McNitt, Mrs. Gina Moore, Ms. Diana Miller, Mrs. Valerie Baker and Ms. Megan Herbst.

III. COMMUNICATIONS/ REPORTS

- A. School Board Secretary** – Nothing at this time.
- B. School Board Members** – Mr. Knepp congratulated Trent Hidlay on going to World Wrestling Championship.
- C. Superintendent** – Nothing at this time.
- D. Director of Secondary Education** – Nothing at this time.
- E. Director of Buildings and Grounds** – Not present.
- F. Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology** – Nothing at this time.
- G. Public Comment Period**
 - Mrs. Dianne Shearer, AMCE. She talked about our financial crisis. She gave a list of good things MCSD has done. We can't go backwards.
 - Mrs. Gail Wagner, Teacher. I am retiring at the end of this year. She discussed the importance of her Family Consumer Science position. We can't afford to lose this program.
 - Ms. Mandy Gallo, Teacher. She is a Culinary Arts teacher at MCHS. She said 25% of her students are special education students. This program teaches social important skills and life skills.
 - Ms. Diana Miller, Teacher. I plan to move my family here. I am worried about the next steps of the district.
 - Ms. Barb McNitt, Teacher. She spoke about her teaching experience and having another certified teacher in her room has really made a positive change.
 - Mrs. Gina Moore, Teacher/Parent. My child has made a lot of progress with his teacher and team teacher. Students will lose if we don't have those positions.
 - Ms. Tammy Henry, Paraprofessional. I have been a paraprofessional for 34 years. I work with all children including those that are not identified as special education. All students need help; we need all of these positions.

IV. 19-20 Budget Discussion

- Mr. Estep said that an emergency Administration Team meeting was held on Friday to come up with proposals from the feedback we received from the COW meeting on Thursday. He then passed out a handout that contained four proposals and he went over each one in detail. He talked about the drastic options we could take, i.e. eliminating transportation, sports, full day kindergarten etc. We are in a situation where we have to choose the best of the bad. You can lose some things and still have a program. If nothing changes in how the state and federal government funds our programs, then this is step one of a slow dismantling. As each year goes by, we will continue to be short. There will be a time where we will be back to where it was when I got here. We need to pressure legislature to get things revised. Discussion occurred regarding each option. Reinstating the pay to play fee was discussed. The original budget proposal and option 3 will be on the agenda.

V. OTHER BUSINESS – Nothing at this time.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Mrs. Dianne Shearer, AMCE. I am not happy about getting rid of the FCS position. If we reinstate the pay to play fee we could use the money to keep the FCS position.
- Mrs. Gail Wagner, FCS Teacher. By asking the remaining FCS teacher to water down the

program will make it difficult to get meaningful instruction in 45 days. I hope you can find a way to keep the position.

- Mrs. Jennifer Hartzler, Art Teacher. We do a lot of math and literacy in the specials.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert, Life Skills Teacher. Students have been making a lot of progress. Without the paraprofessionals, I cannot make that happen, the students need to go out into the regular education classrooms.

VII. ADJOURNMENT BY PRESIDENT - Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Amy L. Smith, Board Secretary