MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2026
Administration Building, 810 Bellevue Avenue
www.muhlsdk12.org

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Muhlenberg School District was called to order on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 10:43AM by Board President, Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle.

There was a brief executive session held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and legal matters.

Members Present

President – Mrs. Cindy L. Mengle
Vice President – Mrs. Kristyna Eagle (via phone)
Treasurer - Mr. Ronald J. Haas, Sr.
Secretary – Mr. Enrique Castro, Jr.
Assistant Secretary – Ms. Susan Roeckle
Member – Mr. Andrew L. Eaton, Sr. (via phone)
Member – Mr. Garrett Hyneman
Member – Mr. Robert Mengle
Solicitor – Mr. Brian J. Boland, Esq.
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Tara L. Flowers

Members Absent

Administration Present

Superintendent - Dr. Alan S. Futrick
Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Gangi E. Cucciuffo

Visitors

Janet Hess Brenda Leiby Daniel Fair

Hearing of Visitors - Muhlenberg School District taxpayers and residents have an opportunity, at this time, to comment on matters of concern, official action, or deliberation which are or may be before the Muhlenberg School Board. ***This period of time is for comments only; it is not a time to engage in a question and answer or debate with the board. Comments from the Board are at the option of the Board.*** The Board retains the option to accept all public comment at this

time. Presentations ***will*** be limited to two minutes per person. In the event that the Board determines that there is not sufficient time for residents or taxpayers of the School District to comment, the Board may defer the comment period to the next regular meeting.

Educational Presentations

There were none.

Board Business

Management

Management 3A

3A Appointment of Board Member

Nominations of Board Member: Mr. Miguel Vasquez and Mr. Joseph Young

A nomination was made by Mr. Haas and seconded by Mr. Eaton for Mr. Vasquez.

A nomination was made by Ms. Roeckle for Mr. Young.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Castro commented that with the nominations, he does not have enough information or personally know either individual for him to make an informed decision of appointing somebody to the board. He does know that the board is on a time crunch but he does not think today would be the day to do that and this is his opinion. Mr. Haas asked if they were allowed to take a second nomination after the first one. Attorney Boland advised this can but the vote will be one by one, motion to appoint first if passes, if not the go to second nomination and vote on the second nomination. Ms. Roeckle asked to have a discussion and she thanked her fellow board members who took the time to think about the reservations that she has about Mr. Vasquez being appointed. She explained that in case people don't know the district lost a member of the board on October 4th, but the District was not notified until October 14th which put the district under a little bit of a crunch for the thirty days appointment. She advised that night was after the regular board meeting and executive session and were all a bit stunned and someone threw a name out that the board could reappoint this former board member. Ms Roeckle advised the next day someone suggested to her that she watch the interview that Mr. Vasquez gave to the League of Women Voters, which is a non-partisan group who interview candidates for voters to have information, so she did and she had some concerns. She advised she shattered those concerns with the fellow board members. She advised first she shared it with administration that she had those concerns and she would recommend anyone watch this but she wanted to briefly state what her concerns are. She advised the first question he was

asked what two areas did he think he could make the most impact on (Ms. Roeckle advised everyone that Mr. Vasquez is running for state house representative for the 126). Ms. Roeckle advised Mr. Vasquez said school choice was his answer right away and then he proceeded to discuss how he dislikes public schools, they do a terrible job, he had a bad experience in public schools, he had a much better experience in private schools and how they do a much better job. She advised his next thing as about finances, money, taxes, lowering that which is pretty much everybody's saying that's running. She explained that to her that is not really to her a good for a public school board member to have. She advised eventually it came to a question about detention centers and the question was put to him in a form of how did he feel about land use detention centers. She reported that Mr. Vasquez responded that he wholeheartedly agreed with detention centers and that was the big red flag for her. She advised that he then went on to express/share that he had formerly worked as a guard at a detention center, the one in Leesport, the Family Detention Center, that was closed. Ms. Roeckle advised Mr. Vasquez said it was a nice place, that people are confused about detention centers are, that they help the juveniles and the families and it was a great place to transition. Ms. Roeckle advised that she works with a group called Shut Down Berks, which is based in Philadelphia for many years to close that center. She advised the most grievous offense publicly that is known that happened there was a 4–year-old guard was convicted of seven counts of sexual assault against a 19-year-old detainee. She commented that she can't really think that anybody agrees that that was a nice place. She advised the first witness against at that trial was a 7-year-old girl. She advised there were many other complaints lodged with the federal government about the way people were treated there, she has a letter that was written to Joy Johnson in 2016, who is the Homeland Security Secretary then, listing a number of offenses. Ms. Roeckle stated that she does not have a problem that he worked there, she has a problem that in this day and age that he says that he still supports them and still thinks they're nice places. Ms. Rockle advised as she shared with Dr. Futrick, anyone can make a statement like that in a lot of counties in Pennsylvania and they would probably get cheers, but this is Muhlenberg School District and this District and an extremely diverse district. She spoke about having a large vulnerable population here. She stated this board she thinks has been really wonderful in moving forward in making huge efforts to be transparent with the community and to be approachable with the community. She advised she does not feel having a former detention guard on the board would make the board very welcoming to the large Hispanic population. Mr. Castro advised he will respond to what Ms. Roeckle said as a Hispanic sitting on this board, him working at that detention center is not his concern. As he has said from the beginning that politics has no place in the district's schools. Ms. Roeckle responded that she totally agreed but she was not done speaking. Mr. Castro wanted to keep responding as Ms. Roeckle appeared to be finished. Ms. Roeckle interjected that she was not done. Mr. Haas commented that it seemed like she was finished. Mr. Castro responded to go ahead and finish. Ms. Roeckle commented she didn't mean to stop, when she brought this issue up to the administration and other board members, she was told nobody else was going to vote that way so don't do it. Ms. Roeckle also advised somebody also told the rest of the board would be angry with her and wouldn't want to work with her if she spoke this. Dr. Futrick commented that he did not tell her and Ms. Roeckle interrupted and stated that she did not say Dr. Futrick said this. Dr. Futrick advised he wanted to make sure everyone was aware nobody said don't bring it up. Ms. Roeckle said she was told that she would be making this political and she agrees this board should not be political they never have been. Ms. Roeckle explained to her detention centers are not a political issue, they are a

humane issue and she really does not think if someone says it's strictly political that she is against detention centers or people who are against detention centers is saying you are a Democrat. She explained that s saying that you think every Republican is in agreement with what happens at detention centers and she does not believe that. Ms. Roeckle reiterated she thinks it is a human issue and she believes that, she was at the Spanish Heritage Festival last week at C.E. Cole; the district's administration, the teachers, the school workers make a huge effort to make sure that all of the district's students feel welcome and safe not just physically safe, but emotionally safe. Ms. Roeckle advised she watched the video where all these kids proudly state where they are from. She is saying this is directly in opposition to what the philosophy of these detention centers is. She advised she walked through the halls and she stopped at the wall where the student of the month is and she looked at all those wonderful faces and read those names, and she looked at how the doors were all decorated with cultural objects from all of these schools. She feels appointing this person who thinks detention centers are great is against the whole philosophy of this community. Mr. Eaton asked if there was a distinction between ICE detention centers and actual detention centers. Ms. Roeckle responded this is a great question and she does not know if this is possible to do because they wouldn't have ICE detention centers if ICE was not implementing the policies that they are. Mr. Eaton wanted to say that he used to work at Abraxas Academy which had a detention center placement facility and ran one of the units in that facility so making that distinction would help because Ms. Roeckle's comment was that she does not think having somebody who worked at a detention center on the board is a good look for the school district. Mr. Eaton commented at the end of the day he is not trying to turn this political, just where somebody works, whether Mr. Vasquez's views on whether he even thinks detention centers are a good place, it would make a lot of sense whether or not he's talking about actual detention centers or immigration detention centers. He advised there is a need for detention centers, he does not agree with ICE facilities within this county, but again that's a political thing and that has nothing to do with the school district. Mr. Castro advised that he would like to make his comment now since he was stopped, the detention centers and the fact that he worked at a detention center, that is the least of his concerns and the board should not base whether appointing someone or not based off of that. He advised his concert are prior comments that Mr. Vasquez made around school choice and bad comments about public schools. He advised that if someone does not believe in public schools himself, he does not understand how someone can effectively sit on this board and help us make Muhlenberg better. Mr. Castro reiterated that would be his concern and would not make this all about detention centers. He advised he still stands by what he said in the beginning of the meeting, the board does not have enough information about either of these individuals to make informed decisions as school board members and that is what their job is; this decision is going to affect the school district for the next year. Mr. Castro advised he understands the district is in a time crunch and there is no real set way they are going to do this, but they are rushing into filling a seat of a board member that just recently passed away without really having any information. Mr. Castro spoke about some board members knowing one of the nominees because of serving on the board before, he gets that but also to say what people's personal beliefs are or whatever, most of the board members in the recent past have not had to sit in any kind of debate and share whether they had to believe in detention centers or not; some of the board members have that's fine but most have not. He explained to hold everything in that debate and that is making this political, his only

concern, like he said, is the thing about school choice and the negative feelings about public schools. He advised if anyone has seen the video and can confirm that those comments were made great, then use that in your decision-making. He advised he has not, so he will be abstaining from any vote today because he does not have enough information about either nominee to make an informed decision to help the district move forward. Mr. Hyneman advised he heard these names might be voted on the board about ten minutes ago, he would abstain also. He advised he doesn't know enough about the nominees. Mr. Haas advised Mr. Hyneman that he knows Mr. Vasquez. Mr. Hyneman responded that he doesn't know how the other guy compares to him. Mr. Hyneman advised he doesn't know with Mr. Vasquez his thoughts are on the board and it would be almost better if the board had some background before they voted. Mr. Eaton advised Mr. Vasquez served on the board, if he not mistaken, for four years and the board has enough background on him and he understands they are in a time crunch and need to make a decision but before but this is really not much different than when Mr. Otto Voit was appointed back to the board seat when a member left the board and the board appointed him because of his extensive background of sitting on the board; it's really not much different. Mr. Eaton advised the board has plenty of information onMr. Vasquez, the only person that the board does not know is the new person that was put forward today. He advised at the end of the day, he has never seen Mr. Vasquez's personal or political views come into play on the board when making decisions for the school district. Mr. Eaton commented that personally he thinks the board has more than enough on at least one of these nominees to make a decisions and if the board wants more information on the new candidate or the new person put forward he is not opposed to getting more information on, but he has a hard time believing that the board does not know enough about Mr. Vasquez to make an informed decision on whether or not he can step in and fill a position that is vacant on the board. Mr. Castro advised there are three board members that are new and would not have the same information as the rest. Mr. Eaton advised Mr. Vasquez sat on the board all of that was public information, all of his votes were public information and advised if someone wanted to do their due diligence they could re-review board notes and see how he voted on certain things. Mr. Castro reiterated that is all public information whether someone is new to the board or not. Mr. Castro agreed and commented that maybe he did not have the time to go back and review all of that and maybe he wasn't a part of every board meeting, but that is why he still stands by why he does not have all the information he needs on either to make an informed decision. Mr. Castro commented to be fair, the other person that was nominated, was not able to make it to this meeting they offered the board could call, but that would not be fair to the other nominee. He advised that he is not recommending this, he is just saying that the board needs more time to make an informed decision because now the board has two candidates in front of them. Ms. Roeckle advised she agrees with Mr. Castro, today is October 22nd and the board has until November 3rd. She realizes the easy thing to do would be to push through a vote today, but the board doesn't have to and the board is all grown ups so it's known that easy is not necessarily the right or the best way to do it. Ms. Roeckle would recommend that the board not take a vote today. Mr. Eaton asked if she was making a motion to obtain or to not have the vote today.

A motion was made to table this resolution by Mr. Castro and seconded by Ms. Roeckle.

Yeas: Mr. Castro, Mr. Hyneman, Ms. Roeckle. **Nays:** Mrs. Eagle, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Haas, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Mengle. The motion **failed**.

3A Appointment of Board Member

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Miguel Vasquez by Mr. Eaton and seconded by Mr. Haas.

Yeas: Mrs. Eagle, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Haas, Mr. Hyneman, Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Mengle. **Nays:** Ms. Roeckle. **Abstain:** Mr. Castro. The motion **passed**.

Resolved, that due to the untimely passing of Board Member, Samuel Wayne Hardy, the Board hereby appoints Mr. Miguel Vasquez to fill Mr. Hardy's unexpired term in accordance with the school code Section 3-315.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

5A Memoriam of Mr. S. Wayne Hardy

Resolved, that we remember the passing of Mr. S. Wayne Hardy who served in the Muhlenberg School District for seven (7) years (2017-2021, 2023-2026) as a Board Member. We honor his memory for his dedicated service to the school district and community.

Be it further resolved that we convey through this resolution our deepest sympathy to his family, and that this resolution be made part of the permanent record in the minutes of the Muhlenberg School District.

Moved by Mr. Mengle and Mr. Castro the Memoriam of Mr. S, Wayne Hardy.

Yeas: Mr. Mengle, Ms. Roeckle, Mr. Castro, Mrs. Eagle, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Haas, Mr. Hyneman, Mrs. Mengle. The motion **carried** unanimously.

<u>Questions/Comments/Concerns:</u>

Mrs. Mengle wanted to say that it was a pleasure serving with Mr. Hardy, he did a phenomenal job. She spoke about during COVID running board meetings Mr. Hardy stepped to the plate and he did a really good job.

Mrs. Eagle asked if the board was able to read this memoriam at the next board meeting when everyone is present. Everyone on the board agreed.

Mr. Mengle also asked if the district could add that Mr. Hardy was a 101st Airborne, Dr. Futrick agreed.

Hearing of Visitors

Presentation is limited to approximately two minutes per person. Should any citizen require more than the two minutes allocated, please contact the Superintendent prior to the meeting. He will coordinate such requests for the Board. Citizens addressing the Board should be aware that the meeting is being taped.

There were none.

7A Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Ms. Eagle and Mr. Haas that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Yeas: Mrs. Mengle, Mr. Mengle, Ms. Roeckle, Mr. Castro, Mrs. Eagle, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Haas, Mr. Hyneman. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Attest:

Enrique Castro, Jr.
Secretary