

**GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of School Directors Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2010, 7:00pm – Education Center**

Call to Order	James Ulrich
Pledge of Allegiance	Jill Koestel
Roll Call	Sharon Patton

The following items were approved:

Approve **Minutes** of the Meeting held May 17, 2010, as presented

Approve **Treasurer’s Report** of May 31, 2010, as presented

Approve **Bills Paid** (check #71719 to #72396; \$1,606,479.99 total)

Citizen Requests – *Please complete & submit yellow card if you wish to address the Board*

***Please see Appendix A for summaries of all
Citizen Requests.***

The Board acknowledges receipt of the following **Communications**:

- *Individual letters regarding Music Program concerns: Mr. Erik Bailey, Dr. Thomas Souders, Ms. Kristy Jacoby, Mrs. Ruth Shaffer, Mrs. Holly Altenderfer, Mr. Andrew Cusano; Jane Marie and Michael Clipman
- *Form letter from community members: 124 total

Reports

BCTC	- Michele O’Brien
Berks EIT	- John Summers
BCIU	- Brent Worley
Legislative	- Kim Siegel
Student Report	- Jordan Richardson

The following item was adopted:

A. FINANCE

- *1. Adopt: Final Budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, in the amount of \$61,041,449, calling for a tax structure as follows:
- (a) Set millage at 23.2 (.6 mill increase – previously 22.6)
 - (b) Per Capita Tax \$5/person
 - (c) Resident Tax \$5/person
 - (d) Earned Income Tax – 1% (school district collects ½%; the other ½% is collected by various municipalities)
 - (e) Realty Transfer Tax – 1% (school district collects ½%; the other ½% is collected by various municipalities)
 - (f) Occupational Privilege Tax - \$10 per person for individuals whose place of employment is in the Governor Mifflin School District
 - (g) Occupational Assessment Tax - \$10 on any employed Governor Mifflin School District resident

All of the following items were approved:

- *2. Approve: Property Tax Rebate Program for tax year 2009, with two changes: (1) payments will be made once per year instead of two times per year, and (2) program will be based on a set dollar amount limit of \$180,000, as presented
3. Approve: Accrual of salaries and benefits for the 2009-2010 school year, in the amount of \$2,933,984.78
4. Approve: Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau of Wyomissing, PA to collect the Occupational Privilege Tax and the Occupational Assessment Tax at a rate of 2.5% and 2.5% each, plus the cost of supplies and postage for the latter (2010-2011)
5. Approve: Hilb, Rogal & Hamilton to serve as broker in providing the following insurance coverages for 2010-2011:
- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| General Liability/Auto | PSBA/ACE | \$102,617 |
| Boiler | Hartford | \$ 14,234 |
| Board Liability | Nat'l Union | \$ 17,935 |
| Umbrella Liability | Crum & Forster | \$ 14,280 |
6. Approve: Student and football insurance (2010-2011) with Christian-Baker Company, Camp Hill, PA as broker; student accident – school time, \$27; 24-hour coverage, \$98; athletic premium \$5,320.08

- *7. Approve: Lunch Prices for the 2010-2011 school year, as follows:
 - Elementary, \$2.00 (25-cent increase)
 - Secondary, \$2.25 (30-cent increase)
 - Elementary Breakfast, \$1.25 (no change)
 - Secondary Breakfast, \$1.50 (no change)
 - Adult, \$3.75 w/beverage (25-cent increase)
 - Head Start Adult, \$3.75 (25-cent increase)
 - Head Start Student, \$2.90 (30-cent increase)

- *8. Approve: Agreement for participation in Child Nutrition Programs between School Districts, area Career Centers and Intermediate Units, for the 2010-2011 school year, as presented

- 9. Approve: \$1,200,000 as a designated fund balance towards future funding of the PSERS retirement system

B. PERSONNEL

- 1. Approve: Request of Maureen Fieo, School Psychologist, to complete her Cabrini College Principal Internship requirement during the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, at Brecknock Elementary under the supervision of Dr. Maryellen Kueny

- *2. Approve: Agreement with Alvernia University for the 2010-2011 Student Teaching Program, as presented

- *3. Approve: Summer, 2010 Custodial & Maintenance Workers, as presented

Retirements

- Cataldi, Barbara - Secretary, Senior High Guidance Office; effective July 22, 2010; 19 years of service

- Lizewski, Carol - Secretary, Senior High; effective July 23, 2010; 30 years of service

- Weidner, Carolyn - Cafeteria Manager, Middle School; effective for the end of the 2009-2010 school year; 33 years of service

Resignations

- Johns, M. Susan - Instructional Aide, Senior High; effective May 28, 2010
- Scardina, James - Custodian, Middle School; effective May 19, 2010

Terminations – (none)

Employment

- Ulrich, Sharon - Daily Substitute Teacher (Science); effective May 27, 2010; clearances approved

- White, Mallory - Summer, 2010 Clerical Assistant, Education Center; effective June 15, 2010; 4 hours/day – 16 hours/week

Title I PAC Meetings by Reading Specialists

\$34/hour; one meeting per month; paid from Title I funding
Mary-Rose Kerr; Kirstin Shockey

Aquatics Employees (additional)

Dunkelberger, Erica - Student Lifeguard/Aide; \$7.25/hour

Writing Curriculum K-12 Training Preparation

August, 2010; Teachers paid 3 hours at a rate of \$34/hour:

Lisa Anderson	Cory Heller	Joann Pacifico
Rebecca Boyer	Nicole Howe	Kristin Swanson
Mandi Dervarics	Tim Kenney	Deb Sullivan
Amy Diggan	Erin Lichty	Stephanie Tackack
Jennifer Gall	Janemarie McKay	Mike Texler
Holly Garner	Amy Motter	Dominique Ulrich
		Irene Ziemer

Employment – Co-Curricular

- Boyer, Rebecca - Middle School Band – Color Guard Instructor; 2009-2010; remuneration \$957.60

Change of Status

- Coleman, Maureen - Elementary Itinerant to Learning Support, Middle School; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (replaces Leah Soloff – resignation; Elementary Itinerant position has been eliminated from budget)

- Height, Lori - .5 Music position, GMIS to Full-time Music position; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (replaces Jan Dixon – retirement; .5 position has been eliminated from budget)

- Hong, Yung - Food Service (4 hours), Senior High to Food Service (4.5 hours), Cumru; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (new position)
- Kistler, Kevin - Long-Term Substitute, Chemistry, Senior High to TPE Contract status, Chemistry, Senior High; effective for the Start of the 2010-2011 school year; BS Step 2 (replaces Melissa Belinski – resignation)
- Johns, M. Susan - Instructional Aide, Senior High to Substitute Instructional Aide/Library Aide, effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year
- Pignataro, Ann - Food Service, Mifflin Park to Food Service, GMIS; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (replaces Jolyn Nessuno – status change)
- Reyes, Nelsi - Food Service, Senior High – 3.25 hours to 4 hours/day; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (replaces June Bixler - retirement)
- Warner, Donna - Food Service (Cook), Middle School to Cafeteria Manager, Middle School; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year; Act 93 Supportive position, \$26,093 (replaces Carolyn Weidner - retirement)
- Williams, Tina - Food Service, Mifflin Park – 3.5 hours to 3 hours/day; effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year (replaces Ann Pignataro – status change)

Leave of Absence

- Culp, Kathy - Medical Leave of Absence, effective June 7, 2010 through the end of the 2009-2010 school year (Cumru, Lunch Aide)
- Miller-Dieter, Mae - Medical Leave of Absence, effective April 26 – May 14, 2010 (Mifflin Park, Lunch Aide)
- Morrissey, Nicole - Medical Leave of Absence, effective May 21, 2010 through the end of the 2009-2010 school year (GMIS, Instructional Aide)
- Rudolph, Kim - Family Medical Leave followed by Child-Rearing Leave, effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year and returning on November 30, 2010 (Brecknock, Grade 3)

- Schreiber, Stephanie - Use of sick days, followed by Family Medical Leave and Child-Rearing Leave, effective approximately September 18, 2010 and continuing through the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year (SH, Social Studies)
- Vogel, Paul - Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective August 24 - October 1, 2010 (SH, Custodian)
- Williams, Tina - Extension of Medical Leave of Absence through the end of the 2009-2010 school year (Mifflin Park, Food Service)

Volunteers – (none)

In-Service Tuition Reimbursement Requests

- Carrier, Lois - Cabrini College, Course #501: Educational Research; July 6-9, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,332; reimbursement \$1,332 (MS, LS)
- Dickinson, Leeanne - Cabrini College, Course #521: Education and Social Policy; May 4 – June 22, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,332; reimbursement \$1,332 (Mifflin Park, Grade 1)
- Fieo, Maureen - Cabrini College, Course #EDG650: Principal Internship I; June 21 – August 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,296; reimbursement \$1,296 (School Psychologist)
- Fieo, Maureen - Cabrini College, Course #EDG643: Management & Decision Making; July 7-9, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,296; reimbursement \$1,296 (School Psychologist)
- Fieo, Maureen - Cabrini College, Course #EDG640: Principal Internship II; August 31 – October 19, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,296; reimbursement \$1,296 (School Psychologist)
- Fieo, Maureen - Cabrini College, Course #EDG645: Supervision & Performance Evaluation; October 26 – December 14, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,296; reimbursement \$1,296 (School Psychologist)
- Gantz, John - Wilkes University, Course #ED519: Issues, Laws & Trends in Education; May 17 – July 19, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,110; reimbursement \$1,110 (MS, Science)

- Gantz, John - Wilkes University, Course #ED512: Social Foundations of Education; May 17 – June 23, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,110; reimbursement \$1,110 (MS, Science)
- Koch, Cathy - Wilkes University, Course #ED519: Issues, Laws & Trends in Education; July 6-22, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,110; reimbursement \$1,110 (SH, LS)
- Kuska, Heidi - BCIU – Today’s Food & Fiber Industry; June 21-25, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$455; reimbursement \$455 (SH, Nurse)
- Panagacos, Nancy - Indiana Wesleyan, Course #EDU554: Standards-Based Differentiated Learning; June 3 – August 4, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,398; reimbursement \$1,398 (MS, Science)
- Simmons, Michele - West Chester University, Course #EDR509: Writing Development and Instruction; June 28 – July 29, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$1,110; reimbursement \$1,110 (MP, Kdgn)

In-Service Tuition Reimbursement Requests – Masters Plus

- Bratton, Daniel - Colorado State, Course #721: Integrating the Brain and the Arts into your Classroom; July 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (MS, Social Studies)
- Bratton, Daniel - Colorado State, Course #728: Succeeding with Performance-Based Learning; July 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (MS, Social Studies)
- Bratton, Daniel - Colorado State, Course #859: Parent Trap – Achieving Success with Difficult Parents; July 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (MS, Social Studies)
- Bratton, Daniel - Colorado State, Course #921: Teach Well, Learn Well: RtI; July 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (MS, Social Studies)
- Cimino, Megan - BCIU, Using Web 2.0 Tools to Teach 21st Century Skills; July 6 – August 2, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$472; reimbursement \$472 (Secondary Psychologist)
- Cimino, Megan - BCIU, Foundations of Hispanic Culture & the Spanish Language; August 3-12, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$472; reimbursement \$472 (Secondary Psychologist)

- Connelly, Laurie - Augustana College, Course #910: Excelling in the Early Childhood Classroom; June 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (Mifflin Park, Kindergarten)
- Connelly, Laurie - Augustana College, Course #738: Gender Matters; June 15 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (Mifflin Park, Kindergarten)
- Kellenberger, Greg - Colorado State, Course #704: Instructional Strategies that Work; May 25 – June 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; reimbursement \$360 (MS, Geography)
- Kellenberger, Greg - Colorado State, Course #990: 180 Degrees: Re-thinking Classroom Management; May 15 – June 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; reimbursement \$360 (MS, Geography)
- Lloyd, Jennifer - Indiana Wesleyan, Course #EDU510: Assertive Discipline & Beyond; July 31 – September 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$495; reimbursement \$495 (Brecknock, Phys Ed)
- Lloyd, Jennifer - Indiana Wesleyan, Course #EDU527: Teaching Students to Get Along; July 31 – September 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$495; reimbursement \$495 (Brecknock, Phys Ed)
- Lloyd, Jennifer - Indiana Wesleyan, Course #EDU514: Succeeding with Difficult Students; July 31 – September 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$495; reimbursement \$495 (Brecknock, Phys Ed)
- Lloyd, Jennifer - Indiana Wesleyan, Course #538: Classroom Management to Promote Student Learning; July 3 – September 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$495; reimbursement \$495 (Brecknock, Phys Ed)
- Makatche, Karen - Colorado State University, Course #738: Gender Matters; July 5 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$345; reimbursement \$345 (SH, French)
- Makatche, Karen - Colorado State University, Course #644: Knowing What You Know – Summarizing Savvy; July 5 – August 15, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$345; reimbursement \$345 (SH, French)
- Rapp, Karen - Colorado State University, Course #783: Tapping the Talent; September 30 – November 30, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$360; no reimbursement (MS, Math)

Stump, Karen - BCIU – Today’s Food & Fiber Industry; June 21-25, 2010; 3 credits; tuition \$455; reimbursement \$455 (SH, LS)

In-Service Tuition Reimbursement Requests - Administrators

Dietrich, Timothy - Immaculata University, Course #EDL000: Dissertation Continuation Course; May 17 – August 15, 2010; 1 credit; tuition \$780 (SH, Associate Principal)

C. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/PUPIL SERVICES

- *1. Approve: Renewal Agreement with Caron Foundation to provide Student Assistance Program (SAP) services for the 2010-2011 school year, as presented
- *2. Approve: Curriculum Development report for 2009-2010, as presented
- *3. Approve: Placement of Grade 12 Student #56018 (date of birth 7/01/92) into the Governor Mifflin Alternative Education Program, as presented
- *4. Approve: Brecknock First Grade Reading Intervention Pilot for 2010-2011, as presented
- *5. Approve: Agreement with New Story School, Wyomissing, PA, to provide Extended School Year services to four students, as presented

D. ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR

- *1. Approve: Recreation Budget for 2010-2011 in the amount of \$15,060, as presented

- 2. Approve: Ticket prices, employee admission provisions for 2010-2011 (no changes from 2009-2010):
 - a. Reserved seat, football season (5 home games) \$26.25
 - b. Reserved seat, football season, parent/employee \$16.00
 - c. General Admission, reserved \$ 5.25
 - Adult/College student \$ 5.00
 - Student, school age \$ 3.00
 - d. Student Activity Ticket \$25.00
 - e. Adult Activity Ticket \$65.00
 - (After Fall season) \$50.00
 - f. Parent Season Tickets
 - Basketball (60% of the value of all home games)
 - Wrestling Field Hockey Swimming
 - Soccer Water Polo Volleyball
 - g. Employee Courtesy Card

- (also available to retired Governor Mifflin Employees)
- h. Resident Senior Citizen Courtesy Card – (age 60 & retired)
 - i. Student Admission Card – issued upon graduation to all 12th grade students who participated as seniors in Governor Mifflin athletic programs. This card guarantees student admission price at home contests for four years beyond high school graduation

E. PROPERTY

- 1. Approve: Rental of two classrooms to the BCIU for the Pre-School Early Intervention Program (2010-2011); charge is \$5,500

F. POLICIES – (none)

G. TECHNOLOGY – (none)

H. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS USE REQUESTS

Berks County Association of Educational Office Professionals	Cumru Cafeteria & Catering Thurs, 12/9/10 (Snow date: Fri, 12/10/10) 4:30pm – 9:30pm Dinner meeting No Charge for Rental or Custodial Catering Charges will be billed by Food Services Dept.
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<i>Christ Community Church</i>	<i>Middle School Cafeteria and Classrooms (5) Sundays, July, 2010 – June 2011 7:30am – 1:00pm Church service Rental: \$10/hr for Cafeteria; \$10/hr for classrooms Air Conditioning: \$100/day; Custodial Charge: \$40/hr</i>
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Cumru Township Police Department	Track Field and High School Gymnasium Sat, 7/10/10 7:30am – 12:00noon Police Testing of Applicants Custodial Charges: \$30/hr
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<i>Governor Mifflin Field Hockey</i>	<i>Multi-purpose Field Mon – Fri, 7/5/10 – 7/9/10 8:00am – 12:30pm Mifflin Youth Field Hockey Camp Charges: \$10/hr</i>
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Governor Mifflin Fire Service Task Force *High School Parking Lot*
Sat, 10/2/10
9:00am – 4:00pm
Fire Prevention/Open House
No Charge

Governor Mifflin Soccer Club High School LGI Room
Mon., 8/23/10
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Coaches/General Meeting
No Charge

Governor Mifflin Soccer Club High School Room 103
Wed, 9/1/10
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Club Board Meeting
No Charge

Governor Mifflin Soccer Club High School Room 103
Wed, 10/6/10
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Club Board Meeting
No Charge

Governor Mifflin Soccer Club High School Room 103
Wed, 11/3/10
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Club Board Meeting
No Charge

An Executive Session was held prior to the Voting Meeting.

ADJOURN: 9:00 p.m.

Governor Mifflin School District

Board Meeting

June 14, 2010

Appendix A - Public Comments

1. Suzanne Leach Magrowski
510 Marshall Drive
Shillington PA 19607

- Comparison of music to an outside of school activity (clubs, athletics) is like comparing apples to oranges.
- Participation in clubs/sports enriches the academic experience but does not increase academic performance.
- Clubs/sports are not academic or curricular; music is both.

2. Linda Rusch
685 Mountain View Road

- Realtor's perspective
- Taught at Fred's music for 5 years; Mifflin students were always the best
- Real estate clients often ask what is the best school district. One of Mifflin's best selling points is its music program. If Mifflin's program is diminished, she will recommend Exeter or Wilson, not Mifflin.
- Residents love the community and are proud of its history and music.
- Praise for music department and music program
- GM's music program will decline if the board does not reconsider this change.
- Looked at tax increase (millage chart)—3 districts are lower than Mifflin; the music change is not a budget issue.

3. Christine Brown
44 Andrew Drive
Mohnton PA 19540

- The board is comprised of passionate people who care, but communication with the public is ineffective. Board meetings are difficult places in which to sit down and have good, effective interchange.
- Is the board willing to look at other budget proposals?
- The district currently pulls students out of classes for sports; please show same commitment to music.

4. Ann Cusano
204 Mifflin Blvd
Shillington PA

- Is saddened to be defending the academic elective value of music.
- There is a difference between private lessons and group lessons. Private lessons offer a 1:1 teaching experience outside of school, the goal of which is to develop individual musicianship and train pupils to be soloists. School lessons focus on the development of group skills for group performance.
- In past experience, music instructors worked with classroom teachers to schedule the best times for pull-out music instruction. Guidelines recommend that group lessons should include 2-4 students; but, she averaged 7-14 students in group lessons.
- If student could not afford to miss class, the student was taken out of recess or another activity.
- Please consider keeping instrument lessons for Grade 4.

5. Sharon Ostrowski
229 Reading Ave
Shillington PA 19607

- Son was a GM grad who went to Berkleigh College of Music and is now a musician and composer in Seattle.
- Son's best friend attended a music conservancy and is a curator at the Jimi Hendrix museum.
- Urged board to continue program.

6. Andrea Schauer
8 Overview Court

- Much research supports the benefit of early education music lessons
- In 2008 Schuylkill Valley School District implemented a modified Suzuki program in kindergarten. First graders' reading comprehension and vocabulary has increased; unfortunately, the district needs to look for a grant to continue the program.
- Research studies in Florida and Massachusetts also support the music program.
- Son's musical background was acknowledged by the music director at the Valley Forge Military Academy.

7. Adam Wilson
2 Flint Ridge Drive
Shillington Pa

- Has three elementary-age children, two of whom are pulled out of reading enrichment and gifted classes without a problem.
- Third child plays the flute and has gained self-esteem through music lessons. Participation in music lessons gives children a tangible sense of achievement.
- Please don't take the opportunity for music lessons away from students.

8. Ronale Coyle
131 E Elm St
Shillington PA 19607

- Has a 2-year-old and a 3-year-old.
- Utilize parents, volunteers, etc. to save band and orchestra.
- All people should have an appreciation for music.
- Community members could help by organizing a fundraising activity that might generate enough revenue to keep the instrument lessons and rehearsal program.

9. Adam Mietelski
479 Blimline Road
Mohnton PA 19540

- A 2006 graduate and former band member, Mietelski is proud to represent the school district. Locally and regionally, people are impressed by the Governor Mifflin band. The music program improves the “Governor Mifflin” name.
- Music is the ambassador of the school; the band gives a gift of music to the community.
- Mifflin’s music teachers have been loyal and have worked hard for the district; how can the board turn its back on dedicated employees?
- Music alumni are dynamic and productive members of the community.
- The Grade 3 and 4 changes begin to chip away at the music program; will the district keep chipping away until nothing is left?
- The music program is built from the foundation up; these changes make for a weak foundation.
- How can we help finding a solution?

10. Jennifer Michalik
402 March St
Shillington PA 19607

- Music educator at Marywood and Alvernia
- Moved to Mifflin in 1993 because of the excellence of the district’s music curriculum.
- Music is academic.
- Changes will guarantee a sub-standard program and lower our students’ academic performance.
- Pull-outs do not affect students.
- A quote from Arne Duncan (2009) regarding curriculum references the fact that the arts are core academic subjects.
- Although the board has difficult decision to make, please act in best interest of students and work with the gifted, talented music faculty to find creative solutions.

11. Glenda DeLillo
44 Shea Drive
Mohnton PA

- As a Century 21 realtor and graduate of GMSD, DeLillo is saddened by what will happen to the school district because of the music plan.
- Her real estate clients often ask what the district offers. Since music is an important consideration for parents, the changes will hurt the district.
- Music is what Mifflin is known and recommended for; put music back as high priority.

12. Cindy Sensenig
1496 Cedar Top Road

- Four children in school; youngest in 3rd grade at Mifflin Park
- When deciding where to move, her family looked for a district with a balance of academics, music and sports programs. Out of three districts, GMSD stood out.
- Per a 2006 Penn State study, PA students who voluntarily participated in music programs performed significantly better on PSSAs than students who did not.
- Referenced a Newark study
- Time invested in music has a positive effect on students because it helps enhance the students' academic skills. The district reaps the benefits when students' PSSAs are higher.
- Please reconsider the decision; the only progressive option is to reinstate the Grade 3 and 4 instrument programs.

13. Abigail Sensenig (did not speak)
1496 Cedar Top Road

- At graduation on Thursday night she noticed that 11 of 15 students who received Awards of Excellence were involved in music in 3rd or 4th grade.
- 4% of the entire senior class scored Proficient or Advanced on the PSSAs, but 22% of senior orchestra students scored Proficient or Advanced.

14. Elaine Fiant
600 Westley Road
Mohnton PA 19540

- Board members deserve thanks and respect for the time volunteered to serve the district.
- Jeff Haggerty is a friend; Mr. Summers is a fine example of kindness and patience; Jill Koestel's father cared for her family. There are no hard feelings.
- Curricular v. non-curricular requirements are spelled out in PA Academic Standards, Chapter 4.11
- In a survey of what GM alumni choose to major in at college, the following were the top 4 out of 36 majors:
 1. Health professions
 2. Business

- 3. Education
- 4. Visual/performing arts
- It is inaccurate to compare music to extra-curricular activities.

15. Elizabeth Bentz
333 Wheatland Avenue
Shillington

- District needs more music, not less music
- Brain research has proven that music activates various parts of the brain. The average IQ of music students is 130.

16. John Siegle
185 W Madison St
Mohnton

- As a business owner, formerly involved in education, he has a broad perspective.
- Many changes will need to be made, starting with individual programs.
- It is important to preserve diversity in programs because not everyone has the same interests.
- Tax increase is not the way to go; the home market may not improve for at least 8 years.
- We cannot stay the course in these economic times, because too many people are suffering.
- Take ideas from students and parents by placing a suggestion box in each school.

17. Rachael Rowe
8 Glennola Drive
Mohnton

- Has a 9-year-old and a 4-year-old
- Sharing music together at home reaps huge benefits in terms of improved demeanor, creativity and behavior in children.
- It is appalling that a district the size of GMSD cannot find a way to make this work.
- There has to be a way to maintain the music program when districts ¼ of our size can do it.

18. Lori Kuczala
31 Glennola Drive
Mohnton

- Has a child in kindergarten and 2nd grade; son is excited about learning music in 3rd grade.
- It would help to understand the main reasons why the board is discontinuing these programs.

19. Michele Kurczewski
11C Community Drive
Shillington PA

- Stated that others had already stated her thoughts

20. Joan Mathews
94 Guigley Drive

- Cutting unproductive programs makes sense, but cutting funding for the foundation years for music is a mistake.
- GM music teachers are to be commended; her children's love of music started with Mrs. Cusano.
- Board should attend more performances; members would be overwhelmed by the energy and positivity.
- Music participation reaps benefits. What is the educational effect of no focus or no passion?
- Don't undermine the best asset of the district; academics are good, sports are good, but music is best.

21. Holly Altenderfer (speech delivered by Katie Mohn)
1175 Cedar Top Road

- Mohn read the letter Mrs. Altenderfer sent to the Board (acknowledged as a communication). Letter stated that GM stands out because it goes above and beyond the mandated requirements. People will be less inclined to move into a district that supports only the basic requirements.
- Music skills stay with people as they age; athletic abilities do not.
- Hendricks (former superintendent) wanted well-rounded students.

22. Marissa Pickup
1201 Commonwealth Blvd

- As an incoming junior, who is an athlete and musician, she will do what it takes to save the music program.
- The money spent on athletic fields was unnecessary.
- Reading School District puts everything into its music program and they have less money than we do.
- Discontinuing Grade 3 and 4 lessons and rehearsals will be catastrophic for future musicians.
- Fell in love with music in 3rd grade. Subsequent personal issues have been alleviated through her involvement in the music program.
- The music department is a family.

23. Beth Stanislaw (speaking on behalf of Lori Bush)
1416 Fayette Avenue
Kenhorst

- Mrs. Bush has two children at GM who have both been actively involved in the music program.
- One student received a \$4,000 scholarship (per year) from the music department. She is not a music major and would not be able to attend Elizabethtown without that scholarship.
- Music is therapy, especially for special needs children.
- Why are we using music teachers for RtI responsibilities? Shouldn't their talents be better utilized elsewhere?

24. Chris Magdalinski
107 N Brobst Street

- Her family moved from Mississippi and chose GMSD for its music program.
- She is willing to volunteer her time to help the district figure out a way to reinstate the Grade 3 and 4 instrument lessons and rehearsals.

25. Scott Angstadt
111 New Holland Avenue

- His son's elevated esteem and motivation are related to his music lessons.
- As a music teacher at Wyomissing, he has experience with RtI and understands that the purpose of RtI includes social enrichment. For students with ADHD (25% of his students), music helps them to focus whereas they do not exhibit that focus in other areas.
- Does GMSD use music as part of our RtI program?

26. Meredith Mangan
5038 Weber Road
Mohnton

- It is great to see the public turnout at a school board meeting and hopes that people will continue to attend and become educated at future meetings.
- She is concerned about the entire budget; the district's program cuts, tax increase and activity fees are disappointing.
- Specific activity and material fee terms must be communicated with regard to prorating for multiple children in a family and adjustments for financial hardship. There is concern that students may not participate in activities because of the fees.
- Many GM grads remain in the GM community, and it is in the best interests of the community for the students to be well-rounded.

27. Joe Cala
28 Hessian Blvd

- Two sons attended Mifflin; one started music lessons with Mrs. Cusano before leaving the program. The other son took piano lessons out-of-school during elementary years. During high school, he played piano to prepare for pitching at baseball games.
- Board members are good people who want to make things work.
- The district is to be commended for allocating money to programs that exceed the mandated requirements.

28. Harold Spatz
31 Franklin St
Shillington PA

- He cited Dr. Gillespie's response to the district's fact sheet, noting that academic enrichment is not impaired by pull-out music programs.
- Referenced 8 studies
- GM music staff is phenomenal; members are willing to work with the board to find a solution.