

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING July 10, 2024
TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING July 10, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Ann Taylor, President
Mrs. Gina Richmond, Vice-President
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Julian Rinehart, Member
Mr. Tristan Wright, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson
Mrs. Delia Salcido
Mrs. Judy Simmons
Ms. Kim Hand

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Mrs. Ann Taylor called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- ❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Ann Taylor.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- ❖ Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to adopt. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

Conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on Proposed Tax Increase

- ❖ Mrs. Shanna Johnson informed the board that Mohawk Valley School is notifying property taxpayers of the intention to raise its primary property taxes over the current level to pay for increased expenditures in those areas where the Governing Board has the authority to increase property taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. The District is proposing an increase in the primary tax levy of \$292,081. The amount proposed will cause Mohawk Valley School District's primary property taxes on a \$100,000 home to be \$145.93. This money will be used for an emergency project to address failing plumbing and roofs in housing.

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ There were no comments.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action.

1. Administrator Reports

a) Budget Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Things to consider for Small School Adjustment:
 - Currently at 140 students with 126 ADM (125 is the cutoff).
 - Small School Adjustment is based on prior year ADM, which creates a budget issue and burden for FY25.
 - The FY25 budget was based on 137 ADM. More significant cuts need to be made in order to balance the budget.
 - A budget based on 126 ADM is nearly impossible to maintain this school at the level of funding from the state formula.

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- Small School Adjustment cannot be done this year. We will research ways to address how to transition to Small School Adjustment and work within the rules of prior year ADM for current Small School Adjustment and current year funding
- The plan is to meet with the Yuma County Treasurer, County School Superintendent, Tom Hurt and others to let them know the situation and strategize.
- Open enrollment policies need to be addressed. Twenty (20) small school districts' policies have been reviewed.
- It has been difficult to find other districts who have transitioned to small school adjustments. It might be necessary to advocate to legislatively change the loophole that small school adjustment is based on prior year ADM.

b) Academic Report

- **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**
 - ❖ Mrs. Johnson reviewed the current list of board adopted curriculum.
 - ❖ Social Studies Curriculum:
 - Reached out to Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative.
 - This is an on-line course.
 - No cost to the District. It is a grant funded initiative to fill hard to fill coursework for remote school such as MVS.
 - Jr. High Teachers, Mrs. Noble, Ms. Curtis and instructional aide, Mrs. Puga will each oversee a course. They do not have to plan or grade, just oversee and communicate with the instructor as needed.
 - Paloma Superintendent recommended this curriculum. They use it and are pleased with the course.
 - 8th graders will be exposed to the material to pass the required AZ Civics Exam in High School.

c) Facilities Report

- **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**
 - ❖ Nothing to report

d) Water Plant Report

- **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**
 - MVS will be given another consent order, which is currently being drafted.
 - The TTHM levels are above acceptable levels:
 - We have tried flushing water to reduce TTHM levels but it is not working.
 - Three sample tests have been taken in; two have come back with high levels.
 - TTHM levels have to be officially sampled quarterly. If we get a good test in November, we will be good.
 - Requirement for alternate water source:
 - ADEQ is requiring that we supply an alternate drinking water source to housing.
 - Clarification – we only have to give a means for the tenants to get safe drinking water.
 - Drinking stands will be put back up but not in every classroom, only in select locations.
 - Next steps:
 - All entities will meet to discuss the current status of the water plant and look ahead of how to move forward to address a permanent solution to fix TTHM problem. This may require meeting with upper levels of ADEQ and SFB.

e) General Items

- **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**
 - ❖ Nothing to report.

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2. **Governing Board Member Comments**
❖ No comments

VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

These items are adoption of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will then be discussed and voted on separately.

1. **Minutes**

- a) June 18, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- b) June 26, 2024 – Special Board Meeting

2. **Expense Vouchers**

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|----------------|------|-------------|
| c) Expense #32 | FY24 | \$94,912.51 |
| d) Expense #33 | FY24 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| e) Expense #34 | FY24 | \$ 5,627.31 |
| f) Expense #35 | FY24 | \$86,536.97 |
| g) Expense #01 | FY25 | \$ 5,996.00 |

3. **Payroll Vouchers**

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| h) Payroll #26 | \$54,760.10 |
| i) Payroll #26.1 | \$ 899.56 |
| j) Payroll #27 | \$44,466.52 |
| k) Payroll #27.1 | \$ 1,799.10 |
| l) Payroll #27.2 | \$21,820.33 |
| m) Payroll #27.3 | \$21,819.18 |

4. **Student Activity Reports**

- n) Year-to-Date – 6/30/2024

5. **Bank Account Reconciliations**

- o) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – June 2024

6. **Other**

Mrs. Ann Taylor asked if anything need to be pulled from the consent agenda. There were no items pulled.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve and Adopt the FY25 Budget**

Mrs. Johnson stated that nothing has changed from the proposed agenda.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve the FY25 Budget. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

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2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Reduction in Force of Instructional Aide Position

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is to remove the instructional aide position held by Kathy Rogers. Mrs. Rogers has been informed of the situation. Mrs. Johnson is recommending offering her a 10-hour week Notice of Appointment in order to keep her employed. It would be a savings of approximately \$16,000 to the district. She can help with the special needs preschoolers and driving the special needs van. Mrs. Rogers has worked for the district for years and has been a loyal employee.

Mrs. Johnson also proposed reducing her rent so she can continue to have a safe home. Perhaps a duty of some kind in housing could be given to her, such as watching the fire tank, checking gates and doors to ensure they are locked. A \$2,400 rent reduction could be given through housing. That would reduce her rent by \$200 a month. She now pays \$488.75 and with the reduction it would be \$288.75.

After hearing Mrs. Johnson's recommendations and discussion from the board it was determined to not make a decision on her rent and to give her a 12-hour week Notice of Appointment.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to decrease her Notice of Appointment to 12 hours. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Revise Rental Rate for Retired Employee, Kathy Rogers

After the discussion taken in Action Item 2, the decision was made to table Action item 3.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to table Action Item 3. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Reducing 10-Month Classified Staff to 183 Work Days

Mrs. Johnson stated that when the FY25 calendar was changed and removed the last day of school, this would remove a day of work for instructional aides and cafeteria staff.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to reduce the 10-month classified staff to 183 workdays. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 6-8 ELA Curriculum, EB Academics

Mrs. Johnson stated that Ms. Curtis has used this program for the last few years as a pilot. It now needs to be officially adopted.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve 6-8 ELA Curriculum, EB Academics. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

6. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Chatter Therapy, Fresh Terra, McNeece Bro., Northern Chemical, Pete's Body Shop, Polar Cooling, and United Farms Service as Sole Source

Mrs. Johnson stated that it is routine to adopt these sole sources.

- **Chatter Therapy Services:** We need continuity of their services to best meet the need of our students. In previous years, we have been unable to find a company to service our students' onsite.
- **Fresh Terra:** Fresh Terra is the only certified lab for water testing for the Water Plant. It is the only company in Yuma County that tests water that meets our needs.
- **McNeece Bros Oil Company:** Vendor provides better service and the District has an on going relationship. Changing fuel companies would require changing fuel tanks which would not be economical or practical for the District. There is only one other company in Yuma County that provides fuel service.
- **Northern Chemical Company:** Vendor provides better service. The District was having a difficult time obtaining products from Waxie and Hillyard.
- **Pete's Body Shop:** This vendor is more convenient since it is local and it takes manpower to take vehicles into Yuma.

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- Polar Cooling: Other companies have not been willing to provide services to the District due to the distance. The vendor has serviced the District for years and knows the needs of our HVAC units.
- United Farms Service, Inc: This vendor is the company in Yuma that provides the chemicals for the water plant that ships to us the quickest. Other companies ship from other states and creates an unpredictable time line of receiving chemicals.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve Chatter Therapy, Fresh Terra, McNeece Bro., Northern Chemical, Pete’s Body Shop, Polar Cooling, and United Farms Service as sole sources. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve \$400 Stipend for Cheerleading Coach (Jackie Fox) Overlooked in FY24

Mrs. Johnson stated that Ms. Fox winter stipend was overlooked.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve \$400 stipend for cheerleading coach (Jackie Fox) overlooked in FY24. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

8. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Policy 787, Second Reading

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is the second reading for Policy IJNBD and it needs board approval.

- Policy IJNDB – Use of Technology Resources in Instruction

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve Policy 787, second reading. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

IX. FUTURE ITEMS

- **Next Board Meeting – August 13, 2024 – Regular Meeting**

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gina Richmond made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Governing Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the District Office, 5151 South Avenue 39E, Roll, Arizona.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2024
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date