



PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 15, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The March 15, 2021 Board Meeting was held virtually via ZOOM, streamed through the district website (www.pasd.com), and broadcasted on local Channel 28. Presiding Board President, Ms. Blake Emmanuel, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Whitehead called the Roll of the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Blake Emmanuel, Board President
Ms. Michelle Schamis, Board Vice-President
Ms. Laura Reed, Board Secretary
Mr. Christopher Caltagirone
Mr. David Golberg

Dr. Ayisha Sereni
Ms. Jeeseley Soto
Ms. Susan Turner
Mr. Jerome Weiss

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Gavin Perillo, Senior Board Representative
Aubrey Wright, Junior Board Representative

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Business Manager and Board Treasurer
Mr. Ken Gibson, Director of Operations and Technology
Mrs. Sandra Claus, Community Relations Coordinator

Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Director of Curriculum
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Lenore Filipovic, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Cabinet
Phantom TV Crew

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session (Virtual)—March 8, 6:45 PM (Confidential Student Matter)
- Board Workshop (Virtual)—March 8, 2021, 7:00 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Policy Committee (Virtual) – April 6, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee (Virtual) – April 6, 2021, 6:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee (Virtual) – April 7, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee (Virtual) – April 7, 2021, 7:00 PM

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Gavin Perillo – Senior Student Representative, spoke about the NHS sponsored Game Night which was an evening playing old games they did in Elementary School. People were socially distanced, and the evening was held in a safe manner. He also

noted that students are excited to be out of the house and being able to interact with other students and teachers. The 3rd Marking Period ends on March 19th.

Aubrey Wright – Junior Student Representative, also enjoyed the NHS Game Night. She noted that PSAT testing is March 24 which gives students an opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship. She reported that Spring Break is scheduled from March 27 through April 4th. The athletes are enjoying the opening of spring sports. She did note that coaches are enforcing the social distancing among athletes and coaching staffs.

Dr. Sereni questioned why the Executive Session wasn't listed on the meeting announcements. Dr. Fegley reminded her that it could be added on the next agenda as well. The topic was legal.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on Any School Subject Items from residents of PASD or others who have a business or group affiliation with PASD. Comments may be emailed to boardmeeting@pasd.com. At the beginning of the comment please include the individual's name, municipality, topic to be addressed, and group affiliation, if applicable. Comments including this information will be read aloud. The reading of comments will be limited to one (1) - three (3) minute opportunity per individual.

Rosa Gerner, PAHS Senior, wrote students should have the option of a virtual day if they are not feeling well.

Dawn Geiger, Phoenixville Borough resident, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Lori Broker, Schuylkill Township resident, wrote about elementary and socioeconomically disadvantaged students needing to have an option to return to full-time, in person instruction.

Nicole Niklauski, Schuylkill Township resident, wrote regarding a choice between virtual or full-time, in person instruction.

Claire and Paul Guarino, Schuylkill Township residents, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Lori Joyce, Schuylkill Township resident, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Lauren Hulmes, Barkley parent wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Kristin DiLillo, PASD parent, wrote regarding hybrid instruction.

Pam Jantz, PASD parent, wrote regarding Middle School sports and full-time, in person instruction.

Chris Niklauski, Schuylkill Elementary third grader, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Jennifer Dillon, PASD parent, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Chris Perillo, PASD parent, wrote regarding in person Board meetings.

Kelly Caltagirone, PASD parent, wrote regarding district communication issues and plans for reopening schools.

John Mraz, Meadowbrook Lane resident, wrote regarding the June 30, 2020 School Audit and the new PAEA Teachers contract. He also wrote regarding the proposed Federal Stimulus Aid as well as items on the consent agenda.

Leanna Petrov, East Pikeland parent, wrote regarding the decisions the administration and board have had to make.

Lori Broker, PASD parent, wrote regarding the student fundraising accounts, as well as other accounts that may require auditing. She also wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Corinne Federer, PAHS senior, wrote regarding a four-day week for in person instruction.

Mike and Kelley Progin, Schuylkill Township residents, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Benjamin Buckley, Manavon Elementary School 4th grader, who shared his thoughts on what types of learning instruction should be offered to ensure students and staff are safe.

Kristen Myers, PASD parent, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Danielle Looper, Phoenixville Borough resident, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

Betsy Caldwell, PASD parent, wrote regarding a safe and equitable opening.

Elizabeth Kolb, PAHS senior Class of 21, wrote regarding hybrid learning options.

Aubrey Yeatman, East Pikeland resident, wrote regarding masking.

Fiona Gilleland, PASD parent, wrote regarding students no attending in-person classes.

Lenci Bodo, Phoenixville High School Senior Class of 2021, wrote regarding hybrid and virtual learning options.

Trevor Heron, Schuylkill Township seventh grader, wrote regarding full-time, in person instruction.

President Emmanuel responded to the statements and/or questions where possible. She noted that the board received additional emails supporting both options and others as well.

She did report that a virtual option is still available for the rest of the year if a student is feeling ill, she asked that they please stay at home and participate virtually if possible. She noted that the topic will be revisited for next year soon. Encourage students to stay home if they are not feeling well or if they feel they have been exposed.

President Emmanuel also provided a brief update on the Forensic audit. She stated that once the district is given the go ahead from law enforcing a report will be provided. Until that time, the district is not able to respond

Dr. Melber provided a very detailed presentation on the 2021-2022 School Budget.

Dr. Fegley provided answers to a few questions pertaining to the laptops etc.

VOTING ITEM

1. Approval of the Administrative Recommendations for Instruction, Extra-Curricular and Sports for the Fourth Quarter

Ms. Schamis made a **MOTION** to move forward with the administrative recommendation to begin school five full days a week beginning April 5, 2021. Dr. Sereni seconded the motion.

Ms. Reed made a **MOTION to AMEND** asking that PAELC start on March 22nd with other starting on April 5th. Ms. Schamis seconded. It was clarified that the original MOTION was for instruction only and does not include extra-curricular and sports.

ROLL CALL

Caltagirone - NO

Golberg - NO

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

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Soto - NO
Turner – YES
Weiss – YES
Emmanuel - NO

MOTION to AMEND FAILS – 4 – 5

Ms. Soto made a **MOTION to AMEND** to 4 days in-person with Wednesdays being a virtual day. Mr. Weiss seconded. (Note that this does not include students with IEP's and ELS designations. It is only general education students)

Golberg – NO
Reed – NO
Schamis – NO
Sereni – NO
Soto – YES
Turner – NO
Weiss – YES
Caltagirone – NO
Sereni – NO
Emmanuel – NO

MOTION to AMEND FAILS 2 – 7

MOTION – Mr. Golberg made a **MOTION to AMEND** the in-person start date from April 5 to March 22.

Reed – YES
Schamis – NO
Sereni – NO
Soto – NO
Turner – YES
Weiss – YES
Golberg – YES
Caltagirone - NO
Emmanuel – NO

MOTION to AMEND FAILS 4 – 5

President Emmanuel made **MOTION to AMEND** switching the half day on March 19 to March 26. Reed seconded.

Schamis – YES
Sereni – YES
Soto – YES
Turner – YES
Weiss – YES
Caltagirone – YES
Golberg – YES
Reed – YES
Emmanuel – YES

MOTION to AMEND CARRIES 9 – 0

Mr. Caltagirone made a **MOTION to AMEND** and have a hybrid option. Ms. Soto seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Soto – YES
Sereni – YES
Turner- YES
Weiss – YES
Golberg – NO
Caltagirone – YES
Reed – NO
Schamis – YES
Emmanuel – NO

MOTION to AMEND CARRIES 6 – 3

Vote on **MOTION** to move begin in-school instruction five days a week beginning April 5, 2021, changing the scheduled half-day from March 19 to March 26, and with a hybrid option. Extra-curriculars are per Administrative Recommendations.

Roll Call Vote

Golberg – NO
Reed – NO
Schamis – YES
Sereni – YES
Soto – YES
Turner – YES
Weiss – YES
Caltagirone – YES
Emmanuel – YES

MOTION CARRIES 7 – 2

Dr. Fegley noted that information on the three options will be sent out to allow for parents to make their selection(s) for their child(ren).

Dr. Sereni made a **MOTION** to return to in-person meetings for committee and workshop/board in April. Mr. Golberg seconded.

Dr. Fegley provided insight into the need for a little time to find locations in the district that would be in compliance of social distancing as well as allow for public viewing. Suggestions were to move the meetings to the Middle School or High School cafeterias as the Admin Building does not provide enough space. The auditoriums do not offer enough room for 6-foot distancing for board on the stage.

Dr. Sereni made a **MOTION TO AMEND** to begin in-person meetings with the April 19th Board Meeting. This will give sufficient time for administration to find a suitable location. **No second.**

MOTION to AMEND FAILS

Dr. Sereni **withdrew** her **MOTION** and requested the discussion be put on the April Workshop meeting agenda for discussion. Information requested includes cost, room feasibility for zoom options as well as number of seats for public viewing.

Dr. Fegley indicated this would be added to the Workshop Agenda for additional discussion.

Mr. Golberg made a **MOTION** to revisit the discussion after the parents have been polled. **No second.**

MOTION FAILS

President Emmanuel requested a 5-minute recess at 9:54 PM
Board returned to session at 10:00 PM

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee—Jerry Weiss, Chair

Mr. Weiss provided a brief update on the B&G Committee meeting. He reported there are no voting items. Discussion on the following topics occurred:

- Farmhouse – an update had been given from Schuylkill Township representatives on February 18th. Will be moving ahead with the consolidation from 3 lots into 2 lots. This will be brought back later in the spring for a vote. A meeting will be scheduled with the Schuylkill Township Zoning board to get permits outlined.
- Barkley Brickwork – received a cost estimate from the contractor

Dr. Melber provided a brief update on the RFP for transportation.

- Transportation RFP – He reported that there were three bidders overall. One was by far the overall lowest. The administration chose an alternate bid which was the best fit for the district with a large savings over the seven-year term. This company provides newer buses, better equipment, and a cost savings of approximately \$86,000.

Board Curriculum Committee—Michelle Schamis, Chair

Ms. Schamis provided a brief update on the Curriculum Committee meeting. She reported that there are two voting items and a New Business item for the return to school. Vaccine and COVID testing updates were also provided at the meeting.

Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Laura Reed, Chair

Ms. Reed provided a brief report from the Personnel and Finance meeting.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Chester Co. School Boards Legislative Council & Board Legislative Chair for PSBA — Blake Emmanuel

President Emmanuel provided a brief update on the Waivers for PSSA testing.

- Waivers for PSSA – She reported that more information will be provided to parents as the conversation continues in Curriculum. Other information can be found on the district website under Legislative Information.

Representative to the Chester County Intermediate Unit Board, Representative – Michelle Schamis

Ms. Schamis indicated there was no IU report.

Board Representative to the Phoenixville Public Library Board, Representative(s) – Jeesely Soto

Ms. Soto reported that the Library board meets the first Monday of each month. They are holding a Spring Virtual Author event, possibly in July. Many Chester County libraries will be sharing the event and one author will be contracted. Employees are also being asked to double mask. A diversity, equity, and inclusion group are working to determine the best way to host events that are more inclusive for the library.

Superintendent's Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.

Donations Acknowledgement

- Keeler USA – 5,000 KN95 masks
Dr. Fegley provided a brief Superintendent Report. He noted there were two donations: one 5,000 KN95 masks from Keeler USA. PASD parent, Jeremy Cohen recommended they be donated.
- GIANT Food Store
Dr. Fegley reported that 25 boxes each of hand sanitizer and hand soap were donated by GIANT Food Stores.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Schamis made the **MOTION** with Ms. Turner seconding.

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel - YES

Golberg - YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES

Turner - YES

Weiss – YES

MOTION Carries 8-1

Board Curriculum Committee—Michelle Schamis, Chairperson

1. Approval of Service Agreement with Restorative Practices in Action, Inc. for Restorative Teachers Training for a term of March 2021 through June 2022.
2. Approval of a Settlement and Release Agreement with Student 2020-2021A for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years

Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Laura Reed, Chairperson

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Items

1. Approval of Personnel Report – March 2021
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 - i. FMLA – Family Medical Leave Act

FINANCE

B. Business Office Report

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds - February 2021
Check # 1239 (2/5/2021) - # 1350 (2/26/2021)
ACH # 202102247 (2/5/2021) - # 202102351 (2/26/2021)
2. Acknowledge Receipt of the District Financial Reports – January 2021

C. Business Office Items

1. Approval of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit performed by BBD, LLC. (Letter)
- Transportation Contracts
2. Approve an Intent to Award a Five-year Transportation Contract to Krise Transportation, Pending a Final Vote and Approval of the Contract Terms

Board Policy Report—Susan Turner, Chairperson

1. Policy 001—Local Board Procedures—Name and Classification
2. Policy 004.2—Local Board Procedures—Appointment of Members of the Board of Trustees to the Phoenixville Public Library
3. Policy 011—Local Board Procedures—Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct
4. Policy 150—Programs—Title 1 Comparability of Services (New Policy)
5. Policy 801—Operations—Open Records
6. Policy 822—Operations—Automated External Defibrillator/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
7. Policy 910—Community—Community Engagement/Community Relations
8. Policy 917—Community—Parental/Family Involvement

Board Secretary's Report—Laura Reed, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) February 8, 2021 Board Workshop Meeting
 - b) February 16, 2021 Board Meeting

DISCUSSION

Dr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Finance/Treasurer
• 2021-2022 Budget

Dr. Melber provided a brief timeline for the rest of the budget approval process. Get updates from slides
At the April 12th Workshop the Approved Proposed Final Budget will be voted on and at the May 17th Board Meeting the Final Budget will be voted on. He presented expenses and revenue figures and explained the median assessed value calculations.

He reported that a Proposed Final Budget will be brought to the board in April for voting. There was a brief discussion on the information shared. Ms. Soto requested that they bring back the menstrual product line item for students, while Ms. Reed requested that information be placed the equity portion of curriculum.

There is a town hall meeting set for March 24th. Information discussed at that meeting can be brought back for further discussion. Amendments will also be taken through the Final Budget approval process in May. It was requested that any board member with questions or proposed amendments contact both Dr. Melber and Ms. Reed.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

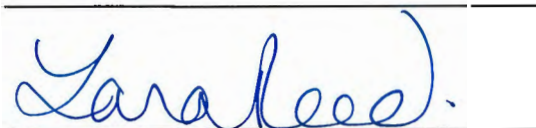
Open Public Comment – Comments on Discussion Items

There were no new public comments.

It was noted that the Executive Session scheduled following this meeting will be rescheduled. A new date will be given and added to the agenda where appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM



Laura Reed
Board Secretary