



PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 17, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The May 17, 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 7:00 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 (arrived late)

Dr. Ayisha Sereni

Ms. Jeeseely Soto

Ms. Susan Turner

Mr. Jerome Weiss

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Gavin Perillo, Senior Board Representative – Not Present

Aubrey Wright, Junior Board Representative – Present

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

President Emmanuel stated that beginning in June the Workshop and Board Meetings will be in person. The committee meetings will continue as virtual for now.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting – May 17, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Negotiations Session – May 14, 2021, 5:00 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Policy Committee (Virtual) – June 1, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee (Virtual) – June 1, 2021, 6:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee (Virtual) – June 2, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee (Virtual) – June 2, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Workshop – June 14, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Meeting – June 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Aubrey Wright – Junior Student Representative reported on the Keystone exams schedule for those taking the exams. She also noted that the District is hosting a Kindergarten Registration event on the 18th and 19th. The vaccines for younger children have been released and the administration is working with Gateway Pharmacy and others to provide PASD students. Administration also requested that families submit copies of their child’s vaccine form the health room files.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

John Mraz, Schuylkill Township resident, wrote regarding the tax assessment settlement and what potential impact it would have on the district taxpayers.

President Emmanuel responded that the item was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. She did clarify that the assessment was based off an addition to the property, which consists of storage units. The assessment on this property increased from the previous assessment.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

President Emmanuel noted all legislative updates can be found on the District website. One item of note was SB664, which would allow parents to apply for an elected retention for their child. This would also allow for any 21-year-old students receiving special education services to remain enrolled for one more year.

Other bill of note:

SB73 is a mandate relief waiver which would provide a pathway for school districts to apply for PDE special mandates. An update on voucher bills and charter reform will be provided at next month’s meeting.

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

- Donation – ACME Markets - \$3,000 – Cleaning Supplies

Dr. Fegley thanked ACME markets for their generous donation of \$3,000 worth of cleaning supplies.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee—Jerry Weiss, Chair

CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURE NOTED IN Service Life Expectancy Program (SLEP)

1. Approval of Sidewalk Repairs at High School and Barkley with Ramps - \$209,280.00 (County Bid)
 - a. This is to replace all damaged sidewalks and ramps around the High School and Barkley.
2. Approval of Barkley Internal plaster repair for auditorium - \$29,771.82

Board Curriculum Committee—Michelle Schamis, Chair

ESSR GRANT

1. Approval of a Contract with Newsela, Inc. for a term of June 13, 2021 through June 12, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.
2. Approval of a Contract with NearPod for Interactive Response Software at a rate not to exceed \$19,000.
3. Approval of a Contract with Remind for a Term of 6/19/2021 through 6/18/2022 at a rate not to exceed \$16,400.

Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Laura Reed, Chair

PERSONNEL

1. Approval of Personnel Report – May 2021
 - a. Resignation
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 - Conference Requests
 - Family and Medical Leaves
 - Transfers
 - Employee Survey Results

A. Business Office Items

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – April 2021
Check # 1452 (4/1/2021) - # 1608 (4/30/2021)
ACH # 202102505 (4/1/2021) - # 202102666 (4/30/2021)
2. Acknowledge Receipt of the District Financial Reports – March 2021

B. Business Office Items

1. Approval of the Exoneration of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes for East Pikeland Township - Parcel ID 26-2K-1.3.
2. Approval of a Settlement of the Tax Assessment Appeal filed by FBW Storage, LP for Parcel ID 27-02-0081.000 for a new assessment of \$3,055,000.

Board Policy Report—Susan Turner, Chairperson

- Policy 137.1—Programs—Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- Policy 150—Programs—Title I-Comparability of Services
- Policy 321—Employees—Political Activities
- Policy 336—Employees—Personal Leave
- Policy 339—Employees—Uncompensated Leave
- Policy 339.1—Employees—Military Leave
- Policy 828—Operations—Fraud

Board Secretary's Report—Laura Reed, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Phoenixville Area High School Students Eligible for Graduation – Class of 2021
2. Approval of a Donation from Giant Food Stores in the amount of \$18,506.04 for the Giant Feeding School Kids Program
3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) April 12, 2021 Board Workshop Meeting
 - b) April 19, 2021 Board Meeting

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Ms. Turner made the **MOTION** with Mr. Weiss seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO (YES for Approval of Phoenixville Area High School Students Eligible for Graduation)

Soto – YES (ABSTAIN from Personnel 1.d. Volunteers)

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

8-1 MOTION CARRIES

President Emmanuel then read the retirement resolution for Mark Philipanics.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, *Mr. Mark Philipanics has served twenty-two years, as a dedicated member of the Support Staff of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,*

WHEREAS, *Mr. Mark Philipanics has tendered his resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective July 1, 2021; and,*

WHEREAS, *The Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District wishes to recognize him for his valued service and, officially record its appreciation; be it hereby,*

RESOLVED, *That the Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District observes with regret the resignation of Mr. Mark Philipanics from its Support Staff and expresses its deep appreciation for his service and dedication; and be it,*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a copy of this resolution be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District held on May 17, 2021, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Mark Philipanics.*

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Barkley External Brickwork
 - a. \$108,881.83 which includes repairing general brick veneer around the building. There would be specific repairs and repointing on the north area of the building where the leaking is occurring.
OR
 - b. \$180,079.78 (Same as above) But includes Alternate 1 which accounts for the additional \$71,197.05. This includes Power Washing the entire building and applying a penetrating masonry sealant to the entire building.

Ms. Reed made a **MOTION** to approve **Option B** for \$180,079.78. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

8-1 (Sereni) **MOTION CARRIES**

2. Nomination and Appointment of Dr. Jeremy Melber as the Phoenixville Area School District Board Treasurer for a one-year term through June 30, 2022.

Ms. Reed **NOMINATED** Dr. Melber as the Board Treasurer for a one-year term running from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Ms. Schamis seconded the nomination.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

8-1 (Sereni) **Dr. Melber wins NOMINATION as Board Treasurer.**

3. Nomination and Appointment of Laura Reed as the Phoenixville Area School District Board Secretary for a four-year term through June 30, 2025.

Mr. Weiss **NOMINATED** Ms. Reed for another four-year term as Board Secretary. Ms. Turner seconded the nomination.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – ABSTAIN

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

7-1-1 (Sereni (NO) and Reed (Abstain)) **Ms. Reed wins NOMINATION as Board Secretary.**

4. Request Approval of the Resolution Adopting the District's 2021-2022 Proposed Final Budget in the Amount of \$99,144,698 with a 1.57% Increase.

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

President Emmanuel reminded the community listening that the budget has not changed.

Voice vote

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

8-1 (Sereni) **MOTION CARRIES**

5. Approval of the 2021-2022 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution.

Mr. Weiss made the **MOTION** to approve the 2021-2022 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution.
Ms. Soto seconded.

Voice vote

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

8-1 (Sereni) **MOTION CARRIES**

6. Approval of the 2021-2022 Annual Tax Levy Resolution

Mr. Caltagirone made the **MOTION** with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Voice vote

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

7-2 (Golberg, Sereni) **MOTION CARRIES**

NEW BUSINESS

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any New Business Item

No additional comments

1. Approval of an Intent to Award a Contract with _____ for Board Legal Services for a three (3) year term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. 2022 School Year.

Ms. Reed made a **MOTION** for intent to award a contract with Fox Rothschild for a three (3) year term (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 3024). Ms. Turner seconded.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

8-1 (Sereni) **MOTION CARRIES**

2. Approval of Phoenixville Area School District Resolution Urging the General Assembly to Increase its Investment in Students in the Commonwealth’s Most Underfunded School Districts with House Bill 1167.

Ms. Emmanuel requested the Board review HB1167, which will start to address concerns about equitable school funding throughout the Commonwealth. This bill would give money to the 100 most impoverished school districts.

Ms. Reed made the **MOTION** with Ms. Soto seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Reed – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – YES

Soto – YES

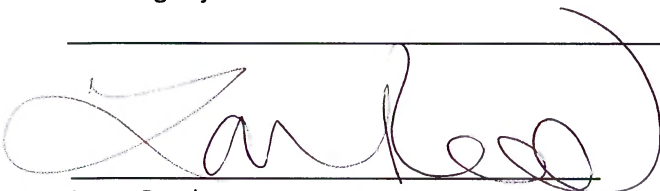
Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

9-0 **MOTION CARRIES**

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM



Laura Reed
Board Secretary