



**PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Monday, August 23, 2021 - 7:00 PM  
Phoenixville Area High School  
(TV Channel 28 and [www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com))

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER** The August 23, 2021, Board Meeting was held in the cafeteria of the Phoenixville Area High School and streamed through the district website ([www.pasd.com](http://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.

President Emmanuel requested all parties present at the meeting be masked unless a medical exemption is provided.

Some community members present chose not to wear masks; therefore, the meeting was recessed at 7:02 PM. The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:08 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Dr. Whitehead called the Roll of the Board.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

Dr. Ayisha Sereni  
Ms. Jeeseley Soto (via Zoom)  
Ms. Susan Turner  
Mr. Jerome Weiss

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Laura Reed, Board Secretary

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Aubrey Wright, Senior Board Representative  
Scout Woronko, Junior Board Representative

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Business Manager (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 Kilmertz, Director of Curriculum  
Dr. Craig Parkinson, Phoenixville High School Principal

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Natalie Hrynko, Instructional Coach  
Mr. Justin Winters, High School Science Teacher  
Ms. Kara Sturges, PAELC First Grade teacher

Phantom TV Crew

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—August 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session – August 25, 2021, 6:30 PM; Personnel Relating to Auditor General’s Report
- Board Policy Committee —August 31, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee — August 31, 2021, 6:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee—September 9, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Personnel/Finance Committee – September 9, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Workshop Meeting—September 13, 2021, 7:00 PM

President Emmanuel spoke about the loss of three PASD students over the summer. There was a moment of silence in their memory.

Ana Lucia Villeda Guerra (4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 Jackson (Jax) Thorburn (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
 Norman Inferrera III (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

**MOTION TO ALLOW REMOTE DELIBERATION AND VOTING:**

1. Approval to Allow Board Members to Deliberate and Vote while Attending Meetings Virtually and/or Remotely as Stated in Board Policy 006.1

Mr. Caltagirone made the **MOTION** to allow Board Members to deliberate and vote while attending meetings virtually and/or remotely as stated in Board Policy 006.1. Ms. Schamis seconded.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES	Soto – Abstain
Emmanuel – YES	Turner – YES
Golberg – YES	Weiss – YES
Schamis – YES	Reed – Absent
Sereni – YES	7-0-1 <b>MOTION CARRIES</b>

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

- Theresa Olsen, East Pikeland parent, spoke regarding children and COVID-19, and causes of death for persons under 21 in Pennsylvania.
- Nancy Colbert, Phoenixville area resident, spoke regarding mask mandate.
- Lori Joyce, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke regarding mask mandate.
- Mike Stevens, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke regarding job postings for Executive Level Director of DEI and DVCEE UPenn Consultant. Spoke regarding a Right to Know request.
- Anthony Valencia, Schuylkill Township resident, said he echoed previous statements and shared thoughts on the current events regarding COVID-19 around the world.
- John Mraz, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke regarding the Performance Audit, teachers’ contract, and COVID-19 funds received by the District.
- Dr. Brian Broker, Schuylkill Township parent, shared current information regarding children and COVID-19, and spoke regarding a COVID-19 vaccine mandate.
- William P. McCarron, Phoenixville area resident, spoke regarding what was taught 49 years ago when he was a student. He shared his concerns about the political-driven voices in the classrooms and mask mandates.
- Becky McCowan, Phoenixville Borough resident, spoke regarding COVID-19 information being shared by news agencies, COVID-19 testing, and mask mandates.
- Eileen Michaud, Phoenixville area resident, spoke regarding safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative spoke about the loss of a fellow student, Norman Inferrera III, and the candlelight vigil held in his memory. Asking for continued community support for the staff and students. There is counseling available for those in need.

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative spoke about the HS orientation for freshman and sophomores. First student day is the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. Students are all excited to get back into the building. Parents were notified about the updates needed to the student information section on Skyward.

Mr. Caltagirone requested the student representatives bring to the Board any needs or concerns the student body may have.

President Emanuel responded to the public questions/comments on the federal grant money received for COVID-19. She noted the funds are covering a three-year period with the first year being spent on youth mental health, math tutoring, and parental supports.

Any request for a mask exemption shall include proper supporting medical documentation. Parents and staff are advised to reach out to building principals and/or Mrs. Rockwood in Human Resources to submit proper documentation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Buildings and Grounds Committee—Jerry Weiss, Chair**

~~A. Approval for Administration to Negotiate and Pursue an Offer of \$3,700,000 with Rockwell for the sale of the of the 100 School Lane Property (former Kindergarten Center)~~ **Item removed from Consent Agenda.**

**Board Curriculum Committee—Michelle Schamis, Chair**

1. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
  - a. Phoenixville Area Middle School
2. Approval of Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement with Student 2021-2022A
3. Approval of Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement with Student 2021-2022B
4. Approval of Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement with Student 2021-2022C
5. Approval of Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement with Student 2021-2022D
6. Approval of Transportation / Field Trip Requests

Date (s)	Description	Location	Team/ Group	Trip ID#
August 19 – 21, 2021 Changed from August 18-20, 2021	Artillery Ridge Campground - Cross County Training Camp	Gettysburg PA	PAHS Cross Country Team	2122029

**Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Laura Reed, Chair**

**A. Personnel Items**

1. Approval of Personnel Report – August 2021
  - a. Resignations
  - b. Appointments
  - c. Leave Request
  - d. Volunteers
  - e. Informational Items
    - Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence
    - Conference Requests
    - Transfers

**FINANCE**

**B. Business Office Report**

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds  
June 2021  
 Check # 1718 (6/4/2021) - # 1804 (6/25/2021)  
 ACH # 202102812 (6/4/2021) - # 202102947 (6/25/2021)  
July 2021  
 Check # 1805 (7/2/2021) - # 1954 (7/30/2021)  
 ACH # 212200001 (7/2/2021) - # 212200164 (7/30/2021)
2. Acknowledge Receipt of the District Financial Reports – May 2021 and June 2021

**Business Office Items**

3. Approval of a Lease Agreement with Quadient for a 5 Year Renewal of the District’s Postage Machine
4. Approval and Acceptance of the CCIU Child Nutrition Programs (Participation) between School Districts, Vo-techs, and Intermediate Units for the 2021-2022 School Year

**Pupil Services Agreements**

5. Approval of a ESY Standard Education Agreement with Devereux Foundation for the term of July 1, 2021 to August 17, 2021
6. Approval of a Day Student Monitoring & Placement Agreement with Melmark for the 2021-2022 School Year
7. Approval of Three (3) Agreements with The Timothy School for Specialized Educational Services for the 2021-2022 School Year. (Students 1, 2 and 3)
8. ~~Approval of an Ambulance/BLS Agreement with \_\_\_\_\_ for Emergency Service Coverage for district events for the 2021-2022 School Year~~ **Item removed from Consent Agenda.**

**Transportation Contracts**

1. Approval of the Transportation Contract with Atlas Transportation for Student Transportation to the Talk Institute for the 2021-2022 School Year

**Board Policy Report—Susan Turner, Chair**

1. ~~Policy 815.1—Operations—Social Media (NEW POLICY)~~ **Item removed from Consent Agenda.**

**Board Secretary’s Report—Laura Reed, Board Secretary**

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
  - a) July 13, 2021, Board Meeting
  - b) August 3, 2021, Board Meeting

President Emmanuel noted three agenda items were being removed from tonight’s Consent Agenda and moved to a future meeting. These items include:

- Approval for Administration to Negotiate and Pursue an Offer for the Kindergarten Center. Competing offer received.
- Approval of an Ambulance/BLS Agreement for Emergency Service Coverage for District events for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- Policy 815.1—Operations—Social Media

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, minus the three agenda items listed above. Ms. Turner made the **MOTION** with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Voice vote

- Caltagirone - YES
- Emmanuel – YES
- Golberg – YES (NO to personnel report)
- Schamis – YES
- Sereni – NO (Abstain from Curriculum #6)
- Soto – YES
- Turner – YES
- Weiss – YES
- Reed - Absent

**7 - 1 MOTION CARRIES** (see voting exceptions above)

Dr. Fegley explained that Toll Brothers came in with a higher bid than Rockwell. The administration is requesting the Board grant permission to negotiate with both parties to determine the strongest bid. The administration will bring back a recommendation in September.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation, Representative – Jerry Weiss  
Mr. Weiss reported that 2021-2022 teacher mini-grant applications are open. The application and information are located on the district website. He also reported that each student in the incoming kindergarten class received a letter and yard sign welcoming them to the district. PCEF also donated 500 backpacks to the buildings for students in need.
- Board Representative to the Phoenixville Public Library Board, Representative(s) – Jeesely Soto  
Ms. Soto reported that the Library Board had a special meeting about masking. It was decided to follow the recommendations of PASD and the CDC. New signage regarding mask mandate will be posted on the front doors. She noted that the library would have masks available for visitors who are in need of one.
- Representative to the Chester County Intermediate Unit Board, Representative – Michelle Schamis  
Ms. Schamis reported that the CCIU board met on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. She noted the Chester County school representatives that were in attendance. The items approved included:
  - CCIU Health and Safety Plan
  - Emergency Flexible Instruction Time for 2021-2022 School Year
  - Career Tech and Student Service Program
  - Personnel action items
 The CCIU board will meet again on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the TCHS Brandywine location at 7:30 PM
- Chester Co. School Boards Legislative Council & Board Legislative Chairperson for PSBA — Blake Emmanuel  
President Emmanuel shared that a list of the bills currently going through the House and Senate is available on the district website or call/email President Emanuel to discuss.

Public comment on New Business  
No public comment

With Ms. Reed’s absence, President Emmanuel provided a brief history on the Strategic Plan. She noted that the pieces still requiring Board approval include the Communication Plan and the Superintendent Goals.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEM**

**Board Secretary**

1. Approval of the Communication Plan—Strategic Plan and Superintendent Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year Strategic Plan

Ms. Turner made the **MOTION** to approve the Communication Plan—Strategic Plan and Superintendent Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year with Schamis seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – NO  
 Emmanuel – YES  
 Golberg – NO  
 Schamis – YES  
 Sereni – NO

Soto – YES  
 Turner – YES  
 Weiss – YES  
 Reed – Absent

**5-3 MOTION CARRIES**

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## **Strategic Plan**

### *Goal 3 – Communicate Effectively*

*PASD will provide clear, timely, and relevant communications to all students, families, employees, and the PASD community. Effective, consistent, and open communication has been found to be strongly correlated with successful organizations. It is important that the district communicate with all parties – students, families, employees, and the PASD community – proactively and intentionally.*

#### **Action Step 1 Implement District-Wide Communications Plan and Protocol**

##### *Short-Term Action (1-2 years)*

- *Revise the communication plan to reflect recommendations from the CCIU communications audit.*
- *Create communication protocol for use at the Principal level and up.*

##### *Long-Term Action (3-5 years)*

- *Annual review of communication plan and protocol, revising as needed.*

##### *Measurement*

- *Provide to the Board a report of progress toward implementing recommendations from the CCIU communication audit into the District's communication plan and protocol.*
- *Annual report of any changes in the communication plan and updated metrics involving communications with all students, families, employees, and PASD community.*

#### **Superintendent Goals**

1. *Provide to the Board an updated communication plan, by February 2022, that includes but is not limited to; communication protocol that includes multiple checks to prevent errors, for the building principal level and up, methods and plans for gaining family, employee, and community input regarding communication engagement, timeliness and relevancy, and training and support methods for improving employee engagement in communications.*
2. *Websites, both district and building level, will be managed by the communication's department to ensure consistent verbiage, messaging, and current and up to date information. Update the Board as to progress of websites by July 2022.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Emmanuel adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM to an Executive Session regarding Personnel

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