



PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area High School
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The October 18, 2021, Board Meeting was held in the cafeteria of the Phoenixville Area High School and 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 due to technical difficulties.

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
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. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools & DEI
Mr. Dave Ramsey, Director of Specialized Program & Svcs

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session—October 11, 2021, 6:00 PM Re: Negotiations for Property
- Board Workshop Meeting—October 11, 2021, 7:00 PM

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Policy Committee – November 9, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee – November 9, 2021, 6:50 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee— November 10, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee— November 10, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Workshop—November 15, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Meeting—November 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

President Emmanuel opened the floor for the student representative reports.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative spoke about the spirit week events held to celebrate homecoming week at the High School. Aubrey and Scout held a student-to-student forum allowing for students to meet with them to share ideas or concerns that can be shared with board. There was a low attendance at the initial meeting, but additional meetings will be hosted in the future. The safe trick or treat event is scheduled for October 27th on Washington Field. The annual Winter Coat Drive is once again being held at Barkley. She also shared the congratulations to the Commended Scholars from the National Merit Scholarship.

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative reported on the senior photos this week. She provided information on the Senior Quotes were due soon. The annual Activities Fair was also held for high school and current 8th graders to try and recruit more members to the clubs. There were over 100 people in attendance. The NHS sponsored cornhole games on the field during the activities fair. She also reported on the parent trainings for trauma informed care. These sessions are beneficial for students and parents to help identify those in need. She also reminded seniors that if they have turned 18 – they can vote in the general elections on November 2nd.

Dr. Rose Scioli, High School Principal, recognized the 13 seniors who have been recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars. She noted that the students PSAT scores are what place students in this category. She shared the history and the dynamics of being chosen. It typically turns out that the top 3 or 4% of applicants qualify.

STUDENT RECOGNITION**National Merit Commended Scholars**

- Ben Axten
- Luca Butera
- Maxwell Davis
- Lucy Faunce
- Ananya Jajodia
- Leah Kerry
- Claire Meachen
- Joseph Romano
- Zachary Rosenfeld
- Elizabeth Snavelly
- Kedaar Vyas
- Abigail Walton (not present)
- Olin Zimmet

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

President Emmanuel requested a motion 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 – Virtual
Emmanuel – YES	Turner – YES
Golberg – YES	Weiss – YES
Schamis – YES	Reed – not present
Sereni – YES	7-0 MOTION CARRIES

President Emmanuel reported that Board Secretary, Ms. Laura Reed submitted her resignation from the board. The resignation will be voted on later in the meeting. She thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject**

- Mike Cianci, Schuylkill Township, provided history of their experiences with the District. He spoke about Board minutes, electronic recording, and the student records policy.
- Lisa Longo, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the board meeting videos, tabling item 5 of the Buildings & Grounds agenda, turf field replacement, auditor general report and internal controls.

- John Mraz, Schuylkill Township, spoke about the amount of spending last year in 2020-2021, athletic spending, and comparing treasurer's reports from other districts.
- Doug Trainor, Phoenixville Borough, presented a self-created district organization chart detailing what he believes are the levels of authority, the forensic audit and policy.
- Megan Connelly, Schuylkill Friends and Phoenixville Area Transition, spoke about the sale of the Kindergarten Center property and potential uses, supports sale to the Borough.
- David Lutzger, Phoenixville Borough resident and president of Phoenixville Green Team stated he is working with Transition group discussed the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough.
- Chris Kolicki, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough..
- Rachael Keim, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough..
- Heather Sheldon, Phoenixville Borough, shared support in selling the Kindergarten Center to the Borough, supports sale to the Borough..
- Mark Connelly Phoenixville resident and Green Team member, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough..
- Stephanie Smith, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough.
- Brian Cleary, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, traffic studies, supports sale to the Borough
- Emilyn Fox, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough.
- Deb Pizzia, Schuylkill Township, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, traffic studies, supports sale to the Borough.
- Kevin McCarthy, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough.
- Laura Ransom, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough.
- Becky Yacovett, Phoenixville Borough spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, traffic study, supports sale to the Borough
- Christian DeVal, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough
- Naomi Rodriguez, Phoenixville Borough, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough, financial concerns.
- Colleen McCoy, Schuylkill Township, spoke about the proposed sale of the Kindergarten Center, supports sale to the Borough, questions about athletic expenses.

BOARD VOTE

1. Accept the Resignation of Ms. Laura Reed
2. Nomination and Appointment of _____ as the Phoenixville Area School District Board Secretary to fulfill the remainder of the four-year term through June 30, 2023.

President Emmanuel requested a motion to accept the resignation from Ms. Laura Reed. Ms. Turner made the MOTION with Mr. Weiss seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES
 Emmanuel – YES
 Golberg – YES
 Schamis – YES
 Sereni – YES

Soto – Yes
 Turner – YES
 Weiss – YES
 Reed – not present
 8-0 MOTION CARRIES

Dr. Fegley reviewed the timeline for filling the new vacancy. He indicated that with it being within 60 days of the election, the district has 30 days to fill the position. Applicants must be 18 years old and have lived in the district

for a certain length of time. He noted that applications will be accepted until November 5th at 3:00 PM. Interviews will take place on November 15th with an appointment immediately following at the board workshop meeting. This vacancy is currently through December 2023.

President Emmanuel then requested a motion to fill the vacancy for the role of Board Secretary which term ends in June 2025. Mr. Golberg nominated Mr. Weiss with Mr. Caltagirone seconding. Ms. Soto originally nominated Ms. Turner, with a second by Dr. Sereni but Ms. Turner withdrew her nomination.

Voice vote

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Caltagirone – YES | Soto – Yes |
| Emmanuel – YES | Turner – YES |
| Golberg – YES | Weiss – Abstain |
| Schamis – YES | Vacancy |
| Sereni – NO | 6-1 MOTION CARRIES |

INFORMATION ITEM

1. Announce Temporary Chairperson for Finance/Personnel Committee to fulfill remainder of the one-year term through December 6, 2021.

President Emmanuel stated that she will fill the vacancy as the chair of the Finance/Personnel Committee caused by Ms. Reed’s resignation. This will only be for the month until the Board Reorganization meeting in December

CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee—Jerry Weiss, Chair

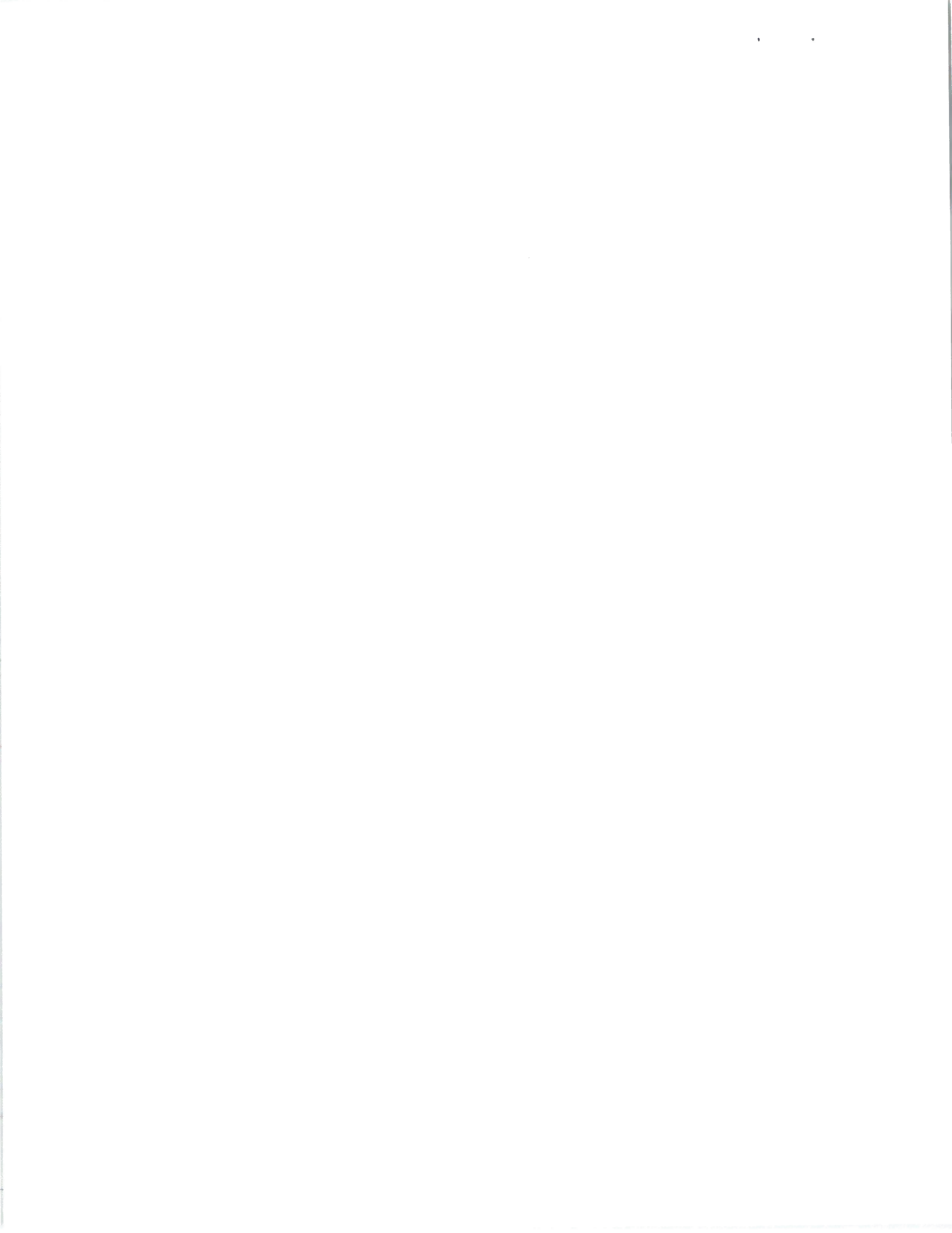
- ~~1. Approval to Obtain an Agreement of Sale with Rockwell for the Sale of 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) at a Cost of \$3,775,000 or;~~
- ~~2. Approval to Obtain an Agreement of Sale with Toll Brothers for the sale of 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) at a Cost of \$3,900,000 or;~~
- ~~3. Approval to Obtain an Agreement of Sale with Phoenixville Borough for the sale of 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) at a Cost of \$1,800,000 or;~~
- ~~4. Approval to Obtain an Agreement of Sale with Erin Development for the sale of 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) at a Cost of 1,720,000.~~

ITEMS 1-4 REMOVED AT WORKSHOP

5. Approval of an Agreement with Keystone Sports Construction for the Replacement of the Washington Field Turf and Track at a Cost not to Exceed \$702,384.02
6. Approval of a School District Farming Lease Agreement with Mark Martin (DBA M&M Farms) for the 622 Hares Hill Road Property
7. Approval of a Lease Extension for a One Month Extension for the Meadowbrook Farmhouse Property at 10 Campbell Lane
8. Approval of a Lease Extension for a One Month Extension for the 33 W. Pothouse Road Property

Board Curriculum Committee—Michelle Schamis, Chair

1. Approval of an English Language Arts Curriculum beginning with the November 2021
 - a. Elementary
 - b. Middle School



- c. High School
- 2. Approval to Hire Two (2) Additional English Language Development (ELD) teachers
- 3. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - Manavon Elementary School
 - Phoenixville Area Middle School
- 4. Approval of an Agreement with Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health for Student Assistance Program Liaison Services for the Phoenixville Area High School and Phoenixville Area Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year
- 5. Approval of the Sub-Grant Agreement for Implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) – Part B (Section 619) with the CCIU for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.
- 6. Approval of the Sub-Grant Use of Funds Agreement for Implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part B (Section 611) between the CCIU and the Phoenixville Area School District for the Period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.
- 7. Approval of Transportation/Field Trip Requests

Date	Destination	Group	Trip#
December 4, 2021	UCA Pocono Regional Pocono, PA	Phoenixville Area HS Competition Cheer Grades 9 – 12	2122055
December 12, 2021	UCA Empire Regionals Nassau Community College Garden City, NY	Phoenixville Area HS Competition Cheer Grades 9 – 12	2122056
January 16, 2022	PWCC Cheer Competition Plymouth Whitmarsh HS Plymouth Meeting PA	Phoenixville Area HS Competition Cheer Grades 9 – 12	2122059
January 28 – 29 2022	PIAA State Cheer Competition Giant Stadium Hershey, PA	Phoenixville Area HS Competition Cheer Grades 9 – 12	2122061
February 11 – 13, 2022	National Cheer Competition ESPN Zone Orlando, FL	Phoenixville Area HS Competition Cheer Grades 9 – 12	2122063

Board Finance/Personnel Committee— Chair

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Items

- a. Approval of Personnel Report – October 2021
 - 1. Resignations
 - 2. Professional Contract
 - 3. Appointments
 - 4. New Positions
 - 5. Leave Requests
 - 6. Volunteers
 - 7. Informational Items
 - a. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence
 - b. Conference Requests

Board Policy Report—Susan Turner, Chair

1. Policy 002—Local Board Procedures—Authority and Powers
2. Policy 003—Local Board Procedures—Functions
3. Policy 004.1—Local Board Procedures—Ethics Act and Conflict of Interest
4. Policy 005—Local Board Procedures—Organization
5. Policy 007—Local Board Procedures—Distribution
6. Policy 012—Local board Procedures—Nepotism
7. Policy 105.2—Programs—Exemption from Instruction
8. Policy 109—Programs—Resource Materials
9. Policy 110—Programs—Instructional Supplies
10. Policy 111—Programs—Lesson Plans
11. Policy 112—Programs—School Counseling
12. Policy 815.1—Operations—Social Media (New Policy)

Board Secretary's Report— Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) September 13, 2021 Workshop Meeting (Draft)
 - b) September 20, 2021 Board Meeting (Draft)
2. Acceptance of a Donation of \$40,000 for a new Scholarship in memory of Norman Inferrera

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Caltagirone made the MOTION with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES but no to #5 B&G

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Soto – YES (B&G #5 – abstain)

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES (3D Personnel – Coaches - abstain)

7 - 1 MOTION CARRIES (see voting exceptions above)

President Emmanuel read the Retirement Resolution for Christine Weigert:

WHEREAS, Ms. Christine Wiegert has served twelve years as a dedicated member of the Support Staff of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Christine Wiegert has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective October 8, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District wishes to recognize her for her 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 Ms. Christine Wiegert from its Support Staff and expresses its deep appreciation for her 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 October 18, 2021, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. Christine Wiegert.*

- *Phoenixville Community Education Foundation, Representative – Jerry Weiss*
Mr. Weiss shared that the PCEF approved \$3,700 in 12 teacher mini grants for the Fall. The class of 1968 launched their campaign to raise \$50,000 for the John Polefka Memorial Scholarship Fund. The annual Phantom Food Pack program has begun again. This program is now being held at PACS at their downtown facility. This collaborative relationship with PCEF, PASD and PACS allows for a sharing of resources and volunteers.
- *Board Representative to the Phoenixville Public Library Board, Representative(s) – Jeeseley Soto*
Ms. Soto reported that the library continues with their masking policy. She indicated that they are still not offering in-person programs, but this topic is being discussed with their board. The hope is to restart them when the COVID numbers go down. They do encourage m asking for all ages and they are available if needed. Beginning October 11th a book locker was set up at the library which allows for orders to be placed on hold and can be picked up at the locker outside the building They will be held for 3 days, and the locker can be opened with your card # or your library card. It was also reported that Passport fees may go up based on the need to cover increased medical costs. The 2022-2023 Draft Budget will be shared at the November meeting.

The annual Wine, Wit and Wisdom event will once again be virtual and will be held on November 11th at 7:00 PM. Participants can choose from different levels of wine packages which is your choice of wine and includes cheese and crackers. It was also requested that a fence be added around the emergency exit. Edits to the bylaws will also be made at next month's meeting.

- *Chester Co. School Boards Legislative Council & Board Legislative Chairperson for PSBA — Blake Emmanuel* noted that a full list of legislative items can be found on the district website. A few legislative actions include:
 - *HB1332 – passed through the House and is now in the senate education committee. This bill links to textbooks and lesson plans which will be required to be posted 30 days before use.*
 - *Voucher Bills, Charter Reform Bills*
 - *PA Code – Verbiage changes to make students with disabilities more medically recognized. This updated the PA Code to recognize the new labels.*
- *Superintendent's Report— Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.*
 - Proposed 2022-2023 School Calendar
 - Proposed 2022 Board and Committee Calendar

Dr. Fegley reported on the Phoenixville Hospital litigation for Non-Profit status. On October 14th, Judge Sumner ruled denying the hospitals request to be non-profit. A formal copy of the judgement will be located on the website under Finance. The decision also includes Brandywine, Jennersville and Phoenixville Hospitals. It was noted that the judge did not feel the hospital provided enough information on the donation of medical services. The administrative teams are also paid excessive compensation.

In regard to the proposed 2022-2023 calendar, there was a request from the teachers union to have the first week of school a 4-day week. To allow for a final day of the school year a Thursday or Friday, the Monday after Spring Break was taken away. The students will graduate on Friday, June 9th with teachers last day being Monday, June 12th.

The other calendar will be reviewed by the board and incoming board at the December 6th Board Reorganization meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION on Sale of Kindergarten Center – 100 School Lane
Administration provided a quick overview with Dr. Melber answering any questions posed by the board.

Mr. Gibson provided a brief history of the enrollment at the Kindergarten Center and the trailers and lack of space.

It was noted that the district needed a minimum of 20+ acres and this location does not offer enough parking and/or playground space.

The board has no authority over what the builders or borough does with the building/property.

A brief timeline was shared regarding the property closure and potential sale.

- Became a Superintendent Goal in 2018
- Pothouse Road Property was deemed not appropriate for a special education home/space
- 2018-2019 district authorized with beginning the selling process of the Kindergarten Center and East Pikeland properties
- Pothouse and Hallowell House properties are market for sale
- 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Superintendent Goals to get bids
- B&G meetings multiple discussions regarding sale of Kindergarten Center, 33 Potthouse, and Farmstead properties.
- March 2021 board discussions
- Fall of 2021 – Kindergarten Center - wait until higher bid (then it was a 3.2 range – top is currently 3.7 and 3.9)
 - Board allows to begin negotiations
 - Asking for direction from board

Toll Brothers – offer \$3.9 million for townhome development – brief discussion regarding approval timeline, escrow and property tax potential.

Rockwell – offer \$3.775 million. Very similar to Toll Brothers in terms of overall standard, same revenue, same possible student, and work to approve

Phoenixville Borough – offer \$1.8 million. Used an Education Center. Need grants for funding, longer timeframe for funding options.

Have had discussions with Borough offering an Executive Session for Tuesday evening. Rejection on Wednesday AM. Board requested possible uses from Borough in writing. Have not heard back and have not changed their offer.

Erin Development – looking for zoning approval 90-day request. Once approved will receive payment of \$1.7 million. District tax revenue is similar to Toll Brothers and Rockwell. \$100 – 150 and then once developed, higher revenues.

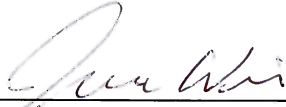
There was a very lengthy board discussion regarding alternatives for green space / development as well as what assurances the Borough has provided to ensure property is not developed. If the Borough changes from an education center, the property is given back to the district for other options. The Borough is unwilling to provide assurances and is not negotiating. It was also discussed as to what is considered an Education Center.

It was noted that a public forum is being held on November 4th to allow for additional public participation and the opportunity for Borough officials to participate in discussions. Dr. Fegley is to invite Jean Krack, Borough Manager to the November 4th open public forum meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding who is responsible for maintenance on the property. It was also noted that none of the correspondence shows that SOMAX is involved in this purchase process. There was no guarantee with the Borough offer that if they weren't successful in securing funding, that the district would be handed back the property (in 3 years). It was reported that the Borough and SOMAX released a video showing a joint effort between both parties and the potential location is a vacant public elementary school.

ADJOURNMENT

President Emmanuel adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm – no action taken after adjournment. Open community forum will immediately follow this meeting.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING:
Public Forum – Sale of Kindergarten Center – 100 School Lane



Jerome Weiss
Board Secretary

