



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

**SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**  
Monday, November 15, 2021, 7:00 PM  
Phoenixville Area High School  
(TV Channel 28 and [www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com))

**CALL TO ORDER** The November 15, 2021 Board Workshop Meeting was held in the cafeteria of the Phoenixville Area High School, on the District website ([www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com)), and on Channel 28. Presiding Board President, Ms. Blake Emmanuel, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Blake Emmanuel, Board President  
Ms. Michelle Schamis, Vice President  
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary  
Mr. Christopher Caltagirone

Mr. David Golberg  
Dr. Ayisha Sereni  
Ms. Jeeseley Soto  
Ms. Susan Turner

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

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

Mr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of DEI and Schools  
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Program & Services  
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services  
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lenore Filipovic

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS**

- Board Meeting—October 18, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Public Forum—October 18, 2021, (following Board Mtg)
- Board Public Forum—November 4, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Policy Committee—November 9, 2021, 6:02PM
- Board Curriculum Committee—November 9, 2021, 6:31 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee—November 10, 2021, 6:02 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee—November 10, 2021, 6:40 PM
- Board Interviews—November 15, 2021, 5:00 PM

**UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Board Meeting—November 29, 2021, 7:00 PM
- Board Reorganization Meeting—December 6, 2021, 6:00 PM
- Board Meeting—December 6, 2021, immediately following

**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

Not needed all present

President Emmanuel informed the board and community that item #3 under Finance requires a vote that evening as the deadline for submission is November 18<sup>th</sup>. She would need a motion to amend the agenda. She stated that this had been discussed at Finance and it is needed to be in compliance with the approval window. A public comment section will be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Schamis and seconded by Mr. Golberg to pull Finance agenda item #3 which will be voted on as new business.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MOTION PASSES 7-1 (Sereni)**

The revised agenda must be posted on the doors of the buildings as well as offer a hard copy for at least 24 hours.

**NOMINATION and APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

1. Nomination of Board of School Director for the Phoenixville Area School District for a term expiring First Monday, December 2023

- Betsy Ruch
- Shawn Turner
- Kelly Kurtz-Yeager
- Lisa Longo
- Emily Shanley
- Megan Valencia
- Dawn Pratt

Mr. Caltagirone nominated Dawn Pratt with Ms. Schamis seconding  
 Ms. Turner nominated Betsy Ruch with Mr. Caltagirone seconding  
 Mr. Weiss nominated Kelly Yeager with Ms. Turner seconding  
 Mr. Golberg nominated Emily Shanley with Ms. Turner seconding  
 Ms. Soto nominated Lisa Longo – there was no second to the motion – MOTION FAILS  
 Ms. Turner nominated Shawn Turner with President Emmanuel seconding  
 President Emmanuel announced the nominations are now closed

**Vote for Turner**

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

**MOTION FAILS 2-6**

**Shanley**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 5-3****Yeager**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 6-2****Ruch**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 6-2****Pratt**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 5-3**

Tied for votes - Yeager and Ruch

**Yeager**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 6-2**

**Ruch**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 6-2****Yeager**

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

**MOTION FAILS 3-5****Ruch**

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

**MOTION CARRIES 5-3**

Appointment of Board of School Director for the Phoenixville Area School District for a term expiring First Monday, December 2023

President Emmanuel announced Mrs. Ruch is the new board member. She welcomed her to the board and then recessed the meeting at 7:19 PM to prepare for her swearing in.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:27 PM.

Mrs. Ruch was sworn in and was seated as the new board member.

**Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject including Agenda Items**

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on any school subject from residents of PASD or others who have a business or group affiliation with PASD. At the beginning of the comment please include your name, municipality, topic to be addressed, and group affiliation, if applicable. Additionally, comments which pertain to personnel matters, individual student matters, or specifically name individuals, will not be permitted. The reading of comments will be limited to one (1) - three (3) minute opportunity per individual.

- Jane Dugdale, Phoenixville resident and member of area Transit and Green Team spoke in favor of keeping the Kindergarten Center property as green space.
- Lisa Longo, Phoenixville resident, provided history of the purchase of the Meadowbrook Farmhouse property and the need for more transparency and oversight.
- Lori Joyce, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the mask mandate.

- John Mraz, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the district website and missing information as well requested an update on the business office investigation.
- Doug Trainer, Phoenixville resident, spoke about what he calls the “fake forensic audit”, and the districts lack of response to his Right to Know requests regarding the Davis settlement agreement.
- Anthony Valencia, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the mask mandate.
- Peter Luborsky, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the need for more public awareness of the sale of the Kindergarten Center.

President Emmanuel responded to some of the comments including how the forensic audit was reviewed internally and would be given permission to share the results once the level investigation was completed. She also noted that the mask mandate will remain in effect until numbers change. She stated that it is part of the Board approved and state mandated Health and Safety Plan.

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Weiss provided information on the approval and discussion items from the Buildings & Grounds meeting held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. He listed the board approval items. These items included the executive summary for the lease agreement and the other was a detailed schedule of improvements for the lease agreement. Additional items discussed included the approval of the sale of the Pothouse Road property at \$380,000. He noted the selling price was based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of two assessments. There is a discount for not using a relator.

Discussion items shared included details of the lengthy discussion between PASD and Jean Krack from Phoenixville Borough. It was stated that the board will not be acting on any administrative recommendations on November 29<sup>th</sup> – the topic is still under discussion.

1. Approval of Meadowbrook Farmhouse Rent to Own  
Executive Summary  
Lease (Exhibit A)
2. Approval of Sale of 33 W. Pothouse Rd. Property at a Price of \$380,000

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

Ms. Schamis provided information on the items discussed at the meeting held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Taylor provided updates on the DEI program. The committee created and implemented new goals and action items for district and buildings. There was discussion about a possible equity audit. It was reported that the High School Wellness Day has been turned into a Wellness Month.

Items for approval included:

1. Approval of the On-Going Curriculum Review/Resource Acquisition Cycle through the 2023-2024 School Year.
2. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
  - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Textbooks)
  - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)
3. Approval of a Contract with Project Libertad for EL services for the 2021-2022 School Year at a Cost not to Exceed \$20,000
4. Approval of Transportation/Field Trip Requests

Date	Destination	Group	Trip#
January 8, 2022	Kevin Dare Invitational-Winter Indoor Track Meet Penn State University State College, PA	Phoenixville Area HS Boys Indoor Track Team Grades 9 – 12	2122088
January 29, 2022	Ocean Breeze Invitational (boys) Winter Indoor Track Meet Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex, Staten Island, NY	Phoenixville Area HS Boys Indoor Track Team Grades 9 – 12	2122089

Date	Destination	Group	Trip#
January 30, 2022	Ocean Breeze Invitational (girls) Winter Indoor Track Meet Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex Staten Island, NY	Phoenixville Area HS Girls Indoor Track Team Grades 9 – 12	2122090

President and Finance/Personnel Chair Emmanuel provided a summary of each of the approval items. The surplus was moved into Reserve for the Lawsuit appeal that has been filed by Tower Health. There is currently four months of reserved funds, but administration is looking at 7 to 8 months for medical reserves.

Lengthy discussion between Mr. Golberg and Dr. Fegley regarding the administrative training contract with NCEE (\$64,000). Mr. Golberg requested that areas of the contract be removed which ended with a lengthy discussion among the board and Dr. Fegley.

**Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Blake Emmanuel, Chair**

The only items included on the Personnel agenda were the hiring of two new ELL positions which will be spread across four (4) buildings.

**A. Personnel Items**

1. Approval of Personnel Report – November 2021
  - a. Resignations
  - b. Termination
  - c. Krise Employees
  - d. Approval of Super User Stipend
  - e. Approval of Unit Clarification Agreement to the Labor Board
  - f. Confidential Settlement Agreement and General Release
  - g. Appointments
  - h. Leave Requests
  - i. Volunteers
  - j. Informational Items
    - i. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence
    - ii. Conference Requests
    - iii. Transfer
2. Approval of Contract with the National Council of Education and the Economy (NCEE) for a Six-Month Professional Development Program for Educational Leaders Starting in February 2022 which will be paid for with ESSER Funds at a Cost not to Exceed \$64,000.

**FINANCE**

**A. Business Office Report**

- a. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – October 2021  
Check # 2168 (10/1/2021) - # 2354 (10/29/2021)  
ACH # 212200444 (10/1/2021) - # 212200630 (10/29/2021)
- b. Acknowledge Receipt of the District Financial Reports - September 2021

**B. Business Office Items**

1. Approval of Forecast5 Data Analytical Software (Budgeted item, cost offset by removal of other software)
2. Approval of Portnoff Law Associates as the District's Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector (Provided at no cost to the district)
  - a. Approval of Agreement for Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
  - b. Approval of Cost Shifting Resolution
  - c. Approval of Resolution Directing Chester County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect Delinquent Taxes

3. **Approval to File Tax Assessment Appeals with the Chester County Court of Common Pleas for the Attached List of Properties**

**#3 Moved to New Business Item as voted on and approved by the Board**

4. Approval of the Transition from SunLife to Guardian as PASD's Insurance Carrier for Employee Disability and Life Insurance Coverage effective January 1, 2022. This will result in a 30% reduction in annual premiums for the next three years.
5. Approval of a Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement with William J. Hendricks, Parcel ID 15-10-0072.0000 for an Assessment of \$755,000. (Current assessment is \$454,750).
6. Approval of a One (1) Year Agreement with West Caln Township Police Department for K-9 Contraband Inspection/Detection Services at a rate of \$125.00 per hour for a minimum of Five (5) Visits.

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

Ms. Turner reported that most revisions on policy committee on November 9<sup>th</sup> were changes made to cover latest state regulations. Others included changes to verbiage, and it was reported that very few changes made, were not content based. Links are on the agenda and on website. This evening was 1<sup>st</sup> reading with the board meeting next week being 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

1. Policy 006—Local Board Procedures—Meetings
2. Policy 144—Programs—Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
3. Policy 215—Pupils—Promotion and Retention
4. Policy 327—Employees—Management Team
5. Policy 335—Employees—Family and Medical Leaves
6. Policy 337—Employees—Vacations
7. Policy 338—Employees—Sabbatical Leave
8. Policy 903—Community—Public Participation in Board Meetings

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

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
  - a) October 11, 2021 Workshop Meeting (Draft)
  - b) October 18, 2021 Board Meeting (Draft)

It was noted that the minutes attached are in draft form for the workshop and board meetings. If there are any questions or corrections, please email between now and the board meeting.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- Superintendent's Report— Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
- Enrollment – November 2021
  - 2022-2023 School Calendar (proposed)
  - 2022 Board Committee/Meeting Calendar (options)

The proposed calendars and meeting calendars are being voted on at the board reorg meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT for the tax filed assessment (see above finance #3)

No public comment

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the Filing of Tax Assessment Appeals with the Chester County Court of Common Pleas for the properties listed on the attachment.

Mr. Weiss made the motion with Ms. Turner seconding the motion. There was no board discussion.

Golberg	YES
Schamis	YES
Sereni	NO
Soto	YES
Turner	YES

Weiss YES  
Caltagirone YES  
Ruch YES  
Emmanuel YES

**MOTION CARRIES 8-1**

Dr. Fegley reported that a revised copy of the agenda will be posted in all areas required.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Emmanuel adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

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ADF/ldf



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Mr. Jerome Weiss  
Board Secretary