



SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING  
Monday, December 6, 2021 - 6:00 PM  
Phoenixville Area School District  
Virtual Meeting (TV Channel 28 and [www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com))

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** The December 6, 2021 Board Meeting was held in the Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria and broadcasted on the website and local cable Channel 28. Presiding Board President, Ms. Blake Emmanuel, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Dr. Whitehead called the Roll of the Board.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Blake Emmanuel, Board President  
Ms. Jeesely Soto, Board Vice President  
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary  
Mr. Christopher Caltagirone  
Mr. David Golberg  
Mrs. Betsy Ruch  
Ms. Michelle Schamis  
Dr. Ayisha Sereni  
Ms. Susan Turner

**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, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services  
Dr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools and DEI  
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Board Meeting—November 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

**UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Board Executive Session—December 6, 2021 Immediately Following Board Reorganization Meeting, Re: Confidential Student Matters
- Board Meeting—December 6, 2021 (Immediately following Executive Session)
- Board Executive Session—December 6, 2021, Immediately Following Board Meeting- Re: Real Estate Matters Involving Kindergarten Center (100 School Lane)
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—January 2022 TBD
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting— January 2022 TBD
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting— January 2022 TBD

- Board Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting— January 2022 TBD
- Board Workshop—January 2022 TBD

**NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Formal Letter – Notice of the organization meeting

Mr. Weiss read the reorganization process and the required formal notice sent to the current and newly elected board members. Letters were mailed to all current and incoming board members on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> with the final letter sent to Mrs. Ruch on November 16<sup>th</sup> after her appointment.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS*****Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject***

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville resident shared her concerns regarding the forensic audit and its lack of completion. She noted the date agreed upon by a prior board was revised by four years.

Mr. John Mraz, Schuylkill Township resident read aloud the verbiage from the November 30, 2021 Department of Justice notice regarding the allegations of embezzlement by the former Business Manager. He further expressed concern about the Forensic Audit.

Mr. Doug Trainer, Phoenixville resident questioned the districts data on the Disproportionality Report. He also shared his concerns about the forensic audit.

President Emmanuel clarified the \$22,000 was initially found internally with the remaining amounts found during the police investigation

**PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARDS****PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARDS**

- Mr. Christopher Caltagirone – 4 years of service plaque
- Ms. Blake Emmanuel – 4 years of service plaque
- Ms. Jeeseley Soto – 4 years of service plaque

Dr. Fegley thanked the departing board members for their role during four years of challenging times nationwide.

Mr. Caltagirone stated he hopes the new board works more collaboratively and with more communication with the public.

Ms. Soto thanked the community for entrusting her in the role for the past four years. Proud of the work that has been accomplished with current and prior board members.

President Emmanuel reminded the board and community that public education is in jeopardy, and she thanked the administration and board on their work on DEI and other challenging topics.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

Appointment of Temporary President – (all holdover board members)

Mr. Weiss requested nominations for a temporary president. Mrs. Turner nominated Mr. Golberg and seconded by Ms. Schamis.

Ruch – YES  
Sereni – YES  
Schamis – YES  
Weiss – YES  
Golberg - ABSTAIN

Mr. Golberg is named temporary president.

**READING OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION**

Mr. Golberg acknowledged Chester County Board of Elections and announced the names of those on the Certificates of Election dated November 29, 2021. Those named as School Director for Phoenixville Area School District were:  
*Susan Turner, Caitlyn Carminito, Scott Overland and Victoria Walker*

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Mrs. Filipovic administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected School Directors.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

*Susan Turner  
Caitlyn Carminito  
Scott Overland  
Victoria Walker*

**DISTRIBUTION OF BOARD MEMBER LISTING 2021**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Mr. David Golberg	2023 *
Mrs. Betsy Ruch	2023 *
Ms. Michelle Schamis	2023 *
Dr. Ayisha Sereni	2023 *
Mr. Jerome Weiss	2023 *
Ms. Susan Turner	2025
Ms. Caitlyn Carminito	2025
Mr. Scott Overland	2025
Ms. Victoria Walker	2025

\* *Holdover Member*

**Nomination and Election of Board President**

Mr. Golberg requested a nomination for the role of President to serve a one-year term through December 5, 2022. Mrs. Schamis nominated Mrs. Turner with Mr. Weiss seconding the nomination.

**Voice Vote**

Golberg - YES

Ruch - YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni - YES

Weiss - YES

Turner - ABSTAIN

Carminito - YES

Overland - YES

Walker - YES

**8-0 MOTION CARRIES (abstain – Turner)****Nomination and Election of Board Vice-President**

President Turner opened the floor for nominations of Vice President.

Mr. Golberg nominated Betsy Ruch and Dr. Sereni seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Schamis nominated Scott Overland and Ms. Walker seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Turner closed nominations. She stated that the votes would be done in reverse order and the person with the highest number of votes would be named Vice President.

There was a roll call vote

Roll call vote for Scott Overland for VP

Golberg - NO  
 Ruch - ABSTAIN  
 Schamis - YES  
 Sereni – NO  
 Walker – YES  
 Turner - YES  
 Weiss - YES  
 Overland – ABSTAIN  
 Carminito – YES

**MOTION CARRIES 5-2 (2 abstentions)**Roll call vote for Mrs. Ruch for VP

*Overland - - ABSTAIN*  
*Weiss - NO*  
 Walker - NO  
 Schamis - YES  
 Sereni - PASS  
 Ruch - ABSTAIN  
 Golberg - YES  
 Carminito - NO  
 Sereni - YES  
 Turner -YES

**MOTION CARRIES 4-3 (2 abstentions)**

With 5 votes, Mr. Overland is named Board Vice-President.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY (IF NECESSARY)**

Not necessary

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT OF BOARD POLICY 004.1 – ETHICS, ACTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Members were given the opportunity to sign the agreement of board policy 004.1 for ethics, acts and conflicts of interest.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT OF THE PASD SCHOOL BOARD “BOARD MEETING NORMS”.**

Members were given the opportunity to sign and agree to the “Board Meeting Norms”.

Forms for Ethics Act and Board Meeting Norms were passed around.

**DESIGNATION OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES/POSITIONS**

Mrs. Turner announced that the list of Committee Chairs was being shared but the committee members list would be posted no later than end of day on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chairs for committees were:

Policy – Dave Golberg  
 Curriculum – Michelle Schamis  
 Buildings & Grounds – Jerry Weiss  
 Finance/Personnel – Betsy Ruch  
 Budget – Susan Turner

**APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

President Turner requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar as presented. Ms. Schamis made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar and Mr. Golberg seconded the motion. There were no comments or discussion.

Voice Vote:

Carminito – YES  
Golberg - YES  
Overland – YES  
Ruch - YES  
Schamis - YES  
Sereni – YES  
Walker – YES  
Turner - YES  
Weiss - YES

**MOTION PASSES 9-0**

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2022 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR (DESIGNATING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BOARD WORKSHOP MEETINGS, REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS, AND THE BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022)**

- a. Option 1
- b. Option 2

There was a brief discussion on the two Board Meeting Calendar options presented. Dr. Fegley provided a summary of the two explaining that Option 1 is the traditional calendar with committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Workshop and Board meetings following the next two Mondays respectively.

Option 2 places committee meetings and Board meetings on the same nights. Week 1 is Policy at 5:30 immediately followed by Curriculum. The Board voting meeting will follow at 7:00 PM. (that voting meeting will be the prior week's Finance/Personnel and Building & Grounds report for approval.) Week 2 is Finance and Personnel committee at 5:30 immediately followed by the Buildings and Grounds committee with the Board voting meeting following at 7:00 PM. At that meeting the Policy and Curriculum items discussed at the previous meeting will be approved. This reduces the number of meeting nights from four nights in Option 1 to two nights in Option 2. The nights may be longer in the Option 2.

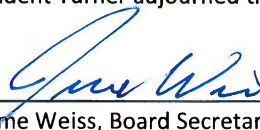
It was decided, after much discussion, to try the meetings using Option 2. The meetings will be advertised as required by law using this scheduled. If decided at a later date that it should return to option 1, those dates would be advertised to reflect the change. There was a brief discussion regarding what the expense it would be to remain with Option 1 or go to Option 2. There was also a lengthy discussion on whether to televise the committee meetings. It was decided they would remain untelevised. The Board requested that administration provide the Board with the cost of televising the committee meetings at the January Board Meeting. It was decided to broadcast the committee meetings pending cost review. Mrs. Turner requested a motion to approve either Option 1 or Option 2. Mr. Golberg made the motion to approve Option 2 with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

Voice Vote:  
Carminito – YES  
Golberg - YES  
Overland – YES  
Ruch - YES  
Schamis - YES  
Sereni – YES  
Walker – YES  
Turner - YES  
Weiss - YES

**MOTION PASSES 9-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Turner adjourned the meeting to an executive session on Confidential Student matters at 6:51 PM

  
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Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary