



PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Monday, November 29, 2021 - 7:00 PM  
Phoenixville Area High School  
(TV Channel 28 and [www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com))

#### MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** The November 29, 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.

#### 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  
Ms. Betsy Ruch (via Zoom)

Dr. Ayisha Sereni  
Ms. Jeeseley Soto (arrived at 710)  
Ms. Susan Turner  
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

#### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

#### 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 & Services

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Lenore Filipovic, Exec Assistant to the Superintendent and Cabinet

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session—November 15, 2021, 4:45 PM Re: Legal and Negotiations
- Board Workshop Meeting—November 15, 2021, 7:01 PM
- Board Workshop Meeting—November 15, 2021 RECESSED 7:19 PM
- Board Workshop Meeting—November 15, 2021, RECONVENED 7:27 PM

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

President Emmanuel opened the floor for the student representative reports.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative spoke about Thanksgiving break and the parent teacher conferences. She reported that students are excited to be back in school and are looking forward to the upcoming Wellness Month in December. Topics being explored during Wellness Month include, guidance, and school-wide assemblies focusing on Mental health. She also reported that the musical (*Wizard of Oz*) still needs volunteers for design, makeup, and costume assistance. Vaccination clinics are ongoing in administering second doses. Community and families were requested to visit the district website for additional information. The Citadel Heart of Learning award nominations have begun. Do not forget to nominate a teacher that has made an impact on your life and educational career.

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative reported that on Saturday night the Phoenixville Phantoms Marching Band participated and took the Liberty Divisions championship in Hershey Pennsylvania. She reported that students were happy to have the break with their families but are happy to be back. She also noted that sometimes holiday breaks are not always enjoyed by everyone. She asked that students, staff and parents keep an eye out for those that may be suffering. There are warning signs and that the Safe2Say program is an option for anonymous reporting. There is also a box near the guidance office that anyone can leave anonymous reports. Finally, the Middle School Spartan Club is hosting a 5K run on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

President Emmanuel reminded families that have gotten their 1<sup>st</sup> shot for the vaccine to sign up for their second shot. She also noted that Safe2say is district wide and can be accessed through the website.

**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

Emmanuel – YES

Golberg – YES

Ruch - Virtual

Schamis – YES

Sereni – YES

Soto – YES

Turner – YES

Weiss – YES

**8-0 MOTION CARRIES**

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION*****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.

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

- Louise Woodstock, high school parent thanked and support for continued masking of support of vaccinations. Public health not public opinion. Vote in favor of full masking. Work to dismantle systemic racism.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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*

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
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

*Board Finance/Personnel Committee— Chair*

**PERSONNEL**

**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. Transfers

**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

**A. 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 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.
4. 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).
5. 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*

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—Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary*

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

Mr. Caltagirone requested item #2 from Buildings & Grounds be pulled from the consent agenda until the board receives complete paperwork. Ms. Schamis seconded the request. District solicitor, Mr. Fitzgerald, responded to previous questions. He noted that there should be an all-inclusive motion to cover all resolutions that pertain to these topics. He explained the reasoning for the request to pull these items was that there was additional paperwork that was required for submission to the Court of Common Pleas.

Voice vote to pull item #2

Caltagirone – YES  
Emmanuel – YES  
Golberg – YES  
Ruch - YES

Schamis – YES  
Sereni – NO  
Soto - YES  
Turner – YES  
Weiss – YES

**8-1 MOTION CARRIES**

Dr. Sereni requested that item number 1 is pulled as well. There was a lengthy discussion and Mr. Golberg called the vote to end discussion.

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

**8-1 MOTION CARRIES**

It was clarified that a YES vote means to pull Item # 1 on B&G and that a No vote leaves the item on the agenda.

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

**2-7 MOTION FAILS (item will remain on agenda)**

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the consent agenda minus B&G item #2. Mr. Caltagirone made the MOTION with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Voice vote

Caltagirone – YES  
Emmanuel – YES  
Golberg – YES  
Ruch - YES  
Schamis – YES  
Sereni – Yes  
Soto - YES  
Turner – YES  
Weiss – YES

**9-0 MOTION CARRIES**

Note: Shortly after the vote, Dr. Sereni requested to change her vote. Unfortunately, once the voting period ended it could not be changed.

President Emmanuel read the retirement resolution for Mrs. Alejandra Nestler.

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Alejandra Nestler has served in the field of education for fifteen years as a teacher and dedicated Professional Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and, WHEREAS, Mrs. Alejandra Nestler has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective December 1, 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 Mrs. Alejandra Nestler from its Professional Staff and expresses its deep appreciation for the qualities of inspiration*

*and dedication which have been so characteristic of her approach with our children; 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 November 29, 2021, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Alejandra Nestler.*

#### **APPROVAL OF NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

##### **Personnel Item**

1. 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.

President Emmanuel requested a motion to approve the contract with National Council of Education and Economy (NCEE) with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Mr. Golberg requested the word “fundamental” be removed from the contract verbiage. There was a lengthy discussion between the Board and Dr. Fegley about why to continue to move forward.

It was clarified that a vote of YES is to approve the agenda item.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Schamis – YES

Ruch – YES

Golberg – NO

Caltagirone – YES

Weiss – YES

Turner – NO

Soto – YES

Sereni – NO

Emmanuel – YES

#### **6-3 MOTION CARRIES**

- *Phoenixville Community Education Foundation, Representative – Jerry Weiss*  
Mr. Weiss shared that the PCEF approved the \$2,000 grant to support the school-wide positive behavior program at the Middle School. They also approved a grant to create a calming room at the high school to help student’s de-stress during the school day. They also reached their goal of \$20,000 to replace revenues lost when events were cancelled due to COVID.
- *Board Representative to the Phoenixville Public Library Board, Representative(s) – Jeeseley Soto*  
Ms. Soto reported that the 30- to 40-year-old library elevator is reaching its end of life. The item will be brought up for discussion at the Buildings & Grounds committee meeting as it affects the handicap accessibility of the library. There was a budget discussion around a salary increase for staff based on the cost-of-living rates. They are also researching to see if the library employees fall into the “minimum” category currently being proposed by the Governor. The mask mandate is still in effect. They also currently offer book lockers which allow for those to rent a book/item and have it placed in the lockers for contactless pick up and drop off options.  
  
Mrs. Soto also reported on the Wine, Wit and Wisdom event held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The author shared information on the history of Phoenixville. She also noted that the Library Board By-laws are being reviewed and updated as appropriate.
- *Board Representative to the Chester County Intermediate Unit – Michelle Schamis*  
Ms. Schamis provided an update on the CCIU board meeting held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. She noted the PDE required Board Member Trainings and Webinars that are available for current and newly elected board members.
- *Chester Co. School Boards Legislative Council & Board Legislative Chairperson for PSBA – Blake Emmanuel*  
Ms. Emmanuel noted that a full list of legislative items can be found on the district website. A few of the legislative actions include:



Build Back Better bill \$1.75 trillion bill that funds universal pre-K, Medicare expansion, renewable energy credits, affordable housing and a year of expanded Child Tax Credits, among many other initiatives, will now go to the Senate.

HB1332 –legislation will require public school districts to publish on their websites the actual curriculum that will be taught for each grade and for each subject area, including but not limited to, instructional material, assessment methods, course syllabus, text books, and lesson plans. \*\*\*passed by House, amended in Senate, removed lesson plans\*\*\* correlates to PASD policy 105.1 - will need amending pending changes if passed

Fair Funding Formula – 3 million underfunded. The school funding trial continues in Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg. The lawsuit, William Penn et al. v. PA Dept. of Ed. et al, is challenging state officials' failure to provide a "thorough and efficient system of public education."

HB 1660 as passed by the House would have limited the temporary emergency provisions to no more than 60 days when an emergency results in five consecutive days of being unable to provide in-person instruction. As amended by the Senate Education Committee, the proposal separates emergencies into an "infectious disease" category and a category for all other emergencies, and imposes different requirements based on these categories of emergency. It limits the number of days for which temporary emergency provisions may be made to just 21 days. The bill also includes various mandated processes a board must follow to extend a temporary emergency.

- \* Superintendent's Report— Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
  - o Grant Update  
Dr. Fegley provided an update on the grants awarded to the district. A copy of the presentation is attached as part of the official minutes
  - o Enrollment November 2021  
Dr. Fegley provided an update on the enrollment changes over the past month regarding Charter Schools. He noted the Charter School numbers are down from 325 to 320. They were up to 355 a few years ago. The district enrollment has increased overall.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Emmanuel adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM



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Jerome Weiss  
Board Secretary