



January 2022  
Meeting #1

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:00 PM  
Phoenixville Area School District  
Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria  
(TV Channel 28 and [www.pasd.com](http://www.pasd.com))

**MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, President Turner made the following statement regarding the new public comment process.

*This evening, the Board is piloting a new process surrounding public comment for agenda and non-agenda items. As you may have seen, sign in sheets are available at the entrance of the cafeteria for members of the public to sign in for public comment. We would ask that if you desire to speak at either comment section you sign in accordingly. We will utilize the sign in sheets for the comment period by calling members of the public to the microphone to make their comment. Because tonight is simply a pilot, we will not preclude public participation from those who have not signed the sheets, however we will be allowing members of the public who have signed in to make their comments first.*

*Later this month, the policy committee will be reviewing changes to policy 903 in which the sign in process will be the exclusive process in which members of the public may make public comment. The policy committee and the board will share out additional information on this as the policy is reviewed and revised.*

**OPENING**

Mrs. Susan Turner, Board President, Presiding called the January 10, 2022 Board Meeting to Order at 7:02 PM. The meeting was held in the Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria and broadcasted on the website and local cable Channel 28.

**ROLL CALL**

Dr. Whitehead called the Roll of the Board.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Susan Turner, Board President  
Mr. Scott Overland, Board Vice President  
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary  
Mr. David Golberg  
Mrs. Betsy Ruch  
Ms. Michelle Schamis  
Ms. Caitlyn Carminito  
Ms. Victoria Walker

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Ayisha Sereni

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Ken Gibson, Director of Operations and Technology  
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Business Manager and Board Treasurer  
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources  
Mrs. Sandra Claus, Community Relations Coordinator  
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services  
Dr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools and DEI

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE S**

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative  
Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

President Turner announced the meetings held prior to this evening as well as the upcoming meetings in January.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS**

- Board Meeting—December 6, 2021, 7:09 PM
- Board Executive Session—December 6, 2021, 7:20 PM (Confidential Student Matter)
- Board Executive Session—January 3, 2022, 6:00 PM (Legal Update-Phoenixville Hospital)
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—January 10, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—January 10, 2022, 5:36 PM

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—January 24, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—January 24, 2022, TBD

President Turner then turned the floor over to the student representatives.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative

Introduced themselves to the new board members. Ms. Wright spoke about mid-terms, athletics, murder mystery dinner and the upcoming trivia night.

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative

Ms. Woronko spoke about COVID and the impact it has had on PAHS students and staff. She requested that the administration continue to look for ways to assist students while they are out due to quarantine rules. She provided a brief update on the effectiveness of a Wellness Month.

**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 Turner then requested a **MOTION** to allow remote deliberation and voting as stated in Board Policy 006.1. Ms. Schamis made the motion to allow remote deliberations and voting with Mr. Weiss seconding the motion.

Voice vote all in favor

Carminito – YES

Golberg – YES

Overland – YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – absent

Turner - YES

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

**8-0 MOTION CARRIES**

#### OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

*Open Public Comment – Comments on Voting Items*

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on voting items from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD. Please register to speak prior to the Open Public Comment Period. 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.

President Turner then opened the floor for public comment on voting items for those who pre-registered. She reminded the community that their comments were limited to three (3) minutes.

No one signed up and no one wanted to speak about voting items

President Turner requested a **MOTION** to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Ms. Schamis made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding. There was no discussion.

Voice vote all in favor

Carminito – YES

Golberg – YES

Overland – YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – absent

Turner - YES

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

**8-0 MOTION CARRIES**

Mrs. turner – read a retirement resolution for Dr. Leroy Whitehead.

WHEREAS, Dr. Le Roy Whitehead has served in the field of education for thirty-five years, with six years in Phoenixville, as a dedicated Administrative Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Le Roy Whitehead has tendered his resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective June 30, 2022; and, WHEREAS, The Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District wishes to recognize him for his 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 Dr. Le Roy Whitehead from its Administrative Staff and expresses its deep appreciation for the qualities of inspiration and dedication which have been so characteristic of his tenure; 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 January 10, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Le Roy Whitehead

VOTE  
CONSENT AGENDA

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

1. Approval of 2022-2023 Phoenixville Area High School Program of Studies

Board Finance/Personnel Committee—Betsy Ruch, Chair

A. Personnel Items

Approval of Personnel Report – January 10, 2022

1. Resignations
2. Track Changes
3. Appointments
4. Leave Requests
5. Volunteers
6. Informational Items
  - a) Conference Requests
  - b) Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence
  - c) Transfers

*Board Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary*

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
  - a) November 15, 2021 Workshop Meeting
  - b) November 29, 2021 Board Meeting
  - c) December 6, 2021 Board Reorganization Meeting
  - d) December 6, 2021 Board Meeting

DISCUSSION

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Turner opened the floor for Dave Golberg, Policy Chair.

Mr. Golberg noted that there were slight changes in wording. Mr. Golberg noted that on policy 701.1 the following changes were proposed.

Regarding Policy 701.1—Property—Facilities Naming, it was decided that Under “Guidelines – General Guidelines for the Naming of Facilities section and in Specific Guidelines for Naming of Facilities after Individuals – should have same verbiage. Revised to both read - The Board reserves the right to change the name of any facility if the individual or entity for whom it is named is convicted of a crime or, in the Board’s view, otherwise falls into disrepute

Policy 913.1—Community—Sponsorship and Advertising, had a few minor revisions. These included removing verbiage to section “Sponsored Educational Materials and Advertising in Curriculum 3f”. It was decided to remove the wording “that will be using them “and read - *Diverse Representation*: The materials reflect the gender diversity and racial diversity of the students.

Policies 701.1, 712, 901 and 913.1 were all sent through for first and second reading at the January 10 and 24, meetings respectively.

## Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

## A. Voting Items for January 24, 2022

1. Policy 701.1—Property—Facilities Naming
2. Policy 712—Property—Use of Wireless Communication Devices by Employees
3. Policy 901—Community—Public Relations Objectives
4. Policy 909—Community—Municipal Government Relations
5. Policy 913.1—Community—Sponsorship and Advertising

President Turner opened the floor for Ms. Schamis, Curriculum Chair. Ms. Schamis noted that several items for approval at the next meeting. She detailed what occurred at the prior committee meeting.

## Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

## A. Voting Items for January 24, 2022

1. Approval of the Textbook/eBook/PD Bundle for High School African American History Elective Course for the 2022-2023 School Year at a Cost of \$13,049.50. PRICE QUOTE (Budgeted Item)
2. Approval of Contract for Interpreter Services with Keystone Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services through June 30, 2026 at a Rate of \$52 per hour. (Budgeted Item)
3. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
  - a) Phoenixville Area High School (Library Books)
  - b) Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)

## BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation, Representative — Ms. Caitlyn Carminito  
President Turner opened the floor for Ms. Carminito to provide an update on the PCEF meeting. Ms. Carminito reported that PCEF will be hosting Phantom Trivia Night on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – to 8:30PM. She noted that the event is virtual and that tickets can be obtained on the PCEF website.
- Superintendent’s Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.  
President Turner opened the floor for Dr. Fegley to provide details to his report
  - January 2022 Enrollment  
Dr. Fegley reported that January 2022 enrollment remains steady. There have not been any changes since last month
  - Donations:
    - Lab Supplies  
Dr. Fegley thanked the two donors, first, John Brannan who donated just under \$10,000 in lab supplies.
    - “Nourishing Neighbors Breakfast for Kids” grant.  
This grant was for \$3822.01 for Breakfast Items for Backpack Program and Necessities Closet
  - Expense for Board Meeting set up and broadcasting  
Dr. Fegley and the administration were tasked with determining the cost, if any, to broadcast and televise the committee meetings. He detailed the expenses to be:  
Custodial – \$640  
TV crew – \$320  
Live stream is \$150 per hour

He shared that to keep the appropriate social distancing and to allow for more than the 5 – 10 community members, it will cost approximately \$1,300 for a 2-hour board meeting in the High school Cafeteria. He noted that the Admin Building Board Room does not require a TV crew and no additional set up it is just limited to the number of community members.

If you add committee on the same night as the board meeting, there is an approximate additional \$80.00 cost. If committee meetings are on another night, the cost of broadcast will be about \$1,200 per night.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the options to remain in the HS Cafeteria or move back to the Board Room. It was decided that Committee and Board Meetings will remain in the HS Cafeteria for the time being with committee meetings, streamed and board meetings streamed and recorded.

○ 2022-2023 Initial Budget Presentation including Act 1 Resolution

Dr. Melber provided a first look at the budget in relation to the Act 1 index. In his presentation (attached for your reference) he shared an overview of the budget numbers. He noted that the board will be asked to approve the Act 1 Resolution at the next meeting. The timeline for the budget process is:

- January 10 – Present Budget Early Look
- January 24 – Approve Act 1 Resolution
- February 28 – Preliminary Budget Update
- March 28 – Present Preliminary Budget
- April 6 – Budget Town Hall
- April 11 – Approve Proposed Final Budget
- May 23 – Approve Final Budget

He did inform the board that this timeline allows for a June 30<sup>th</sup> board approval if needed. He noted the Act 1 Index is 3.4%. There are also LERTA properties coming online soon.

○ District Health & Safety Plan Presentation - presentation

Dr. Whitehead provided a summary of the Health and Safety Plan. He noted that the board will have discussion this evening and a possible vote at the next meeting.

The matrix uses the same color graphic the Health Department uses in the categorization of diseases.

President Turner opened the floor for board discussion on the District Health and Safety Plan.

There was a lengthy board discussion regarding, making masking optional at the moderate and low levels

If the Board approve the changes

Optional masking at moderate and low levels

Goal is to keep in person learning. If we have to go virtual, first consider having a class/school go virtual, and not the District, if possible. Consider test to stay if health department can provide the tests and support.

#### DISCUSSION

District Health & Safety Plan

President Turner opened the floor for public comment period #2 on any school subject.

She reported that the topic will be discussed at the next meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on any school subject from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD. Please register to speak prior to the Open Public Comment Period. 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.

Christian Duval, Phoenixville resident, originally opened the comment period, but shared the floor with Emilyn Fox from the Phoenixville Green Team and Transition. They spoke in favor selling the old Kindergarten Center to the Borough to allow for it to remain open green space and an education center. They shared statistics from a recent survey.

Becky McCarron, Phoenixville resident, spoke about an email she sent to the board on October 6<sup>th</sup>. She spoke in opposition of the usage of masks.

Eileen Michaud, Phoenixville resident, spoke in opposition of mask usage.

hitney McClintock, Phoenixville resident and alumnus spoke about an email communication sent to Dr. Fegley and the board in opposition of the Physical Education HS credit for sports and marching band participation.

Anthony Valenica, Phoenixville resident spoke in opposition of the Health and Safety Plan Matrix and indicated it was confusing.

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM



*Jane Weiss* 2/14/22

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#### ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: This agenda is subject to change. The Board requests that they be made aware of anyone taping the proceedings of this meeting.