



January 2022
Meeting #2

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 24, 2022, 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area School District
Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria
(TV Channel 28 and 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.

In February, 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 24, 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
Ms. Caitlyn Carminito
Mr. David Golberg (arrived 7:22PM)
Mrs. Betsy Ruch
Ms. Michelle Schamis
Dr. Ayisha Sereni
Ms. Victoria Walker

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 REPRESENTATIVES

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

OTHERS PRESENT

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 –January 10, 2022, 7:03 PM
- Board Executive Session—January 20, 2022, 7:00 PM (Re: Legal/Negotiations – Kdg Center)
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—January 24, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—January 24, 2022, 6:43 PM

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Policy Committee Meeting—February 14, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—February 14, 2022, Immediately following Policy
- Board Meeting—February 14, 2022, 7:00 PM

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

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Aubrey Wright – Senior Student Representative

Ms. Wright shared some concerns that were raised by members of the girls' softball team regarding a potential time change in their practice schedule. The current practice / game time is after school. The proposed changes would make it from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative

Ms. Woronko spoke about Midterm exams and how students were able to make up exams if they were missed. She also added that COVID numbers are down from where they have been and that more students have been in school after having to quarantine.

School Director Recognition Month

Dr. Fegley provided some history and facts about the role of a school board member. Certificates were then presented to each member.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee—Mr. Jerome Weiss, Chair

A. Voting Items for February 14, 2022

- a. Approval of the Sale of 33 W. Pothouse Road Property for the amount of \$380,000

Mr. Weiss reviewed the sale of 33 West Pothouse. The current plan is for the Board to approve the sale at its February 14, 2022 meeting. He noted that even after this approval takes place it is still a lengthy process for selling a publicly owned property as the sale must be approved by the courts. Second, was an informational item regarding the old Kindergarten Center property at 100 School Lane. Mr. Weiss read the following statement: The Board has been negotiating with the Borough for the last few months and has received and discussed the Borough's most recent offer from January 18, 2022. The Board has requested administration reopen negotiations with developers. The District will continue to consider offers from the Borough and developers as it negotiates.

Board Finance/Personnel Committee— Mrs. Betsy Ruch, Chair

PERSONNEL

A. Voting Items for January 24, 2022

1. Personnel Items
 - a. Approval of Personnel Report – January 2022 (#2)
 1. Resignations

1. Personnel Items (continued)
 2. Professional Contracts
 3. Appointments
 4. Leave Request

FINANCE

Business Office Report

A. Voting Items for February 14, 2022

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds
 - November 2021
Check # 2355 (11/5/2021) – Check # 2510 (11/26/2021)
ACH # 212200631 (11/5/2021) – ACH # 212200864 (11/26/2021)
 - December 2021
Check # 2511 (12/3/2021) – Check 2667 (12/31/2021)
ACH # 212200865 (12/3/2021) – ACH # 212201046 (12/31/2021)
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports
 - October 2021
 - November 2021

Mrs. Ruch reviewed the personnel report. It was requested that the personnel report be a routine voting item at each meeting. On this week's report, there were resignations, appointments, contracts and leaves of absence.

She then went on to detail items discussed at the business office portion of the meeting. These items included a request from the new transportation provider to have a fence installed around the property. The district would be responsible for paying for half the fencing. The belief is that the fence would offer security over the buses and property. They would like to also lease the bus area and would like approval to build a garage. The new garage would allow for inspections and other repairs to be done on site. The committee recommends this for a voting item next meeting.

She reported on the two public comments from the finance meeting. They spoke about the new three-minute time limit for public comment at committee meetings. They felt this was too short and didn't allow for dialogue with the board.

President Turner then opened the floor for the board representative reports.

Phoenixville Community Education Foundation

Ms. Carminito reported on the PCEF meeting held on January 17th. She noted that there are still tickets available for the upcoming Virtual Trivia Night on January 28th at 7:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased online through the PCEF website. They also discussed the continued support of the ROTC program. They approved the purchase of yard signs for the class of 2022. They are also considering hosting an event in downtown Phoenixville in May. This would showcase the many programs that PCEF supports. They are still in the early stages of planning.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Board

Ms. Schamis shared information on the Wednesday, January 19th CCIU meeting. She noted that topics discussed included increasing construction costs and inflation and the increase in enrollment for health career pathways, Welding Fabrication, Allied Health and technology programs. The BVA (Brandywine Virtual Academy) asynchronous online continues to grow. The CCIU board was presented with the overview of the 2020-2021 audit reports for the Technical College High School. Mr. Lubitsky, Administration Director presented the CCIU board with the overview of the 2022-2023 Core Occupational Education, Categorical and Marketplace budgets. The CCIU administration will present a full report of these budgets to the Superintendent's at the meeting in February.

President Turner reminded the community present that if they wish to speak at either of the two public comment periods, they are to sign up ahead of time. The first one is on Voting and Consent Agenda items only.

Dr. Fegley, opened his Superintendent's Report with Mrs. Rockwood, Human Resources Director sharing details about last year's employee survey. She noted that they are getting ready to launch this year's survey which will be a good comparison.

Dr. Fegley shared the administrative recommendations for the health and safety plan. Details of the recommendations and plan are attached. The student representatives shared thoughts on the masking and non-masking topic.

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 and only pertained to the consent agenda items and the health and safety plan and Act 1 resolution.

President Turner opened the floor for public comment.

Lori Joyce, Schuylkill Township resident spoke about the Health and Safety Plan and her concerns about the current mandates.

Jeremy Kross, Schuylkill Township resident spoke about the Health and Safety Plan and consistency between the school and public/government mandates.

Chris Perillo, Schuylkill Township resident spoke about the Health and Safety Plan and shared facts regarding negative effects of masks on adolescents.

Tammy Kurtz, PAEA President thanked the administration and board for continuing to livestream the meetings. She asked the board to focus on the students. At the last meeting it was questioned how the staff felt about the current situation and she did an informal survey. There was support for wearing masks in the current levels of transmission of high rate. The staff asked the board and administration to watch the trend.

Becky McCarron, Phoenixville Borough resident spoke against masking using cloth masks and that medical grade masks should be used.

Paul Celentano, Phoenixville Borough resident also spoke against masking using cloth masks and that medical grade masks should be used.

Teresa Olsen, East Pikeland resident, spoke about masking and double masking which showed in a study that masks may cause more harmful issues especially to children.

Eileen Michaud, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the website www.unityonline.com which has tutorials on mask usage and its negative effects of masking. She shared her thoughts about vaccinations and the reported negative effects on pilots.

Megan Valencia, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke about masking and the negative effectiveness of their usage.

Anthony Valencia, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke about the emails he sent regarding different opinions on masking and asking for parental rights to be reinstated.

Kristen Myers, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke in favor of the boards current decision on masking and making a slight change to the matrix to use positivity not transmission rates.

Emily Shanley, Schuylkill Township resident, spoke about the health and safety plan and the medically fragile and most vulnerable students.

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

Voice vote all in favor
 Overland - YES
 Carminito - YES
 Golberg - YES
 Ruch - YES
 Schamis - YES
 Sereni - NO (Yes Bd Sec #2)
 Turner - YES
 Walker - YES
 Weiss - YES

8-1 MOTION CARRIES

VOTE
CONSENT AGENDA

Board Finance/Personnel Committee— Mrs. Betsy Ruch, Chair

PERSONNEL

- A. Voting Items for January 24, 2022
1. Personnel Items
 - a. Approval of Personnel Report – January 2022 (#2)
 1. Resignations
 2. Professional Contracts
 3. Appointments
 4. Leave Request

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

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

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

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 Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Acceptance of the Pennsylvania School Board Associations "Principles for Governance and Leadership"
2. Approval of Recommendation to Continue to Livestream Committee Meetings

President Turner read a retirement resolution for Ms. Charlene B. Jones.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Charlene B. Jones has served in the field of education for twenty-two years, with fifteen years in Phoenixville, as a dedicated member of the Support Staff of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Charlene B. Jones has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective June 10, 2022; 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. Charlene B. Jones 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 January 24, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Charlene B. Jones.

President Turner then detailed the two roll call voting items.

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEMS

1. Approval of Resolution Under Act 1 of Special Session No. 1 of 2006 for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
2. Approval of Health and Safety Plan Matrix

President Turner requested a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution Under Act 1 of Special Session No. 1 of 2006 for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weiss made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

Voice vote all in favor

Carminito - YES

Golberg - YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Overland - YES

Turner – YES

8-1 MOTION CARRIES

President Turner requested a **MOTION** to approve the Health and Safety Plan Matrix as presented. Mr. Weiss made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

Mr. Golberg requested an amendment to the motion to keep matrix as is now but with the mask optional being at the Low, Moderate and Substantial level and masks for High only. Dr. Sereni seconded the motion to accept and discuss the amendment as proposed to the health and safety plan.

Vote is on whether to accept the amendment for discussion.

Voice vote all in favor

Carminito - NO

Golberg - YES

Ruch – NO

Schamis – NO

Sereni – Yes

Walker – no

Weiss – YES

Overland - NO

Turner – YES

4-5 MOTION FAILS

Mr. Overland made an amendment to the amended motion to, except when the positivity or incident rates are in HIGH, the superintendent will have discretion to adopt mask measures, based on local and school district community conditions with the goals of keeping students and staff safe and schools open for in-person learning. The Superintendent shall be guided by the health and safety matrix and relevant jurisdictional authorities along with recommendations from CCHD, CDC and other public health officials. Mr. Weiss made a motion to accept the amendment by Mr. Overland. Mr. Golberg seconded the motion.

There was a lengthy board discussion to finalize the wording of the amended motion.

Voice vote all in favor to discuss

Schamis – YES

Sereni – YES

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Overland - YES
 Carminito - YES
 Golberg - YES
 Ruch - YES
 Turner - YES

9-0 MOTION CARRIES

There was a lengthy board discussion.

Voice vote all in favor of the revised amendment to be voted on.

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

8-1 MOTION CARRIES

Open for additional public comment on the amendment to the motion only.

Paul Celentano, Phoenixville resident, requested that a plus or minus be added to those figures to allow for more leniency.

Motion to approve the amended motion for the health and safety plan made by Mr. Overland.

Mr. Weiss made the motion with Ms. Carminito seconding.

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

MOTION CARRIES 7-2

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

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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.

Sabine Polak, Edna Valentino and Mileva Repasky all Phoenixville residents, spoke on behalf of a larger group of parents about social media and mental health issues plaguing our children. They asked the board and community to work together on this issue.

John Mraz, Schuylkill Township shared his concerns about the lack of details on the finance reports.

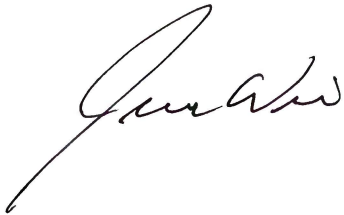
Kristen Myers, Phoenixville resident spoke about improving advertising the new committee meeting times and viewing options, summer camp offerings and the Math 24 competition.

Chris Perillo, Phoenixville resident, questioned how the numbers for COVID reporting will be done using local figures.

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.

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.

 2/14/22