



**February 14, 2022
Meeting #1**

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 14, 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.

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 February 14, 2022 Board Meeting to Order at 7:32 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
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
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

Not present

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 February.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—January 24, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Board Information Session—February 14, 2022, 5:00 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—February 14, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—February 14, 2022, 5:50 PM

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—February 28, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—February 28, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—February 28, 2022

President Turner noted that the board will be returning to its normal in person attendance policy. Only members with prior approved extenuating circumstances will be able to dial or zoom in for meeting participation.

DISCUSSION**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Turner opened the floor for Dave Golberg, Policy Chair. Mr. Golberg noted that the samples for policies 610 and 611 were from PSBA. It was requested that the district current policies be reviewed and compared to PSBA for potential revision. In the end it was decided, after legal review, to adopt the revised version from PSBA as they were more concise and in legal compliance than the district version.

Mr. Golberg provided a brief summary of each policy going through for approval on February 28th

It was reported that Comcast was having difficulties, but Verizon and the district website were both working for live streaming.

Policy 903 was pulled from the approval agenda for further review.

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

- A. Voting Items for February 28, 2022
 1. Policy 338.1—Employees—Compensated Professional Leaves
 2. Policy 610—Finances—Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 3. Policy 611—Finances—Purchases Budgeted
 4. Policy 702—Property—Gifts, Grants, Donations
 5. Policy 804—Operations—School Day
 6. Policy 807—Operations—Opening Exercises
 7. Policy 903—Community—Public Participation in Board Meetings

President Turner opened the floor for Ms. Schamis, Curriculum Chair to provide a summary of the Curriculum Committee items. Ms. Schamis noted that there are several items for approval at the next meeting. She detailed what occurred at the prior committee meeting.

Mr. Golightly, MS Librarian, spoke about the changes to some of the 2022 Summer reading lists. Mr. Golberg expressed concerns about the age appropriateness of a book. A meeting was set with administration to review this concern. Ms. Schamis also reported on the confidential student agreement that had been discussed at executive session. Details of the speech and language services contract with Nyman Associates was also shared. Finally, a request for disposal, recycling and sale of library books that had been weeded.

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

A. Voting Items for February 28, 2022

1. Approval of the 2022 Summer Reading Lists
 - a. Elementary Reading List
 - b. Middle School Reading List
 - c. High School Reading List
2. Approval of a Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release with Student 2021-2022E
3. Approval of a One-Year Educational Services Agreement with Nyman Associates for Special Education Services for PASD Students through June 30, 2022 at the following per hour rates:

Speech-Language Pathologist	\$67
Registered Behavior Technician	\$40
BCBA	\$85
4. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - a. Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)
 Personnel will be discussed and approved at each meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Personnel Items
 1. Resignations
 2. Pay Adjustment
 3. Appointments
 4. Leave Requests
 5. Volunteers
 6. Informational Items
 - a. Conference Requests
 - b. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absences

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Legislative Representative – Mr. Scott Overland

Mr. Overland provided the board and community present with recent legislative action regarding changes to the emergency certifications and the teacher shortage. The governor authorized the use of retired and current graduates to be used as substitutes in Act 91 of 2021 for emergency certifications.

Governor Wolf did veto the proposition of posting lesson plans on the district website – which is over burdensome.

Mr. Overland provided a summary of the current proposed budget by Governor Wolf. He did note that it is unlikely that the budget would pass in its current form.

- Phoenixville Library Representative – Dr. Alan D. Fegley for Mrs. Jessica Bicker
Dr. Fegley provided a brief update on the upcoming fundraisers for the Phoenixville Public Library. He noted that there is a virtual event scheduled as well as the “round up” program at the Kimberton Whole Foods. The Bistro on Bridge is also donating the proceeds of the sales of Cheesesteak Eggrolls through the month of March. The Library Board is still working on their proposed budget for 2022-2023. He also thanked Jessica Bicker, high school librarian for serving as the board representative on the Library Board.

- Superintendent's Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
 - February 2022 Enrollment

President Turner opened the floor for Dr. Fegley to provide details to the February enrollment report. He noted that enrollment increased by 26 students – mostly elementary grades. There were only a few incoming juniors and seniors. He explained that the number of Charter School students dropped from 378 to 313 from years ago. There was a brief discussion regarding the high school courses that are slightly above the class size policy guidelines.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Voting Items

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

There were no names submitted prior to the meeting for public.

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

Roll call

Overland – YES
 Carminito – YES
 Golberg – YES
 Ruch – YES
 Schamis – YES
 Sereni – No
 Walker – YES
 Weiss – YES
 Turner – YES

8-1 MOTION PASSES

VOTING ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Motion to Approve the Resolution and any related documentation in connection with the School District's Sale of the Property Identified as UP 27-5C-16, with an Address of 33 W. Pothouse Road in Schuylkill township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
 - Deed

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

PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Items
 - A. Approval of Personnel Report – February 14, 2022
 1. Resignations
 2. Pay Adjustment
 3. Appointments
 4. Leave Requests
 5. Volunteers
 6. Informational Items
 - a. Conference Requests
 - b. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absences

FINANCE

Business Office Report

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
3. Approval to award Chesconet a 1-Year Contract with two (2) 1-Year Renewal Options for Internet Access Services at an Annual Cost not to Exceed \$32,000. This is a reduction from \$36,000 from the Prior Contract.
4. Approval of a Lease Agreement with Krise Transportation, Inc for Lease of Bus Depot at a rate of \$1.00 per year through the remainder of original contract (June 30, 2028)

Board Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) January 10, 2022, Board Meeting
 - b) January 24, 2022, Board Meeting

President Turner read the retirement resolution for Ms. Linda Lamb

WHEREAS, Ms. Linda Lamb has served in the field of education for thirty-six years, with twelve years in Phoenixville, as a teacher and dedicated Professional Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Linda Lamb has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective June 13, 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 Ms. Linda Lamb 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 February 14, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. Linda Lamb.

President Turner stated that they are looking to create two new committees for the board. These committees will be made up of community members and board members. One is based on the construction project as the Hares Hill Advisory Board and the other is a community advisory board

President Turner requested motion to begin discussion on the masking policy.

President Turner read the proposed verbiage by indicating the addition of the words "with transmission and positivity rates in the high range".

Mr. Weiss made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

There was a lengthy board discussion sharing the points of view of many board members. The new wording offers discretion in terms with mask recommended vs masking optional. This process allows for more leniency. The board doesn't

recommend giving that authority when both levels are in high status. It was noted there can be granularity at the classroom, building and district level.

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEM

1. Approval of revised Health and Safety Plan Guidance – When both positivity and incidence rates are in high transmission level, masks are required. At all other transmission levels, the Superintendent will have discretion to adopt mask measures based on local community and school district conditions, with the goals of keeping students and staff safe and schools open for in-person learning. The Superintendent should be guided by the health and safety matrix and relevant jurisdictional authorities, along with the recommendations from the CCHD, CDC and other public health officials.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the three potential options for wording. They include:

1. Require both metrics be in the high level
2. Potentially remove the beginning and start with the superintendent would have discretion (remove “the wording of the metrics”)

Mr. Golberg proposed an amendment to the **MOTION**. Ms. Walker seconded the motion. He clarified that the new wording includes the removal of the first sentence. The new wording is:

1. Approval of revised Health and Safety Plan Guidance –The Superintendent will have discretion to adopt mask measures based on local community and school district conditions, with the goals of keeping students and staff safe and schools open for in-person learning. The Superintendent should be guided by the health and safety matrix and relevant jurisdictional authorities, along with the recommendations from the CCHD, CDC and other public health officials.

The discussion included other masking policies or changes to masking policies from neighboring districts.

President Turner opened the floor for public comment on this topic only.

Ms. Kristen Myers, Phoenixville resident and parent of two PASD students spoke against the amendment.

1. Approval of revised Health and Safety Plan Guidance –The Superintendent will have discretion to adopt mask measures based on local community and school district conditions, with the goals of keeping students and staff safe and schools open for in-person learning. The Superintendent should be guided by the health and safety matrix and relevant jurisdictional authorities, along with the recommendations from the CCHD, CDC and other public health officials.

President Turner requested Dr. Whitehead do a roll call vote:

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

MOTION FAILS – 1-8

Back to original agenda item:

1. Approval of revised Health and Safety Plan Guidance – When both positivity and incidence rates are in high transmission level, masks are required. At all other transmission levels, the Superintendent will have discretion to adopt mask measures based on local community and school district conditions, with the goals of keeping students and staff safe and schools open for in-person learning. The Superintendent should be guided by the health and safety matrix and relevant jurisdictional authorities, along with the recommendations from the CCHD, CDC and other public health officials.

President Turner once again requested Dr. Whitehead do a roll call vote.

Carminito – YES

Golberg – YES

Ruch- YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni – YES

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

Overland - NO

Turner - YES

MOTION CARRIES 8-1

Clarification on recommended and optional mask use. Recommended to all wear masks leaves people the ability to wear a mask. The optional choice is that it truly gives the user an option to wear or not wear a mask. The wording is materialistically the same, but it's a good step down in the process.

President Turner opened the floor for open public comment on any school subject.

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.

Ms. Emilyn Fox, Phoenixville Borough resident and representative of Phoenixville Transition and the Green team provided statistics on a recent poll given to the public regarding the sale of the Kindergarten Center. In summary, there is clear support among those surveyed to sell to Borough and use as an educational center.

ADJOURNMENT

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

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



