



February 2022 Meeting #2

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 28 2022, 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area School District
Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

OPENING

Mrs. Susan Turner, Board President, Presiding called the February 28, 2022, Board Meeting to Order at 7:53 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. Melber 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
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

OTHERS PRESENT

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 Information Session—February 14, 2022, 5:00 PM
- Board Meeting—February 14, 2022, 7:32 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—February 28, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—February 28, 2022 immediately following

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—March 14, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—March 14, 2022, immediately following policy
- Board Meeting—March 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 and Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative used this time to share more information the following topics:

Winter sports are ending soon with the Boys' basketball team getting far into the playoffs and the winter swim team who are still doing well! The Cheer Squad represented Phoenixville in their competition in Disney.

They briefly spoke about the changing of mask wearing to recommended. She noted that Senior internships are coming soon. Seniors have the choice to get a job or do an internship starting May 16 through the end of the school year.

They noted that a baccalaureate interest form was sent to help gauge how many students plan to attend. Current students are also working to put a book together of Normal Inferrera to share with his parents. She asked that any stories or photos be sent via email to CarolineCopeland2005@gmail.com

They also reported that the high school is amping up to begin the Spring Sports season. Athletes are currently doing pre-season workouts with March 7th being the formal opening day. Tickets for Annie, the musical, will be available this evening. The shows are March 10 and 11th at 7:00 PM and March 12th at 2:00 PM. They also reported that the winter band concert was held recently and that the student organized magazine, "Gazebo", is looking for new students to join and add their creativity.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Potential voting items for February 28 and March 14, 2022

1. Approval of the Creation of a New Board Committee for the Exploration of New Construction and also the Creation of a Community Advisory Group to help Guide the Exploration. (Approval at the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting)
2. Approval of the Administrative Recommendation for the Sale of the Kindergarten Center Property (100 School Lane) to "Developer" in the amount of "Price."
3. Approval of the Removal and Replacement of Barkley Flooring

Mr. Weiss reviewed the items that will be brought forward for approval. Item #1 the creation of new board committees regarding construction of the Hares Hill Property as well as an advisory committee, is up for approval this evening. Items #2 and #3 are scheduled for the March 14th meeting. He read the following statement:

At the last B&G meeting it was announced that the Board had directed the administration to begin negotiations with the developers. Administration undertook this task and seen several improved offers from the developers. For example, the lowest developer's offer had been \$1.72 million, it is now \$2.8 million. And the highest offer now exceeds \$4 million. The Borough's January 2022 response to the Board's December 2021 counter, maintained the cash offer and showed no significant or material change to their initial offer.

The Board continues to direct the administration to negotiate with the top two developers and has requested that administration present their recommendation to the Board in March 2022.

President Turner announced that the deadline for applications or letter of interest, is March 3rd.

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

PERSONNEL

Approval for February 28, 2022

PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Report – February 2022
 - a. Resignations

1. Personnel Report – February 2022 (Continued)
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Volunteers
 - d. Informational Items
 1. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence

FINANCE

Business Office Report

- A. Voting Items for February 14, 2022
 1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – January 2022
 - Check # 2668 (1/7/2022) – Check 2794 (1/28/2022)
 - ACH # 212201047 (1/7/2022) – ACH # 212201204 (1/28/2022)
 2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports
 - December 2021
 - January 2022

Business Office Items

1. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for the Property at 255 Valley Park Road, Parcel #27-6-69.2 for an Assessed Value of \$731,250.

Mrs. Ruch reviewed the personnel report and announced that the Personnel Report will be up as part of the Consent Agenda for approval this evening.

She then detailed the items discussed at the business office portion of the meeting and reported that the remaining items are scheduled for approval at the March 14th board meeting.

President Turner then opened the floor for the board representative reports. She noted that the administration will post the full agenda the morning of the meeting.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Board

Ms. Schamis shared information on the CCIU Board meeting that occurred on Wednesday, February 23rd in the CCIU Downingtown location.

She noted there were presentations on the Organizational Goals, the Occupational and Educational Budgets and the Health and Safety Plan. The mask mandates will be changed to “masks recommended” on March 7th. She also reported that there is a shortage of youth mental health workers due to the closure of two Chester County hospitals.

President Turner opened the floor for Dr. Fegley to speak about the Public Library board vacancies. Dr. Fegley announced that there will be three vacancies (for 3-year terms) coming in June. He asked that all applications/resumes are emailed to Lara Lorenzi, and the library board will interview and send names of those being recommended for School Board approval/appointment.

Dr. Sereni questioned the need for High School Library, Jessica Bicker, as the Board Representative to the Library Board. It was noted that Mrs. Bicker brings extensive knowledge and expertise to the role.

Dr. Fegley introduced Dr. Melber who provided an update on the proposed preliminary budget. He reminded them of the budget timeline and noted that the administration will bring the preliminary budget for approval on April 18th. The final budget is scheduled for approval in May. There was a brief discussion about the reserves accounts with an update to follow. Mrs. Ruch and Dr. Sereni requested additional detail on Department discretionary funds. The Administration agreed to provide that detail.

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.

Mr. Golberg requested Curriculum Item #1, Summer Reading Lists, be pulled from the consent agenda for separate vote.

There was no public comment

President Turner requested a MOTION to approve the consent agenda items as presented minus the Curriculum Item #1, Summer Reading Lists. Ms. Schamis made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

Dr. Melber did a roll call vote:

Voice vote all in favor

Overland – YES

Carminito – YES

Goldberg – YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Sereni – YES for B&G #1 and Curriculum #4 and NO on other items.

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Turner – YES

President Turner requested a MOTION to approve Curriculum Item #1, Summer Reading Lists. Ms. Overland made the motion with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Mr. Golberg stated he met with Drs. Fegley and Kilmetz, and Ms. Schamis to discuss his concerns about items on the Summer Reading Lists. He noted that some of the changes were made but he still has concerns with a chunk of the content. He felt the content and themes of some of the books was inappropriate for the ages listed. Mr. Golberg thanked Ms. Schamis and administration for meeting with him and working with him. He also asked the administration to confirm that these reading lists are not mandatory and that other books can be approved if requested. It was confirmed that all of the elementary books are optional and that only a few of the Middle and High School are required.

Mr. Melber did a roll call vote:

Carminito -YES

Golberg - NO

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Overland - YES

Turner - YES

MOTION pass 7-2

VOTE
CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of the Creation of a New Board Committee for the Exploration of New Construction and also the Creation of a Community Advisory Group to help Guide the Exploration.

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

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)

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

1. Personnel Report – February 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Volunteers
 - d. Informational Items
 1. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

1. Approval of the policies as presented.
 - a. Policy 338.1—Employees—Compensated Professional Leaves
 - b. Policy 610—Finances—Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 - c. Policy 611—Finances—Purchases Budgeted
 - d. Policy 702—Property—Gifts, Grants, Donations
 - e. Policy 804—Operations—School Day
 - f. Policy 807—Operations—Opening Exercises

President Turner read a retirement resolution for James Phipps.

WHEREAS, Mr. James Phipps has served in the field of education for eighteen years, with fifteen years in Phoenixville, as a teacher and dedicated Professional Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. James Phipps has tendered his 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 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 Mr. James Phipps from its Professional Staff and expresses its deep appreciation for the qualities of inspiration and dedication which have been so characteristic of his 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 28, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. James Phipps.

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.

Daniel Weiser, Phoenixville resident near the old Kindergarten Center, spoke against selling the old Kindergarten Center property to developers and questioned the revenue benefit of developing this property.

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the budget and unfunded mandates.

Mark Connelly, Green Team member, asked the board to provide facts on the deadline they set with the Borough. He did state that the sale must have assurances before it happens. There is concern about allowing the resale or use of other legal strategies use the property in a negative manner.

John Mraz, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the budget. He questioned the figures and what makes up the budget. He also spoke about needing a zoning variance from Schuylkill Township to add lights to the turf fields. He also shared his concern about the posting of the agendas and attachments.

Kristen Meyers, East Pikeland Township resident about the spoke about the summer reading list, the agenda attachments, and the finance meeting. Her main concern was the overcrowding of Manavon and PAELC and the inequity of class offerings with ART and STEM on carts instead of classrooms.

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.

