



May 23, 2022
MINUTES

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 23, 2022, 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area School District
Phoenixville Area High School Cafeteria
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

AGENDA

Mr. Scott Overland, Board Vice President, Presiding called the May 23, 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.

There was the pledge to the flag.

Dr. Whitehead called the Roll of the Board

The members of the Board present for the May 23, 2022 meeting were:

Mr. Scott Overland, Board Vice President
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary
Ms. Caitlyn Carminito
Mr. David Golberg (via phone/zoom)
Mrs. Betsy Ruch
Ms. Michelle Schamis
Dr. Ayisha Sereni
Ms. Victoria Walker

The member of the Board absent from the May 23, 2022 meeting was:

Ms. Susan Turner, Board President

The Administrators present for the May 23, 2022 meeting were:

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent
Dr. LeRoy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ken Gibson, Director of Operations and Technology
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Finance/Board Treasurer (non-voting)
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services
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

The Phantom TV Crew was also present.

Vice President Overland announced the meetings held prior to this evening as well as the upcoming meetings in May and June.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—May 23, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—May 23, 2022, immediately following

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Hares Hill Advisory Group—May 24, 2022, 6:00 PM
- Board Building Committee—May 28, 2022, 5:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—June 13, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—June 13, 2022, immediately following Curriculum
- Board Meeting—June 13, 2022, 7:00 PM

Vice President Overland requested a motion to allow for voting/deliberating via electronic communications as per Board Policy 006.1. Ms. Schamis made the motion with Mr. Weiss seconding.

Voice vote:

Overland - Yes

Weiss - Yes

Carminito - Yes

Golberg – did not vote

Ruch - Yes

Schamis - Yes

Sereni - Yes

Walker - Yes

MOTION passes 7-0

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no student representatives present.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Potential voting items for June 13, 2022

1. Approval of Proposal from Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. for the High School Glass Block Wall Repair amount not to exceed \$250,482.51

Mr. Weiss, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair provided a summary of the items that were discussed at the B&G meeting held earlier that evening. Approved the minutes from April, one approval item, and a few informational items. On the Approval item he mentioned that it was the lowest of 3 bids. There were 3 Information items on the agenda. During the June/July timeframe, the B&G committee will be assessing the which building projects should be undertaken for the 2022-2023 school year. The SLEP Plan will be used to inform this assessment. Mr. Weiss shared that the Borough is now requesting that the District add a grinder system to the sewer pump system it previously requested be installed at the corner of City Line and 29. This may result in a significant increase in overall costs. Finally, he noted the summer project list that was shared by Mr. Gibson at the committee meeting.

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

PERSONNEL - Potential voting items for May 23, 2022

2. *Personnel Report – May 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 - a. Family Medical Leave Act – FMLA Leaves of Absence

FINANCE - Potential voting items for June 13, 2022

Business Office Report

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – April 2022

Check # 3010 (4/1/2022) – Check 3125 (4/29/2022)

ACH # 212201584 (4/1/2022) – ACH # 212201796 (4/29/2022)

2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports – April 2022

Business Office Items

1. Approval of the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania School Board Association Membership Renewal in the amount of \$16,308.04
2. Approval of the CCIU Marketplace Budget Schedule for 2022-2023 School Year
3. Approval of the Professional Services Contract with Valbridge Property Advisors — Potential voting item for May 23, 2022

Finance/Personnel Committee chair, Mrs. Ruch provided a summary of the items on the personnel report being approved later this evening. She indicated the report included resignations, appointments, volunteers and leave requests. For Finance, the report included the approval of disbursement of funds, receipt of financial reports and the approval of the renewal of the 2022-2023 PSBA membership at a cost not to exceed \$16,342.08. Additional approval items included the CCIU Marketplace Budget for the 2022-2023 school year, a professional services contract to look for properties which are unassessed. This latter item will be voted on later this evening. At that meeting, Dr. Melber provided answers to questions that Mr. Mraz had posed at a previous meeting.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Vice President Overland then opened the floor for the board representative reports.

- Chester County School Authority – Michelle Schamis, Board Representative

Ms. Schamis reported on the items discussed at the Chester County Authority meeting, which included refunding HVAC projects and PlanCon H approvals.

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Board—Michelle Schamis, Board Representative

Ms. Schamis reported on the items discussed at the Chester County Intermediate Board meeting. One item was TCHS Pennock's Bridge campus, Principal, Mr. Bryan Hughes, who shared information on the partnership between Oxford and Octorara School district and a welding program.

- Legislative Representative – Mr. Scott Overland

Mr. Overland provided an update on the current items going through the legislative process. He noted that the House passed a voucher bill, HB2169 which is going to the State Senate Education Committee on May 24th. This would take revenue from some of the most at risk districts and use it for families to send students to private schools. There is no oversight and would harm public education.

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

Dr. Fegley informed the board and community of the recent announcement of the Class of 2022 Salutatorian (Jordan Khan) and Valedictorian (Olin Zimmet) for 2022.

Discussion on having board meeting in DAO Board Room

Mr. Overland then opened the floor for discussion on administrative recommendation to move the board and committee meetings back to the District Administration Office. Ms. Schamis shared her thoughts and opinion and recommended the meetings remain in the High School Cafeteria to allow for better attendance and participation by the public. Other Board members express different opinions. In the end of the discussion, it was on it was decided to keep the meetings in the cafeteria until the July meeting and revisit this topic at that time.

Discussion on Library Board of Trustees Vacancies – interview/vote

Dr. Fegley reminded the board members that they will need to vote on three Library board applicants at the June meeting. It was agreed that the board would not interview and would vote on the three applicants at the first June meeting.

2022-2023 General Fund Budget discussion – Presentation, Dr. Jeremy Melber

Dr. Melber provided a brief update on the proposed final budget, if approved at the .99% tax increase resulting in a Revenue of \$102,628,436 and total expenditures of \$103,521,355. He noted that tax increase at .99% would produce \$694,486 in

additional revenue and require a \$198,433 transfer from the fund balance. He shared the 2022-2023 allocations of the PASD Homestead/Farmstead tax increased from \$168.88 to \$203.84 or \$35.16 per household. With a .99% tax increase, the average taxpayer with a median assessed value of \$144,015 would see a \$46.07 increase in taxes or \$10.91 increase after application of the Homestead/Farmstead rebate. Board members had clarifying questions to his presentation. It was noted that Phoenixville is the second lowest tax increase in Chester County.

Mr. Golberg made a motion to amend the agenda to move the Budget approval roll call item ahead of the consent agenda and open the public comment period to both consent agenda and roll call items. Ms. Walker seconded the motion. Dr. Sereni shared her concern about amending the agenda and moving the budget vote sooner, it would not allow for public comment if they were expecting the vote to be later in the evening.

Roll call Vote on Mr. Golberg's motion

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Golberg – YES

Carminito – YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Overland – YES

MOTION carries 8-1

Open Public Comment – Comments on Consent Agenda and Roll Call Items

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville Borough resident, requested the public comment periods be considered separate to allow for six (6) minutes of comment per person. She raised a question regarding the renewal of PSBA membership. Next, she spoke about reducing taxes for retired taxpayers, by volunteering, etc. She noted its currently being done by the State College School District currently has a senior citizen volunteer program. She expressed concern that the lower tax rate increase may have a negative impact on programs

Lori Broker, Schuylkill Township resident spoke per capita taxes totaling more than \$1,000 for her children and her spouse. She also recommended the entertainment tax for those coming to Phoenixville for events and to look at all other taxing options.

Dr. Sereni shared her concerns about the length of time the meeting videos are broadcast on the district website.

Dr. Fegley clarified that the budget being proposed does not include any layoffs as has been report in the community but includes six additional positions.

Dr. Sereni made a motion to put the policy on destroying video on the policy agenda for discussion. Mrs. Ruch seconded the motion. There was Board discussion clarifying the motion. Mr. Golberg requested that the Superintendent add the policy on videotaping and records be added on the August policy agenda. Dr. Sereni then withdrew her motion.

VOTE CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Overland requested a motion to approve the Consent agenda items. Ms. Schamis made the motion with Ms. Walker seconding. Mrs. Ruch noted that she spoke with Dr. Kilmetz about adding a caveat to the science curriculum that a freshman is not required to take physical science but can take chemistry so they can take AP Biology the following year. Mr. Weiss also spoke about the science curriculum and the mechanisms in place that allows for having customized schedules to address academic needs for students.

Dr. Whitehead called the roll.

Schamis - YES

Golberg - YES

Carminito – YES

Sereni – NO (abstain from Curriculum item #6 – testified for plaintiff)
 Walker - YES
 Weiss - YES
 Ruch - YES
 Overland – YES
 MOTION carries 8-1 (Sereni)

VOTING ITEMS
 CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. *Personnel Report – May 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 1. Family Medical Leave Act – FMLA Leaves of Absence

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

1. Policy 218—Pupils—Student Discipline
2. Policy 220—Pupils—Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials
3. Policy 227—Pupils—Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
4. Policy 235—Pupils—Students Rights/ Surveys
5. Policy 237—Pupils—Electronic Devices

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

1. Approval of the K-12 Science Curriculum, effective 22-23 school year (Total cost approximately \$246,846 for 6 years, in Curriculum & Instruction Budget)
2. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Valley Forge for Collaborative Participation in the Teacher Candidate Preparation Fieldwork
3. Approval of Therapy Services Agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc. (PTS) for the 2022-2023 School Year
4. Approval of a Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement for Student 2021-2022F
5. Approval of a Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement for Student 2019-2020B
6. Approval of a Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement for Student 2021-2022G
7. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - Manavon Elementary School (Library Books)
 - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)
8. Approval of Transportation and Field Trip Requests

Date	Destination	Group	Trip #	Comment
June 29 – July 3, 2022	FBLA National Leadership Conference Academic Competition Hyatt Regency Hotel Chicago, IL	High School FBLA Members Grades 9 – 12	2122257	Funded by FBLA and students

Board Secretary’s Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) March 14, 2022, Board Meeting
 - b) March 28, 2022, Board Meeting
 - c) April 18, 2022 Board Meeting
 - d) April 25, 2022 Board Meeting
2. Approval of Phoenixville Area High School Students Eligible for Graduation – Class of 2022

FINANCE**Business Office Items**

1. Approval of the Professional Services Contract with Valbridge Property Advisors [JWI]

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Remaining Roll Call Voting Items

None

1. Request Approval of the Resolution Adopting the District's 2022-2023 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$103,521,355 with a .99% Increase. PDE 2028

Vice President Overland requested a motion to approve the Resolution Adopting the District's 2022-2023 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$103,521,355 with a .99% Increase. Ms. Schamis made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding. Mr. Golberg made a motion to amend a motion with a budget with .77% tax increase. There was not a second.

There was no further discussion on the original motion.

Dr. Whitehead called the roll.

Roll call

Walker – YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni - NO

Weiss – YES

Carminito – YES

Ruch – YES

Golberg – NO

Overland – YES

MOTION Passes 7-2

Vice President Overland opened the floor for open public comment on any roll call agenda item. There were no comments. He then opened the floor for nominations for Board Treasurer for a term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Mr. Weiss nominated Dr. Jeremy Melber and seconded by Mrs. Ruch.

There was a brief clarification on who is eligible for this position on the board. It was clarified that a Board Member, or anyone in the public with specific qualifications can be the treasurer. Currently the district is a Class III district. As the district moves to become a Class II, the position cannot be filled by a Board member, Superintendents or Assistant Superintendent.

No additional nominees. Dr. Sereni and Ms. Walker both shared their concerns about Dr. Melber as the Board Treasurer only because he is a direct report to the Superintendent. Dr. Sereni then nominated Ms. Walker as the board treasurer. Mrs. Walker declined the nomination. Dr. Sereni then nominated a community member, Mr. John Mraz, as the Board Treasurer. There was not a second by the board. Mr. Mraz also declined the nomination of Board Treasurer; therefore, Vice President Overland closed the nomination period.

Dr. Whitehead called the roll.

Roll call Vote

Walker – NO

Weiss - YES

Carminito - YES

Golberg - YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni – NO

Overland – YES
MOTION carries 7-2

ROLL CALL VOTE

2. Approval of the 2022-2023 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Vice President Overland then requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Homestead and Farmstead resolutions.

The motion was made by Mrs. Ruch and seconded by Ms. Walker. There was no discussion.

Dr. Whitehead called the roll.

Roll call vote
Weiss - YES
Carminito - YES
Golberg - YES
Ruch – YS
Schamis - YES
Sereni - NO
Walker - YES
Overland – YES

MOTION carries – 8-1

3. Approval of the 2022-2023 Annual Tax Levy Resolution

Vice President Overland then requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Tax Levy Resolution.

The motion was made by Mr. Weiss and seconded by Ms. Schamis. There was no discussion.

Dr. Whitehead called the roll.

Roll call vote
Carminito -YES
Golberg - NO
Ruch – YES
Schamis -YES
Sereni - NO
Walker – YES
Weiss – YES
Overland – YES
MOTION carries – 7-2

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

John Mraz, Schuylkill Township resident shared information on items discussed at the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. These included the spending from the American Rescue Plan funding, the board meeting location remaining at the high school, and the destruction of records including the videos. He also requested that the Committee meetings format include more dialog with the public.

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville Borough resident spoke about the appointment of Dr. Melber as the Board Treasurer, the request of the DVD of the March meetings and her contention that there was a lack of discussion of the sale of the Kindergarten Center in a substantive manner.

Chris De Vol, Phoenixville resident spoke about, the behavior of the board and lack of transparency on important topics. He also expressed a concern regarding the current schedule for the removal and destruction of meeting videos.

Tammy Kurtz, PAEA President and Physical Education teacher at PASD, thanked the board for the employee luncheon and the great afternoon. She then spoke about employee transfers, the number of teachers and class sizes at each grade level which range from eighteen in elementary to possibly twenty-nine at the high school.

Emily Shanley, Schuylkill Township, requested the board leave the sign-up sheet longer and thanked them for bringing the meetings to a smaller atmosphere.

Dr. Sereni commented on her request that the agreement of sale for the 100 School Lane property (Kindergarten Center) be put on the agenda for discussion. She shared various questions about the sale of the kindergarten Center contract.

Dr. Sereni made a motion to have the agreement of sale put back on the agenda for discussion and vote. There was no second.


ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Overland adjourned the meeting at 8:52PM

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



Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary



Date