



March 14, 2022
MINUTES

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 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, Vice President Overland, made the following statement regarding the new public comment process. The Board is piloting a new process surrounding public comment periods for agenda and non-agenda items. As you may have seen, sign in sheets is 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 continues to be 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.

OPENING

Mr. Scott Overland, Board Vice President, Presiding called the March 14, 2022 Board Meeting to Order at 7:15 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

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Susan Turner, Board President

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Finance
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

Scout Woronko
Aubrey wright

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Mr. Overland announced the meetings held prior to this evening as well as the upcoming meetings in March.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—February 28, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Board Executive Session—March 14, 2022, 5:00 PM Re: Legal, Sale of 100 School Lane
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—March 14, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—March 14, 2022, immediately following
- Board Meeting—March 14, 2022, 7:00 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Hares Hill Advisory Group—March 21, 6:30 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—March 28, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—March 28, 2022, immediately following
- Board Meeting—March 28, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—April 18, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—April 18, 2022, immediately following Curriculum
- Board Meeting—April 18, 2022, 7:00 PM

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

Ms. Wright and Ms. Woronko provided information on the “Women’s History Month” event held at the high school. They noted the teacher in-service day where the staff was able to continue working on their PLC’s. The orchestra concert is March 18 from 7:00 until 9:00 PM. All schools are raising money for the Ukraine by collecting money through UNICEF as well as wearing blue and yellow. They shared information about the upcoming parent social media presentation. It was also announced that the Wizard of Oz is coming up and that tickets can be purchased online. She also announced that Summer Kindergarten Camp registrations are currently open. This camp runs August 15 through 18th with two time slots 8:30 until 11:30 and 12:00 until 3:00.

Prior to the discussion on future voting items Mr. Weiss made a motion to amend the Kindergarten Center (100 School Lane) from \$4.4 million to \$4.6 million.

Solicitor Fitzgerald provided a legal update on the process. He indicated if this motion goes through the administration must repost the revised agenda online and at the Administration Building within 24 hours for public viewing.

Carminito - YES

Golberg – Not present

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni - NO

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

Overland - YES

6 -1 **MOTION** passes

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

Mr. Overland 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.

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

- A. Discussion on Voting Items for March 28, 2022 Meeting
 - 1. Approval of Confidential Student Settlement & Release Agreement for Student 2019-2020A
 - 2. Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds with Chester County Intermediate Unit for 2022-2023 Program Year
 - 3. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - Phoenixville Area High School (Textbooks)
 - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library)
 - 4. Approval of Transportation and Field Trip Requests

Date	Destination	Group	Trip #	Comment
April 8 – 9, 2022	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Baltimore MD 21201	High School String Ensemble	2122178	A bus is reserved for Baltimore Symphony Orchestra trip; cost is approximately \$500 for the day.
April 11 – 13, 2022	FBLA State Leadership Conference Hershey Lodge/Convention Ctr Hershey, PA 17033	High School FBLA Members Grades 9 – 12	2122165	FBLA will be using district vans to transport; only transportation cost is fuel. Estimated lodging costs for trip is \$3950
April 20 – 22, 2022	TSA State Championships Seven Springs Mountain Resort Champion, PA 15622	High School TSA Members Grades 9 – 12	2122182	TSA will be using district vans to transport; only transportation cost is fuel. Estimated lodging costs for trip is \$3449

Mr. Overland opened the floor for Dave Golberg, Policy Chair. Mr. Golberg noted that the policies discussed

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

- A. Discussion Voting Items for March 28, 2022
 - a. Policy 102—Programs—Educational Goals
 - b. Policy 117—Programs—Homebound Instruction
 - c. Policy 123—Programs—Interscholastic Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities Participation
 - d. Policy 209.2—Pupils—Diabetes Management (New Policy) (PSBA)
 - e. Policy 214—Pupils—Class Rank
 - f. Policy 810.2—Operations—Video/Audio Monitors on School Buses
 - g. Policy 811—Operations—Bonding
 - h. Policy 903—Community—Public Participation in Board Meetings

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

Personnel will be discussed and approved at each meeting.

Mr. Overland opened the floor for Betsy Ruch, Finance/Personnel Chair.

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

- 1. Discussion on Voting Items for March 14, 2022
 - a. Personnel Items
 - 1. Resignations
 - 2. Appointments
 - 3. Rescind Leave Requests
 - 4. Volunteers
 - 5. Informational Items
 - a. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absences

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation – Ms. Caitlyn Carminito
Ms. Carminito reported that PCEF met on February 28th. She noted that the PCEF approved grants support students. These included a grant for summer remediation, a calming room at Barkley, and the Olweus program. There is more information to come regarding the May 13th event.
- President’s Report
Mr. Overland announced the two new committees for the upcoming building project at Hares Hill
Initial meeting will be held on:
Monday – March 21st – at 6:30 PM in MS cafeteria – Initial meeting of Hares Hill Advisory Group
 - Announcement of Board Committees
 - Board Building Committee
 - Hares Hill Advisory Group

Mr. Overland opened the floor for Dr. Fegley to provide details of the library and board representative report to the community and board present.

- Phoenixville Library Representative – Dr. Alan D. Fegley for Mrs. Jessica Bicker
Dr. Fegley provided a brief update from the March 7th library board meeting. At that meeting, the board provided updates on the budget and recommended \$15 an hour for circulation assistant and \$16.50 for passport position. They are also requesting mid-year bonuses in 2023. He also shared the many fundraising efforts including the upcoming virtual event, Kimberton Whole Foods Register Roundup donations, and the appetizer proceeds from the Bistro on Bridge through the month of March. They will also be following the masking guidelines set by the district and are looking to bring back youth programs.
- Superintendent’s Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
He also reported that the local ACME donated \$1,000 worth of gift cards as part of the Register Roundup program. He also shared information on the new health and safety matrix detailing the change from four (4) levels to (3) three. (now listed as Low, Medium, and High)

He stated that Chester County has also moved into the new matrix system. He is asking the board to consider following Policy 203 for future guidance. The district will continue to follow the recommendations from the CCHD.

He also noted that the vaccine requirement for volunteers is now not in effect, however if the board approves the new matrix system, vaccines for volunteers will be recommended but not required.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Voting Items

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

Mark Connolly, Phoenixville Green Team representative, spoke against the sale of the kindergarten center to a developer.

Chris Gowlinn, East Pikeland Township resident spoke against the sale of the Kindergarten Center to a developer.

Mr. Golberg spoke briefly to Mr. Connolly about their prior conversations indicating the Green Team’s offer to reach out to nonprofits or other potential buyers.

Leo Scoda, Phoenixville resident and former Mayor, spoke against the sale of the kindergarten center to a developer.

Chris Devol, Grant Street resident, spoke against selling to Toll Brothers or anyone looking to develop housing

Emilyn Fox, Phoenixville Borough resident spoke against selling to Toll Brothers.

Rebecca Spille, Chestnut Drive resident, spoke against the sale of the property to Toll Brothers.

Stephanie Nicolos, Washington Avenue resident, spoke against sale of the property to Toll Brothers.

Sally Doyle, Gay Street resident, requested the board slow down in their decision making.

Dave Braskey, Washington Avenue resident, requested the board slow down in their decision making.

Bob Weber, Washington Avenue resident, requested the board slow down in their decision making.

Joan Beregi, Washington Avenue resident, spoke against the sale to a developer.

Shannon Zabko, Washington Avenue resident, encouraged the board to work more with the Borough.

Jim Coggins, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale to a developer and spoke in support of open space.

Dana Waldman, Hall Street resident, spoke against the sale to a developer and spoke in support of open space.

David Lutzker, Green Team President and Morgan Street resident requested the board/admin spend more time having discussions with the Borough about the sale of the Kindergarten Center property.

Elizabeth Scoles, Washington Avenue resident, spoke against the sale to a developer and spoke in support of open space.

Rodney Platt, Phoenixville resident spoke against the sale to a developer.

Daniel Wisner, Phoenixville resident encouraged the board to work more with the Borough.

Rachel Peine, Carson Street resident, spoke against the sale of the property to a developer.

Tammy Kurtz, PAEA President and Physical education teacher thanked the instructional coaches for their hard work with the staff. She also supported having cameras in the classroom

Kevin Burke, Phoenixville resident, spoke against selling the property to a developer.

Aubrey Wright, Board Student representative spoke in support of open space.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Overland requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Walker made the motion with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Roll Call

Vote

Golberg – YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Sereni – YES for Board Secretary #2 but no to all other items

Walker - YES

Weiss – YES

Carminito - YES

Overland – YES

MOTION Passes 7-1 (Sereni above)

Approval for Payment to Krise Transportation for Security Fencing Around the District's Bus Depot Not to Exceed \$27,561. (Transportation Budget)

Board Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) February 14, 2022, Board Meeting
 - b) February 28, 2022, Board Meeting

2. Approval of the PASD Health and Safety Plan - Matrix

Mr. Overland read the retirement resolution for Ms. Mary Louise Praesent

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Louise Praesent has served in the field of education for thirty-three years, with eleven years in Phoenixville, as a teacher and dedicated Professional Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Louise Praesent 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 Mrs. Mary Louise Praesent 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 March 14, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Mary Louise Praesent.

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEM

1. Motion to Approve the Administrative Recommendation for the Sale of the Kindergarten Center Property (100 School Lane) to Toll Brothers, Inc. in the amended amount of \$4,600,000 and the Resolution for the Sale and any related documentation in connection with the School District's Sale of the Property Identified as UPI 15-10-123, with an Address of 100 School Lane in the Borough of Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Ms. Carminito made the motion with Ms. Schamis seconding.

Mr. Golberg made a motion to table the vote until the May meeting with Dr. Sereni seconding.

Dr. Fegley clarified that a YES vote is to table to item until May.

Roll call vote –

Walker - YES

Weiss – NO

Carminito - YES

Golberg – YES

Ruch - NO

Schamis - NO

Sereni - YES

Overland - NO

MOTION fails 4 – 4

Back to original motion

Mr. Overland started the discussion. He started by thanking the community members, the Green Team and the Phoenixville Area Transition team for their passion and commitment to protecting open space and the environment and asked that they continue to engage in the process. He noted that the Kindergarten Sale has been an ongoing process for the past four years, with updates along the way, with the process attracting more public interest over the past six months. He reminded the public that the K Center property is too small to build and school, the cost of maintenance continues to increase and that it was the Board's intent to sell the property with the acquisition of the Hares Hill property. Selling the K Center will help offset the cost of building. Regarding selling the property to the Borough he noted that the Borough was unwilling to

negotiate the price, would not commit to keeping the property as green space, did not have a clear plan or the funds to renovate the building, and would not commit to not changing the zoning of the property during three year funding process they proposed. Lastly, he noted that while some in the public continue to ask for another delay, it is time for the Board to act after six months of delay.

Dr. Sereni requested clarification from the solicitor regarding the 4 – 4 vote and why the delay of voting is being handled. Counsel clarified that a tied vote is not an affirmative vote. Five votes or a majority is required for an affirmative vote.

Mrs. Ruch made a motion to table the vote until the full board is present on March 28th
A vote of yes is to table to motion.

There was a clarification of the revised motion – to include nine board members present for a vote.

Mr. Overland requested Dr. Melber do a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Weiss – YES
Carminito - YES
Golberg - YES
Ruch - YES
Schamis - YES
Sereni – YES
Walker - YES
Overland - YES

MOTION – 8-0

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

Mr. Overland opened the floor for open public comment on any school subject.

Tammy Kurtz, PAEA President and Schuylkill Elementary PE teacher, spoke about eliminating the PIAA PE credit as well as her wish to postpone the world language program. She also thanked the Instructional Coaches requested they be included in the budget.

Mark Connolly, Green Team representative spoke briefly against the sale of 100 School Lane property.

Dr. Fegley responded to the question posed about the current ways to earn PE credits.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Overland adjourned the meeting at 9:30 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.