

March 28, 2022
MINUTES

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 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 March 28, 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. 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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

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
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Sandra Claus, Community Relations Coordinator
Mr. Phil Vontor, Supervisor of Maintenance
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services
Dr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools and DEI

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

- 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 Building Committee—March 31, 2022, 5:00 PM

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Budget Town Hall—April 6, 2022, 6:00 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

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

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Scout Woronko – Junior Student Representative used this time to share more information the following topics:

The High School Musical “Wizard of Oz” opens this week. The 4th marking period opened as well. High School students are getting ready for AP exams. The 2022-2023 Summer Kindergarten camp is on August 15. Registration is now open, but students must be fully registered for the upcoming school year to attend. Phoenixville Summer Camps will begin in early June. Ms. Woronko also congratulated Mrs. Gray for winner the Citadel Heart of Learning Award. HS athlete Kenzie Padilla set a new school record and won at State competition. Koda Dunn, was named the Most Outstanding NJROTC cadet. The PASD NJROTC squad has won this award for the past four (4) years.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Approval of P.A. System Repair in the Middle School by Starlite in the amount of \$16,434.

Mr. Weiss noted that the meeting started at 6:02 PM where they reviewed the one item that will be brought forward for approval. He provided details of the PA System Repairs at the Middle School by Starlite. Areas needing repair are the large areas, the Auditorium, Gymnasium, and the Cafeteria. He also shared about the new Building Committee and Community Task Force committee that will help in the District Construction Feasibility project. They will discuss long-term and short-term solutions to the student capacity. Any concerns regarding those topics should be addressed to those committee and no longer the B&G committee. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM

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

PERSONNEL

Approval for March 28, 2022

PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Report – March 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - a. Leave Requests
 - b. Volunteers
 - c. Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
2. Approval of the Exoneration of the Following Real Estate Property Tax Lien that have been deemed Uncollectable due to Mobile Homes being Physically Removed:
 - Parcel ID #2601_0000150T
 - Parcel ID #2702_0093015T

FINANCE

Business Office Report

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – February 2022
 - Check # 2795 (2/4/2022) – Check 2893 (2/25/2022)
 - ACH # 212201205 (2/4/2022) – ACH # 212201410 (2/25/2022)
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports – February 2022

Business Office Items

1. Approval of the Renewal for Legal Services Consultation Agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz, and Williams for Participation in the Pool Counsel for Special Education
2. Approval of the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2022-2023 Core Services Budget in the amount of \$33,173,390.
3. Approval of the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2022-2023 Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$30,361,289.
4. Approval of the Tax Assessment Settlement for the Property at 711 W. Bridge Street, Parcel #15-12-0159.0100 for an Assessed Value of \$2,025,000.

Mrs. Ruch noted that the committee recommended the items to be voted on this evening as well as the items being approved at the April 18th meeting. She shared the details of the proposed Chester County Intermediate Unit Core and Occupational Education budgets for 2022-2023. this evening.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Board

Ms. Schamis shared information on the CCIU Board meeting that occurred on Wednesday, March 16 at the TCHS. She noted that the 2022-2023 Budgets were discussed, and details were shared as first reading.

- Legislative Representative – Mr. Scott Overland

Mr. Overland provided a brief report. First was a constitutional amendment asking for education funding to follow a student to any private or public school in the Commonwealth. Next Charter School Independent Regulatory Review Commission passed the governors recommended regulation significant reforms for charter schools. Federal – Congress did not renew the Free School Lunch Program which will end on June 30th. Effective July 1st, students who are not eligible for Free and Reduced lunch programs will have to pay for their meals. Items the board will be asked to vote on include letter to PA School Association regarding withdraw of PSBA from National School Board Association which happened late last year. Member districts have concerns about lack of participation in the National SBA trainings, other resources at national level after the removal from the organization. A letter will come from the Chester County School Boards next meeting. The second voting item is a Mental Health resolution to have the federal and state governments provide more funding for mental health programs

- President Turner announced that the District will be hosting a thank you luncheon for all employees on May 17th – also looking at early dismissal for staff and students on May 27th.

- Superintendent Report

Thanked Giant for the generous funding of \$10,706 to help fund needy families with food and other items. Thanked the community members who “Rounded up at the Register” to make this funding opportunity happen.

Dr. Fegley opened the floor for Dr. Melber who provided details of the Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2022-2023. The administration will be bringing a proposed final budget for approval on April 18th. There will also be a Budget Town Hall on April 6th. The board will have the opportunity to approve the final budget on May 23rd. He informed them if they are unable to approve a budget at the May 23rd meeting, they have until June 30th to approve a final budget. He noted that the Act 1 Index is 3.40% which is the highest the district could increase taxes by. The current millage is 32.32 and with a .99% tax increase would bring in an additional .3199 mills and after calculations will bring an average taxpayer with a median assessed value of \$138,970 and with a fair market value of \$308,000 an increase of \$44.45.

There was board discussion regarding the Libraries request for an increase in their budget to cover salary increases to meet the \$15 per hour standard. Dr. Melber indicated he did share the libraries budget and subsequent comments about their requested increase in funding in a previous Board meeting.

After a request by Dr. Sereni, it was agreed that Dr. Melber could provide the chart of accounts for the board and public to view. It will be available on the district website under the Budget page of the Business Office.

Dr. Melber also clarified the use of a portion of the surplus from last year to be used as part of the reserves. He indicated that over the past five or so years, the reserves were less than he felt was appropriate for a healthy fund balance. This addition gets the budget / reserves closer to the level he feels is appropriate

President Turner brought the budget discussion items to the table for full board discussion. These items included:

Library funding -- After a brief straw poll, the majority indicated they would not support an increase in the library budget.

Second item is an administrative position that is necessary if the district chooses to reopen the World Language program at the elementary level or any potential immersion classes. There was a request for clarification if this position were not accepted, the program would not occur. This is a half time teacher on assignment position that will be doing research, setting up classrooms, giving a full recommendation on how to set up an immersive world language program. A yes for the position will not be a guarantee for the program but to allow this request to go forward for more discussion.

The third item is reducing the \$300,000 capital transfer. Options for discussion range from the full \$300,000 being maintained to a \$0.00 capital transfer. It was noted that the capital reserve fund balance is \$2.5 million

Dr. Melber will come back to the board with budget options that keep world language, do not include an increase to the library budget and reduce the capital transfer.

There was a request for a Community Budget Advisory Committee for next budget process cycle.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment

VOTE CONSENT AGENDA

President Turner requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Ruch made the motion with Mr. Weiss seconding.

Roll Call

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Golberg - YES

Carminito - YES

Sereni – NO

Weiss – YES

Overland - YES

Turner- YES

MOTION CARRIES 7-1

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Report – March 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests

2. Approval of the Exoneration of the Following Real Estate Property Tax Lien that have been deemed Uncollectable due to Mobile Homes being Physically Removed:
 - Parcel ID #2601_0000150T
 - Parcel ID #2702_0093015T

Board Policy Report—Mr. Dave Golberg, Chair

1. Policy 102—Programs—Educational Goals
2. Policy 117—Programs—Homebound Instruction
3. Policy 123—Programs—Interscholastic Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities Participation
4. Policy 209.2—Pupils-Diabetes Management (New Policy) (PSBA)
5. Policy 214—Pupils—Class Rank
6. Policy 810.2—Operations—Video/Audio Monitors on School Buses
7. Policy 811—Operations—Bonding
8. Policy 903—Community—Public Participation in Board Meetings

Board Curriculum Committee—Ms. Michelle Schamis, Chair

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
 - a. Phoenixville Area High School (Textbooks)
 - b. 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

President Turner read a retirement resolution for Katherine Powell.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine Powell has served in the field of education for fifteen years, with eight years in Phoenixville, as a dedicated member of the Support Staff of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine Powell 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. Katherine Powell 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 March 28, 2022, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Katherine Powell.

Before opening the Roll Call Voting section, Dr. Fegley requested a moment to announce the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jessica Kilmetz. Details of her appointment are part of the approved personnel report.

ROLL CALL VOTING

1. Motion to Approve the Administrative Recommendation for the Sale of the Kindergarten Center Property (100 School Lane) to Toll Brothers, Inc. in the 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

President Turner read the following statement:

The voting item to approve the sale of the Kindergarten Center (100 School Lane) was tabled at the March 14, 2022, Board meeting. It is placed on this agenda as a voting action item if the Board takes the motion from the table. She opened the table for a motion. Mrs. Ruch made the motion from the table to reopen the discussion/vote on the sale of the 100 School Lane property. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion. President Turner then stated her reasons to sell 100 School Lane.

Voice vote to bring this topic back to the table for discussion/vote.

Ayes – Turner, Weiss, Overland, Carminito, Ruch, and Schamis

Nays – Golberg and Sereni

MOTION CARRIES – 6-2

In response, Mr. Golberg made a motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to sell to the Borough of Phoenixville for a price of \$1.8 million. Dr. Sereni seconded the motion.

Clarification that this motion is to add the voting item to the agenda.

Roll call to amend the agenda by adding this new motion to sell to the Phoenixville Borough for \$1.8 million.

Weiss – YES

Overland - NO

Carminito - NO

Golberg - YES

Ruch - NO

Schamis - NO

Sereni - YES

Turner – NO

MOTION FAILS 5-3

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any Roll Call Agenda Item

President Turner opened the floor for Open Public Comment on the Roll Call agenda item.

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the boards fiduciary duties to provide accurate and complete information on topics of interest or vote.

Jane Dugdale, Phoenixville resident, The Phoenixville Area Transition and Green Team Member spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and encouraged the Board to slow the process.

Ginger Murphy, Phoenixville Borough resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and was in favor of open space.

Kimberly Lindquist, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and the apparent lack of public comment impact upon the Board.

Jeff Smith, Phoenixville resident, spoke in favor of selling to a developer who will build homes to help against the nationwide housing shortage.

Bob Weber, Phoenixville resident, questioned if the district was following all required legal steps, public notices if the sale to a developer is approved.

David Lutzker, Phoenixville resident and Phoenixville Green Team representative, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer.

Stefanie Nicolosi, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer.

Dana Waldman, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and expressed concern of storm water run-off.

Emilyn Fox, Phoenixville resident, Phoenixville Area Transition and Phoenixville Green Team representative spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and asked to Board to slow the process.

Vincent Tovani, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer.

Mark Connolly, Phoenixville resident, Phoenixville Area Transition and Phoenixville Green Team representative spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and asked to Board to slow the process.

Shannon Zabko, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and asked to Board to slow the process.

Christopher Deval, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer.

Mary Cashman, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer because there is a lot of new building within the Borough.

Kevin Ries, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and wants more open space.

Rodney Platt, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer due to environmental concerns.

Christopher Rogers, Phoenixville resident, questioned the district's cost projection and handed out his Pros/Cons sheet.

William Felton, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and asked to Board to slow the process.

Sally Doyle, Phoenixville resident, Phoenixville Area Transition and Phoenixville Green Team representative spoke in support of open space.

Jim Coggins, Phoenixville resident, spoke against the sale of the 100 School Lane Property (Kindergarten Center) to a developer and asked to Board to slow the process.

Jean Marie Baldwin, Phoenixville resident, spoke in support of open space.

Rachel RePeine, Phoenixville resident, spoke about slowing the process down so more people can become aware of this sale. President Turner requested that District Solicitor, Bonnie Young, explain the process in how the district is meeting the legal obligation under school code for notification.

Ms. Young provided details of Section 707 of the PA School Code regarding the sale of unused and unnecessary land/buildings in a private sale. She stated that the sale, if/when it occurs will be brought before a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas for approval of the sale.

President Turner requested a brief five (5) minute recess at 9:14 PM. She noted that upon return the board will have discussion regarding the current motion.

Mr. Golberg made a motion to table this matter until the April 18th meeting, so all nine board members are present. This motion was seconded by Dr. Sereni. President Turner asked Dr. Melber for a roll call vote.

Roll call – to table motion until April 18

Golberg - YES

Ruch – NO

Schamis – NO

Sereni – YES

Weiss – NO

Overland – NO

Carminito – NO

Turner – NO

MOTION FAILS 2-6

BOARD DISCUSSION

It was stated that Borough's negotiations participation in this process was for a potential purchase option to collaborate with SOMAX to use the property as an Educational Center for their waste burning facility or for other open space usage as a potential tree nursery. None of the items were brought back by borough. It was since requested that the Green Team work with other strategic partners or nonprofits to look at the property for open space or non-developed use. It was noted that these nonprofits cannot use funding to deal with a current building on the property. There was discussion about making an amendment to reopen discussions. Mr. Weiss summarized the timeline from 2017 to 2022 for considering the sale of the old Kindergarten Center and steps the Board has taken to consider public concerns. Additionally, this time allowed all bidder to provide their best offer.

After final board comment, President Turner requested Dr. Melber do a roll call on the original motion to sell the Kindergarten Center Property (100 School Lane) to Toll Brothers, Inc. in the 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.

Roll call vote

Overland – NO

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Golberg – NO

Carminito – YES

Sereni – NO

Weiss – YES

Turner YES

MOTION PASSES 5-3

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

Lisa Longo, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the recent vote to sell the 100 School Lane property to a developer and shared her displeasure.

Lori Broker, Phoenixville resident, spoke about her displeasure with the vote to sell to a developer and her belief that selling 100 School Lane property would raises taxes.

Tracey Tackett, wanted to speak earlier in the meeting to share her concerns about the sale of 100 School Lane property to a developer but was unable to as the sign in sheets were removed.

Mark Connolly, Phoenixville resident, share his disappointment about the sale of the 100 School Lane property to a developer.

Joe Schamberger, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the recent vote to sell the 100 School Lane property to a developer and shared his thoughts on the board's decision.

Kyle Nogel, Phoenixville resident, share his disappointment about the sale of the 100 School Lane property to a developer

William Felton, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the sale and the details of the sale process.

Dan Weiser, Phoenixville resident, share his disappointment about the sale of the 100 School Lane property to a developer and how it will affect his school taxes.

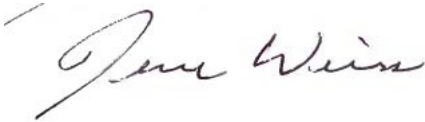
Emilyn Fox, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the number of public comments over the past few months and shared her disappointment for the approval of the sale.

Dave Lutzker, Phoenixville resident, Phoenixville Area Transition and President of Phoenixville Green Team shared the hope to collaborate with the board/admin to better use the property if ever possible.

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 10:01 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.



Jerome Weiss
Board Secretary