



**September 27, 2022
Meeting
MINUTES**

**PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area School District
Administration Office Board Room
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)**

MINUTES

OPENING

Ms. Susan Turner, Board President, Presiding called the September 27, 2022, Board Meeting to Order at 7:06 PM. The meeting was held in the Phoenixville Area School District Administration Office Board Room and broadcasted on the website and local cable Channel 28.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Kilmetz called the Roll of the Board

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Susan Turner, Board President
Mr. Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary
Ms. Caitlyn Carminito
Mr. David Golberg
Mr. Scott Overland, Board Vice President
Ms. Michelle Schamis
Dr. Ayisha Sereni
Mrs. Betsy Ruch
Ms. Victoria Walker

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Finance
Mr. David Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services
Mrs. Sandra Claus, Community Relations Coordinator
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Kate Pacitto, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services

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. She reminded the community watching of the meeting on the new Hares Hill Building Project scheduled for October 17th.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Building Committee Meeting—September 22, 2022, 5:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—September 27, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Education Session—September 27, 2022, 6:30 PM – Board Norms Discussion
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—September 27, 2022, immediately following

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Curriculum Committee—October 10, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee—October 10, 2022, 5:50 PM
- Board Meeting—October 10, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Hares Hill Advisory Committee—October 17, 2022, 6:00 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—October 24, 2022, 5:30 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—October 24, 2022, 6:00 PM
- Board Meeting—October 24, 2022, 7:00 PM
- Board Building Committee Meeting—October 27, 2022, 6:00 PM

President Turner turned the floor over to Junior Student Board Representative Elizabeth Barbash and Senior Board Representative Scout Woronko. They shared info on the following: A substance awareness event for parents, an update on the Food Clinic hours, what sports seasons are ending as well as the senior nights for respective sports teams. The National Merit Scholarship winners were announced for 2022. In conclusion the Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated in different classes in the high school. Details on the Safety Survey completed by teachers/staff and HS students will be shared later in the meeting.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL**Potential voting item for September 27, 2022**

1. *Personnel Report – September 2022
 - a) Resignations
 - b) Appointments
 - c) Volunteers
 - d) Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
 2. Transfer

Mrs. Ruch requested the board approve the personnel be voted on later this evening. The report included: appointments, resignations, volunteers, and others. The Finance Report included the monthly check report, Treasurers report, a contract for E-rate compliance and a tax assessment settlement on 1000 Nutt Road property which will bring in an additional revenue of \$86,000.

FINANCE**Business Office Report**

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – August 2022
Check # 3533 (8/5/2022) – Check # 3628 (8/26/2022)
ACH # 222300189 (8/5/2022) – ACH # 222300348 (8/26/2022)
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports – August 2022

Business Office Items****Potential Voting Items on September 27, 2022, Meeting***

1. Approval of a Contract for E-Rate Compliance Services with CSM, Inc. for the 2022-2023 School Year
2. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 1000 Nutt Road, Parcel ID 15-07-0017.0100 for an Assessment of \$5,370,000 (increase of \$2,630,890.)

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

Mr. Weiss detailed the items discussed at the B&G meeting held earlier this evening. There were no items scheduled for approval. Discussion items included the SLEP Plan and other district needs. He noted that the sale of the 33 W Pothouse Road was held on September 23, 2022.

BOARD BUILDING COMMITTEE (Scott Overland)
(Potential Voting Item for September 27, 2022)

Mr. Overland detailed the history of the Board Building Committee and the process they have gone through for this project. (Example: what the building will look like, the grade configuration, etc.). He noted that committee included community members/and others on advisory group and that a public forum was held. He reported that it was decided to bring forth recommendations to the board to build an elementary school on the property and for a grade reconfiguration changes which pulls grade 6 down from the Middle School and puts them back in the Elementary Schools. The K-1 would remain the same. Dr. Fegley noted that this will most likely include a redistricting effort. The grade configuration would coincide with the opening of the new building for 2025-2026.

- Recommendation for Grade configurations of
 - K-1 / 2-6 / 7-8 / 9 – 12
 - Beginning with the 2025-2026 School Year
- Recommendation of Architectural Firm for Hares Hill Road Property

He also noted that the committee is recommending Schrader Group as the Architect for this project. These will be Roll Call Items later in the meeting. It was clarified that the capacity for Manavon will be reduced so PAELC can increase the number of classes to address overcrowding and growth at that level.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Board—Michelle Schamis, Board Representative
Mrs. Schamis noted that she did not attend the meeting, but she attended ELD night. She provided details of the offerings and events at the Annual ELD night. 62 families and 40+ community organizations were there to help families with accessing Skyward, apply for Free and Reduced Lunch and other needs. They also thanked Eva Werley for her hard work with this event.
- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation—Caitlyn Carminito, Board Representative
Ms. Carminito noted the committee met on September 19th. She reported that along with PASD the PCEF is working to assist K-5 families with food insecurities by providing phantom food packs. She also noted a few of the areas where grant money was awarded. (Model UN, Violin purchases and other student programs)
- Superintendent's Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
Dr. Fegley reported that as the building project process begins that in December the board will be asked to approve the next three (3) years of school calendars. By doing so, it allows for extra time for the construction project as well as the movement of grade 6 between the buildings.
- In regard to the 2023-2024, which is relatively a typical PASD school calendar, there was a question about when and how long to hold Spring Break.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the newly formed student half days, which allow for additional professional development time. Administration/Board asked for feedback from the student reps on this new initiative. Shorter class periods or offering opposite courses rotating per half day. Comments were split.
- In regard to 2024-2025 the administrative recommendation is to start a week earlier which allows for the latest possible date of June 6th to graduate. This allows for the extended summer and extra time for the moves between buildings.
- Regarding, 2025-2026, the calendar is showing a start after Labor Day which is part of the extended summer.

There was a brief discussion around offering a longer spring break which leads to a later graduation date or a shorter spring break and an earlier ending to school by about a week

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Consent Agenda Items

President Turner opened the floor for public comment on Consent Agenda voting items from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD.

No public comment.

She requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Schamis made the motion with Mrs. Ruch seconding.

President Turner asked Dr. Kilmetz to call the roll to approve the consent agenda.

Dr. Kilmetz called the roll to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Golberg – YES (except for #6 curriculum)

Carminito – YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Overland – YES

Turner – YES

Motion passes 8-1

VOTING ITEMS
CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Curriculum Committee—Mrs. Michelle Schamis, Chair

1. Approval of Healthcare Staffing Agreement with Interim Healthcare of Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties for the Provision of healthcare staffing services for a one-year term of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, at the rates as listed.
2. Approval of an Agreement with Keystone Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services for School Interpreting Services for a term of April 2022 through August 2023 at the rates listed.
3. Approval of Two (2) Agreements with The Timothy School for Special Education Services for Specific Special Education Students for the 2022-2023 School Year at a cost of \$89,500. (Student A) and (Student B)
4. Approval of Two (2) Extended School Year Agreements and Addendums with The Timothy School for Special Education Services for specific Special Education Students for a term of July 6, 2022, through August 12, 2022, at a cost of \$7,000. (Student A) and (Student B)
5. Approval of a Tuition Contract with Talk, Inc., (d/b/a Talk School) for a Special Education Student for the 2022-2023 School Year at a cost of \$86,093.00
6. Acceptance and Approval of Allocation of Federal Program Funds for 2022-2023 (Title I and Title II-a)
7. Approval of a Renewal of SRA Reading Mastery as evidence-based intervention in accordance with IEPs
8. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - Phoenixville Area Early Learning Center (Textbooks)
 - Barkley Elementary School (Textbooks)
 - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)
 - Phoenixville Area Middle School (Library Books)
9. Approval of Transportation and Field Trip Requests

Date	Destination	Group	Trip #	Comment
February 8 – 14, 2023	UCA Nationals Cheer Competition Disney Wide World of Sports Complex Orlando, FL	High School Competition Cheer Squad Grades 9 - 12	22230042	Student Funded

Board Policy Committee— Mr. David Golberg, Chair

1. Policy 227—Pupils—Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
2. Policy 236.1—Pupils—Threat Assessment
3. Policy 237—Pupils—Electronic Devices
4. Policy 805—Operations—Emergency Preparedness and Response
5. Policy 805.2—Operations—School Security Personnel

Board Policy Committee(Continued)

6. Policy 808—Operations—Food Services

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

1. *Personnel Report – September 2022
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Volunteers
 - d. Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
 2. Transfer

Business Office Items***Potential Voting Items on September 27, 2022, Meeting**

1. Approval of a Contract for E-Rate Compliance Services with CSM, Inc. for the 2022-2023 School Year

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEM**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION****Open Public Comment – Comments on Roll Call Voting Subject**

President Turner opened the floor for public comment on roll call voting items from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD.

Tina Quiram, Schuylkill Elementary school 5th grade teacher, spoke in favor of keeping things as they are. She is opposed to the armed guard or SRO consideration.

Noah Kocher, 12th grade student at Phoenixville Area High School, also spoke in favor of keeping things as they are. He also is opposed to having an armed guard or SRO in the buildings.

Steve Kocher, Phoenixville Borough resident and father of two (2) high school and one (1) elementary student also was opposed to having an SRO in the buildings. He also suggested providing more resources for mental health initiatives.

Kristen Myers, East Pikeland resident and parent to a Middle School and high School student was also opposed to having an SRO in the buildings. She also questioned if there are sensors on the exterior doors to avoid any door being propped open. She also questioned the training of the armed SRO.

Christopher Caltagirone, East Pikeland resident, former board member and father of PASD students spoke against an SRO as well as questioned the administration/board why elementary parents were not included in this survey. He also shared his concerns about what he feels is a very large bullying problem in the district. He also stated he felt the information collected was not valid and did not address the topic correctly. He also requested the board be given a monthly update of how many bullying reports are received district wide.

Blake Emmanuel, Phoenixville borough resident, former board president and parent of two PASD students asked where the resources are being spent. She feels the programs should benefit the entire group not just a small number of students.

Dr. Stephanie Allen, East Pikeland Township also spoke in opposition of an SRO or armed guard or anyone with arrest powers.

Christopher Colet, Schuylkill Township resident, also spoke in opposition of an SRO or armed security guard

Jennifer Monson, Schuylkill Township resident, and parent also spoke in opposition of an armed security guard in the schools.

Becky McCarron, Borough resident, spoke about mental health issues and how the majority of former shootings had mental health issues and were not followed up on those situations. She feels that if buildings are guarded, the criminal may not go to this school because of the presence.

Mr. Golberg requested a better definition of SRO and Armed private guard. This may better help those who appear confused on what the terms mean.

Dr. Fegley provided a brief definition - SRO (school resource officer) falls under the leadership of the local police department. They are fully trained and is a formal police officer.

An Act 235 level armed guard with police training. In short, SRO has arresting powers, Armed Guards do not.

President Turner requested a motion to approve item #1, the Hares Hill School – Grades 2 – 6

Mr. Overland made the motion with Mrs. Schamis seconding.

Dr. Kilmetz called the roll.

Schamis – YES

Golberg – YES

Carminito – YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

Overland - YES

Ruch - YES

Turner - YES

Motion Passes 8-1

President Turner requested a motion to approve #2 grade configuration (see above)

Dr. Kilmetz called the roll

Golberg – away from the table – considered absent

Carminito – YES

Sereni - NO

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

Overland - YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis - YES

Turner – YES

Motion passes 7 – 1

President Turner requested a motion to approve the #3 – Agreement to hire Schrader Group as Architect for the Hares Hill project

Mrs. Ruch made the motion with Ms. Carminito seconding.

Dr. Kilmetz called the roll

Schamis - YES

Sereni – NO

Walker – YES

Weiss - YES

Overland - YES

Carminito - YES

Golberg - YES

Ruch YES

Turner – YES

Motion passes 8 - 1

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEM

1. Approval of Building Committee Recommendation for the school to be built on the Hares Hill Property to be a Grade two (2) through six (6) School.
2. Approval of Administrative Recommendation for the following Grade Configuration Beginning with the 2025-2026 School Year
 - K - 1
 - 2 - 6
 - 7 - 8
 - 9 - 12
3. Approval to Enter into an Agreement, subject to Solicitor Review, with Schrader Group Architecture to Design the School on the Hares Hill property.

DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION

Results of Survey

Ms. Scout Woronko and Ms. Elizabeth Barbash

Ms. Scout Woronko and Ms. Elizabeth Barbash provided details of the Survey given to the elementary and secondary staff and the high school students regarding the potential hiring of an SRO, or Armed Guard. They provided different statistics from the student perspective/responses.

Board Discussion

Dr. Sereni shared her concerns on the accuracy of the survey and there were not any qualitative results. She believes most did not have a complete understanding of the questions / methodology.

Each of the board members shared their thoughts on the topic.

Mr. Golberg shared his comments and does not feel the information has any credence.

Mrs. Schamis is opposed to the idea of an armed guard or SRO in our schools.

Ms. Carminito also shared her concern about having an armed guard or SRO in the buildings.

Mr. Overland is also opposed to adding guns.

Mrs. Ruch stated that in the beginning she was for an SRO but after the results and lengthy discussions feels we are more secure and is now against an SRO or armed guard.

Mr. Weiss is also not in favor of an armed guard or SRO and asked if we can increase the current resources with that money.

Ms. Walker also requested the option of using the money to increase our current resources.

President Turner asked the board to make any motions on the two options and noted that there is currently one unarmed guard at each of the HS and MS buildings. Also stated that if the board took no action the current process would remain in effect with two unarmed guards.

4. Consideration by the Board and possible action on engaging the services of a School Resource Officer (SRO) and/or contracting with armed security services. For purposes of this agenda item the board may consider combinations of security personnel options for the district which may include different approaches for different buildings. Any decision to engage the services of such personnel is subject to entering into an agreement with the applicable vendor or municipality.

Approval of any of the options above shall be subject to review and approval of any contract or service agreement as may be applicable.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Any School Subject

John Mraz, Schuylkill Township spoke about the Finance report and the wellness/grant writer from Jaycees.

He also questioned if Bullying was a problem in the district.

Becky McCarron spoke about different topics being taught to grades as young as 3rd grade, around the country that are what she feels is inappropriate which includes gender inclusive and there only being 2 genders.

Chris Caltagirone, East Pikeland resident and parent also spoke about the bullying situation in the district. He feels the board should be getting a monthly report on the bullying incidents reported at the buildings.

Prince Denson (EP) parent of graduates noted that bullying is a parent's responsibility and that personal political beliefs should remain out of school and out of the classroom.

Dr. Fegley shared history on the wellness / grant writer position contracted with eh Jaycees and noted that it has been in place since 2017. She averages 37 to 40 hours a week. The grant report is given to the board monthly in their Finance report.

ADJOURNMENT

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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.



Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

10/26/2022
Date

