



**February 27, 2023
Board Meeting
MINUTES**

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 27 2023 7:30 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 February 27, 2022, Board Meeting to Order at 7:05 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

Mrs. Turner
Mrs. Schamis
Mr. Weiss
Ms. Carminito
Mrs. Ruch
Mr. Golberg
Ms. Walker
Mr. Overland
Dr. Allen

Nine board members present.

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. Alan D. Fegley, Superintendent
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Finance
Dr. Kate Pacitto, Executive Director of Curriculum and Specialized Programs and Services
Dr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools and DEI
Mr. Ken Gibson, Director of Technology and Operations
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Sandy Claus, Community Relations Coordinator
Dr. Chamise Taylor, Principal, Phoenixville Area High School

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Scout Woronko – Senior Student Representative
Elizabeth (Liza) Barbash – Junior Student Representative
Students were not present.

OTHERS PRESENT

Phantom TV Crew

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session—February 6, 2023 (immediately following Board Meeting) Re: Legal (Kdg Center 100 School Lane Property, and Personnel)
- How to Run for School Board—February 9, 2023, 6:00 PM, Virtual
- Board Building Committee—February 16, 2023, 5:00 PM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—February 27, 2023, 5:30 PM
- Board Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting—February 27, 2023 (immediately following Curriculum)
- Board Meeting—February 27, 2023, 7:00 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Executive Session—February 27, 2023 (immediately following Board Meeting) Re: School Security & Legal (Kdg Center 100 School Lane Property, Personnel and Phoenixville Hospital)
- Board Buildings & Ground Committee Meeting—March 13, 2023 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—March 13, 2023, immediately following the B&G)
- Board Meeting—March 13, 2023, 7:00 PM
- Board Building Committee—March 16, 2023, 5:00 PM

There were technical difficulties with the television connection.

President Turner announced the meetings that had occurred as well as upcoming meetings in February. Before opening the floor for Dr. Taylor, she asked that her report be delayed until the technical difficulties were resolved.

- Young Voices Contest 2023 Winners
 - Mekhi Bloodworth – 1st Place
 - Ryan Haag – 2nd Place
 - Aviyah Vallor – 3rd Place

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION***Open Public Comment – Comments on Appointment of New Board Member***

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on appointment of new board member from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD. Please include your name, municipality, topic to be addressed, and business 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.

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

Technical difficulties with the connection continued through this point.

Board Finance/Personnel Committee— Mrs. Betsy Ruch, Chair
For Potential Board Approval at the February 27, 2023 Meeting

PERSONNEL

1. *Personnel Report – February 2023
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Krise Employees
 - d. Unpaid Leave of Absence
 - e. Volunteers
 - f. Informational Items
 - a. Conference Requests
 - b. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence
 - c. Mental Health Staffing

Mrs. Ruch shared details of the Personnel Report which included resignations, appointments etc. She reminded the board members that they would be voting on this during the consent agenda later in the meeting.

Business Office Items

1. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 45 North Main Street, Parcel ID 15-09-0081 for an Assessment of \$37,600,000 for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Year. There is no increase in total assessment, but the settlement sets the land at \$2,700,000 for 2022 and \$2,370,000 for 2023.
2. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 375 Morgan Street, Parcel ID 15-09-0572 for an Assessment of \$919,120 for the 2022 Tax Year. (Increase of \$662,320).
3. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 800 Kimberton Road, Parcel ID 15-11-0088 for an Assessment of \$25,500,000 for the 2022 Tax Year and \$25,000,000 for the 2023 Tax Year (Increase of \$5,548,819).
4. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 1017 West Bridge Street, Parcel ID 15-12-0196 for an Assessment of \$5,286,370 for the 2022 Tax Year and \$5,590,240 for the 2023 Tax Year (Increase of \$2,368,045).
5. Approval of Lease with Toshiba Financial Services for Copiers and Maintenance in the amount of \$542,902.20 for the Term of 5 Years

Mrs. Ruch listed the items scheduled for approval during the consent agenda items later in the evening.

Prior to the board discussion of the Borrowing Resolution for \$35 million for the General Obligation Bonds Series 2023 President Turner was informed that the technical difficulties had been resolved and that she was going to invite Dr. Taylor to the podium to share information on the PAMS Young Voices contest winners. She opened the floor for Phoenixville Area Middle School Principal, Dr. Chamise Taylor who spoke about the three students who won awards at the 2023 Young Voices Contest. These students included: Mekhi Bloodworth – 1st Place, Ryan Haag – 2nd Place and Aviyah Vallor – 3rd Place.

BOARD DISCUSSION**FINANCE**

1. [Motion to Enact the Borrowing Resolution to Borrow \\$35,000,000 of a General Obligation Note, Series of 2023.](#)

Dr. Melber reported that all discussions had occurred at the committee meeting earlier in the evening. President Turner then requested Jamie Doyle, PFM representative to come to share information. She was not present.

ROLL CALL VOTING ITEM**FINANCE**

1. [Motion to Enact the Borrowing Resolution to Borrow \\$35,000,000 of a General Obligation Note, Series of 2023.](#)

Mrs. Schamis made the motion to approve the Borrowing Resolution as presented. Dr. Allen seconded the motion.

Dr. Kilmetz did a roll call vote for this agenda item.

Overland – YES
 Ruch – YES
 Schamis - YES
 Golberg – YES
 Carminito – YES
 Allen – YES
 Walker – YES
 Weiss – YES
 Turner -- YES
 Motion passes 9-0

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION***Open Public Comment – Comments on the Borrowing Resolution***

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on the Borrowing Resolution from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD. 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.

There was no public comment.

For Potential Board Approval at the March 13, 2023 Meeting

Board Curriculum Committee— Ms. Caitlyn Carminito, Chair

1. [Approval of a Pediatric Therapeutic Services \(PTS\) Agreement Addendum with an Effective Date of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.](#) (addendum now includes rate for per diem school psychologist)
2. [Approval of an Enrollment Contract with The Camphill School for a term of September 2022 through June 2023](#)
3. Approval of Transportation and Field Trip Requests

| Date | Destination | Group | Trip # | Comment |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------|---|
| April 17 – 19, 2023 | FBLA State Leadership Conference Hershey Lodge/Convention Ctr Hershey PA | High School FBLA Members Grades 9 - 12 | 22230212 | Students funded (club will be reimbursing a portion for those who meet certain requirements after (attend certain number of workshops and share with club, record certain number of study/prep hours, etc.) |

4. [Approval of Exchange Student per Policy No. 202.1.](#)

Ms. Carminito provided a brief report of the items scheduled for approval at the upcoming March 13, 2023 Board Meeting. There was no board discussion.

FINANCE

Business Office Report

1. [Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – January 2023](#)
Check # 4151 (1/6/2023) – Check # 4248 (1/27/2023)
ACH # 222301202 (1/6/2023) – ACH # 222301363 (1/27/2023)
2. [Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports – January 2023](#)

Business Office

1. Approval of [Lease with Toshiba Financial Services](#) for Copiers and [Maintenance](#) in the amount of \$542,902.20 for the Term of 5 Years

Mrs. Ruch shared a brief report on the checks, financial reports and the Toshiba 5-year contract for copiers and maintenance.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Board—Michelle Schamis, Board Representative
Mrs. Schamis spoke about the improving of access and expanding opportunity for student’s progress and growth. Enrollment data was shared as well.
- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation—Betsy Ruch, Board Representative
There was a brief description of the \$1.7 HOSA grant for healthcare careers.
- Phoenixville Public Library—Dr. Alan Fegley / Jessica Bicker
It was noted that there are museum passes available for rental at the library.
- Legislative Committee—Ms. Victoria Walker, Board Representative

- Board President’s Report—Mrs. Susan Turner, Board President
 - Superintendent Search (RFP)
President Turner shared information on the proposed RFP to replace the Superintendent when his term ends in June 2024. She noted that they will looking into Local, state, and national search companies.
 - [Acceptance of the Pennsylvania School Board Associations “Principles for Governance and Leadership”](#)
President Turner reported briefly on the Annual line item.
- Superintendent’s Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
 - [2023-2024 – School Budget Presentation](#) – Dr. Jeremy Melber, Finance Director

Dr. Melber provided a detailed budget presentation and then answered questions posed by the board. There was a request by a board member to highlight any upcoming budget meetings.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

Open Public Comment – Comments on Consent Agenda Items

At this time, the Board welcomes public comments on consent agenda items from residents of PASD or others who have a business affiliation with PASD. Please include your name, municipality, topic to be addressed, and business 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.

President Turner opened the floor for public comment on the Consent Agenda.
There was no public comment.

VOTING ITEMS

President Turner asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Mr. Overland made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Walker seconded the motion.

VOTING ITEMS **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

PERSONNEL

1. [*Personnel Report – February 2023](#)
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Krise Employees
 - d. Unpaid Leave of Absence
 - e. Volunteers
 - f. Informational Items
 - a. Conference Requests
 - b. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence
 - c. Mental Health Staffing

FINANCE

Business Office

1. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 45 North Main Street, Parcel ID 15-09-0081 for an Assessment of \$\$37,600,000 for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Year. There is no increase in total assessment, but the settlement sets the land at \$2,700,000 for 2022 and \$2,370,000 for 2023.
2. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 375 Morgan Street, Parcel ID 15-09-0572 for an Assessment of \$919,120 for the 2022 Tax Year. (Increase of \$662,320).
3. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 800 Kimberton Road, Parcel ID 15-11-0088 for an Assessment of \$25,500,000 for the 2022 Tax Year and \$25,000,000 for the 2023 Tax Year (Increase of \$5,548,819).
4. Approval of Tax Assessment Settlement for 1017 West Bridge Street, Parcel ID 15-12-0196 for an Assessment of \$5,286,370 for the 2022 Tax Year and \$5,590,240 for the 2023 Tax Year (Increase of \$2,368,045).

FINANCE

1. Approval of the Acceptance of the E-Rate Bid with Crown Castle at a Rate of \$3,900/Month for 36 Months for 1 GB Fiber with an Option to Increase to 10 GB Fiber for \$9,000/Month.

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

1. [Approval of Installation of Phoenixville Public Library Fence from R&S Fence Co. - \\$10,506.35](#)
2. [Approval of Software Upgrade for Schuylkill Elementary HVAC from NRG Building Services - \\$13,380](#)

Board Secretary's Report—Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) [January 9, 2023, Board Meeting](#)
 - b) [January 23, 2023, Board Meeting](#)

Board President's Report—Mrs. Susan Turner, Board President

1. [Acceptance of the Pennsylvania School Board Associations "Principles for Governance and Leadership"](#)

Board Policy Committee—Ms. Victoria Walker, Chair

1. [Policy 316—Employees—Nontenured Employees](#)
2. [Policy 328—Employees—Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules](#)

Prior to the vote, it was noted that Policy 328 (which was brought back to committee for wording changes) would remain as was presented and that board members would have the opportunity to vote "no" on that specific policy during roll call.

President Turner asked Dr. Kilmetz to do a roll call vote on the Consent Agenda.

Ruch—YES (no to policy 328)

Schamis—YES

Golberg—YES (no to policy 328)

Weiss—YES (abstained from Personnel 2C)

Walker—YES (no to policy 328)

Overland—YES (no to policy 328)

Carminito—YES (no to policy 328)

Allen—YES (no to policy 328)

Turner—YES

VOTE 9-0 (minus abstention), Motion Passed

Policy 328 failed 7-2 and will be brought back for future vote.

President Turner read the retirement resolution for Debra Svenkeson.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Debra Svenkeson** has served in the field of education for twenty-four years, with ten years in Phoenixville, as a dedicated member of the Support Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Debra Svenkeson has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective June 16, 2023; 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. Debra Svenkeson 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 February 27, 2023, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Debra Svenkeson.

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 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.

President Turner opened the floor for public comments on any school subject.

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 PM to an Executive Session –School Security & Legal (Kdg Center 100 School Lane Property, Personnel and Phoenixville Hospital)

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