



January 9, 2023 Board Meeting MINUTES

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 9, 2023 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 January 9, 2023, Board Meeting to Order at 7:16 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

Overland – YES
Ruch - YES
Carminito - YES
Golberg - YES
Schamis - YES
Sereni - NO
Walker - YES
Weiss – YES
Turner – YES

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
Mr. Dave Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services
Mr. Phil Vontor, Supervisor of Maintenance
Dr. Rose Scioli, High School Principal
Mr. Donald Grinstead, Athletic Director

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Scout Woronko
Liza Barbash
Both students were present

OTHERS PRESENT

Lenore Filipovic, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Phantom TV Crew

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—December 5, 2022
- Hares Hill Advisory Committee—December 7, 2022, 6:00 PM
- Board Building Meeting—December 15, 2022, 5:00 PM
- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting—January 9, 2023, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—January 9, 2023, immediately following Buildings & Grounds
- Board Meeting—January 9, 2023, 7:00 PM
- Board Executive Session—January 9, 2023, immediately following Board Meeting; RE: Confidential Student Matters, Legal (100 School Lane/Kdg Ctr); and Negotiations

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Building Committee—January 19, 2023, 5:00 PM
- Board Learning Session—January 21, 2023, 8:30 AM
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—January 23, 2023, 5:30 PM
- Board Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting—January 23, 2023, immediately following Curriculum
- Board Meeting—January 23, 2023, 7:00 PM
- Board Executive Session—January 23, 2023, immediately following the Board Meeting
- How to Run for School Board—January 24, 2023, 6:00 PM, Board Room DAO

President Turner announced the meetings that had occurred as well as upcoming meetings in February. She did note that the meetings scheduled for February 13th have been changed to February 6th. Same times and location.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION*Coach of the Year*

- Mike Cesarski Boys Soccer
- Sandy Waltz Girls Golf
- Eric Sprenkle Girls' Cross-Country

Athlete of the Year

- Nate Stewart Boys Soccer
- Kayley Roberts Girls Golf

President Turner invited the Athletic Director, Mr. Don Grinstead to the podium to share information on coaches and players and the historic season the fall sports teams had with seven of the nine teams going to playoffs. He noted that four of the seven earned spots at States with two finishing third and one finishing first.

He shared information on each of the Coaches' and Athletes of the year. They were all recognized by the board members.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Scout Woronko – Senior Student Representative

Elizabeth (Liza) Barbash – Junior Student Representative

Ms. Barbash spoke about the midterms and the ending of the 2nd marking period. She noted that the winter sports began and are in full swing. She shared information on the opening of the 2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration.

Ms. Woronko reported on the HS Winter Wellness Month celebration and detailed many of the activities available for students and staff during lunch, homeroom and throughout the day. She then spoke about the upcoming concerts and the opening of the nomination period for the Citadel Heart of Learning awards.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

President Turner shared with the board and community the resignation of Dr. Ayisha Sereni from the board, which will become effective once the board votes to accept the resignation. She announced that anyone interested in applying to fill the vacancy should submit a letter of interest and resume to Dr. Fegley via email, fax, USPS mail and/or hand delivery to the DAO by 3:00 pm January 30, 2023. Selected candidates will be invited to interview with the board on February 6 before the

voting meeting when the new member will be selected and seated. The vacancy is for the term ending December 2023. There is a candidate information event on January 24.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting items for January 9, 2023

Acceptance of Board Member Resignation

1. Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Dr. Ayisha Sereni effective January 9, 2023.

Board Vacancy Process

- Board Vacancy Process
 - Applications Due Monday, January 30, 2023 3:00 PM deadline
 - Submission by email, fax, mail, or hand delivered (any form must be received by the Superintendent by the 3:00 PM deadline)
 - Board interviews and vote on February 6, 2023

Board Building Committee—Scott Overland, Chair

1. Approval of installation of four (4) mobile classrooms, which includes delivery, installation and setup of classrooms and weather protected walkway for a cost not to exceed \$537,090, plus a 24-Month Lease for the mobile classrooms for the ELC/Manavon Complex at a rate of \$7,950/Month.

Mr. Gibson shared information about the installation of the mobile classrooms and noted there was discussion about an enclosed walkway between the building and the trailers.

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

PERSONNEL

1. *Personnel Report – [January 2023](#)
 - a) Resignations
 - b) Track Changes
 - c) Appointments
 - d) Volunteers
 - e) Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
 2. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence

Mrs. Ruch listed the items on the personal report scheduled for vote and approval that evening. They included resignations, track changes, appointments, volunteers, and informational items including conference requests and FMLA leaves of absence.

FINANCE

1. Motion to appoint Howard L. Kelin, Esq., and Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams, LLP to represent the School District in matters pertaining to Phoenixville Hospital's tax exemption challenge. The billing rate shall remain at \$295 an hour, just as it was when Mr. Kelin was with Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP.
2. Motion to appoint Saxton & Stump, LLC as special conflict counsel for tax assessment appeals. Due to a merger, the attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP are moving their practices to Saxton & Stump, LLC. The District appoints Saxton & Stump, LLC as special counsel with the understanding that the District will continue its relationships with attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP moving to that law firm. The hourly rates for special conflict counsel will stay the same for 2023.

Mrs. Ruch read the resolutions for the change in the school solicitors.

Potential voting items for January 23, 2023

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

1. [Approval of Maintenance Contract with the Phoenixville Area Public Library for a term beginning February 1, 2023 through January 2025.](#) (two year)

Board Buildings and Grounds Committee (Continued)

Mr Weiss spoke briefly of the voting items scheduled for the January 23rd meeting. This maintenance contract is basically a renewal of the previous 2-year contract. He shared the additional items discussed at the committee meeting.

Board Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. [Approval of a Donation of \\$27,000 for the purchase of a Food Concession Trailer from the Rotary Club of Phoenixville.](#)
2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) [November 28, 2022, Board Meeting](#)
 - b) [December 5, 2022, Board Reorganization Meeting](#)
 - c) [December 5, 2022, Board Meeting](#)

Dr Fegley reported that he was approached by the Phoenixville Rotary for funding at Manavon fields. In the end, after working with Mr. Gibson, that they would donate \$27,000 towards a Food Concession Trailer. The Rotary would provide \$27,000 in funding for the purchase the trailer and the School District would have work with the Rotary to it wrapped such that the Rotary sponsorship was displayed. Mr. Gibson believes the concession stand will be ready for use/rental for next spring sports season. He noted that this trailer is self-contained for hot and cold food. One stipulation is that whoever rents it is required to have a Safe Serv certified person on the trailer prior to any use.

There were no comments or questions about the board meeting minutes that are presented for approval next meeting.

Board Policy Committee— Ms. Victoria Walker, Chair

1. [Policy 200—Pupils—Enrollment of Students](#)
2. [Policy 202—Pupils—Eligibility of Nonresident Students](#)
3. [Policy 203—Pupils—Communicable Diseases and Immunization](#)
4. [Policy 204—Pupils—Attendance](#)
5. [Policy 217—Pupils—Graduation Requirements](#)
6. [Policy 221—Pupils—Dressing and Grooming](#)
7. [Policy 233—Pupils—Suspension And Expulsion](#)
8. [Policy 237—Pupils—Electronic Devices](#)
9. [Policy 251—Pupils—Homeless Students](#)
10. [Policy 810—Operations—Transportation](#)

MS. Walker reported on the policies that were discussed and sent for 1st and 2nd approval at the last meeting. There were minor edits to the policies, and it was decided to pull Policy 237, Electronic Devices and bring back to the next committee meeting for additional discussion.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Phoenixville Library Board—Dr. Alan Fegley & Mrs. Jessica Bicker
Dr. Fegley reported that the library board met two times since the last report. The budget has been presented with a requested 5% increase in funding. The borough voted and approved a 50 cent per resident contribution – which will allot for an additional \$9,000. They also sent back a renewal of the Library Maintenance contract. Other topics included the employee handbook and the need for professional education credits to be required for employment at the library. They are working with the district operations department to install a fence around the library.
- Phoenixville Community Education Foundation Meeting—Betsy Ruch
Mrs. Ruch reported that the PCEF met last Monday. She shared many of the funding opportunities the PCEF provides to the district which include Back to School funding, food packs, and scholarships.
- Superintendent's Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
 - [Enrollment –January 1st](#)

- Superintendent’s Report (Continued)

Dr Fegley reported that enrollment remains strong.

- Board Candidate Forum Reminder

He also reported that there will be a “How to Run for School Board” forum on Jan 24th. Anyone interested in running or filling this current vacancy are encouraged to attend.

- [Redistricting Planning to become effective September 2025](#)

He shared that this presentation is the first of many major discussions about the possibility of redistricting for 2025 school year. The Board will receive redistricting updates at the first meeting of each month. Five (5) guiding principles were shared with the Board. One guiding principle is to keep neighborhoods together. Another principle is working to have each school represent the diversity in the district. There was a lengthy discussion regarding diversity and how the student population will be spread throughout the elementary buildings. The hope is to have each building at a 75 to 85% capacity.

- Flexible Instruction Day (FID) and Traditional Snow Day

Dr. Fegley shared his reasoning for calling an FID day before the Winter Holiday break.

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.

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Turner listed the items on the consent agenda. She requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mrs. Walker made the motion with Mr. Overland seconding. Dr. Melber did a roll call vote.

Overland – YES

Ruch – YES

Schamis – YES

Golberg – YES

Carminito – YES

Walker – YES

Weiss – YES

Turner – YES

Motion passes 8-0

VOTING ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA

Acceptance of Board Member Resignation

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Board Building Committee—Scott Overland, Chair

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

PERSONNEL

1. *Personnel Report – [January 2023](#)
 - a) Resignations
 - b) Track Changes

Board Personnel Committee— (continued)

- a) Appointments
- b) Volunteers
- c) Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
 2. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence

FINANCE

1. Motion to appoint Howard L. Kelin, Esq., and Sweet Stevens Katz & Williams, LLP to represent the School District in matters pertaining to Phoenixville Hospital's tax exemption challenge. The billing rate shall remain at \$295 an hour, just as it was when Mr. Kelin was with Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP.
2. Motion to appoint Saxton & Stump, LLC as special conflict counsel for tax assessment appeals. Due to a merger, the attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP are moving their practices to Saxton & Stump, LLC. The District appoints Saxton & Stump, LLC as special counsel with the understanding that the District will continue its relationships with attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP moving to that law firm. The hourly rates for special conflict counsel will stay the same for 2023.

President Turner read the retirement resolutions for four employees (get names/add the verbiage)

WHEREAS, r. **Rori Minissale** has served **27** years in Phoenixville, and Mrs. **Renee Sillitti** has served **32** years in education with **9** years in Phoenixville, as dedicated members of the professional staff of the Phoenixville Area School District.

WHEREAS, Rori Minissale and Mrs. Renee Sillitti have tendered their resignations from the District for the purpose of retirement.

WHEREAS, The Board of School Directors of the Phoenixville Area School District wishes to recognize them for their 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 resignations of Dr. Rori Minissale and Mrs. Renee Sillitti from its staff and expresses its deep appreciation for their 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 6, 2023, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Rori Minissale and Mrs. Renee Sillitti.

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.

Mr. Golberg left the meeting at 8:24 PM

Mr. John Mraz, Phoenixville resident, spoke about the Phoenixville Rotary Club donation of the concession trailer. He questioned who will be paying for the wrapping. What are the additional costs to equip the trailer.

Mr. Mark Connelly, Green Team representative shared his appreciation for the different topics including diversity and equity. He also spoke about the 100 School Lane/Kindergarten Center situation.

Dr. Fegley responded to the questions and comments posed. He indicated the Rotary is purchasing the trailer, the district will spend under \$5,000 (budget) to cover the costs of the wrapping etc.

ADJOURNMENT

President Turner adjourned the meeting to an executive session regarding Confidential Student, Negotiations and Legal at 8:27 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

Date