



**March 27, 2023
Board Meeting
MINUTES**

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 27, 2023, 7:00 PM
Phoenixville Area School District
Administration Office Board Room
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

OPENING

Mrs. Susan Turner, Board President, Presiding called the March 27, 2023, Board Meeting to Order at 7:02 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. Schamis
Mr. Weiss
Ms. Carminito
Mrs. Ruch
Ms. Walker
Mr. Overland
Mrs. Turner

7 board members present, Mr. Golberg and Dr. Allen were absent.

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
Mrs. Sandy Claus, Community Relations Coordinator
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Dave Ramsey, Director of Specialized Programs and Services

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Elizabeth (Liza) Barbash – Junior Student Representative present

OTHERS PRESENT

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

President Turner announced the meetings that occurred prior to tonight's meeting and those that are coming up on the next few weeks including two town hall meetings regarding redistricting. They are scheduled for April 18 and May 30, 2023 respectively in the Middle School Cafeteria.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- Board Meeting—March 13, 2023, 7:00 PM
- Board Building Committee—March 16, 2023, 5:00 PM
- Executive Session—March 16, 2023, 6:45 PM Re: School Safety
- Board Curriculum Committee Meeting—March 27, 2023, 5:30 PM
- Board Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting—March 27, 2023 (immediately following Curriculum)

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Board Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting--April 10, 2023, 5:30 PM
- Board Policy Committee Meeting—April 10, 2023, (immediately following Board Buildings & Grounds)
- Board Meeting—April 10, 2023, 7:00 PM
- Board Building Committee—April 13, 2023, 5:00 PM
- Town Hall Meeting – Redistricting – April 18, 2023, 6:30 PM (Phoenixville Area MS Cafeteria)
- Town Hall Meeting – Redistricting – May 30, 2023, 6:30 PM (Phoenixville Area MS Cafeteria)

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Elizabeth (Liza) Barbash – Junior Student Representative

Lisa Barbash presented the student representative board report. She noted that spring sports are well underway and meets and games have begun. The Adams Family musical is being performed at the high School with details on the district website. The spring orchestra concert is coming up combining the high school and middle school orchestras. She announced those that qualified for the PMA Chorus Fest and Strings Festival

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE VOTING ITEMS**For Potential Board Approval at the March 27, 2023 Meeting**

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

PERSONNEL****Potential Voting Item at March 27, 2023 Meeting***

1. *Personnel Report – March 27, 2023
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Unpaid Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 1. Conference Requests
 2. FMLA Leaves of Absence
 3. Transfers

Mrs. Ruch listed all the items on the personnel Report.

For Potential Board Approval at the April 10, 2023 Meeting

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

FINANCE**Business Office Report**

1. Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds – February 2023
Check # 4249 (2/3/2023) – Check # 4395 (2/24/2023)
ACH # 222301364 (2/3/2023) – ACH # 222301593 (2/24/2023)
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports – February 2023

Business Office Items

1. Motion to Approve the Advertising for a Public Meeting of the Board of School Directors to Consider a Resolution to Authorize a Referendum for the Next General Municipal Election to Repeal the Current Occupational Tax and Increase the Earned Income Tax Rates
2. Approval of Independent Auditors Report for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit.
3. Approval of the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2023-2024 Core Services Budget in the amount of \$34,720,570.
4. Approval of the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2023-2024 Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$31,574,393.

Mrs. Ruch listed the items on the agenda for approval at the April 10th meeting. She also mentioned that the Finance Committee had a presentation by Mr. Carl Hogan on the Independent Auditor's Report. The Board directed Administration to include a 5% increase to the Public Library budget line item for consideration by the Board.

Board Curriculum Committee— Ms. Caitlyn Carminito, Chair

1. Approval of the 2023 Summer Reading & Summer Math Student Work
2. Approval of Disposal / Sale / Recycling of Textbooks or Library Books
 - a. Manavon Elementary School

Topics discussed at the committee meeting included the Summer reading lists and Math work. She provided insight into the proposed World Language Plan.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Chester County Intermediate Unit Board—Michelle Schamis, Board Representative
Ms. Schamis report on the meeting held recently at the Boot Road Educational Services Center. CCIU board approved the 2023-2024 Core and Occupational Education budgets. She also reminded the board of the invitations sent by the CCIU to attend the TCHS Pennock's Bridge Board Event being held Tuesday April 19th at 7:30 PM
- Legislative Committee—Ms. Victoria Walker, Board Representative
Ms. Walker shared information from the meeting including the budget review and mindfulness Partnerships. She shared information on the Budget Review and the grown our own educational mindfulness and mental health program. The CCIU is hosting a Safe Schools Summit. She noted that the Music and Arts Open House on May 5th. There is a budget hearing on March 29th. The Governors Basic Ed funding shows as 7.8% with the Special Ed funding at 7.8% plus. Phoenixville is on track to get 12.1% in Basic Ed and another 6.1% for Special Ed funding.
- Superintendent's Report—Alan D. Fegley, Ed.D.
 - Enrollment – March 2023

Dr. Fegley reported that district enrollment is remaining the same. Some classes are above the policy for enrollment, but they are being watched.

It appears with Kindergarten enrollment for the 2023-2024 School year being higher than normal, it has been reported that there is a spike in births due to COVID.

- 2023-2024 – School Budget Presentation – Dr. Jeremy Melber, Finance Director

Dr. Melber shared an updated presentation on the budget. Some areas included a bid for new electricity costs, ESSR funds are running out for staffing purposes, and there are staffing requests to address the ever-increasing mental health needs.

- o Chester County Intermediate Unit – Election of IU Board Members (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026. Dr. Fegley reminded the Board to turn in their Ballots by the April 30th deadline.

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.

None]

Voting Items

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PERSONNEL

1. *Personnel Report – March 27, 2023
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Appointments
 - c. Unpaid Leave Requests
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Informational Items
 - a. Conference Requests
 - b. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leaves of Absence
 - c. Transfers

Board Policy Committee— Ms. Victoria Walker, Chair

1. Policy 004—Local Board Procedures—Membership
2. Policy 105.1—Programs—Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
3. Policy 118.1—Programs—Option II - Alternative Pathways
4. Policy 328—Employees—Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules

Board Secretary's Report— Jerome Weiss, Board Secretary

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - a) February 6, 2023, Board Meeting
 - b) February 27, 2023, Board Meeting

President Turner requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Schamis made the motion with Ms. Carminito seconding. Dr. Kilmetz did a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

Ruch—YES

Schamis—YES

Carminito—YES

Walker—YES

Weiss—YES

Overland—YES

Turner—YES

Motion Passes 7-0

President Turner read the retirement resolution for Kimberlee Taylor.

WHEREAS, *Mrs. Kimberlee Taylor has served in the field of education for twenty-six years, with twenty-two years in Phoenixville, as a dedicated member of the Support Staff Member of the Phoenixville Area School District; and,*

WHEREAS, *Mrs. Kimberlee Taylor has tendered her resignation from the employ of the District for the purpose of retirement; effective March 24, 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. Kimberlee Taylor 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 27, 2023, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Kimberlee Taylor.*

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.

Becky McCarron, Borough Resident spoke about the pride flag.

Mark Connelly, President of the Green Team spoke about the upcoming meeting with Mr. Gibson, the Hares Hill Design team and the Green Team.

Mr. Dennis Ray, East Pikeland spoke about the use of Geo-Thermal energy on Ridge Park property and the Inflation Reimbursement Act.

Mr. Eric Schmitt, owner of Colonial Gardens also spoke about the Hares Hill Building project. He also disputed the claim that East Pikeland is offering Ridge Park for Geo-Thermal use.

Mr. Gayle (??) spoke about energy efficiency and near-term vs. long-term costs.

Ms. Zoe Simon, 10th grader at PAHS spoke about sustainability at the Hares Hill building project and how many of the students feel it is an important topic. Ms. Simon would like to meet with Dr. Fegley.

Mr. Dave Wisner, Borough resident, suggested that we listen to Ms. Zoe Simon comments.

Dr. Fegley responded to the pride flag comments by saying that all students belong at PASD and see all symbols. He also repeated our history with Geo-Thermal saying our savings are small compared to the installation and operating costs of these units. Lastly, he complimented Ms. Simon and will meet with her after Spring Break.

ADJOURNMENT

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:12 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

