

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Wisdom called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Director Bertone
Director Blust
Vice President Ghrayeb
Director Gurthy
Director Houghton
Dr. MacNeal
Director Miller
Director Ross
President Wisdom

- D. PUBLIC INPUT ON ACTION ITEMS** – The Downingtown Board of Directors encourages public comment from its citizens. Each community member may speak for a period of no longer than 2 minutes. Please understand that this is not a time for dialogue with the board; rather the board will listen to all comments and consider them in further deliberations. Our individual e-mail addresses are on the website if you'd like to contact your individual board representative. We ask that you please direct complaints of a personnel nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.

Shannon Nicolas (Uwchlan) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Views and positions of ASCA don't align with parents of district. Read statements from ASCA website.

Monica Eagles (East Caln) – No religious belief should be imposed on students. Deny approval of ASCA contract.

Carla Thomas (East Brandywine) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Elizabeth Conway (West Pikeland) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Adriana Costanzo (Downingtown Borough) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Ann Trethewey (Wallace) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – School counselors are a safe space for students. Requested board approved the ASCA contract.

Toni Brugger (Uwchlan) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract.

Steven Robins (Upper Uwchlan) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Shannon Grade (West Pikeland) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract.

Debra Swavely (Upper Uwchlan) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract. Continued reading comments from ASCA website.

Tara Adams (West Bradford) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract.

Tina Ayala (West Bradford) – Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract.

Chris Bre (Wallace) – Politics don't belong in the classroom. Requested board deny approval of ASCA contract.

Sophie Fontecchio (Upper Uwchlan) – Sophomore STEM. Supports approval of the ASCA contract. Confides in her counselor and wants them available to all students.

Alexis Coleman (East Brandywine) – Junior DHSW. Supports approval of the ASCA contract. Confides in counselor as a trusted adult. Not all students have this support at home.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Applause!! Applause!!

- a. Springton Manor's fifth-grader Shreyasi Sahoo has been recognized for her outstanding writing ability. With her entry in response to "The Great Chicago Fire of 1871" prompt, Shreyasi won the nationwide Scholastic Writing Contest! Congratulations, Shreyasi!
- b. Marsh Creek sixth-grade student Shay Busza won the title of Preteen Twirl Mania Gold Champion at the ESPN Disney Wide of World of Sports Center. It is the highest honor for baton twirling in her age group! Shay also won the freestyle portion and went on to twirl in a parade through Disney's Magic Kingdom with 300 other twirlers from across the country. Congratulations, Shay!

2. Operating Budget Presentation – Dr. Lonardi, Mr. Matyas

Dr. Lonardi and Mr. Matyas presented a PowerPoint of the 2022-2023 Operating Budget. Topics reviewed included budget process, new staff recommendation, budget overview, revenue overview, and administrative recommendations. 3% tax increase is recommended for 2022-2023.

F. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Carly Etter
Jesslyn Geevarghese
Aerin Yoder
2. Student Life Report Director Bertone
No report. Next meeting is March 17.
3. Cultural Equity Report Director Gurthy
Meeting held February 28 via Zoom. Liz Kleinrock was guest and discussed teaching and transforming DEI. Task force working on creating a model for how we look at data through an equity lens. More to be shared in April. Celebrating Women's History Month this month. Next meeting March 29th.
4. Intermediate Unit Director Gurthy
Meeting held February 23. Meeting included an update on the organizational goals. First reading of the Core and Occupational Education budgets. Scheduled approval at the next meeting. Marketplace budget will also be presented at the next meeting. Next meeting March 16th.
5. DARC Vice President Ghrayeb (Director Miller)
Meeting held February 10. Summer camp preparation was discussed. Playground, adventure and specialty camps on website. Next meeting is March 10th.
6. Education Foundation Director Blust
Meeting held March 8. Nature trail at Marsh Creek 6GC will be breaking ground soon. Spring after school program registration is open. Summer camp planning is underway. Mobile book club will be back this summer. Harlem Wizards game is scheduled for March 24th.
7. Legislative Committee Dr. MacNeal
Governor's proposed budget was reviewed. Dr. MacNeal highlighted some of the educational impacts of the proposed budget. Other items discussed included reapportionment plan and House Resolution 163. Legislative breakfast is scheduled for April 22nd. Next meeting is March 23rd.
8. Communities That Care Director Ross
Snowball shuffle was held Saturday. Healthy Youth Summit scheduled for March 19 for grades 6 -12. Parent Speaker Series focus on Social Media and Mental Health scheduled for March 28th. Preparing for parent to parent conversation to be held at West Bradford. Two new podcasts have been released. March 19 is the Path to Hope Resource Fair at Lionville Middle School.
9. Wellness Committee Director Ross
Meeting scheduled for March 17. Five sub committees met in February and will review their strategies at the March 17 meeting. 2021 PAYS data is scheduled to be reviewed in late spring/early summer. DASD Wellness Fair scheduled for April 6 at DHSW.

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. MacNeal requested Curriculum item 5a be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Houghton, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved consent agenda as emended.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting – February 9, 2022
2. Approval of Disbursements
3. Approval of Financial Reports
 - a. Treasurers Reports
 - b. Tax Reports
 - c. Budget Reports
 - d. Activity Reports
 - e. Investment Accounts
4. Personnel
 - a. Approval of the Personnel items
 - b. Approval of settlement agreement and release with employee 23463
 - c. Approval of settlement agreement and release with employee 17294
 - d. Approval of Renewal Agreement with Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 for Act 168 compliance services
Total Cost: \$5 per applicant
Contract Dates: 04/ 22 – 04/25
Funding Source: Human Resources
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024; 2024 – 2025
5. Curriculum
 - a. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
Approval of a contract with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) for training and implementation of the ASCA National Model Program for the K-12 school counseling department
Total Cost: 2022 – 2023: \$13, 838, 2023 – 2024: \$13,838
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 7/1/24
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024
 - b. Approval of a new agreement with Smart Futures for College and Career Readiness Portfolio and Programming
Total Cost: \$20,500
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
 - c. Approval of an agreement with West Penn Associates for

Dust Collection Repair at East High School
Total Cost: \$15,940
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

- d. Approval of a contract with the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for psychological evaluation services for DASD student (#1029858845)
Total Cost: NTE \$2,500
Contract Dates/Length: 3/10/22 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

- e. Approval for the purchase of 2 laser engravers for the tech ed program at Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center
Total Cost: \$13,978
Contract dates/length: 7/1/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

- f. Approval of the following one-time field trips:

Non-Curricular:

1. LMS, (DMS) – Grade 7, Team A – Delaware Blue Coats Game, Wilmington, DE – March 29, 2022 – 1 class day missed
2. STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) – Grades 9-12, TSA – PA Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference, Seven Springs, PA – April 20-23, 2022 – 3 class days missed
3. STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) – Grade 12 – Pocono Valley Senior Class Trip, Reeder, PA – May 25, 2022 – 1 class day missed
4. LMS, (DMS) – Grade 8, Team B – Marsh Creek State Park Service Day, Downingtown, PA – April 22, 2022 - 1 class day missed

Curricular:

1. STEM – Grade 11, IB Geography, Year 1 – IB Geography Mock Internal Assessment Data Collection, West Chester, PA – April 25, 2022 – 1 day missed
2. Foreign Exchange Program:
DHSE – Grades 11-12, French III or higher – Institute Montalembert, France – March 25-April 8, 2023 – 7 class days missed

6. Policy

- a. Approval of the following policies

1. 610 Purchases Subject to Bid Review

2. 611 Purchases Budgeted
3. AG Administrative Guideline: 626 Procurement
4. 827 Conflict of Interest

7. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
- b. Approval of exoneration of \$7,042.87 in school taxes on property identified as Tax Parcel 50-05-0119.1700 subject to the following:
 1. Chester County converting the status of the parcel to “tax exempt” within 90 days of the transfer of the property from Birmingham Builders to West Bradford Township
 2. West Bradford Township maintaining the property as open space in perpetuity
 3. There being no improvements on the property
- c. Approval of the following stipulation agreement. This is a 2019 District initiated real estate assessment appeal. The settlement was the result of negotiations between the school district and the property owners and will result in increased tax revenue

Parcel Number: 40-03-0003.0100
 Owner Name: Four Pro Partners
 Property Address: 299 Boot Road, East Caln Township
 Total Current Assessment: \$1,293,820

Settlement based on the fair market value of \$4,940,000 for 2020, \$5,510,000 for 2021 and \$5,700,000 for 2022 with the annual STEB ratio applied:

Tax Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
STEB Ratio	49.3%	47%	45%
Fair Market Value	\$4,940,000	\$5,510,000	\$5,700,000
Assessment Per Agreement	\$2,435,420	\$2,589,700	\$2,565,000
Increase in Assessment	\$1,141,600	\$1,295,880	\$1,271,180
Increase in Annual Tax Revenue	\$31,031	\$35,930	\$35,245

- d. Approval of the following stipulation agreement. This is a 2019 District initiated real estate assessment appeal. The settlement was the result of

negotiations between the school district and the property owners and will result in increased tax revenue

Parcel Number: 40-03-0011.0400
 Owner Name: Posh Property No. 5
 Property Address: 280-288 Boot Road, East Caln Township
 Total Current Assessment: \$1,768,000

Settlement based on the fair market value of \$4,300,000 for 2020, 2021 and 2022 with the annual STEB ratio applied:

Tax Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
STEB Ratio	49.3%	47%	45%
Fair Market Value	\$4,300,000	\$4,300,000	\$4,300,000
Assessment Per Agreement	\$2,119,900	\$2,021,000	\$1,935,000
Increase in Assessment	\$351,900	\$253,000	\$167,000
Increase in Annual Tax Revenue	\$9,565	\$7,015	\$4,630

- e. Approval of the following stipulation agreement. This was a 2019 Owner initiated real estate assessment appeal. The settlement was the result of negotiations between the school district and the property owner and will result in decreased tax revenue

Parcel Number: 33-04H-0370.0200
 Owner Name: C KOP HURP LLC (Comfort Suites/Hammock Inn & Suites)
 Property Address: 700 West Uwchlan Ave, Uwchlan Township
 Total Current Assessment: \$3,000,000

Settlement based on the fair market value of \$5,800,000 for 2020, \$5,000,000 for 2021 and \$5,250,000 for 2022 with the annual STEB ratio applied:

Tax Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
STEB Ratio	49.3%	47%	45%

Tax Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Fair Market Value	\$5,800,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,250,000
Assessment Per Agreement	\$2,859,400	\$2,350,000	\$2,362,500
Decrease in Assessment	\$140,600	\$650,000	\$637,500
Decrease in Annual Tax Revenue	\$3,822	\$18,022	\$17,675

8. Facilities

- a. Approval of a Home and School project to build and install a gazebo and to create outdoor learning spaces at Lionville Elementary School - no cost to DASD
- b. Approval to renew the farm lease with Mr. Bill Plank to farm district-owned land in East Brandywine Township for the annual revenue of \$2,354
Contract Length: 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022
- c. Approval to provide a PO to Modernfold under PA CoStars #035-128 to furnish and install an operable side-stacking partition at West Bradford Elementary School
Total Cost: \$22,686
Contract Dates: 3/10/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023
- d. Approval to provide a PO to Michael Johnson Architect to create the bid specifications and design documents for the Roof Coating and Restoration at East Ward Elementary School
Total Cost: \$14,100
Contract Dates: 3/11/21 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023
- e. Approval to provide a PO to Michael Johnson Architect to create the bid specifications and design documents for the 3rd and final phase of window replacements at Downingtown High School East
Total Cost: \$19,500
Contract Dates: 3/11/21 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds

9. Administrative

- a. Approval of the discipline of one high school student. The specific terms of the discipline shall be controlled by a written adjudication, incorporated herein by reference

I. ACTION AGENDA

Personnel Report – Director Blust

1. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved an addendum to our service contact agreement with Kelly Education to contract Custodial Substitutes at the approved DASD substitute rate with a 34% markup effective March 10, 2022
2. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a sabbatical leave for restoration of health for employee 17294 effective March 3, 2022 through August 24, 2023
3. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Houghton, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a renewal agreement with Delta Dental for dental insurance coverage for benefit eligible employees
Total Cost: \$4.70/per employee per month plus Claims (This is a decrease from current administration fee of \$4.89)
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/24
Funding Source: Human Resources
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024

Finance Report – Director Houghton

1. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the Capital Budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$11,903,425

Facilities Report – Vice President Ghrayeb

1. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Houghton, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a PO to 3B Services under PA CoStars #008-302 for the design and replacement of the boiler at East Ward Elementary School
Total Cost: \$329,800
Contract Dates: 3/10/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023
2. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a PO to JCI/York under PA CoStars #008-145 for the design and replacement of the chiller at Shamona Creek

Elementary School
Total Cost: \$262,445
Contract Dates: 3/10/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

3. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a contract with KCBA Architects for architectural services relating to the courtyard infills and expansion of Downingtown High School East and Downingtown High School West, and to define a building pad for a new gym and additional classrooms at Lionville Elementary School
Total Cost: 6.25% of Construction Cost
Contract Dates: 3/10/22 through Closing of Project
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

Technology Report – Director Bertone

1. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, approved the purchase of hardware with installation services from CM3 to upgrade the exterior surveillance cameras at all DASD schools by a vote of 8-0-1, with Director Houghton abstaining.
Total Cost: NTE \$450,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

CONSENT ITEM REQUESTED FOR REMOVAL:

5. Curriculum

- a. On a motion by Directory Gurthy, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board on a voice vote approved a contract with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) for training and implementation of the ASCA National Model Program for the K-12 school counseling department
Total Cost: 2022 – 2023: \$13, 838, 2023 – 2024: \$13,838
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 7/1/24
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024

J. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT REQUIRE THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD

- K. VISITORS** – The Downingtown Board of Directors encourages public comment from its citizens. Each community member may speak for a period of no longer than 2 minutes. Please understand that this is not a time for dialogue with the board; rather the board will listen to all comments and consider them in further deliberations. Our individual e-mail addresses are on the website if you'd like to contact your individual board representative. We ask that you please direct complaints of a personnel nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.

Sophie Fontecchio (West Bradford) – Sophomore STEM. Need Mental Health Curriculum in the schools. Don't be afraid to talk about these topics. Supports a student task force for mental health curriculum.

Lucy Gensler (West Bradford) – Senior STEM. Mental Health Curriculum is needed and should be required.

Alexis Coleman (East Brandywine) – Junior DHSW. Discussed HB784 Mental Health Curriculum bill. Improve mental health education and remove stigma.

Suzanne DiGiacomo (West Bradford) – Supports neighborhood schools as beneficial for student mental health. Referenced mobile units to accommodate students.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Commended student speakers. Expressed appreciation for DEI and Director Brown.

Ronna Dewey (Upper Uwchlan) – Expressed appreciation for DEI and Director Brown. Appreciation for review and return of books to library.

Carla Thomas (East Brandywine) – Does not support use of ASCA. It is parent job and responsibility to impart their beliefs to their children.

Tina Ayala (West Bradford) – Commended student speakers. Discussed views of a CTC program Search for Identity and Freedom from Expectations. Should not be teaching sexuality to our children.

Ava Lichok (Uwchlan) – Expressed appreciation for DEI and Director Brown. Mental Health needs more support. Ask students not parents.

L. INFORMATION

1. School Board Meetings

In accordance with Act 93 of 1998 (Sunshine Law), the Board of School Directors met on the following dates in executive session to discuss items in one or more of the following areas: personnel, litigation, legal matters confidential information, labor relations, school security, real estate or land acquisition.

February 22, 2022

February 23, 2022

March 2, 2022

March 9, 2022

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2022 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

The next regular School Board Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2022 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

3. Enrollment Report

The attached enrollment report has been submitted from the district database as of March 1, 2022.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary