

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Bertone 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

President Bertone
Director Blust
Vice President Britton
Director Ghrayeb
Director Gibson
Director Houghton
Director MacNeal
Director Wisdom

On a motion by Director Wisdom, seconded by Director Houghton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously agreed to extend the public comment period at the end of the meeting so everyone can be heard.

- 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 5 minutes (per BP# 903). 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.

Tara Haarlander (Upper Uwchlan) – comments regarding the Health and Safety Plan. Masks are good. Wants district to follow the CDC.

Melanie Lewis (West Bradford) – concerned about unmasking the district. Commented on recent suicides within the district and concern for the mental health of our students. ESSR funding is not tied to this decision.

James Holt (Wallace) – Fully supports previous speaker. Wants district to develop a health and safety plan and not decide later. Schools should be open, no masks and get back to teaching kids.

Kathy Sotak (Uwchlan) – Sent letter to board yesterday. No mask mandate in effect. Remove mandates from Health and Safety Plan. Asking for choice for teachers, staff and families.

Mary Rogelstad (Uwchlan) – Recounted last year with children and effects on mental health. Wants masking, Plexiglas and distancing removed and return to normal education.

Chris Phillips (West Pikeland) – disappointed the district is not taking a stand on masking. Allow families to make their decision. Listen to science. Students/families are spending their summer out and about. End this madness.

Debra Swavely (Upper Uwchlan) – Discussed warnings that appear on masks purchased at area stores and the negative side effects of wearing a mask.

Charlotte Reid (East Caln) – Discussed Second Step approval on the agenda. Referenced curriculum informed with a CRT philosophy and the Committee for Children website and findings on this website.

Gina Murray (Uwchlan) – Agree with previous speakers regarding no masking. How much better do odds need to get to not wear masks? Masks should be optional regardless of vaccination status.

Tia Malkin-Fontecchio (Upper Uwchlan) – promotes mask wearing. Believes children 12 and under should be masked in school. Discussed her family history with the virus.

Tami Rossman (West Bradford) – Discussed shame and bullying around the wearing of masks. Who will enforce masks. Need to consider mental health of our students. Prohibit the promotion of masks, vaccinations and Covid 19 testing.

Kelly Lynch (East Brandywine) – Supports no masks. Make decisions based on fact not fear. Decisions are difficult due to determining the truth.

Lisa Strobridge (East Brandywine) – Lots of science on efficacy of masks and social distancing. Keep things in place for keeping our kids safe. Pick a governing body and follow their guidance. Make a plan and follow it to keep all safe.

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Lonardi reviewed the history of guidance and mandates regarding school and masks during the Covid Pandemic. She stated the Health and Safety Plan scheduled to be approved this evening is currently very generic because no guidance has been provided. This plan is due to PDE by July 30, 2021. Guidance is expected in the next couple weeks and expectation is that the plan will need revisions. Everyone is hopeful for a normal start to the new school year.

F. REPORTS

1. Cultural Equity Report

Director Wisdom

No meeting last month. Next meeting schedule for September. Meeting minutes are available on the district website. DEI Year in Review is being finalized. Hardcopies of document will be available in addition to posting to the district website. Three year plan to be presented August 11. Director Wisdom read a statement. CRT is not being taught. DEI intention is to make all feel welcome. Curriculum review cycle will be available on the website for review prior to the ultimate approval by the board.

2. DARC Director Kring
No report.
3. Intermediate Unit Director Kring
Bonnie Wolf of Avon Grove was re-elected board president. The year's board meeting dates and locations were approved and are on the CCIU website. The CCIU also reviewed last year's goals and approved goals for the 2021-22 school year.
4. Education Foundation Director Gibson
Meeting held July 13 at the Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center. Golf outing planned for October 5th. Sponsors still needed. Jump Start program has 222 registrants. CRESS Grant has been submitted. Next meeting August 10,
5. Legislative Committee Director Gibson
2021-2022 State Budget approved and on way to Governor for signature. Act 66 approved allowing students to repeat the 2020-2021 school year. Next meeting September 22.
6. Wellness Committee Director Ghrayeb
Annual report being finalized and will be presented this fall. DEI and Wellness met to review content for the district website. Youth Truth Survey results were reviewed by administration.

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Director Wisdom, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting – June 16, 2021
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

5. Curriculum

- a. Approval of a renewal agreement with Dr. Bethann Cinelli for consulting services for districtwide health/wellness initiatives, curriculum work, and professional development
Total Cost: \$12,000
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2020 – 2021
- b. Approval of a renewal agreement with Kognity for IB Diploma Programme Online Course Texts and Resources
Total Cost: \$18,500
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 7/31/22
Funding Source: Curriculum
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- c. Approval of a renewal agreement with Turnitin LLC for Turnitin.com plagiarism software license renewal for student's in 7th – 12th grade
Total Cost: \$20,095
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Curriculum
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- d. Approval of the purchase of replacement percussion equipment for Downingtown West High School Marching Band
Total Cost: \$12,703
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- e. Approval of a renewal settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#9874678569)
Total Cost: \$20,000
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023
- f. Approval of a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#3901129715)
Total Cost: \$7,500
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/24
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024
- g. Approval of a renewal settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#6397934519)
Total Cost: \$24,700

Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 06/30/22
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

- h. Approval of a renewal agreement with Lakeside Educational Network for referral-based counseling services for students
Total Cost: \$122.50 per hour/ fee for service
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- i. Approval of an agreement with Garber Metrology for scale calibration services
Total Cost: NTE \$2,625
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- j. Approval of a renewal agreement with Bayada for one to one nursing services
Total Cost: NTE RN: \$56.00 / LPN \$ 50.00
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- k. Approval of a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#9957604589) for ESY services
Total Cost: \$1,500
Contract Dates/Length: 6/11/21 – 8/30/21
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- l. Approval of the following one-time field trips:
Curricular
DHSE, DHSW, STEM - Grades 9-12, band – Tournament of Roses, Pasadena, CA – December 28, 2021 to January 3, 2022 – 1 day missed
DHSW, (DHSE, STEM) – Grades 9-12, LINK students – South Mountain YMCA, Reinholds, PA – October 22-24, 2021 – No days missed

Foreign Exchange Program
DHSE – Grades 11-12, French III or higher – Institut Montalembert, France – April 2, 2022 to April 16, 2022 – 5 class days missed

6. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
- b. Approval of an extension to the agreement with Norcross Transportation for student transportation services. Norcross provides

van services on an as needed basis, primarily for special education students

Total Cost: Daily vehicle rates for 21-22, \$215 to \$375 depending on number of hours

Contract Dates/Length: 8/1/21 – 7/31/23

Funding Source: Transportation

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

- c. Approval of the following stipulation agreement. This was a 2019 District initiated appeal. The settlement was a result of negotiations between the school district and the property owner

Parcel Number:	11-10-0053.3500
Owner Name:	Michael J McShane
Property Address:	701 W Lancaster Ave, Downingtown PA 19335
Total Current Assessment:	\$840,300

The District and property owner settled on an assessment of 1,250,000 for 2020 and all subsequent years.

2020/2021 – STEB 49.3%

Assessment per agreement:	\$1,250,000
Implied Market Value:	\$2,535,496
Increase in assessment:	\$409,700
Increase in annual tax revenue:	\$11,136.00

2021/2022 – STEB 47%

Assessment per agreement:	\$1,250,000
Implied Market Value:	\$2,659,574
Increase in assessment:	\$409,700
Increase in annual tax revenue:	\$11,359.00

- d. Approval of a Legal Engagement Letter for Laramore Scarlett, LLP (Don Lynn) to represent DASD in a real estate appeal case due to a conflict of interest for Lamb McErlane PC

Total Cost: \$170/hr

Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

Funding Source: Business Office

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

- e. Approval of an agreement with West Chester University for the use of student athletic trainers

Total Cost: No cost

Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 6/30/26

7. Facilities

- a. Approval for an amendment to a July 7, 2020 agreement to provide an additional cell tower to be located on the Downingtown High School West campus
Contract Dates: 7/1/20 – 6/30/30

I. ACTION AGENDA

Personnel Report – Director Ghrayeb

1. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the 2021-2022 salaries for DAEA Employees
2. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Gibson, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the 2021-2022 hourly rates for 10 Month and Student Day Employees
3. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Release & Settlement for employee #20986
4. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Resolution of Dismissal of employee #23718
5. Director Ghrayeb withdrew the following motion from action: Request approval of Resolution of Dismissal of employee #23288

Curriculum Report – Director Blust

1. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal agreement with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for ELA resource ‘Collections’ license renewal for students in 6th-9th grade
Total Cost: \$58,712
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Curriculum
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
2. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the renewal of Storyworks print and digital magazines for grades 2-5
Total Cost: \$33,660
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Curriculum
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
3. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved renewal of 7600 Aimsweb Plus Complete licenses for K-7

Total Cost: \$49,400
Contract Dates/Length: 8/01/21 – 7/31/22
Funding Source: Curriculum
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

4. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of Geodes for K-2
Total Cost: \$341,824
Funding Source: ARP ESSER grant
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
5. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal agreement with Avonbrook Consulting for Board Certified Behavior Analyst services
Total Cost: NTE \$85,000
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023
6. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a contract with Committee for Children for Second Step Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
Total Cost: NTE \$56,500
Contract Dates/Length: 7/15/21 – 6/30/24
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023, 2023 – 2024

It was agreed that the lessons would be posted on the district website.

Facilities Report – Vice President Britton

1. On a motion by Vice President Britton, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Mediation Agreement, and recommended by our legal counsel, request approval of a Change Order (ADD) to Caldwell Heckles & Egan, General Contractor, STEM Academy Addition
Total Cost: \$279,000
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2020-2021

Board Administrative Action

1. On a motion by Vice President Britton, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Emergency Instructional Time Resolution per Section 520.1 of the School Code
2. A motion was made by Vice President Britton, seconded by Director Wisdom, to approve the 2021-2022 ARP ESSR Health and Safety Plan. A friendly amendment was made by Director MacNeal, seconded by Vice President Britton to revise the motion wording to approve the preliminary 2021-2022

ART ESSR Health and Safety Plan to be approved in its final version on August 11, 2021. The amended motion was approved by a vote of 7-1-0, with Director Gibson voting no

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

Director Ghrayeb read a statement regarding the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Director of DEI and this work within the district.

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 5 minutes (per BP# 903). 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.

Chris Barns (Uwchlan) – Diversity is not bad. The methods by which it is achieved is what is being debated. Discussed CRT definition, resources on website and fear of infusion of these resources into the curriculum. Learn history and learn what we have overcome. Parents create tolerance.

Kate Kearney (West Bradford) – Listen to each and talk. Discussed the Asian Hate listening session and her experience with listening. It was powerful. DEI work needs to continue. CRT is politicizing work.

Kate Thomas (West Bradford) – Expressed appreciation for DEI work and resources this year.

Lindsay Helm (Downingtown Borough) – Asked everyone to listen and ask questions to understand others adversities, challenges and differences. Do we want to teach our children to judge people by the way they look instead of asking questions to understand?

Tara Adams (West Bradford) – Glad not teaching CRT in schools. Concerned about resources we promote being linked to CRT. Questioned data used to spend tax dollars to bring DEI on board. Propose removal of all books that promote CRT.

Shannon Grady (West Pikeland) – Agreed with previous speaker. Reference petition and signatures. Our community is very diverse and our children don't see color. The way it is being implemented is racist. Referenced resources being race based and geared toward white children.

Lakshmi Iyer (Uwchlan) – Applauds what the district is doing. Brown children need resources that look like them.

Larry Washington (West Bradford) – Thanked the district for taking a stand for what's right and truthful. Relayed a story regarding exclusion and inclusion. No student should feel they are not valued and appreciated.

Connor Flannery (Uwchlan) – Applaud mental health steps taken by the district. Need more staff to help. Also need to include students in discussions and openly address tragedies in the district. Asked for more thorough mental health assessments.

Tara Haarlander (Upper Uwchlan) – Being open minded is critical. Diversity is critical in the education of our students. Supports DEI. The earlier, the better.

Brandon Campbell (Uwchlan) – Need to celebrate differences and not just tolerate them. Need more conversations about differences. Thanked the district for their commitment to DEI.

Gretchen Grant (Uwchlan) – Fully supports inclusion. Relayed personal story regarding a friend. When we know better, we do better. We need to learn to do better.

Ana Martinez (West Bradford) – Thanked the district for commitment to DEI and Mr. Brown. Need to provide resources to do this large job. Need to fight ignorance with knowledge.

Kellyann Mordosky (West Bradford) – Children need to learn history but not be penalized. Shared experience of the past year with remote learning and masks. Need to pull ourselves up and stop division.

Frank Muto (East Brandywine) – Concerned with the statements of hiring staff reflective of our student body. Need to hire the most qualified candidates.

Jeremiah Shelton (Wallace) – DEI has been very divisive in the community. Books/resources are political. Stop basing everything on the color of skin.

Karin Petroll (West Bradford) – Expressed appreciation and full support of DEI initiative. Schools need to be safe haven. Embracing differences is more important than ever.

Brandi Levine (West Bradford) – Concerned with tax dollars being spent on DEI and the Director. DEI can be used to promote CRT ideologies.

Bridget DeLany (Uwchlan) – DASD Graduate concerned with the response to COVID and mental health issues. Discussed lack of resources for antisemitism on website. Asked for adoption of clear policies for equality.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Shared her families experience as a Jewish member of the community. Lack of representation is a concern as is the petition to halt DEI. Supports the need for DEI in the district.

Jennifer Flannery (Uwchlan) – Expressed appreciation for the DEI efforts. Need to foster these conversations.

Lisa Strobridge (East Brandywine) – Applauds DEI. Appreciates the resources.

Jessica Huhn-Kenzik (East Brandywine) – Expressed appreciation for DEI in district schools. DEI and mental health cannot be considered separately.

Gizelle Jones (West Bradford) – Need to teach our children to be respectful by our example. Need to provide all sides of the truth.

Jeff Singleton (Wallace) – Expressed appreciation for the district commitment to DEI. Need to listen to all voices.

John Nicholas (Uwchlan) – All here for diversity. Do what is right for the kids. DEI, CRT and masks are all divisive. Let parents parent and teachers teach. Requested removal of racist books and rhetoric.

Madu Gurthy (Upper Uwchlan) – Wants children to be educated with full perspective and learn history to shape future.

Kenzie Gillispie (Upper Uwchlan) – CRT is racism and should not be taught in schools. This will cause more harm than good.

Adam Fontecchio (Upper Uwchlan) – DEI is hard work and absolutely the right thing to do. Confusion regarding terminology does not mean it is being taught in schools.

Prisha Negi (Upper Uwchlan) – Appreciates the attention being focused on DEI. Discussed comments she has received regarding her body, culture and being a brown girl.

Ila Negi (Upper Uwchlan) – Mother of Prisha. Restore confidence and support of children. Diversity is about learning about all. DASD standing by our children by broadening their perspective.

Carol Breslin (East Caln) – Our history is difficult. Don't deny truths about our history. Acknowledging differences doesn't mean it divides us. Expressed appreciation for DEI efforts.

Brenda Ross (Uwchlan) – Expressed appreciation for district DEI efforts.

Ava Lichok (Uwchlan) – Expressed appreciation for Director of DEI and district DEI efforts.

Randall Scott (Downingtown Borough) – Member of anti-racist activist group formed last summer with a focus on progressive change. Expressed appreciation for DEI program. Called on board to acknowledge the role of school resource officers and school police officers in the school to prison pipeline and the systemic racism being fought in our country.

Kelly Handforth (Downingtown Borough) – Member of same group as previous speaker. Seconded comments expressed by Mr. Scott. Expressed appreciation for hearing the community and hiring DEI director and program. No one wants to just be tolerated.

Karen Wack (East Caln) – Thanked the board for staying to hear comments. Diversity helps us all learn.

L. INFORMATION

a. 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.

July 14, 2021

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021 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 August 11, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

M. ADJOURNMENT

The board agreed to adjourn at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay