

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Wisdom called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room.

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE – Dr. Lonardi

Dr. Lonardi presented a PowerPoint Covid Update. Included were the most recent Chester County Metrics and CCHD quarantine guidelines. Flexibility is the key moving forward and focus is to keep students in school. Technology should go home each night. Suggestion and discussion of virtual option to listen from home using zoom. Dr. Lonardi to discuss with building leaders.

Given recent requests during public comment regarding later start times, Dr. Lonardi stated one of her Superintendent Goals this year is to study later start times. Work has begun by talking with other districts. Survey is coming along with public/parent meetings. Anticipate options/recommendations in May.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 1, 2021

On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the minutes of the December 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee Report – *Chairperson: Director Blust ; Vice-Chair: Director Houghton; Administrative Liaison: Dr. Duda*

Consent Agenda Items

- 1. Request approval of an agreement with Frontline Technologies for Proactive Recruiting**
Total Cost: \$7,969
Contract Dates/Length: 2/01/21 – 6/30/23

Funding Source: Human Resources
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

2. Request approval of the Personnel Items

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

Curriculum Committee Report – *Chairperson: Dr. MacNeal; Vice-Chair: Director Blust; Administrative Liaison: Dr. Chance*

Consent Agenda Items

1. Request approval of a Crosstown Agreement with Coatesville Area School District for student participation in the Air Force Junior ROTC Program at Coatesville Area Senior High School for students in 9-12 grade beginning in the 2022-23 School Year

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

**2. Request approval of the purchase of a kiln for Downingtown East High School
Total Cost: \$13,188**

Funding Source: Curriculum Capital

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

Dr. Chance to include building kiln inventory in the Board Update.

3. Request approval of the following one-time field trips

Curricular:

- a. Elementary, MC6 Band – Grade 5 and 6 – Wilmington Blue Rocks, Wilmington, DE – April 23, 2022 – No days missed
- b. STEM, DHSE, (DHSW) – Grades 9-12, Health Occupations Students of America – HOSA Pennsylvania State Leadership Conference and Competition, King of Prussia, PA – March 30th and 31st, April 1st– 3 days missed
- c. STEM, DHSE, (DHSW) – Grades 9-12, DECA – DECA State Conference, Hershey, PA – February 16-18, 2022 – 2.5 days missed
- d. DHSE, (DHSW, STEM) – Grades 9-12, LINK students – South Mountain YMCA, Reinholds, PA – April 1-3, 2022 – No days missed

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

4. Request approval of the removal of the following items from school buildings for reallocation, donation, disposal, or sale:

Item	Building	Approximate Age	Reason for Disposal
Music and Nurse Items	PV	16	No longer needed
Manual Floor Scrubbers	WB	20	Broken
Metal Bender	LMS	20	No longer needed
Water Testing Tube	LMS	10	No longer needed
Scroll Saw Table	LMS	20	No longer needed
Volleyball Ref Stand	DHSE	5	Not used
Green Chairs on wheels	DHSE	20	No longer needed
Poem Books	DHSW	20	Outdated, no longer taught
In Country Books	DHSW	25	Outdated, no longer taught
Cliff Notes AP Lang 4th Edition Books	DHSW	5	Outdated, no longer taught
5 Steps to a 5 Books	DHSW	10	Outdated, no longer taught
Various Dictionary Books	DHSW	20	Outdated, no longer taught
MLA Handbooks	DHSW	20	Outdated, no longer taught
Chinese Cinderella Books	DHSW	20	Outdated, no longer taught
Witness Books	DHSW	15	Outdated, no longer taught
Badminton Racquets, Cassette /CD Player, Softball/Baseball Bats, Bases, Soccer balls, Volleyballs, Basketballs,	DHSW	15	Old, broken, not needed, inherited from previous teachers

Item	Building	Approximate Age	Reason for Disposal
Playground ball, Tanita Scale, Tumbling Mats, Tchoukball Nets			
Spanish Dictionaries, Avancemos level 3 ancillaries, Avancemos level 2 ancillaries, Teacher Edition Avancemos levels 1,2,3, Avancemos audio programs levels 1,2,3, Avancemos DVD programs levels 1,2,3	DHSW	15	Outdated materials and old curriculum that is no longer in use
Flag Belts	DHSW	15	Old, not used any longer

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

Action Agenda Items

- Request approval of a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#2334037133)**

Total Cost: \$62,500

Contract Dates/Length: 1/13/22 – 12/23/23

Funding Source: Special Education

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

Technology Committee Report – *Chairperson: Director Bertone; Vice-Chair: Director Houghton; Administrative Liaison: Dr. Mattei*

Action Agenda Items

- Request approval to purchase 1250 Lenovo laptops for grade 9 students**

Total Cost: NTE \$1,303,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

2. **Request approval to purchase 900 iPad tablets for Kindergarten students**

Total Cost: NTE \$265,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

3. **Request approval to purchase 975 MAX cases, including accidental damage protection for Kindergarten tablets**

Total Cost: NTE \$65,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

4. **Request approval to purchase 1,250 Lenovo Chromebooks for grade 5 students**

Total Cost: NTE \$627,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

5. **Request approval to purchase 700 Lenovo laptops for teachers**

Total Cost: NTE \$676,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

6. **Request approval to purchase 80 Lenovo desktops for office area kiosks**

Total Cost: NTE \$52,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

7. **Request approval to purchase 132 Epson interactive projection systems for classrooms at Beaver Creek, Brandywine Wallace, and March Creek schools**

Total Cost: NTE \$290,000

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

8. **Request approval to purchase network switches including all software, licensing, maintenance and support for all 16 schools, and for the sale or disposal of all end of life switches being replaced**

Total Cost: NTE \$390,000 (40% eRate Reimbursement to be filed)

Funding Source: Capital Budget

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

9. **Request approval to contract with ChescoNet for up to a three year term as the primary Internet Service Provider (ISP) for the Downingtown Area School District**

Total Cost: NTE \$34,000 (40% eRate Reimbursement filed)

Contract Term: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024

Funding Source: Operating Budget

Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

Finance Committee Report – *Chairperson: Director Houghton; Vice-Chair: Director Ross; Administrative Liaison: Mr. Matyas*

Consent Agenda Items

1. **Request approval of the following Student Activity Clubs:**

- a. **DHSE DECA** – This club will further the development of business principles in areas of marketing, finance, management and hospitality. They will raise funds via pretzel sales and other mini fundraisers. The funds will be used for DECA dues, competitions, and charities. (STEM also has this activity club)
- b. **DHSE German Honor Society** – The National German Honor Society seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship. The Society aims to promote the study of the German language, literature and civilization and endeavors to emphasize those aspects of German life and culture which are of universal value and which contribute to humanity's eternal search for peace and truth. They will raise funds by selling t-shirts and other German items. The funds collected will help pay for student induction into the Honor Society

Moved forward to the Consent Agenda for full board approval.

Action Agenda Items

1. **Request approval of the Act 1 Budget Resolution certifying the School Board will not increase the rate of the District's real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, by an amount that exceeds the Act 1 index of 3.4%**

With this resolution, the district certifies to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) that we will not increase real estate taxes by more than 3.4%

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

Facilities Committee Report – Chairperson: Vice President Ghrayeb; Vice-Chair: Director Bertone; Administrative Liaison: Mr. Lauver

Action Agenda Items

1. **Request approval to provide a PO to Traffic Planning & Design for design and bid and permitting documentation necessary to install a traffic signal at the Downingtown High School West entrance and Manor Avenue**

Total Cost: \$69,100

Contract Dates: 1/13/22 – 6/30/22

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

2. **Request approval to provide a PO to Howell Kline Surveying to provide a survey of the intersection at Manor Avenue and the entrance to Downingtown High School West for the installation of a traffic signal**

Total Cost: \$5,000

Contract Dates: 1/13/22 – 6/30/22

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

3. **Request approval to provide a PO to KCBA to design both Downingtown High School West and Downingtown High School East additions and courtyard infills, and a footprint for a gym at Lionville Elementary School**

Total Cost: \$109,417 (Phase I)

Contract Dates: 1/13/22 – 6/30/23

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

4. **Request approval of a PO to DL Howell & Associates to provide necessary civil engineering and land surveying services for a Sketch Plan Review, a Conditional Use Hearing, and a Zoning Hearing for both Downingtown High School West and Downingtown High School East additions and courtyard infills, and a footprint for a gym at Lionville Elementary School**

Total Cost: \$95,630

Contract Dates: 1/13/22 – 6/30/23

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

5. **Request approval to engage the law firm of Riley Riper Hollin & Colagreco to represent the district and provide legal advice in connection with a Sketch Plan Review, a Conditional Use Hearing, and a Zoning Hearing for both Downingtown High School West and Downingtown High School East additions and courtyard infills**
Total Cost: \$395 per hour
Contract Dates/Length: 1/13/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

6. **Request approval of a PO to David Blackmore & Associates to provide geotechnical investigative and design services for the land development of both Downingtown High School West and Downingtown High School East additions and courtyard infills**
Total Cost: \$28,900
Contract Dates/Length: 1/13/22 – 6/30/23
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

7. **Request approval of a PO to Traffic Planning & Design to provide a traffic design associated with the Downingtown High School East addition and courtyard infill, and lot circulation at Lionville Elementary School**
Total Cost: \$5,000
Contract Dates/Length: 1/13/22 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

This will be an action item for full board approval on January 12, 2022.

F. ADDITIONAL ACTION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Request approval of the 2022-2023 District Calendar
Dr. Reed presented an overview of the new option which includes the reference to Eid Al-Fitr. Dr. MacNeal requested Veteran's Day be noted on the calendar. Federal holiday should be included as an acknowledgement. Discussion of a day off in recognition of Eid Al-Fitr. It was agreed the board would hear public comments prior to further discussion.
2. Continued discussion: 5-6 Center, Full Day Kindergarten, Elementary Upgrades
Discussion of 5/6 center on Bradford Heights property or elementary renovations to allow for full day kindergarten, redistricting and the need for comprehensive facility plans.

It was agreed:

- To schedule tours of elementary buildings for those who were not able to attend first round.
- To schedule a site visit to Bradford Heights during the day to understand 5/6 center placement on the property.
- Possible scenarios for feeder patterns for 5/6 center building proposal.
- Possible scenarios for feeder patterns/redistricting for elementary renovation proposal keeping 5th grade in the elementary schools. To include additions necessary for full day kindergarten and no music or art on a cart.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – 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.

Sami Syed (Upper Uwchlan) – Follow the Muslim Calendar. Please use moonsighting.com not Google. Request recognition of Eid on Friday, April 21, 2023.

Melissa Auvil (West Bradford) – Asked for reconsideration of tech fees. Fees were not communicated clearly. Don't pay for books but have to pay for devices. Cap tech fees and activity fees.

Jenny Shaughnessy (East Brandywine) – What is the purpose of the fees? Fees are exorbitant. Thought fees were for insurance but reference to technology recommended this evening stated cost included insurance. Request fees be waived.

Tom Lodge (West Bradford) – opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. More equitable to improve multiple schools.

David Daniels (West Bradford) - Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. This is a walkable area and increased traffic will impact neighborhoods. Supports improvement recommended for multiple schools.

Jeff Gabbai (West Bradford) - Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Referenced traffic issues and this would just shift who is on the long bus rides.

Greg Robino (West Bradford) – Appreciates the recommendation of the development of a comprehensive plan. Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Suggested viewing Bradford Heights during the day and view all items on the plans.

Hareem Ismail (Uwchlan) – Thanked the board for the recognition of Eid Al-Fitr. Referenced the website moonsighting.com. Also working with Justin Brown to educate the students and community regarding Muslim holidays and culture.

Babzar Mir (Uwchlan) – Thanked the board for the recognition of Eid Al-Fitr.

Mohamed Abouraya (Downingtown Borough) – Thanked the board for the recognition of Eid Al-Fitr. This is not just ink on paper. It is doing it for real and is inclusion.

Meghana Reddy (East Brandywine) – supports a virtual schooling option during the increased Covid numbers. Request consideration of attendance policy during this period.

Christine Martchek (West Bradford) – Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Discussed traffic concerns and water run-off.

Sharon Siggelkow (West Bradford) – Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Consider other options.

Danielle Wilks (West Bradford) – Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Long term comprehensive plan is needed. Commented on the planned play area and shared parent drop off/exit loops.

Sreeqhar Gudala (Downingtown Borough) – Supports a virtual schooling option during the increased Covid numbers for a few weeks.

Azhar Kalim (Uwchlan) – Expressed support for recognition of Eid Al-Fitr on the calendar. Highlighted correct spelling for the holiday.

Omar Alcam (Downingtown Borough) – Excited about the support and recognition of Eid Al-Fitr.

Kelly Sears – Discussed tech fees. Thought fees were optional. Families can no longer keep the device as was done in the past. Discussed fee impact on home and school budgets.

Lisa Sayre (West Bradford) – Supports Full Day Kindergarten. Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Not fiscally responsible. Discussed traffic impacts.

Bhaskar Reddy Kallim (Downingtown Borough) – Supports a virtual schooling option during the increased Covid numbers for a few weeks.

Subash Vobilisetty (Downingtown Borough) - Supports a virtual schooling option during the increased Covid numbers for a few weeks.

Michael Smith (West Bradford) – Expressed concern about tech fees. His children do not use the devices at home. They only charge them at home. Can no longer purchase at the end. District assumes families have the ability to pay even if they don't qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Eric Bouskill (West Bradford) – Opposed to 5/6 center construction on the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Asked the board how they would feel if it was in their neighborhood.

Rachel Gibson (West Bradford) – Discussed tech fees and cost to families over their attendance at district schools. Not an option to export and print the fee document from the website. Should be optional choice for insurance.

2022-2023 District Calendar:

Close schools on Friday, April 21 in recognition of Eid Al-Fitr. Add day at the end of the year. Half day for students on June 12 and teacher final day on June 13. Administration to verify hours and days for state compliance.

H. INFORMATION

The School Board Meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

I. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.