

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Bertone called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Director Benfield
President Bertone
Director Britton
Director Cranney
Director Kring
Director Mehler
Director Rauth
Director 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 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 personal nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.)

Dr. Lonardi provided a short update on recent issues:

1. Dr. Lonardi continues to receive numerous emails regarding the Pipeline. She announced the School Board has agreed to intervene with a formal complaint to the PUC.
2. Dr. Lonardi provided a further explanation on the proposed middle level curriculum changes. She presented a PowerPoint slide with several 7th and 8th grade schedule scenarios.
3. Dr. Lonardi discussed the district efforts surrounding mental health and suicide prevention given the most recent district tragedy. Dr. Chance also explained current and ongoing trainings and workshops for staff, students, and parents. Dr. Lonardi announced the DASD Mental Health Panel Discussion to be held on January 17th at Downingtown High School East. A website link will be set up to receive questions from staff, students, parents and the community. All are welcome to attend. She also announced a planned DASD Community Mental Health Round Table to gather input and ideas from staff, students, parents and community members. Date and more details will be announced shortly.

Public Comments:

Ava Lichok (DHSE student) – Read a statement regarding the four recent lives lost (2 graduates and 2 current students). Asked to be kept safe and alive.

Patrick Carrigan (DHSW student) – Need to communicate beneficial services available to students. Students need to meet with counselors more often.

Michele Smith (Upper Uwchlan) – Discussed DARE and anti-bullying programs being band-aids. Concerned about planning for the middle school program that is to be operational 8 months from now. Seems to be taking away classes that students enjoy. Decreasing language options is a step backward. Curriculum changes should have a solid vetted plan in place.

Mrs. Martinez (has daughter at West Bradford) – Language needs to start in elementary school. Knowing counselors and developing this relationship should start in elementary school.

Dr. Christopher Lucas (father of 10th grade student at STEM) – Dr. Lucas stated he is a physician treating patients of various ages. Depression is blowing up in the 11-25 age group. Depression does not discriminate across all ages and treatment varies. Asked that language not be sacrificed and that any replacement program be evidence based.

DHSE Sophomore – Has only seen counselor twice and this infrequent contact is very impersonal. Students are not going to confide in counselors in a classroom setting. Prevention Specialists are stressed and have too many students. Some students don't even know the district has prevention specialists. We need more.

Peggy Henry (East Brandywine) – Thrilled with the music program. Asked about the addition of writing and was it necessary. Dr. Lonardi explained the importance of writing skills throughout life. Also asked about qualifications of health professionals.

Rebecca Kilfoy (Upper Uwchlan) – Daughter has struggled and just met counselor for the first time last week at STEM. Feels district should also use nurses as a resource. Nurses develop relationships with children.

Nathan Lucas (10th Grade STEM) – Discussed the importance of language and thinks the district is moving backwards if they decrease language requirements.

Kate Kolo (2018 Graduate) – Started the petition on Change.org which has garnered 7,000+ signature and donations. Need to teach coping skills, communicate available resources and healthy solutions.

Jenna Shuda (9th DHSW) – Hard to go to counselors. Humiliating. More comfortable talking to older students to figure out how to get through issues.

Samantha Kline (9th DHSE) – First time seeing counselor was last week. She scheduled the appointment with counselor. Discussed being brushed off at the 6th grade center.

Rachel Carroll (Uwchlan) – Asked for clear and direct communication with parents at times like these. Asked that district protocols, procedures and practices be communicated. Inquired about what student prevention programs are in place. An open line of communication with parents would help parents to continue dialogue at home. Providing a baseline of information would help the home/school connection. Talk with other schools and districts to gather more information. May be time to look at this in a different way.

Rachel Rondinelli - Living with the death of her sister Rose Rondinelli who killed herself in September. This is a lifelong sentence for those left behind. Rose thought she was relieving stress on parents as she had suffered from mental illness for some time. Discussed a video and appreciation for the over 600 views.

Coleson Sebold (10th DHSE) – QPR didn't help. Students threw away pamphlets. Teachers are a good resource because they know their students. Just counseling will not help.

Lucky (DHSE) – Discussed her suicide attempts and her experiences while in Downingtown schools. Is now in charter school.

Brenda Ross (has a student at DHSE) – Discussed student day at DHSE – No empathy if you were not in one of the students classes. No discussion – just swept under the rug. Teachers in the district were not informed and found out through social media. More talking would help and perhaps a moment of silence to acknowledge the life lost.

Eric Knaak – Asked about options other than a hard curriculum change for language and music for students that are advancing.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Applause!! Applause!!
 - a. School Director Recognition Month
Dr. Lonardi recognized the School Board for their service to the district and school community. Principals from each level represented by Principal Barker, Principal Ross and Principal Perry presented gifts to each school board member.
 - b. Daniel Hart, a Technology Education Teacher at DHS West, is in the Air National Guard. Mr. Hart is here tonight to present a National Guard award to six individuals who have supported his involvement as both a DASD employee and a member of the National Guard reserve. This award is given to those employers who are highly supportive of National Guard or Reserve service. Mr. Hart is as a special asset to DASD because of his National Guard service and we applaud his service to our country.

F. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Steven Egnaczyk
In lieu of a student report, Steven read a statement from the students of
Downtown East expressing commitment to resources , efforts and devotion to
making sure no one ever has to experience this pain from such devastating loss
again. Students have countless ideas and opinions of what to do and asked the
district to help them take the first step.
2. Student Life Report Director Cranney
No report.
3. Cultural Equity Task Force Report Director Cranney
Recent meeting discussion was held regarding webpage link. Cultural Equity survey
will be conducted in the spring.
4. Governance Report Director Wisdom
No report.
5. Policy Report Director Wisdom
No report.
6. Education Foundation Director Mehler
Meeting held yesterday. Tara Armstrong has joined the board as Marketing
Director. Recent donations from DNB (\$15,000) and Meridian (\$10,000) were
highlighted. Mini grant has been received for the innovation lab. Winter classes will
begin on January 14 with 330 kids signed up. Spring session is scheduled to begin
March 18. Art Gala to be held March 28th. Planning is underway. Five additional
fundraisers are also being planned.
7. Intermediate Unit Director Mehler
Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, January 16th.
8. DARC Director Kring
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant of \$10,000 awarded.
Executive Director is done and will work one day a week until March. Applications
for this position will be accepted until January 31st. Meeting scheduled for tomorrow
evening.
9. Legislative Committee Director Kring
No report.
10. Communities That Care Director Britton
No report.
11. Wellness Committee President Bertone
No report.

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Cranney noted changes for Curriculum 5a. Dates for the WGI Percussion World Championships are 4/9/19 – 4/14/19 with 3.5 class days missed.

On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the consent agenda as amended.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting – December 5, 2019
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. Renewal of subscription with PAREAP for professional staff advertising
Total Cost: \$999
Contract Dates/Length: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 / 1 year
5. Curriculum
 - a. Approval of the following one time Field Trips:
Academic:
 - DE, DW, STEM – Grades 10-12 – Global Leadership Summit, Switzerland, Ireland, England - 7/8/20 to 7/20/20 – No class days missed
 - DE – Grades 11-12 – Albert H. Small Normandy Institute, Washington, DC and France – 6/15/19-6/27/19 – No class days missed
 - DE, DW, STEM – Grades 9-12 – EF Tour: WWII & the Western Front - UK, France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria – 7/8/19-7/21/19 – No class days missed
 - DE, DW, STEM – Grades 9-12 – WGI Percussion World Championships – Dayton, OH – 4/16/19-4/21/19 – 1 class day missed
 - DMS, LMS, DE, DW, STEM – Grades 7-12 – Women’s STEM Conference, Lancaster, PA – 3/4/19 – 1 class day missed
 - DE, DW, STEM – Grades 9-12 – DECA State Conference, Hershey, PA – 2/20/19-2/22/19 – 2.5 class days missed
 - b. Approval of the Dual Enrollment Agreement with Harrisburg University
Total Cost: No Cost
Funding Source: N/A

Budget: 2018-19

- c. Approval for supplies for Tech Ed Dept. at DW
Total Cost: \$2,971.25
Funding Source: Curriculum Operating Budget
Budget: 2018-19

6. Policy

- a. Approval of the following policies
 - 1. 704 Maintenance
AG Administrative Guideline for 704: Maintenance

7. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
- b. Approval of Keystone Collections Group's Act 80 Comparison Report services to determine records that do not belong in the Downingtown Area School District
Total Cost: \$750
Contract Dates/Length: N/A
Funding Source: Business Office
Budget Year: 2018-2019
- c. Approval of the following Student Activity Club:
STEM Girl Up – this club will raise funds to donate to 'Girl Up', which supports UN programs promoting the health, safety, education, and leadership of girls in developing countries. They will raise funds by selling things such as buttons, t-shirts, stickers, etc. The funds will be used to donate to specific causes such as school supplies for girls in Guatemala
- d. Approval of a waiver agreement with the parents of a DASD student (7146116247)
Total Cost: \$10,500
Contract Dates/Length: 1/9/2019-6/5/2019
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2018-2019
- e. Approval of a settlement agreement with the parents of a DASD student (8687858051) for partial tuition
Total Cost: \$10,000
Contract Dates/Length: 1/10/2019-6/30/2019
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2018-2019
- f. Approval of a contract with Dr. Mary Lazar for an Independent Educational Evaluation of a DASD student (1452448876)
Total Cost: \$4,500
Contract Dates/Length: 1/10/2019-6/30/2019

Funding Source: Special Education
 Budget Year: 2018-2019

g. Approval of the following budget transfers:

Transfer From Account #	From Account Name	Amount	Transfer To Account #	To Account Name	Amount
238082-610	PRINCIPAL DWHS - GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$5,000	CFCNDW-582	DWHS CERT STAFF DEV - CONFERENCE TRAVEL	\$5,000
To cover conference related travel expenses for current and future conferences approved for staff.					

I. ACTION AGENDA

Personnel Report – Vice President Croft

The committee has reviewed and recommends Board approval of the following items by roll call vote:

1. On a motion by Director Wisdom, seconded by Director Mehler, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the renewal appointment and agreement for Dr. Robert Reed to the position of Assistant Superintendent
 Cost: Per terms of Agreement
 Dates/Length: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022 / 3 years

2. On a motion by Director Wisdom, seconded by Director Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved contracting an IT Project Manager for the implementation of the new Student Information System. The estimated duration of the contract will be January 2019 through October 2019 for a not to exceed amount of \$25,000. Approval based on solicitor review of Agreement.
 Cost: NTE \$25,000
 Dates/Length: January 2019 – October 2019 / 10 months

Curriculum Report – Director Cranney

The committee has reviewed and recommends Board approval of the following item by roll call vote:

1. On a motion by Director Cranney, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, approved the following middle level course requirement changes by a vote of 6-2, with Director Rauth and Director Benfield voting no.
 - a. 7th grade English Language Arts will be scheduled for two periods with one devoted to literature and one devoted to writing (currently writing is an elective course)

- b. World Language will be two days per cycle in 6th and 7th grade (currently students take World Language 3 days per cycle in 6th grade and 6 days per cycle in 7th grade)
- c. Health (2x) and Physical Education (2x) will be four days per cycle in 6th, 7th and 8th grade (currently Wellness is required 3 times per cycle in 6th grade; Health/PE is required 4 days per cycle in either 7th or 8th grade)
- d. Students in 7th and 8th grade will be required to schedule one class in each encore area over the 7th and 8th grade school years (two performance music encore classes will still be permitted)

Finance Report – Director Kring

The committee has reviewed and recommends Board approval of the following items by roll call vote:

1. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved an 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 2019-2020 fiscal year, by an amount that exceeds the Act 1 index of 2.3%
2. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the agreement for the Assignment Of Interest In Condemnation Proceeds in the amount of \$354,300.00 to Hankin Eagleview East, LP, as provided for in Section 12 of the Agreement of Sale, dated December 4, 2013, for the Lionville Station Road Property.
3. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Settlement Agreement and General Release by and between the PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION, the DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT and HANKIN EAGLEVIEW EAST, LP, resolving the amount of Just Compensation as well as any and all other damages to which School District and/or Hankin are entitled from the Turnpike Commission’s condemnation of a portion of the Lionville Station Road Property.
4. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a new settlement agreement with the parents of a special education student (1748624032) for tuition and attorney’s fees
 Total Cost: 18-19: \$68,834, 19-20: \$60,834
 Contract Dates/Length: 1/10/2019-8/1/2020
 Funding Source: Special Education
 Budget Year: 2018-2019, 2019-2020
5. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of a Konica Accurio Press C3070 Color Copier for the print center. This will replace the Konica 6500 color copier that will no longer be serviced by Konica due to age (purchased in Sept. 2008)
 Total Cost: \$67,087
 Contract Dates/Length: N/A

Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2018-2019

Facilities Report – Director Rauth

The Committee has reviewed and recommends Board approval of the following items by roll call vote:

1. On a motion by Director Rauth, seconded by Director Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a Clerk of the Works for UHES and STEM Projects
Total Cost: \$370.00 per day
Contract Dates/Length: Until work is completed
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2018-2019, 2019-2020
2. On a motion by Director Rauth, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the New Uwchlan Hills Elementary School PlanCon Part F Resolution (below), Certifying the Board of School Directors' Knowledge and Belief of the following:
 - a) The Board will not enter into construction contracts until it has received written approval for PlanCon Part F, Construction Documents, from the Department of Education.
 - b) The Board of School Directors has obtained, or will obtain, all necessary approvals from local, regional, and state agencies relating to health, safety, design, planning highway access, and freedom from flooding and subsidence, prior to entering into construction contracts.
 - c) The Board acknowledges that failure to obtain the requisite approvals prior to entering into construction contracts may be sufficient cause for the Department of Education to revoke its approval for this project. If approval is revoked, the project will not be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.
3. On a motion by Director Rauth, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the New Uwchlan Hills Elementary School PlanCon Part F (Authorizes Bidding of Project) submission of PlanCon Part F (Construction Documents) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This certifies that the PlanCon Part F materials prepared by KCBA Architects were approved for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by Board action. (This also certifies that the architect has been directed to insure that all plans related to this project conform to generally accepted codes or guidelines as set forth in Section 349.16 of the Department of Education Standards.)
4. On a motion by Director Rauth, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of Workers Compensation, General Liability and Excess Liability insurance for the New UHES and STEM Addition projects through the CM Regent OCIP (Owner's Controlled Insurance Program)
Total Cost: \$22.3762 per \$1,000 Hard Construction Value

Contract Dates/Length: Until work is completed
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2018-2019, 2019-2020

Technology Report – Director Britton

The Committee has reviewed and recommends Board approval of the following item by roll call vote:

1. On a motion by Director Britton, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the audio /visual project for the Gym/Auditorium at Beaver Creek Elementary School
Total Cost NTE: \$ 23,441
Funding Source: Technology Capital Funds
Budget: 2018-2019

Board Administrative Action

1. On a motion by President Bertone, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the appointment of Director Mehler as the Downingtown Area School District representative to the Chester County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

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 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 personal nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.)

Erin Fitzner (Upper Uwchlan) – Wrote an e-mail. Had not heard about changing curriculum and no idea how process works. Whole population of feedback is missing. Communication is a two way street. Expressed concerned about the decrease in world language.

Ireshpreet Kaur (10th DHSW) – Stated parents had no idea about mental illness until she was diagnosed. Parents don't know what's going on at schools. Feels adding writing will add stress to students. Discussed communication barrier and generation gap with adults. Students talk with other students.

Grace Stevens (10th DHSE) – Need better training for guidance and students to get comfortable with each other. Not enough prevention specialists.

Michelle Smith (Upper Uwchlan) – Requested important meetings not be double booked with another district wide activity. Meeting on Thursday is the same night as the strings festival.

Laura Obenski (Uwchlan) – Thanked the board. There are many community initiatives and resources that need help. Encouraged involvement. The district participates with many of these resources Lack of communication about resource programs and access. Asked the board to keep the student feedback first and foremost when implementing curriculum changes.

Yarnell Koontz (DHSE Parent) – Has a child that suffers with mental illness. One size fits all approach does not work for all. Communication is a two way street. Need to communicate information to students on where to go for help.

Lauren Kilfoy (9th STEM) – QPR was ineffective training. Guidance told her QPR is meant to be basic training that is built upon. Would like to see this built upon.

Reilly Schaefer (9th DHSE) – Shared experience with counselor asking about grades when she was dealing with the loss of two friends.

Teresa Wise (mother of a 11th DHSE student) – Parents are struggling and looking for resources. What do we do? How do we help? Concerned with use of social media. Anxiety and depression don't discriminate no matter what your age. All need to come together to be part of the solution.

Minute (East Brandywine) – Expressed empathy to the students and families struggling. Discussed tools and techniques to manage stress on our bodies. Need to empower parents and students with these tools.

Kristen Chambers – Discussed issue with IEP not being implemented for her middle child. Child was in crisis mode and teachers did not know how to implement the IEP. Child has been pulled from the district and is thriving now.

Alex Blinkenberg (9th DHSE) – Stated students don't feel loved by the school. Students feel like they are just a grade to teachers. Need more human interaction and not just be a number to staff.

L. INFORMATION

1. Hand carried listing of attendance at overnight professional conferences.
2. 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.

January 2, 2019

January 9, 2019

The next Curriculum Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2019 starting at 1:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2019 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 Wednesday, February 13, 2019 starting at 7:00 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 January 2, 2019.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Rauth, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary