

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Bertone called the meeting to order at 7:04 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
Vice President Croft
Director Kring
Director Mehler
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.

Amy Croset (410 Brandywine Avenue) – spoke on behalf of Harry Miller, owner of County Propane. Requested removal of Finance Item #5 from the agenda to allow for further discussion. Talked of effect on company employees and their families, looking for property for relocation, possible loss of customers, and difficulty moving tanks.

Dr. Kathleen West (West Bradford – 530 Brandywine Avenue) – Owner of Wellness Center. Significant hardship to recreate what they have created. Community not aware of vote

Hunter Gilland (East Caln) – requested removal of Finance Item # 7. As foster parents, talked of hardship to lose their home.

John West (West Bradford) – requested further discussion with community. Does not think this a responsible action to put a school in this location.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Applause!! Applause!!
 - a. Board certificate presentation – Karen Devine, PSBA Member Services

Ms. Devine presented Honor Roll of Service Certificates to Director Cranney, Director Mehler, Vice President Croft for 8 years of service and also to President Bertone for 12 years of service.

- b. Earlier this year, Margaret Jarvie, a third-grader at Uwchlan Hills Elementary, won the title of Overall Pennsylvania Miss United States Agriculture. Throughout her reign, Margaret held a platform of “Paying it Forward in Her Community.” She held a school supply drive for Chester County Foster Children, collected fresh vegetables on two different occasions for Chester County Food Bank, and held a Cozy Blanket and pillowcase drive for Chester County Foster Children. Margaret also volunteers in her community at places including Milky Way Farms, Lionville School of Dance, Local CSA and other community events. Margaret will be representing Pennsylvania at the National Miss United States Agriculture in Orlando June of 2020.
- c. Each year, The Brandywine Red Clay Alliance recognizes a teacher for their outstanding efforts in educating future stewards of the Brandywine and Red Clay Watersheds. These teachers use the outdoor classroom to inspire and empower their students. This year, the Watershed Teacher of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Dottie Graham, a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Bradford Heights Elementary School.
- d. Downingtown West’s Boys Cross Country team took home the big win at the PIAA AAA State Competition in Hershey last month. Congratulations to players Aiden Barnhill, Holden Betz, Jack Cappello, Ben Datte, Henry Debuque, Declan Rymer, Caelan Sims, and Ryan Straub, as well as head coach Scott Burns, and assistant coaches Thomas DiSante, Mark Schmidt and Thomas Wrzosek.
- e. Standardized Test Results – Kelly Byrne
Ms. Byrne presented a PowerPoint of the 2018-2019 PSSA, ACT, Keystone, SAT, AP and IB results.
- f. Superintendent Goals 2019 – 2020
 1. Directly and specifically increase communication with administrators and teachers as related to curriculum, instruction, technology and change.
 2. Create a comprehensive plan for expected student growth and designate how the district should meet the facilities needs over the next 5-10 years

F. REPORTS

- 1. Student Representatives Steven Egnaczyk
Sneha Premchandran
Bevan Watson
- 2. Student Life Report Director Cranney
No report. Next meeting November 21st.

3. Cultural Equity Report Director Cranney
Meeting October 28th. Reviewed data from community and district employees. Goal to improve equity and inclusion. Next meeting December 3rd.
4. DARC Director Kring
No report. Next meeting November 14th.
5. Legislative Committee Director Kring
Meeting on October 23rd. Resolution to be discussed later in the meeting this evening. Other discussion included HB1500, SB591, SB838, and PA School Time Study Report.
6. Governance Report Director Wisdom
Director Wisdom thank Ms. Devine for attendance tonight.
7. Policy Report Director Wisdom
No report.
8. Education Foundation Director Mehler
Meeting November 12th. Director Mehler confirmed two upcoming events: STEM/Innovation Bus at East Ward on November 19 from 6-7 p.m.; Harlem Wizards at DHSE at 6:30 p.m. on March 28th. Next meeting December 10th.
9. Intermediate Unit Director Mehler
Next meeting November 20th. 50th anniversary celebrated. Budget report given. Six new board members will be welcomed.
10. Communities That Care Director Britton
Gala held this past weekend. Student stories shared at the event. Next meeting November 19th.
11. Wellness Committee President Bertone
Summaries of sub committees reviewed. These are available on the district website. K-12 Wellness action plans discussed. Wellness goals to align with Communities That Care.

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting – October 9, 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
5. Curriculum
- a. Approval of the following field trip items:
Curricular:
 - a. WB (and other elementary) – Grade 5 – Adventure Aquarium, Camden, NJ – May 29, 2020 – 1 class day missed
 - b. DE, DW, STEM – Grades 9 –12, Spanish students – Costa Rica Adventure, Costa Rica – June 17 to 23, 2021 – no class days missed
 - c. STEM, (DE, DW) – Grades 9 – 12, Model UN – ILMUNC (Ivy League Model UN Conference), Philadelphia, PA – Jan. 30 to Feb. 2, 2020 – 1 class day missed
 - d. DE, (DW, STEM) – Grades 9 –12, Model UN – Wyndham Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA – Feb. 27 to March 1, 2020 – 1 class day missed

Non-Curricular:

 - a. DMS, (LMS) – Grade 7 – Camp Innabah, Spring City, PA – May 20, 2020 – 1 class day missed
6. Policy
- a. Approval of the following policies:
 - 1. AG Administrative Guideline: 201 Admission of Students
 - 2. 204 Attendance
 - 3. AG Administrative Guidelines: 204 Attendance
 - 4. 208 Withdrawal from School
 - 5. AG Administrative Guidelines: 208 Withdrawal from School
7. Finance
- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
 - b. Approval of the following Student Activity Clubs:
 - 1. DHSE Class of 2023 – This club will strive to offer new, fun opportunities for their class community. They will raise funds via Party Lite Candle sales, T-shirt sales, ink pens or cup sales and a voluntary \$1 class due. The funds will be used to help balance the cost of their Jr./Sr. proms and for donations to charitable organizations for human/animal safety.
 - 2. DHSW Class of 2023 – This club will support the class of 2023. They will raise funds via T-shirt sales and movie nights. The funds will be used for prom in the future and current spirit supplies.
 - 3. STEM Class of 2023 – This club will raise funds for the class of 2023 to offset costs of school sponsored functions. They will raise funds

via a Trivia Night, candy grams, Pie-a-Teacher and T-shirt sales. The funds will be used to offset costs for school dances, homecoming events, proms and graduation.

4. STEM Mock Trial – The purpose of this club is to allow students the opportunity to participate in mock trial activities. They will not be fundraising. Funds will be used for registration fees to teams.
5. STEM GAPP Exchange – This club will help manage the financial side of running the GAPP Exchange (German American Partnership Program) at STEM. The funds collected will be used to fund expenses related to the STEM GAPP Exchange in Germany, such as airline tickets, travel insurance, ground transportation, accommodations in Berlin, and other tour admission fees and incidentals.

8. Facilities

- a. Approval for a student to build a new Gaga Pit at West Bradford Elementary
Total Cost: No cost to the district
- b. Approval for Change Order #4 (ADD) to Watts Services, LLC, Site Contractor, for various site changes and upgrades at Uwchlan Hills Elementary School, per AIA Document G701
Total Cost: \$17,577
Contract Dates/Length: 2018 – 2019; 2019 – 2020; 2020 – 2021, 3 years
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020
- c. Approval for the Promulgation Letter for the 2019 Radiological Emergency Response Plan for incidents at the Limerick Generating Station. A Limerick Exercise will take place with local and federal agencies on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.
- d. Approval of a License Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for installation of a cell node on an existing light pole at Downingtown Middle School to enhance AT&T wireless service, pending solicitor approval

9. Technology

- a. Approval to purchase a projector, sound system, wireless microphones and related accessories for Springton Manor Elementary multipurpose room
Total Cost: NTE \$11,200
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

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 Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the tentative agreement between the Downingtown Area School District and the Downingtown Area Education Association for a five-year collective bargaining agreement.
Contract Dates/Length: 9/1/2020 – 8/31/2025, 5 years
2. On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the appointment of Dawna Hankins as Director of Human Resources.
Salary: \$155,000 annual (prorated for 1/1/2020 start date)
Contract Dates/Length: 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2025, 5 years
3. On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Act 93 merit for the 2018-2019 school year.
4. On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved six (6) new special education aide positions to be added to the staffing count for the 2019 – 2020 school year.
Comment: These positions are in addition to the approved staff budget. Funding for the 6 positions will be billed through Medical Access.
5. On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Cranney, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the dismissal of employee ID#22681 per attached resolution.

Curriculum Report – Director Cranney

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

1. On a motion by Director Cranney, seconded by Director Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal agreement with PlayPosit for license subscriptions in K–12 classrooms.
Total Cost: \$34,300
Contract Dates/Length: 11/14/2019 – 7/1/2023, 3.5 years
Funding Source: Curriculum Tech Supplies & Fees
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020
2. On a motion by Director Cranney, seconded by Director Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#4135441858).
Total Cost: 2019 – 2020: \$50,175; 2020 – 2021: \$32,175
Contract Dates/Length: 11/14/2019 – 6/15/2021, 2 years
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020; 2020 – 2021

3. On a motion by Director Cranney, seconded by Director Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#2701950139).
Total Cost: \$154,350
Contract Dates/Length: 11/14/2019 – 6/13/2022, 3 years
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020; 2020 – 2021; 2021 – 2022

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 agreement with PM Downingtown that terminates a 2009 agreement that allowed for a payment in lieu of taxes to be made on parcels they currently own. PM Downingtown will pay real estate taxes for fiscal year 2018 - 2019, will be exempt for 2019 – 2020 and recurring real estate taxes will resume in 2020 – 2021.
2. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Mehler, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved new wall pocket cafeteria tables at West Bradford Elementary due to safety issues.
Total Cost: \$57,920
Funding Source: Capital Funds
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020
3. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a proposal from BBD, LLP for auditing the District’s financial statements
Total Cost: 2019 – 2020: \$27,500 (no increase from 2018-2019); 2020 – 2021: \$28,000; 2021 – 2022: \$28,500; 2022 – 2023: \$29,000; 2023 – 2024: \$29,500
Contract Dates/Length: 2019 – 2024, 5 years
Funding Source: Business Office
Budget Year: 2019 – 2020; 2020 – 2021; 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2020
4. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the resolution for the acquisition of approximately 15.3 acres of land located on Brandywine Avenue, East Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, being part of Chester County UPI Number 40-3-9, from River Station X, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company, in whole or in part by all means authorized under the Pennsylvania Public School Code and other laws and regulations applicable to the acquisition of real estate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including by right and power of eminent domain, or acceptance of a deed in lieu thereof or a negotiated acquisition, for consideration of \$2,171,400, subject to adjustment at the cost of \$139,730 per acre such adjustment not to exceed one-half acre, depending on the final lot boundaries. The specific parcel will be created by subdivision and the final boundaries shall be subject to final approval by the Administration. The District shall not execute any agreement of sale or

agreement of sale in lieu of condemnation, nor shall any such agreement become operative or enforceable by any party thereto unless and until fully and finally approved as to form and content by the School District Solicitor and the School District Special Real Estate Counsel, and executed first by the seller and then executed by the School District.

Total Approximate Cost: \$2,241,400

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

At the Boards request, Solicitor Huggins explained these motions only start the process of negotiation options for the district with the property owners.

5. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the resolution for the acquisition of approximately 4 acres of land located on Brandywine Avenue, East Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, also known as Chester County UPI Number 40-3-6, from Harry D. Miller, III, in whole or in part by all means authorized under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 and other laws and regulations applicable to the acquisition of real estate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including by right and power of eminent domain, or acceptance of a deed in lieu thereof or a negotiated acquisition. The property is currently being appraised and the estimate of just compensation to be tendered will be based on the appraisal. The District shall not execute any agreement of sale or agreement of sale in lieu of condemnation, nor shall any such agreement become operative or enforceable by any party thereto unless and until fully and finally approved as to form and content by the office of the School District Solicitor, and executed first by the seller and then executed by the School District.

Total Cost: TBD

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

6. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the resolution for the acquisition of approximately 12,000 square feet of land located on Brandywine Avenue, East Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, also known as Chester County UPI Number 40-3-9.1, from KJW and Associates, LLC, in whole or in part by all means authorized under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 and other laws and regulations applicable to the acquisition of real estate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including by right and power of eminent domain, or acceptance of a deed in lieu thereof or a negotiated acquisition. The property is currently being appraised and the estimate of just compensation to be tendered will be based on the appraisal. The District shall not execute any agreement of sale or agreement of sale in lieu of condemnation, nor shall any such agreement become operative or enforceable by any party thereto unless and until fully and finally approved as to form and content by the office of the School District Solicitor, and executed first by the seller and then executed by the School District.

Total Cost: TBD

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

7. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the resolution for the acquisition of approximately 12,000 square feet of land located on Brandywine Avenue, East Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, also known as Chester County UPI Number 40-3-8, from Hunter R. Gilliland and Brittany Gilliland, husband and wife, in whole or in part by all means authorized under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 and other laws and regulations applicable to the acquisition of real estate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including by right and power of eminent domain, or acceptance of a deed in lieu thereof or a negotiated acquisition. The property is currently being appraised and the estimate of just compensation to be tendered will be based on the appraisal. The District shall not execute any agreement of sale or agreement of sale in lieu of condemnation, nor shall any such agreement become operative or enforceable by any party thereto unless and until fully and finally approved as to form and content by the office of the School District Solicitor, and executed first by the seller and then executed by the School District.

Total Cost: TBD

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

8. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved Siemens Tract, Uwchlan Township resolution by request of Buyer, Hankin Eagleview East, LP to extend the deadline for rezoning under the Agreement of Sale dated April 30, 2014, as amended, from March 3, 2020 to March 3, 2022, and to increase the Base Price payable to the School District under the Agreement of Sale from \$11,242,500 to \$12,000,000. An amendment to the Agreement of Sale shall be subject to review and approval by the office of the School District Solicitor.

Total Additional Revenue: \$757,500

Contract Dates/Length: 2020–2022, 2 years

Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

9. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Croft, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the resolution for the acquisition of approximately 20.47 acres of land located on Horseshoe Pike, East Brandywine Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, also known as Chester County UPI Number 30-5-82.4, from ELU-Planebrook Guthriesville, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company, in whole or in part by all means authorized under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 and other laws and regulations applicable to the acquisition of real estate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including by right and power of eminent domain, or acceptance of a deed in lieu thereof or a negotiated acquisition, for consideration not to exceed \$3,200,000. The District shall not execute any agreement of sale or agreement of sale in lieu of condemnation, nor shall any such agreement become operative or enforceable by any party thereto unless and until fully and finally approved as to form and content by the office of the School District Solicitor, and executed first by the seller and then executed by the School District.

Total Cost: \$3,200,000

Funding Source: Capital Funds

Budget Year: 2019 – 2020

Board Administrative Action

1. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Britton, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the Chester County School Board Legislative Council Resolution in support of Cyber Charter School funding reform.

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.

Mrs. West (West Bradford) – Asked if application for eminent domain has been made. Solicitor Donatelli stated no application has been filed. Owners would receive notice of application.

Mr. West (West Bradford) – based on questions and discussion prior to votes wonders if board understands what was happening.

Ava Lichok (DHSE Student) – read statement regarding mental health attention in the district. Thinks more attention, recognition, and help is needed on this topic.

Lauren Van Dyke (Downingtown Borough) – Borough Council member concerned about location of school and effects on traffic. Asked the board to be transparent regarding plans moving forward.

Mr. Gilland (East Caln) – finds decision of the board troublesome and asks for respect for his family. His land is only 1/3 of an acre.

Kristen Herman (Downingtown Borough) – Found out about the land action items through Facebook. Has been coming to meetings throughout the fall and doesn't recall discussion. Asked for open dialogue.

Mr. Tiny (West Bradford) – Just heard about this possible new school location. Thinks it is a poorly chosen location. Referenced possible environmental issues and asked for more transparency.

Mike Cahoot (West Bradford) – Asked about Plan B if this location is not secured and whether another school is necessary.

L. INFORMATION

1. The following policies are submitted for public review and scheduled for approval on December 4, 2019:
 - a. 304 Employment of District Staff

- b. 333 Professional Development
- c. AG Administrative Guidelines: 333 Professional Development
- d. AG Administrative Guidelines: 331 Job Related Expenses
- e. AG Administrative Guidelines: 138 Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
- f. AG Administrative Guidelines: 246 School Wellness

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

3. 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.

November 6, 2019

November 13, 2019

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for November 25, 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, December 4, 2019 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

4. Enrollment Report

The attached enrollment report has been submitted from the district database as of November 1, 2019.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice President Croft, seconded by Director Mehler, the Board, on a voice vote, agreed to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary