

**DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room**  
**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**BOARD MEETING NOTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Bertone called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 Houghton  
Director Kring  
Dr. MacNeal  
Director Wisdom

President Bertone read a statement regarding the devastation to the community due to flooding from Hurricane Ida. She highlighted the wonderful community outpouring of help and supplies for those effected.

**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.

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Applause!! Applause!!
  - a. DASD flood support resources  
DASD is working closely with local churches and charity organizations to coordinate support for families displaced by last week's flood. District members are creating a comprehensive list of resources for families which will be posted on our website and provided to school leadership. In addition, we are working to ensure displaced students are able to get to school and have access to in-person instruction.
2. Superintendent Update  
Dr. Lonardi presented a short PowerPoint highlighting the current Chester County Covid metrics and stated the district would stay the course with the board approved Health and Safety Plan.

3. Presentation: District Instructional Vision  
Dr. Lonardi presented a PowerPoint regarding the 2021- 2022 District Instructional Vision. The three prongs and staff developed definitions of Academic Rigor, Student Engagement and Student Agency were reviewed. Also reviewed was what adhering to an instructional vision means for teachers, administrators and parents. Lastly, Dr. Lonardi highlighted that she has asked professional staff to focus this year on relationships first, followed by instructional vision.

## **F. REPORTS**

1. Student Representatives Carly Etter  
Jesslyn Geevarghese  
Aerin Yoder
2. Student Life Report Director Blust  
First meeting for the 2021-2022 school year is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> in person.
3. Cultural Equity Report Director Wisdom  
Meeting scheduled for September 27 at 3:45 p.m. All are welcome to join the committee. September 20 program – Not just surviving but thriving.
4. DARC Director Kring  
No report.
5. Intermediate Unit Director Kring  
Meeting held August 18. Celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IU's. Presentation and approval of the Health and Safety Plan. Highlighted five communication awards. Next meeting September 15.
6. Education Foundation Director Gibson  
Dr. Chance provided an update in the absence of Director Gibson. Foundation continues focus on the Marsh Creek Nature Trail site locations and stations. Also focusing on stadium advertising. Next meeting September 14.
7. Legislative Committee Director Gibson  
No report.
8. Communities That Care Vice President Britton  
HYPE club work continues. All middle and high schools have a club. More information to come regarding youth presentations for grades 6-12 focusing on advocacy, leadership and peer support. Save the dates for Fall speaker series coming soon.
9. Wellness Committee Director Ghrayeb  
Wellness annual report and mental health update presented last week is now posted on the district website. Next meeting September 23.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Board Meeting – August 11, 2021
  - b. Special Board Meeting – August 12, 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
  
  - b. Approval of renewal agreement with Conrad Siegel for RDS actuary Services  
Total Cost: \$1,600/year  
Contract Dates/Length: 7//1/21 – 6/30/24  
Funding Source: Human Resources  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023-2024
  
  - c. Approval of renewal Agreement with Conrad Siegel for Affordable Care Act Reporting Services  
Total Cost: \$12,500 (no increase over prior 3 years)  
Contract Dates/Length: 1/1/21 – 12/31/21  
Funding Source: Human Resources  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
5. Curriculum
  - a. Approval of an agreement with Ricoh for scanning and destruction of graduating seniors’ educational records  
Total Cost: NTE \$16,500  
Contract Dates/Length: 9/8/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Pupil Services  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
  
  - b. Approval of the purchase of 2 replacement Life Fitness Total Body Arc Trainers for the STEM Academy  
Total Cost: \$13,078  
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
  
  - c. Approval of the following one-time field trips:

1. Curricular
  - STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) - Grades 9-12, FBLA – FBLA State Leadership Workshop, Pocono Manor, PA – Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, 2021 – 1 day missed
  
6. Policy
  - a. Approval of the following policies
    1. AG Administrative Guideline: 200 Enrollment of Students
    2. AG Administrative Guideline: 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students
    3. 702 Gifts, Grants, Donations
    4. 712 Cooperative Playgrounds
    5. AG Administrative Guideline: 712 Cooperative Playgrounds
    6. 800.1 Electronic Signatures
    7. AG Administrative Guideline: 800.1 Electronic Signatures
    8. AG Administrative Guideline: 915 Home and School Associations
    9. 236.1 Threat Assessment
  
7. Finance
  - a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
  
  - b. Approval of the list of the 2021-22 school bus routes and school bus drivers per the Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements
  
8. Technology
  - a. Approval for eRate consultation and filing services for the 2022 funding year
    - Total Cost: \$5,000 (Category I)
    - Contract Length: 10/1/21 – 9/30/22
    - Funding Source: Operating Budget
    - Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

## 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 renewal appointment and agreement for Dr. Robert Reed to the position of Assistant Superintendent
  - Total Cost: Per terms of Agreement
  - Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/22 – 6/30/27
  
2. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Downingtown Area Education Association and the Downingtown Area School District regarding the flexible first teacher workday of school year for the remainder of the term of the Agreement dated September 1, 2020 to August

31, 2025

3. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Downingtown Area Education Association and the Downingtown Area School District which allows Bargaining Unit Members to volunteer to cover a class where no substitute is available in lieu of their allotted daily prep time for the remainder of the term of the Agreement dated September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2025
4. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Release & Settlement for employee #18981
5. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the Release & Settlement for employee #18230
6. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved changing the Theme Reader positions to Writing Center Advisors at the rate of \$17.50 per hour for the 2021-22 school year. The program will no longer allow payment for sets

**Curriculum Report** – Director Blust

1. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal and final settlement agreement with the parents of a DASD student (#5267701467) for tuition and ESY costs in lieu of proceeding to a due process hearing  
Total Cost: 2021 – 2022: \$36,716; 2022 – 2023: \$41,910; 2023 – 2024: \$42,717  
Contract Dates/Length: 9/9/21 – 8/30/24  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024
2. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal settlement agreement with the parents of a DASD student (#6450941014) for compensatory services and attorney's fees  
Total Cost: \$65,560  
Contract Dates/Length: 9/9/21 – 6/30/26  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024; 2024 – 2025; 2025 – 2026
3. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved an updated contract with Illuminate Education for an additional assessment component to include new NGSS standards and test items  
Total Cost: \$122,636 (Net increase \$6,455)  
Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 6/30/23 (year 2 of 3)  
Funding Source: Curriculum Operating  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023

4. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Director Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a renewal agreement with Tang LLC for licenses for K-5 mathematics classrooms  
Total Cost: \$105,600  
Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Curriculum Operating  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

**Policy Report** – Director Houghton

1. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, approved the following policies by a vote of 7-1, with Dr. MacNeal voting no.
  - a. 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings
  - b. 006 Meetings

**Finance Report** – Dr. MacNeal

1. On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the termination agreement with the Hankin Group for the Siemens property located on Lionville Station Road in Uwchlan Township pending final review by the solicitor  
Total Projected Revenue: \$301,500  
Funding Source: Capital Fund  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
2. On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a final settlement agreement and release with Heisha LeGrande of 740 Wheatland Street, Apartment 217, Phoenixville, PA 19460 a personal injury plaintiff  
Total Cost: \$9,451.80  
Funding Source: General Fund  
Budget Year: 2021-22

**Facilities Report** – Vice President Britton

1. On a motion by Vice President Britton, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a proposal from KCBA Architects, Hatfield, PA to:
  - a) Study the possibility of adding classrooms to Beaver Creek Elementary School, Bradford Heights Elementary School and West Bradford Elementary School
  - b) Prepare a schedule and project costs for a new 700 student capacity elementary school at the McCausland site
  - c) Study the possibility of expansions at Downingtown High Schools East and WestTotal Cost: \$19,950 (cost of A: \$12,900; cost of B: \$3,150; cost of C: \$3,900)  
Contract Dates/Length: 9/9/21 – 10/1/21

Funding Source: Capital Funds  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

**Technology Report** – Director Kring

1. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a purchase of Securly content filtering system for a three-year term  
Total Cost: NTE \$229,970  
Contract Length: 10/1/21 – 9/30/24  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
  
2. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of FinalSite content management system and web hosting service for a five-year term  
Total Cost: NTE \$245,000  
Contract Length: 10/1/21 – 6/30/26  
Year One: \$85,000 (\$60,000 initial build cost, \$25,000 annual service)  
Years Two-Five: \$40,000 annual service  
Funding Source: Operating Budget, paid annually  
Budget Year: 2021 – 202; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024; 2024 – 2025; 2025 – 2026
  
3. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Director Wisdom, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 73 total laptops, 57 laptops for staff and 16 laptops for library kiosks  
Total Cost: NTE \$71,750  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

**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 personnel nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – discussed the Rosh Hashanah experience and having student exposed to all holidays. Expressed hope that with planning for the rest of this year and moving forward, other events such as spirit days and back to school nights would not be planned on holidays.

Greg Simotas (Uwchlan) – discussed tax impacts reviewed at recent special board meeting. Urged the board to not approve these proposed taxes increases.

Shannon Grady (West Pikeland) – expressed that masks are unsafe for humans. Does not support masking of children.

Tara Adams (West Bradford) – discussed CRT and book “Not my Idea”. Please stop trying to reshape the narrative. Sited occurrences in other districts and ours.

Kate Thomas (West Bradford) – in favor of full day kindergarten and 5/6 center. Supports comprehensive approach to renovations of elementary schools but asks that full day kindergarten not get lost in the shuffle.

Danielle Otten (Uwchlan) – thanked the district for the mask mandate. Fully supports last speaker regarding full day kindergarten. Instructional vision of academic rigor should include resiliency. Discussed bill introduced mandating recess.

Julia Christensen (Upper Uwchlan) – discussed mental health and suicide. Need more to be done. Need more resources.

Jason Gomez (Downingtown Borough) – does not support the wearing of masks for his children.

Bridget Delaney (Uwchlan) – asked the board to revisit proposal on tax increases. Raising taxes does not respect constituents in the community.

Michelle Smith (Upper Uwchlan) – discussed potentially painful assignments given to students. Supports DEI in helping teachers to think about things differently.

Frank Muto (East Brandywine) – discussed masks, overcrowding of busses, and teacher asking student to double mask. Also asked for in person back to school night for DHSW. Would like to interact with teachers.

## **L. INFORMATION**

1. The following policies are submitted for public review and scheduled for approval on October 13, 2021:

- |    |       |                        |
|----|-------|------------------------|
| a. | 218   | Weapons                |
| b. | 218.2 | Terroristic Threats    |
| c. | 247   | Hazing                 |
| d. | 249   | Bullying/Cyberbullying |

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.

September 1, 2021

September 8, 2021

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for October 6, 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 October 13, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

3. Enrollment Report

The attached enrollment report has been submitted from the district database as of September 1, 2021.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Director Wisdom, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay  
School Board Secretary