

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, November 10, 2021
6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Bertone called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 Kring
DR. MacNeal
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 2 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.

Jeremy Kramer (West Pikeland) – Expressed support for DEI. Need to meet students where they are.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Expressed support for the Educational Equity Policy on the agenda for approval this evening. Expressed support for Justin Brown and his work.

Kate Kearney (West Bradford) - Expressed support for the Educational Equity Policy on the agenda for approval this evening. Expressed support for Justin Brown and his work.

Kate Thomas (West Bradford) - Expressed support for the Educational Equity Policy on the agenda for approval this evening.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Superintendent Update

Dr. Lonardi presented a PowerPoint Covid Update. Items covered included current Chester County metrics, 5-11 year old vaccine clinic dates, Blue and Gold Band

testing for attendance at the Rose Bowl Parade, and the Governor's Mask Mandate which will remain in effect.

2. Applause!! Applause!!

a. The Downingtown Blue and Gold Marching Band had a great experience last week! Bob Kelly from Fox29 came out to capture the band making great music together. In the studio at Fox was celebrity Nick Cannon, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Not only did he promise to make a donation to help send the students to Pasadena, but he also shared the clip on his new show. To learn more about the band or make a donation, please visit www.dasdgoesrose.com

b. Congratulations to Downingtown High School East girls golf PIAA AAA state championship!

The team includes:

- Aarini Chouksey
- Sarah Chung
- Maria Crowe
- Emma Eitzen
- Lucia Giuliano
- Silvana Gonzalez
- Ava Lichok
- Julia Nawalany
- Ava O'Sullivan
- Mia Pace
- Emily Scavuzzo
- Amber Singh
- Olivia Steinbach
- Caitlin Woods

Along with the overall team win, we had individual winners as well:

- Nick Gross, DHS West 10th grade - PIAA AAA State Champion
- Ava O'Sullivan, DHS East 12th grade - PIAA AAA State Tournament tied for fourth
- Mia Pace, DHS East 10th grade - PIAA AAA State Tournament tied for 6th

c. On October 14, DMS Security Officer, Clayton Krieger, and DMS Head Custodian, Patrick Carey, were outside when they heard a loud crash. They quickly crossed through the thick brush that borders the school property and emerged on the Route 30 bypass where they observed a vehicle that had crashed along the guardrail with thick black smoke billowing from the engine.

Thinking quickly, the team was able to pry open the door of the unconscious driver, and move the driver to a safe distance from the vehicle. An ambulance quickly arrived on scene while both Kreiger and Carey assisted the medical team in life-saving measures as the driver

was transported into the ambulance.

Thank you to Mr. Kreiger and Mr. Carey, for being upstanders for our community. You are true heroes!

- d. The DASD community is committed to supporting its community. One of the many ways it accomplishes this goal is through its school gardens. The gardens are tended by students, teachers and volunteers three seasons a year, and grow thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables which are donated to local food banks.

Gardens can be found at Beaver Creek Elementary, Bradford Heights Elementary, East Ward Elementary, Lionville Elementary, Pickering Valley Elementary, Shamona Creek Elementary, Springton Manor Elementary, Uwchlan Hills Elementary, West Bradford Elementary, Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center and Downingtown Middle School.

This evening, we are recognizing Lionville Elementary School's garden, which began in 2002 and has 17 beds! Since its first harvest, alone it has donated more than 12,000 lbs of food to the Lord's Pantry and some of our DASD families in need. One of its most dedicated volunteers is retired teacher Jackie McCalla.

Jackie has been a long-time member of the DASD family, with more than 35 years of service as a teacher. She retired in 2007 and began subbing immediately upon retirement. She has been a regular volunteer in many of LES's programs and is also a volunteer member of the Downingtown Community Education Foundation. In addition to supporting the garden club, Jackie tends the school's garden on the weekends and harvests over 1,000 lbs a year. She is a staple at LES, as well as in our community, as a volunteer at the Brandywine Auxiliary to the Chester County Hospital and at COVID vaccine clinics, as well. Jackie's volunteerism to our district and in our community is unmatched, and for that we would like to publicly recognize and thank her for her dedication to serving the DASD community!

- e. Last month was National Arts & Humanities Month and DASD was awarded the Outstanding Visual Arts Community Endorsement for the 2nd year in a row from the PAEA. DMS was 1 of 20 districts in PA recognized for this endorsement demonstrating the importance of visual arts programs!
- f. This past spring the East Brandywine Youth Association fielded a team of 8 year old (and under) boys who competed in the Cal Ripken World Series and WON!

Their win at the World Series in Cherry Hill, NJ earned them an invitation to next year's 9U World Series which will be held in Treasure Island, FL where they will defend their title.

Many DASD students participated in the team, including:

- Nolan Shearer - Brandywine Wallace
- Steven Birenbaum - Uwchaln Hills
- Ryan Zezza - Brandywine Wallace
- Jack Gamble - Beaver Creek
- Emmitt Cronauer - East Ward
- Kayden Malseed - West Bradford
- Brayden Palagyi - Brandywine Wallace
- Jake Henwood - Springton Manor
- Miles Jensen - Brandywine Wallace
- Jacob Peters - Brandywine Wallace
- Brayden Nguyen - Pope John Paul II
- Channing Nugent - Honey Brook Elementary

F. PRESENTATION

1. High School Master Schedule – Dr. Chance, Dr. Barker, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Hurley Presentation of a PowerPoint regarding the Program of Study and High School Master Schedule Revision. Items covered included purpose of schedule changes, 2021-2022 timeline and considerations in lieu of possible future growth construction. Each principal outlined planned lunch and learn programs for their respective schools. DHSE and DHSW presented plans with and without renovations. Plans for 2022-2023 were also reviewed. Further renovation discussion will take place at the December 1st Committee of the Whole meeting.

G. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives Carly Etter
Jesslyn Geevarghese
Aerin Yoder
2. Student Life Report Director Blust
No report. Meeting scheduled for next week.
3. Cultural Equity Report Director Wisdom
Meeting held October 26. Sub committees are hard at work. November 27 event Night with the Lenape People. Next meeting November 29.
4. DARC Director Kring
No report. Next meeting November 18.
5. Intermediate Unit Director Kring
Meeting held October 20. Presentation on the CCIU Learning Center. Cosmetology and horticultural program highlighted. Dr. Mangan presented entry plan as new principal of the Learning Center. Next meeting November 17.
6. Education Foundation Director Gibson
Meeting held November 9th. Stadium advertising work is ongoing. Wizards event is rescheduled for March 24, 2022. Working with engineers for the Nature Center at

Marsh Creek. Starting student agency grant program. Winter programs begin January 10. Next meeting December 14

7. Legislative Committee Director Gibson
Meeting held October 27. Highlighted bills included HB 1332, SB 733, proposed regulation 6-349 and SB 603. Special notice on the Governors proposed regulations on Charter Schools published and out for 30 days.
8. Communities That Care Vice President Britton
Meeting held October 19. Hype club conducting Red Ribbon Activities from October 25 -29. Parent program to be held on November 9. Uwchlan Hills Parent to Parent program held on November 18. Two role models for change programs to be held at DHSW, DHSE and STEM. Parent podcast series launched on November 8th. Next meeting November 16.
9. Wellness Committee Director Ghrayeb
Five sub committees reviewing Youth Truth survey data. Next meeting November 18.

H. OLD BUSINESS

I. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting – October 13, 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 settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#9866897001)
Total Cost: \$22,000
Contract Dates/Length: 11/11/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
 - b. Approval of a settlement agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#3148523296)

Total Cost: \$15,000
Contract Dates/Length: 11/11/21 – 5/4/24
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024

- c. Approval of an agreement with Ricoh for document scanning (this is a reapproval from September for an increase of \$7,500)

Total Cost: NTE \$24,000
Contract Dates/Length: 11/11/21 – 6/1/22
Funding Source: Pupil Services
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

- d. Approval of the following one-time field trips:

Non-curricular:

STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) – Grade 12 – Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ – May 25, 2022 – 1 day missed

DHSW, STEM, (DHSE) – Grades 9-12, Ski/Snowboarding Club – Ski Resorts: Jay Peak and Smuggler’s Notch, Jay and Jeffersonville, VT – Feb. 18 to 21, 2022 – No days missed

6. Policy

- a. Approval of the following policies:

1. 800 Records Retention
2. AG Administrative Guideline: 800 Records Retention
3. 832 Educational Equity

7. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list

- b. Approval to receive a donated computer numerically controlled (CNC) router from Skyline Technology Incorporated for Downingtown High School East. This device will improve the equity between our high schools for the technology education program

Donated Value: \$12,500

- c. Approval of the following Student Activity Clubs:

1. STEM Class of 2025 – This club will raise funds and organize activities for the freshman class. This will raise funds with trivia nights, t-shirts sales, and Pi contests. These funds will be used to organize other class events in the future.
2. DHSW Class of 2025 – The purpose of this club is to support and promote the Class of 2025 in terms of school spirit, and class involvement in school activities. They will conduct clothing sales and other activities including restaurant nights involving the school community. They will use these funds to

promote freshman class activities and for future events like prom.

3. DHSE Class of 2025 – The purpose of this club is to raise funds for the Class of 2025. They will raise funds through t-shirt sales and restaurant givebacks. The funds will be used for Junior and Senior proms and all class activities.
4. STEM Black Student Union (BSU) – This club will study, research and celebrate African-American history, identity and culture. They will also study equity-based issues. The students have discussed the possibility of fundraising and will have potential cultural events, possible field trips and celebrate black cultural history with a MLK day of service. They will use the funds to pay for the cost of enrichment opportunities.
5. STEM Future Medical Professionals of America (FMPA) – This will be a community oriented, noncompetitive medical club meant to spark students’ interest in various medical topics. They plan to partner with the American Heart Association (AHA) to have mini-competitions, the American Red Cross (ARC) Association to host event nights (bingo/board games) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to sell wristbands to raise awareness.
6. STEM Chemistry Club – This club will provide an outlet for chemistry related activities for students who are interested, and an opportunity to share their love of chemistry with others through tutoring, chemistry demos for elementary students, and speakers. They will raise funds by selling spirit wear. The funds will be used to purchase supplies to develop a program of chemistry demonstrations for elementary students.

8. Facilities

- a. Approval of the Promulgation Letter for the 2021 Radiological Emergency Response Plan for Incidents at the Limerick Generating Station. A Limerick Exercise will take place with local, state and federal agencies on Tuesday, November 16, 2021; Pickering Valley Elementary School and Downingtown High School East will be observed

9. Technology

- a. Approval to purchase a projector for the STEM auditorium
Total Cost: NTE \$18,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

J. ACTION AGENDA

Personnel Report – Director Ghrayeb

1. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on

a roll call vote, unanimously approved an agreement with Delta-T Group, Inc. for as needed staffing services
Total Cost: Paraprofessionals \$26.00/hour, RN \$55.00/hour, LPN \$45.00/hour, non-certified teacher \$165.00/day, certified teacher \$210.00/day, special education certified teacher \$225.00/day
Contract Dates/Length: 11/11/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Human Resources
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

2. On a motion by Director Ghrayeb, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved an addendum to the agreement with Substitute Teacher Service to update the hourly pay rate for employment of Special Education Paraprofessionals, Level I \$14.42 and Level II \$19.89, and to add Facilities Substitute \$14.78 - \$27.46
Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 6/30/22
Funding Source: Human Resources
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

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 waiver agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#5038022707)
Total Cost: \$95,000
Contract Dates/Length: 11/11/21 – 6/30/24
Funding Source: Special Education
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024
2. On a motion by Director Blust, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of Life Fitness cardiovascular exercise equipment for Downingtown HS West
Total Cost: \$29,450
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

Technology Report – Director Kring

1. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the request to purchase storage and associated licensing for DASD video surveillance replacement
Total Cost: NTE \$30,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
2. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase A/V equipment for Staff A/B multi-purpose rooms

Total Cost: NTE \$45,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

Dr. Mattei stated purchase will be from ZNH Technologies. Request made to list name of vendor with requests.

3. On a motion by Director Kring, seconded by Vice President Britton, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of lighting consoles for the middle and high schools

Total Cost: NTE \$50,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

Dr. Mattei stated purchase would be made from Star Light.

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

- L. VISITORS** – 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 (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.

Kathy Sotak (Uwchlan) – Vaccines should be an individual choice made by families.

Greg Robino (West Bradford) – Opposed to the 5/6 center on the Bradford Heights Elementary property. Attended recent township meeting to express opposition.

Debra Swavely (Upper Uwchlan) – Masks should be optional. Would like masks off kids.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Supports books being back in the DHSW library. Banning books is a slippery slope.

Karin Petroll (West Bradford) – Supports books being back in the high school library.

Colin Sweeney (Upper Uwchlan) – Sited statistics regarding children and Covid infections and deaths compared to flu infection.

Tara Haarlander (Upper Uwchlan) – Supports books being back in the high school library. Without a formal complaint and according to policy they should not have been pulled. Also, according to policy should not be been pulled during review process.

Kelly Rodriguez (East Brandywine) – Discussed mask mandate and requested the board begin discussions ahead of the January 17 lifting of the Governor's mandate.

M. INFORMATION

1. 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.

October 29, 2021
November 3, 2021
November 8, 2021
November 10, 2021

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for December 1, 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 December 8, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

2. Enrollment Report

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

N. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice President Britton, seconded by Director Kring, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary

