

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING 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.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

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

Salika Mir, Sabzar Mir (Uwchlan) – Father and daughter spoke in support of Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar. Requested approval this evening of the calendar.

Sami Syed (Upper Uwchlan) – Expressed support for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

Amaan Syed (Upper Uwchlan) – Expressed support for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

Mohamed Abouraya, Ahmed Abouraya (Downingtown Borough) – Father and son spoke in support of Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar. Approval demonstrates inclusion for the Muslim community.

Hanaa Saleem (Uwchlan) - Expressed support for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

Zayna Haider (West Bradford) - Expressed support and appreciation for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

Shahraz Rasheed (Upper Uwchlan) - Expressed support for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

Aejaz Sayeed (Upper Uwchlan) - Expressed support for Eid Al-Fitr holiday on the district calendar.

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Applause!! Applause!!
 - a. School Board Recognition
Dr. Lonardi read a statement in recognition of our Board of School Directors service to the district and community in acknowledgement of School Board Recognition month.
2. Superintendent Update
Dr. Lonardi provided a short PowerPoint Covid Update. Highlighted were the most current Chester County metrics, quarantine guidance, contact tracing in congregate settings only, close contact guidance to be notified individually, DASD dashboard updated on student school days and no virtual instruction.

F. REPORTS

1. Student Representatives
Carly Etter
Jesslyn Geevarghese
Aerin Yoder
2. Student Life Report
Director Bertone
No report. Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2022.
3. Cultural Equity Report
Director Gurthy
The Cultural Equity Taskforce did not meet in the month of December. The next CETF meeting will on January 25th, 2022 at 3:45 pm. Visit the DEI website where the link is accessible to the public to join
4. Intermediate Unit
Director Gurthy
No report. Meeting scheduled for January 19, 2022.
5. DARC
Vice President Ghrayeb
No report.
6. Education Foundation
Director Blust
Meeting held January 11th. Discussion included fundraising donation from Dick’s Sporting goods, March 24 Wizards event. Wegman’s grant to the Marsh Creek Nature Center. Anticipate Nature Center opening late May with amphitheater to open with the start of school 2022.
7. Legislative Committee
Dr. MacNeal
No report. Next meeting January 26, 2022.

- c. Approval of the following one-time field trips

Curricular:

1. Elementary, MC6 Band – Grade 5 and 6 – Wilmington Blue Rocks, Wilmington, DE – April 23, 2022 – No days missed
2. 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
3. STEM, DHSE, (DHSW) – Grades 9-12, DECA – DECA State Conference, Hershey, PA – February 16-18, 2022 – 2.5 days missed
4. DHSE, (DHSW, STEM) – Grades 9-12, LINK students – South Mountain YMCA, Reinholds, PA – April 1-3, 2022 – No days missed

6. 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 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)
 2. 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

I. ACTION AGENDA

Curriculum Report – Dr. MacNeal

1. On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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

Finance Report – Director Houghton

1. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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%

Facilities Report – Vice President Ghrayeb

1. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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
2. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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
3. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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
4. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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

5. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved engaging the law firm of Riley Riper Hollin & Colagrecio 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
6. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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
7. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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

Technology Report – Director Bertone

1. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 1250 Lenovo laptops for grade 9 students
Total Cost: NTE \$1,303,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
2. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 900 iPad tablets for Kindergarten students
Total Cost: NTE \$265,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

3. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 975 MAX cases, including accidental damage protection for Kindergarten tablets
Total Cost: NTE \$65,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
4. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 1,250 Lenovo Chromebooks for grade 5 students
Total Cost: NTE \$627,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
5. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 700 Lenovo laptops for teachers
Total Cost: NTE \$676,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
6. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dr MacNeal, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 80 Lenovo desktops for office area kiosks
Total Cost: NTE \$52,000
Funding Source: Capital Budget
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
7. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 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
8. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 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
9. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved a 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

Board Administrative Action

1. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Blust, the Board, on a roll call vote, unanimously approved 2022-2023 District Calendar Option 4 as amended. April 10 to be a school day, not a day off. Last student day will be June 8 and the last teacher day June 9.

Dr. Reed reviewed Option 3 and Option 4 draft district calendars.

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

1. Library Books

Dr. Chance reviewed the book proposed selection process and the proposed vetting process moving forward. These processes will be codified in Policy and Administrative Guidelines. The revised Policy and AG's will be brought back to the board for approval. The three library books will be returned to the library shelves.

2. Director Houghton requested a special board meeting for more discussion regarding full day kindergarten and construction. She would like more community input. She would like to ensure more publicizing to reach tax payers who may not have children in district schools.

Suggestion was made for a Town Hall type meeting with review of the options, board dialogue and public Q&A. Suggestion of meetings to be held at all elementary schools, regional meetings, or meetings at impacted schools.

Administration to discuss and present options to 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 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.

Karin Petroll (West Bradford) – Library books should not have been removed. District process was not followed.

Kathleen Thomas (West Bradford) – Glad to hear suggestion of more discussion regarding future construction options. Supports full day kindergarten.

Tara Haarlander (Upper Uwchlan) – Requested passive camera option for children given current spike in Covid metrics.

Rebecca Britton (Uwchlan) – Thanked the board for good governance regarding books

in the libraries. Tax payers want full day kindergarten.

Sami Syed (Upper Uwchlan) – Thanked the board for the vote approving the district calendar containing recognition and inclusion of Eid Al-Fitr holiday.

L. 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.

January 5, 2022

January 12, 2022

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2022 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 February 9, 2022 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 January 3, 2022.

M. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Director Blust, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary