

DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Office, James E. Watson Staff Development Room
Monday, November 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Bertone called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. ACTION AGENDA

Discussion Items

1. Construction to allow for Full Day Kindergarten
2. Construction for expansion of DHSW and DHSE High Schools

Mr. Jay Clough of KCBA Architects presented a two-part PowerPoint Facility Capacity Study. The purpose of study was to explore increasing student capacity. The elementary presentation included a possible 5/6 Center at Bradford Heights, a possible new elementary school at the district owned McCausland property and exploring expansion of Beaver Creek, Bradford Heights, and West Bradford elementary schools. Four combinations of options were presented. Part two studied expansion options for DHSW and DHSE. Options included enclosing courtyards creating atriums allowing for flexible instructional space and potential classroom additions.

Request for a comprehensive review of all building needs to allow for planning.

It was agreed that time would be allotted at a future meeting for further questions and discussion on the material presented this evening.

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

- F. 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 personal nature regarding an individual employee directly to the superintendent.

Caitlin Bottomley (Downingtown Borough) – Encouraged the board to reject option 1 (building a 5/6 center at Bradford Heights) presented this evening. This may be the easier option but feels it is inequitable for other schools in the district. Commented on insufficient publication of the meeting.

Greg Robino (West Bradford) – Opposed to a 5/6 center at the Bradford Heights Elementary School site. Discussed traffic and need to redo traffic study previously conducted during the pandemic. Will be attending township meeting to express opposition. Commented on insufficient publication of the meeting.

Erin Baugher (Uwchlan) – Full day kindergarten is a sound practice. Displacing 5th graders from elementary school is not a sound practice. Need to foster continuity and community.

Steve Finegan (West Bradford) – Opposed to Option 1 presented this evening. Discussed minimal green space would remain. Discussed traffic issues and weather challenges on area roads.

Danielle Wilks (West Bradford) - Opposed to Option 1 presented this evening. Discussed environment, infrastructure, traffic, safety and green space.

Lisa Sayre (West Bradford) - Opposed to Option 1 presented this evening. Discussed traffic, blind curves, and construction would cause the removal of a memorial to past principal Mr. Solon.

Joe Sayre (West Bradford) – Echoed remarks of previous speaker. Urged board to reject option 1 64 million plus the projected 10 million of recurring operating cost.

G. INFORMATION

1. School Board Meetings

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 November 10, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the James E. Watson Staff Development Room of the Administrative Office.

H. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Director Kring, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay
School Board Secretary