

**DOWNINGTOWN AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Administrative Office James E. Watson Staff Development Room**  
**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. ROLL CALL**
- 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.
  
- E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
  - 1. Applause!! Applause!!
    - a. On October 1, 2021, Giant partnered with DASD to do the unimaginable in support of DASD Hurricane Ida victims. Working with local Giant food stores, Giant hosted a “stuff the bus” event, which resulted in an entire school-bus-full of donations for the Lord’s Pantry! Further, Giant donated \$12,500 in gift cards and an additional \$5,000 to the support school district. The gift cards will be distributed to DASD students experiencing homelessness, and the additional funds will support DASD student programs. Thank you, Giant, and thank you to our community for your incredible generosity!  
  
We also want to thank our district and building staff for their quick response to our students and their families during the latest emergency. Whenever DASD students experience a crisis, the district has a variety of supports in place. 24/7, the crisis support team is available to gather information, identify impacted staff and students and develop a crisis response plan. That plan includes communication, resource gathering, identification of barriers and the creation of a short and long-term plan for response. Following the crisis plan implementation, the team then evaluates each step of the response and puts steps in place for improvement in the future. While we can never tell what the future holds, know that DASD has staff in place to support our school community in the face of crisis. “We got you.”
    - b. You may remember pre-pandemic, that DASD’s Blue and Gold Marching Band earned the honor to march in the 132nd Rose Parade® presented by Honda. Well, the pandemic had other plans. DASD is now proud to be scheduled to march on January 1, 2022 in the 133rd parade as one of less than 20 bands that have been selected to perform from across the globe. The parade boasts more than 1 million attendees, 38

million average viewers in the US and 15-20 million internationally. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for earning this honor, and we can't wait to see them marching down the streets of Pasadena!

DASD's Blue and Gold Marching Band is made up of students from all three DASD high schools and is directed by Mr. Otto and Mr. German. In order to attend, the band requires students to participate in community service leading up to the event, and together they have performed more than 4,000 hours so far! With the help and support of the Music Parents Association, the band will continue to fundraise for their trip this winter, and more information about the trip and ways that you can help get them to Pasadena can be found at [www.dasd.org/DASDGoesRose](http://www.dasd.org/DASDGoesRose).

- c. Springton Manor has its own local champion in fourth-grader Claire Wesolowski. The nine-year-old began studying Taekwondo when she was just four years old. This August, after years of dedicated and committed practice, Claire took home the National Championship during the USA TKD Championships in San Antonio Texas! Congratulations, Claire, on this phenomenal achievement!
- d. Ajay Macherla is a rising senior at Downingtown STEM Academy who has written a self-help book on mindset and personal development called "From High Schooler to High Schooler." It was independently self-published on July 27, 2021 and is available on international Amazon marketplaces.

Through observing his failures and successes, Ajay explains his story from an unmotivated middle schooler into a proactive and goal-oriented high schooler. His book shares a four-pillared framework for achieving high performance and is specifically tailored to high schoolers. The book covers key strategies, including having the right mindset, learning to effectively manage your time, and staying healthy. Congratulations, Ajay, on this outstanding accomplishment!

To learn more and to order the book, please visit:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09B4P6L6D/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o00\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09B4P6L6D/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

- e. GirlPlex, a non-profit organization created by Downingtown East students Siri Dandu and Mahitha Penmetsa, teaches girls to code in an effort to encourage their pursuit of computer science in higher education.

Currently, only 20 percent of computer science professionals are women. Siri and Mahitha created this organization to help decrease the gender gap in computer science. They offer both female-only and co-ed courses for students in elementary and middle school, for free. They have taken their classes online and held a variety of camps for young

learners. To date, more than 1,000 students have participated in the GirlPlex classes and camps, and the duo plans to continue their work in the future. Any donations they receive are given to local organizations, such as Cradles to Crayons. Thank you, Siri and Mahitha, for recognizing and filling a need in our community!

2. Superintendent Update
3. Presentation: DCA Long Term Plan

## **F. REPORTS**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Student Representatives | Carly Etter<br>Jesslyn Geevarghese<br>Aerin Yoder |
| 2. Student Life Report     | Director Blust                                    |
| 3. Cultural Equity Report  | Director Wisdom                                   |
| 4. DARC                    | Director Kring                                    |
| 5. Intermediate Unit       | Director Kring                                    |
| 6. Education Foundation    | Director Gibson                                   |
| 7. Legislative Committee   | Director Gibson                                   |
| 8. Communities That Care   | Vice President Britton                            |
| 9. Wellness Committee      | Director Ghrayeb                                  |

## **G. OLD BUSINESS**

## **H. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Board Meeting – September 8, 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 the purchase of new and replacement instruments for elementary, middle, and high school music classes  
Total Cost: NTE \$13,624  
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
  - b. Approval of a renewal agreement with the CCIU for MA Billing Services

Total Cost: \$1.91 per MA Billing transaction, \$31.56 per MA medical authorization  
Contract Dates/Length: 10/14/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

- c. Approval of a settlement agreement with the parents of a DASD student (#6723371852)  
Total Cost: \$4,500  
Contract Dates/Length: 10/14/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- d. Approval of a waiver agreement with the parents of a DASD student (PA ID #6394797855)  
Total Cost: \$12,000  
Contract Dates/Length: 10/14/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
- e. Approval of the following one-time field trips
  1. STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) – Grades 9-12, Model UN – ILMUNC (Ivy League Model UN Conference), Philadelphia, PA – Jan. 27 to Jan. 30, 2022 - 1 day missed
  2. LMS, (DMS) – Grade 7, History – National Constitution Center and Historic Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA – Nov. 12, 2021 – 1 day missed
  3. STEM, (DHSE, DHSW) – Grades 11-12 – Tour of Paris, The Riviera, and Rome, France and Italy – June or July 2022 – No days missed

6. Policy

- a. Approval of the following policies:
  1. 218.1 Weapons
  2. 218.2 Terroristic Threats
  3. 247 Hazing
  4. 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

7. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
- b. Approval for exoneration of the 2021/2022 school taxes for parcels 30-03-0222.0000, 30-03-0306.0000 and 30-03-0305.0000 in the amount of \$9,822.77. The East Brandywine Township Municipal Authority acquired the three parcels as part of the sewer facilities serving The Estates at Dowlin Forge Station. The Chester County Assessment Office has granted exemption on these parcels effective the 2022 tax year

8. Facilities

- a. Approval of an Eagle Scout project to create an outdoor learning space at Bradford Heights Elementary School - no cost to DASD

## **I. ACTION AGENDA**

### **Personnel Report** – Director Ghrayeb

1. **Request approval of the salary increase to \$130,000 for Jennifer Shealy, Director of Communications, to be effective October 14, 2021, prorated based on the number of days remaining in the 2021-2022 fiscal year**
2. **Request approval of contract with Chester County Intermediate Unit for communications audit**  
**Total Cost: \$6,300**  
Contract Dates/Length: 7/1/21 – 3/31/22  
Funding Source: Superintendent Budget  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
3. **Request approval for an additional Communication Department position beginning July 1, 2022**  
Funding Source: Personnel Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

### **Curriculum Report** – Director Blust

1. **Request approval of the purchase of replacement equipment for Tech Ed courses at DEHS and DWHS**  
**Total Cost: \$80,818**  
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022
2. **Request approval of a waiver agreement and release with the parents of a DASD student (#5078163107)**  
**Total Cost: \$33,000**  
Contract Dates/Length: 10/14/21 – 6/30/22  
Funding Source: Special Education  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

### **Finance Report** – Dr. MacNeal

1. **Request approval of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services - Fox & Roach, REALTORS – PA Lic # RB061717C as broker to represent district real estate on Lionville Station Road, Uwchlan Township**  
**Total Expense: 3.25% to 4% of sale price**  
Funding Source: Capital Fund  
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 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.

**L. INFORMATION**

1. The following policies are submitted for public review and scheduled for approval on November 10, 2021:

- a. 800 Records Retention
- b. AG Administrative Guideline: 800 Records Retention
- c. 832 Educational Equity

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.

October 6, 2021  
October 11, 2021  
October 13, 2021

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for November 3, 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.

3. Enrollment Report

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

**M. ADJOURNMENT**