

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

**BOARD MEETING NOTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Wisdom called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 Miller  
Director Ross  
President Wisdom

**D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Applause!! Applause!!

a. The DASD Art Gallery at Trestle

Annually, our district's visual arts teachers have the opportunity to honor two students each by presenting their work in the DASD Art Gallery at Trestle Place. The selected works are digitally reproduced, framed, and placed in the James E. Watson Staff room for a two-year cycle, personalizing our space with the talent of our student artists. This work truly represents the best of our district. Thank you to our DASD art educators for their creative guidance and support and a very special thank you to these students for contributing their talents to our space. Congratulations to the following:

| <b>Student Name</b> | <b>Name of School</b>                | <b>Grade</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Julian Fuimaono     | Beaver Creek Elementary School       | 2            |
| Autumn Rothhaar     | Beaver Creek Elementary School       | 5            |
| Anika Rondla        | Bradford Heights Elementary School   | 4            |
| Kayla Lin           | Bradford Heights Elementary School   | 5            |
| Ashley Lopez        | Brandywine Wallace Elementary School | 3            |

| <b>Student Name</b>    | <b>Name of School</b>                | <b>Grade</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Brayden Palagyi        | Brandywine Wallace Elementary School | 3            |
| AJ Junisbayeva         | Downingtown High School East         | 9            |
| Ava Pratt              | Downingtown High School East         | 10           |
| Ellery Diskivich       | Downingtown High School East         | 10           |
| Katherine Stepenosky   | Downingtown High School East         | 10           |
| Eleanor Leslie         | Downingtown High School East         | 11           |
| Ella Reece             | Downingtown High School East         | 11           |
| Julianna Upham         | Downingtown High School East         | 11           |
| William Pan            | Downingtown High School East         | 11           |
| Sophia Hunt            | Downingtown High School East         | 12           |
| Violet Pendell         | Downingtown High School West         | 10           |
| Annalie Beaver         | Downingtown High School West         | 11           |
| Jessica Valle          | Downingtown High School West         | 11           |
| Ananyaa Sathyanarayana | Downingtown High School West         | 12           |
| Brandon McNeill        | Downingtown High School West         | 12           |
| Caitlin Pincura        | Downingtown High School West         | 12           |
| Leo Boehenke           | Downingtown Middle School            | 7            |
| Mia Gabbai             | Downingtown Middle School            | 7            |
| Catherine Blisard      | Downingtown Middle School            | 8            |
| David Alverez Flores   | Downingtown Middle School            | 8            |
| Joe Lin                | Downingtown Middle School            | 8            |
| Rohan Jayakrishnan     | Downingtown Middle School            | 8            |
| Darsh Pancholi         | East Ward Elementary School          | 2            |
| Ashlynn McCafferty     | East Ward Elementary School          | 5            |
| Zoe Wu                 | Lionville Elementary School          | 2            |

| <b>Student Name</b> | <b>Name of School</b>              | <b>Grade</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Daria Ryvkin        | Lionville Elementary School        | 3            |
| Thomas Wolf         | Lionville Middle School            | 7            |
| Faith Garrett       | Lionville Middle School            | 8            |
| Keegan Kropp        | Lionville Middle School            | 8            |
| Madison Mento       | Lionville Middle School            | 8            |
| Nidhi Nagumalla     | Lionville Middle School            | 8            |
| Teddy Widdis        | Lionville Middle School            | 8            |
| Bella Laisse        | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Chloe Mann          | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Natalie Kibalo      | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Ritika Penmetsa     | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Ryan Carter         | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Sophia Lauletta     | Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center     | 6            |
| Farah Shaik         | Pickering Valley Elementary School | 4            |
| Johanna Zeng        | Pickering Valley Elementary School | 5            |
| Melah DeWitt        | Shamona Creek Elementary School    | 3            |
| Kimayaa Dalvi       | Shamona Creek Elementary School    | 5            |
| Maxine Molendyke    | Springton Manor Elementary School  | 1            |
| Norah Pastorino     | Springton Manor Elementary School  | 5            |
| Trisha Sirsat       | STEM Academy                       | 11           |
| Nikitha Kanumuru    | STEM Academy                       | 12           |
| Van Reese           | Uwchlan Hills Elementary School    | 2            |
| Avery Monsilovich   | Uwchlan Hills Elementary School    | 5            |
| Vishkakha Tumuluri  | West Bradford Elementary School    | 1            |
| Allison Yurasits    | West Bradford Elementary School    | 3            |

**E. PUBLIC INPUT ON ACTION ITEMS** – The Downtown 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.

Michelle Bertram (East Brandywine) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Supports approval of the purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Jeff Smith (Upper Uwchlan) – Supports approval of the purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Adam Shoffner (Uwchlan) – Supports approval of the purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Lisa Spengler (East Brandywine) – Supports approval of the purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Chare Pishook (Downingtown Borough) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Shannon Grady (West Pikeland) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Paul Scarola (Upper Uwchlan) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Summer Darey (Wallace) – Supports approval of the purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Ronna Dewey (Upper Uwchlan) – Read a statement on behalf of another district father who does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Cara Phalen (Wallace) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Tara Adams (West Bradford) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Carla Thomas (East Brandywine) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Jennifer Stewart (Uwchlan) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.

Janine Niemeyer (Upper Uwchlan) – Read statements on behalf of Marie Cod and John Palumbo. They do not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource.



8. Communities That Care                      Director Ross  
First Snowball Shuffle was held. 200 runners and walkers participated. First Healthy Youth Summit also held. HYPE students presenting Nicotine Prevention Programs. Parent Speaker series held 2 events in March. Next program scheduled for May 2 – Mental Health 101. Parent Survey results were reviewed. 11 parent podcasts are available. Next meeting scheduled for April 19.
9. Wellness Committee                      Director Ross  
Advisory committee met in March and shared five wellness goal priorities. District wide Wellness Fair was held today. Next meeting April 21.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Board Meeting – March 9, 2022
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 following one-time field trips  
Curricular:
    1. DHSE, (DHSW), STEM – Grades 9-12, DECA – DECA National Conference & Competition, Atlanta, GA – April 23-27, 2022 – 3 days missed
    2. DHSW, (DHSE, STEM) – Grade 9-12, LINK – South Mountain YMCA, Reinholds, PA – April 22-24, 2022 – no days missed  
Non-curricular:
    1. LMS, (DMS) – Grade 7, Team D – Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA – May 31, 2022 – 1 day missed  
Foreign Exchange Program:
    1. DHSE, DHSW – Grades 11-12, Social Studies – Denmark Foreign Exchange – April 20-30, 2023 – 5 class days missed
6. Finance

- a. Approval for the disposal, sale or donation of items on the attached list
- b. Approval to exonerate all delinquent taxes due on parcel number 50-05-0008.200T. The lien on the mobile home owned by Joseph Silvestri has been deemed uncollectable by the County of Chester Tax Claim Bureau as it was physically removed from the lot by the owner to an unknown location  
 Total Lost Revenue: \$722  
 Funding Source: General Fund Revenue Receivable  
 Budget Years: 2012 – 2013 through 2020 – 2021
- c. Approval of the following Student Activity Clubs:
  - 1. DHSE DSU (Desi Student Union) – This club will educate the school and community about South Asian culture while also supporting the South Asian community through fundraising and donating. They will raise funds through the sale of cultural items, such as bangles. The funds will be used to educate the school community about South Asian culture through events and projects. They will also make donations to nonprofits such as SEVA.
  - 2. DHSE Korean Culture Club – This club will allow students to learn and share about Korean culture. They will raise funds by selling t-shirts, bracelets, etc. The funds will be used to purchase supplies, books and other items for club activities.
- d. Approval of the following donations:
  - 1. Acceptance of a donation of dumbbell fitness equipment from Dick’s Sporting Goods, Inc. for DHSE and DHSW weight rooms
  - 2. Acceptance of a monetary donation of \$12,564.36 from the Giant Company for the 2022 Feeding School Kids Program
- e. Approval of a contract with Ticket Spicket for the public to use their software to purchase electronic tickets for DASD athletic events  
 Total Cost: Cost for Using the Software is Paid by User Fees  
 Contract Date/Length: Contract is renewable every 30 days
- f. Approval of a budget transfer from budgetary reserve to charter school regular education for \$1,400,000 and to charter school special education for \$700,000

| <u>Transfer From Account #</u> | <u>From Account Name</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Transfer To Account #</u> | <u>To Account Name</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|

|  |                                  |             |               |                                |             |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 5901-840   | Charter School Budgetary Reserve | \$2,100,000 | 11002075C-562 | Charter School Reg Ed Tuition  | \$1,400,000 |
|  |                                  |             | TUCSSE-562    | Charter School Spec Ed Tuition | \$700,000   |
| To move Charter School Tuition Reserve to Charter School tuition accounts for use during 21-22 SY. |                                  |             |               |                                |             |

7. Facilities

- a. Approval of an easement to Upper Uwchlan Township for a trail connection between a crosswalk on Station Boulevard and an existing trail behind Pickering Valley Elementary School with a condition that a flashing pedestrian crosswalk light be installed
- b. Approval to renew the farm lease with Mr. Sam Acker to farm district-owned land in Uwchlan Township for the annual revenue of \$27,600; payment of half, \$13,800, upon execution of lease  
Contract Dates/Length: 4/1/22 until Land Settlement

**I. ACTION AGENDA**

**Curriculum Report** – Dr. MacNeal

- 1. Motion was made by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Bertone, to purchase Wit and Wisdom for Grades 3-5 Core ELA resource and professional development for 10 elementary buildings  
Total Cost: NTE \$375,000  
Funding Source: Curriculum Capital  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022

Following board discussion, a motion was made by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Bertone to postpone the recommended approval to purchase Wit and Wisdom for Grades 3-5 Core ELA resource and professional development for 10 elementary buildings until the May 11, 2022 School Board Meeting. The Board on a voice vote unanimously approved the postponement.

**Finance Report** – Director Houghton

- 1. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Vice President Ghrayeb, the Board, on a roll call vote, approved the resolution adopting the District’s 2022 – 2023 Proposed Final Budget with expenses in the amount of \$261,416,586 with a 3% tax

increase by a vote of 7-2, with Director Miller and Director Bertone voting no. Final budget adoption to be made at the May 11th Board meeting

2. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the 2022 – 2023 Chester County Intermediate Unit Core Services budgets in the amount of \$33,173,390. There is no increase in the DASH contribution amount of \$93,277. The Core Services budget covers general administration, information technology, communications, and building maintenance
3. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the 2022 – 2023 Chester County Intermediate Unit Occupation Education budget in the amount of \$30,361,289. The increase in the DASH contribution amount is \$197,034 for a total of \$2,979,072 for the year. The Occupation Education budget covers courses at the Technical College High School campuses
4. On a motion by Director Houghton, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a facility rental agreement with A Child’s Place Extended Care Inc (ACP). The agreement is for 5 years with a 3% increase in rental income to the district each year with the district’s option to extend the agreement for an additional 2 years  
Total 2022 – 2023 Revenue: \$208,665  
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/27  
Funding Source: General Fund Revenue  
Budget Years: 2022 – 2023; 2023 – 2024; 2024 – 2025; 2025 – 2026; 2026 – 2027

**Facilities Report** – Vice President Ghrayeb

1. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved retaining Joe Fraim as Project Manager to oversee the courtyard infill and addition project at Downingtown High School West, and to reactivate Joe Fraim’s employment status with CCRES  
Total Cost: \$56.25 per hour  
Contract Dates: 4/7/22 – 6/30/23  
Funding Source: Capital Funds  
Budget Year: 2021 – 2022; 2022 – 2023
2. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Bertone, the Board, on a voice vote, approved a PO to Munn Roofing, Hatfield, PA, the lowest responsible bidder to recoat and repair the roof at East Ward Elementary School by a vote of 8-0-1, with Director Houghton abstaining  
Total Cost: \$353,800  
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/23  
Funding Source: Capital Funds  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
3. On a motion by Vice President Ghrayeb, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved a PO to Institutional Specialties, Inc.,

Pittsburgh, PA, for a digital video scoreboard for Kottmeyer Stadium, Co-Stars  
#032-E22-050  
Total Cost: \$142,500  
Contract Dates: 7/1/22 – 6/30/23  
Funding Source: Capital Funds  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

**Technology Report** – Director Bertone

1. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved renewal of the Schoology learning management system for the 2022-23 school year  
Total Cost: NTE \$70,000  
Funding Source: Operating Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
  
2. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the purchase of 36 Mac/Apple devices for the secondary Music and Technology Education programs  
Total Cost: NTE \$50,500  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
  
3. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the purchase of hardware from ePlus to upgrade UPS battery backup systems in all DASD schools  
Total Cost: NTE \$125,000  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
  
4. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dr. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the purchase of retrofit lighting control processors and installation services from Illuminated Integration to maintain the auditorium lighting systems  
Total Cost: NTE \$60,000  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023
  
5. On a motion by Director Bertone, seconded by Dt. MacNeal, the Board, on a voice vote, unanimously approved the purchase of A/V hardware from B&H Photo Video to upgrade the broadcasting capacity at all school district locations  
Total Cost: NTE \$100,000  
Funding Source: Capital Budget  
Budget Year: 2022 – 2023

**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. 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.

Greg Simotas (Uwchlan) – Read excerpts and commented on library books removed, reviewed and put back in the libraries. No educational value in these books.

Tara Haarlander (Upper Uwchlan) – Commented on continued criticism on a myriad of topics is not helpful. Parents can do better. Support our public schools. Let schools do their work.

Debra Swavely (Upper Uwchlan) – Board needs to own the many issues (trauma, anxiety and depression) resulting from the Health and Safety Plan.

Nathan Laing (Downingtown Borough) – Commented on Wit and Wisdom, CRT, DEI. Will not appease and conform.

Ann Trethewey (Wallace) – Commented on superintendent search focus groups for students of color and LGBTQ+. Why just these groups? Why not other groups. Separation is segregation. Urged board to steer away from political segregation.

Shannon Grady (West Pikeland) – Taxes are for education not religion or ideology.

Cara Phalen (Wallace) – Read comments of a Springton Manor Parent regarding a DEI program at Springton Manor where students were asked to share secret dance moves and then asked to share secrets.

Tara Adams (West Bradford) – Discussed books recommended to administration for inclusion in libraries and these requests were denied based on not aligning with DASD values and initiatives. Commented that library books containing sexual explicit content sexualize children and encouraging pronouns goes against their family values.

Jennifer Stewart (Uwchlan) – Commented on declining middle school PSSA and PVAAS math scores. Sited math statistics. Asked what the district will do to address this decline.

Janine Niemeyer (Upper Uwchlan) – Read comments of Adrianna Costanzo. Read a story referencing some knowledge is too heavy for children. We are asking our children to carry heavy loads. Innocence is worth protecting.

Carolyn Fosmire (West Bradford) – Does not support the recommended purchase of Wit and Wisdom ELA resource. We need to do better.

Tina Ayala (West Bradford) – Commented on DASD curriculum on website being outdated and not complete. Need transparency.

Carla Thomas (East Brandywine) – Read statement of Uwchlan parents Paul and Kitty Smith regarding social justice and propaganda. Education should be based on tried and

true fundamentals. We will continue to speak out. Commented personally that she agrees with this statement and does not understand the district bringing these dark books into libraries.

Gizelle Jones (West Bradford) – Expressed thanks to the board. Parents are responsible to teach and guide their children. Parents also need to teach compassion, respect and truth. It has not been heard in the room this evening.

Paul Scarola (Upper Uwchlan) – Feels the school system is playing the role of parents and it is not their responsibility. CRT, DEI and Wit and Wisdom ideologies are not appropriate in the schools.

Jeffrey Smith (Upper Uwchlan) – Thanked the board for their service. It is a hard job these days.

Rachel Kramer (West Pikeland) – Discussed the need to learn history and how it was lived. Need to learn history so we don't repeat it.

Summer Dewey (Wallace) – Disillusioned with transphobia and homophobia expressed at previous board meeting under the guise of objecting to books in the libraries. We have student in our schools who identify as LBGQTQ and these words effect these students. Sited Trevor Project stats.

Bridget Delaney (Uwchlan) – Parents care about public education. Education starts at home. Home values are linked to school district. Need more transparency from the board regarding tax increase.

Ann Trethewey (Wallace) – Shared a personal story stating her daughter was abused at STEM regarding her personal beliefs. She has transferred from STEM to DHSW and is much happier.

## **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.

March 15, 2022

March 22, 2022

March 23, 2022

March 28, 2022

March 29, 2022

March 30, 2022

April 5, 2022

April 6, 2022

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for May 4, 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 May 11, 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 March 28, 2022.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Dr. MacNeal, seconded by Director Ross, the Board, agreed to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia B. Warihay  
School Board Secretary