

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

In accordance with Sections 402 and 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors of Cheltenham School District met on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 8:33 a.m. in the Administration Building, 2000 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park, PA to hold its special board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President: Ms. Haywood. Those present were: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Fishbein, Ms. McWilliams, Ms. Henry, Mr. Williams, Mr. England, and Mr. Schultz, Dr. Marseille-Superintendent, Ms. Michaels, and Mr. Diasio- Solicitor.

Mr. Pender was absent.

There were 4 signatures in the guest register.

APPOINTMENT OF
TEMPORARY SECRETARY

Mr. Diasio was appointed Temporary Secretary by vote of 7-0. Ms. Henry was not present at the time of the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON
AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no public comments.

REVIEW OF JUNE 4, 2019
FINANCE COMMITTEE
PRESENTATION

Dr. Marseille presented a PowerPoint presentation which included a summary of (1) cost savings measures/strategies being implemented across the District to meet budgetary goals/objectives; (2) tax increases in the District since the 2006-2007 fiscal year; and (3) current and projected fund balance levels.

REVIEW OF 5 YEAR
FINANCIAL FORECAST
REPORT

Ms. Michaels presented a PowerPoint presentation which included a forecast of revenues and expenditures through the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Ms. Michaels discussed the various assumptions that were made in developing the projections. Board members and members of the public were offered an opportunity to ask questions about the presentation.

Questions from Board Members

- Mr. Cohen requested that the Board be provided with the collective amount of tax revenue that the District does not receive on an annual basis as a result of tax-exempt properties in Cheltenham Township not paying real estate taxes. Mr. Cohen also asked whether the number of property owner-initiated residential tax assessment appeals have been incorporated into the assumptions regarding future growth of the District's tax base.
- Dr. McWilliams asked about the District's projected required contribution to the PA State Employee Retirement System (PSERS).
- Mr. England questioned how much of the District's required contribution to the PA State Employee Retirement System (PSERS) will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. England asked about Earned Income Tax (EIT) trends and projections. Mr. England inquired about the District adding a transportation run to the Lakeside School, and whether there are opportunities to develop in-house programs to educate students currently assigned to outside placements. Mr. England requested that the Board be provided with information regarding trends in the number and rate of success of property owner-initiated real estate tax assessment appeals.
- Mr. Burdell-Williams asked about actual revenues and expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the circumstances that led to revenues exceeding expenditures in that year.
- Mr. Fishbein asked about potential debt refinancing/refunding savings.

- Mr. Schultz asked about the number of students with IEPs and whether the number of students with IEPs is spread evenly across grade levels. Mr. Schultz asked about strategies that could be implemented to pursue healthcare cost savings. Mr. Schultz asked about the District’s aid ratio and whether that ratio is indicative of the general financial health of Cheltenham Township.
- Mrs. Haywood asked about the process for implementing cost reduction strategies. Mrs. Haywood asked about fund balance projections/assumptions.

Questions from Members of the Public

- Fred Milbert, of Elkins Park, asked whether there is a recommended/desirable level of fund balance and about the District’s gas/electricity expenses.
- Roshanna Floyd, of Cheltenham, asked for the name of the healthcare consortium in which the District participates.

REVIEW OF
TRANSPORTATION
EXPENDITURES

Ms. Michaels presented a PowerPoint presentation providing information about the District’s public and non-public school transportation routes, costs, and future budgetary considerations. Board members and members of the public were offered an opportunity to ask questions about the presentation.

Questions from Board Members

- Mr. Schultz asked about the timeline for potential implementation of cost reduction strategies.
- Ms. Henry and Mr. Cohen asked about the capacity and utilization of late buses.

Questions from Members of the Public - None

ACTIONS TAKEN
(if any – record names of
individual members for all
votes taken)

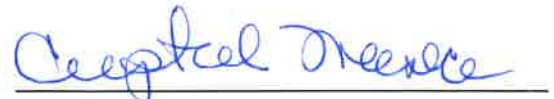
None.

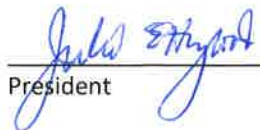
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

The Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.


Secretary


President