



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

11/11/2024 [07:00 PM-09:00 PM]

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Minutes

Melanie Gurgiolo (President), Meredith Bowen, Josceylon Buchs, Neil Connelly (Vice President), Randall Gale, Melissa Howard, Gregory Lamay, Karen Mallah, Dan Serfass (Superintendent), and Kerry Martin (Secretary).

Mr. McInroy joined the meeting after roll call.

Community/Staff Attendees are available on the attached list.

4. Information Only

Minutes

Mr. Baturin shared his student liaison report with the Board.

5. Agenda Approvals

5.a. Approval of Agenda

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the Agenda for the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5.b. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes

Mr. Lamay made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gale, to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2024, Work Session and October 21, 2024, Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5.c. Bills List

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay to approve the Bills List. The motion passed unanimously.

5.d. Treasurer's Report

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Report of Officers and Others

6.a. President (Mrs. Gurgiolo)

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo had no report.

6.b. Secretary (Mrs. Martin)

Minutes

Mrs. Martin had no report.

6.c. Solicitor (Mr. Pahowka)

Minutes

Mr. Pahowka shared that he attended a few tax assessment appeals in previous weeks for the District and that all information has been shared with Mrs. Martin. He pointed out that the Common Level Ratio dropped in Cumberland County this year by 73.3%, which has lead to more tax assessment appeals, particularly for commercial properties, across the county. Mr. Pahowka shared that he will be meeting with the Board in Executive Session following the meeting regarding a personnel matter.

6.d. Superintendent (Mr. Serfass)

Minutes

Mr. Serfass shared that the Enrollment Report is attached and shows a slight increase in enrollment compared to last month. He shared that the updated website is now live and has received positive feedback from the staff and community; he indicated that additional edits are likely. Mr. Serfass recognized Mrs. Rhinehart for the work done to prepare for the rollout with Mrs. Ivey's support. He shared that Unified Bocce has its first event this past Saturday. Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that the match was engaging.

Mr. Serfass also recognized the fourth grade Eisenhower students' fundraiser for the victims of the fires in Maui and hurricanes in the southern U.S. He shared that they raised over \$3,500 in items and cash during the fundraiser.

He also expressed gratitude to the buildings for their Veterans' Day events held throughout the District.

7. Report of Board Representatives

7.a. Community Recreation (Ms. Bowen)

Minutes

Mrs. Bowen shared that this year's Halloween Parade was successful and highlighted several upcoming events, including:

- December 5th Holiday Tree Lighting from 6-8 PM with fire pits, cookies, and hot chocolate.
- December 6th-7th Parade of Lights for Toys for Tots with trolley available on Friday night. Volunteers are welcome on December 1st and 8th for setup and teardown, and cookies and hot chocolate will be provided by Mount Cavalry Church.
- December 7th Miracle on 24th Street hosted by Borough Council with 42 vendors plus 5 food vendors, beer garden, and mulled wine.
- Week of December 11th home decorating contest with prizes awarded on December 12th.

7.b. Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center (Mr. Lamay)

Minutes

Mr. Lamay shared that there was a meeting on October 20th and included a presentation from the CPACTC Business Manager regarding next year's budget. He indicated that the budget will be voted on in the JOC in December and then will be forwarded to the member districts for their approval in January.

7.c. District/Borough (Mrs. Gurgiolo)

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo has no report.

7.d. Harrisburg Area Community College (Mr. Gale)

Minutes

Mr. Gale had no report.

7.e. Performing Arts Center Advisory Council (Dr. Mallah)

Minutes

Dr. Mallah shared that the Board will be voting later this evening on the lighting package and that the fall play was a success.

7.f. Capital Area Intermediate Unit (Mrs. Gurgiolo)

Minutes

Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that the minutes from the previous meeting are attached.

8. Comments from Citizens

Minutes

There were no public comments.

9. Policies

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve Policy 105 Curriculum, Policy 105.1 Curriculum Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students, Policy 105.2 Exemption from Instruction, Policy 217 Graduation, Policy 252 Dating Violence, and Policy 907 School Visitors.

Mr. Connelly requested that the policies be considered separately. Mrs. Gurgiolo asked if there was a specific Policy that should be considered separately. Dr. Mallah requested that 217 Graduation be considered separately.

The motion to approve Policy 105 Curriculum, Policy 105.1 Curriculum Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students, Policy 105.2 Exemption from Instruction, Policy 252 Dating Violence, and Policy 907 School Visitors passed unanimously.

Mr. Lamay made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gale, to approve Policy 217 Graduation.

Dr. Mallah made a motion to amend the policy. Mr. Pahowka confirmed that they can move forward with approval if the revision is minor but, otherwise, consideration may need to return to the Policy Committee. Dr. Mallah proposed to amend the policy to incorporate specific language for District administration to consider an exception to allow a student to walk at graduation even if having difficulty meeting the requirements for graduation.

Mr. McInroy asked for administration to provide input on the amendment to see if the policy amendment would cause an extra burden or magnify the process for considering candidates for graduation. Mr. Serfass shared that the District tracks students having difficulty meeting the requirements beginning in the fall of their senior year through the spring. Mr. Serfass shared that administration is not in favor of requiring an exception process. Mr. McInroy asked if the amendment would allow discretion for administration to consider exceptions. Dr. Mallah shared that she is proposing the amendment to allow students to walk at graduation if putting effort in and if walking is important to that student. She highlighted that many of these situations are due to mental health concerns. She indicated that there is nothing currently in the policy to preclude the exception but that the policy does not currently outline the exception process.

Mr. Gale asked if this has been an issue previously. Mr. Serfass shared that accommodations and modifications have been made for students having problems completing the requirements and that it has not been a large issue previously.

Mr. Lamay stated that if exception is outlined, there may need to have a separate policy specifically for participation in graduation ceremony and that otherwise the policy language could require the District to consider exceptions to completing requirements to fully graduate from the District. Dr. Mallah pointed out

that the policy does mention potential impacts of behavior on participation in the graduation ceremony so it seemed to be the appropriate place to outline the exception.

Mr. Connelly indicated that the exception would require additional policies or documents outlining the exception process. He shared the Policy Committee's understanding that the policy already allows for administrative discretion and their concern over exceptions to requirements being codified within the policy. He shared concerns over the effects on teachers and also said that he would want more regulation behind the exception if added to the policy. He shared that without the change, the process would remain as is where the student or parents can appeal to the principal, who would make the decision with the input of the Superintendent.

Dr. Mallah shared that the language went into the policy about ten years ago and that there have been a few students that have not been allowed to walk at graduation. She cited PA Department of Education language allowing exceptions for some graduation requirements due to the pandemic.

Dr. Mallah moved to consider the amendment to Policy 217, there was no second. The motion failed.

The Board voted on Policy 217 Graduation as presented. The motion passed 8-1 with Dr. Mallah voting no.

10. Steering Committee for Class Size Guidelines

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the establishment of a Steering Committee for Class Size Guidelines and the attached facilitation agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Act 1 Index Limit Resolution

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the Act 1 Index Limit Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Tax Collector Compensation

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the increase in tax collector compensation to \$3.25 per bill beginning July 1, 2026.

Mr. McInroy clarified the language. The motion passed unanimously.

13. The Pollock Center Lighting Bid

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the Pollock Center Lighting & Sound Upgrade bid. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Overnight Trips

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve two overnight trips.

Mr. Gale asked what the event is in Philadelphia for the band trip. Mr. Connelly shared that they are going to West Chester. Mrs. Howard pointed out that they will have an adjudicated performance at West Chester and will visit several museums.

The motion passed unanimously.

15. Personnel Report

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamay, to approve the personnel report.

Mrs. Gurgiolo recognized Aimee Benavides, who is the new Spanish Teacher in the District, and shared that her children have all attended schools in the District.

The motion passed unanimously.

16. Adjournment

Minutes

Mr. Gale made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Lamay. Mrs. Gurgiolo shared that an Executive Session will be held following the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Mrs. Gurgiolo adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

In-Person Attendees:

Dr. Borrelli

Mrs. Ivey

Mrs. Russell

Alex Baturin

Micki Kautz

Aimee Benavides

Betsy Gayner

Online Attendees:

Sharon Hanson

AA

CM