

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
January 11, 2022

At the January 11, 2022 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session from 6:45pm-7:00pm on January 11, 2022 regarding a legal matter and contract negotiations

Approved the minutes of the December 6, 2021 School Board Meeting

Heard Public Comment:

Clifford Dilg of North Wales (employee), holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, was listed but did not speak.

Melora Hauser of Plumstead, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, was listed but did not speak

Dr. Judith Fraivillig of Doylestown, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, was listed but did not speak.

Justin Lowe of Jamison, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, spoke about the lack of mental health resources at school, a teacher mishandling a concussion and a violation of code of professional practice. Mr. Lowe spoke about racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and anti-Semitism at schools, and teaching real history topics, rape culture, and people making anti-Semitic comments at board meetings.

Donna DiMarco of Warrington, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, spoke about support staff contract negotiations and asked for a fair contract.

Meg Ferry of Warminster, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, was listed but did not speak.

Pam Masciotro of Warrington, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, spoke about the district's direction getting back on track, focusing on education, and emotional distress from learning loss.

Mariann Davies of Doylestown Township, holdover from the previous meeting's sign-up sheet, was listed but did not speak.

Robin Pettit of Doylestown Township spoke about wearing masks, vaccine mandates, Paul Martino funding anti-mask protests, compromising, the Civil War, Evangelical churches, and banning books.

Doreen Stratton of Doylestown Borough spoke about her family's history in Central Bucks, the 13th Amendment, Doylestown Black heritage, CRT, and banning books and history about Black Americans.

Sarah Green of Chalfont ceded her speaking time to Paree Pasi.

Paree Pasi of Furlong spoke about her weekly schedule, ensuring student safety at board meetings, her experience at the last meeting when she tried to cut the line, and read Twitter comments that an adult posted about her.

Anshul Shukla of Chalfont spoke about having a strong Health and Safety Plan, mask mandates, board members running on keeping schools open, and having respect for support staff and giving them a good contract.

Laura Napier of Buckingham Township spoke about being concerned about our district, hate speech being confused with free speech, masks stopping COVID spread, masking in schools, and Long COVID.

TJ Kosin of Warwick Township spoke about students feeling safe and speaking at board meetings and pledged to support them. Mr. Kosin spoke about letting the Board get back to student education and mental health.

Laurie Bartolomeo of Hartsville spoke about the pandemic, masking and distancing keeping kids in school, not following medical scientific guidelines, ADA violations by not enforcing masking on school buses, and providing safety standards.

Patricia Doebler of Chalfont spoke about keeping kids in school and getting closer to normalcy, cloth masks doing nothing, and virtual school hurting children.

Katherine Semisch of Doylestown spoke about taking sides in the community, seeking to understand, and teaching lessons.

Lela Casey of Doylestown spoke about treating the support staff with respect and keeping staff and students healthy.

Donna Shannon of Doylestown spoke about learning to live despite viruses and about teachers not projecting their political beliefs on students.

Michael Witsen of Chalfont ceded his speaking time to Mara Witsen.

Mara Witsen of Chalfont spoke about transitioning back to normal, firing unvaccinated healthcare workers, COVID testing, children's mental health, and doing irreparable harm to children.

Tracy Suits of Chalfont spoke about making a Point of Order at the last meeting, her emails to board members going unanswered, a remark that Director Vlasblom made to her after the last meeting, and Director Smith being removed from representing CBSD on the MBIT Board.

Brian Haigh of Doylestown Township spoke about having weekly workshops for prospective substitute teachers.

Ed Mackouse of Buckingham spoke about pandemic hysteria damaging school for two years, Jewish and LGBTQ students speaking up, CB support staff, DEI, and racism.

Patricia Murphy of Doylestown ceded her speaking time to Vonna DeArmond.

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead spoke about the Health and Safety Plan, children outside without coats, contact tracing, optional masking, unlawful mask mandates, and mental health. Ms. DeArmond called for a moment of silence in memory of a New Jersey teenager who recently committed suicide and for other children who have committed suicide. Ms. DeArmond spoke about mitigations and lockdowns, Dr. Damsker using the flu model, asked the Board not to pass the proposed Health and Safety Plan, and presented a COVID case chart handout (attached to official board minutes).

Heard Superintendent's Reports:

2022-2023 Preliminary Budget: Mrs. Markowitz shared an overview of the 2022-2023 preliminary budget. To view the presentation, please refer to the school board presentation section of the district's website, www.cbsd.org

Human Resources Update: Ms. Didio-Hauber shared that Support Staff declined the Arbitrator's Report offer, and that the outstanding issues will continue to be worked through. Ms. Didio-Hauber spoke about the substitute rate increase on this evening's agenda and about the substitute shortage being an ongoing issue that predates the current pandemic.

Changes to CBSD Health and Safety Plan: Assistant Superintendent Garvin reviewed changes to the Health and Safety Plan on this evening's agenda. To view the proposed Health and Safety Plan, please refer to Item 8B on the January 11, 2022 Board Agenda.

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Curriculum Committee

Finance Committee

Operations Committee

Policy Committee

Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved Business Office Items:

Treasurer's Report and Summary of Fund Disbursements

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report in the amount of \$7,060,627.24

Posting of the Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget for Public Inspection

Approved Special Education Department Items:

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$60,000.00

Waiver Agreement

Approved the Appointment of Debra Cannon as CBSD Representative to the BCIU Board of School Directors

Did Not Approve the Central Bucks School District Health and Safety Plan

Approved Student Field Trips:

CB South Bands and Orchestras to travel to Virginia Beach, VA

CB East Business Classes to travel to Jackson, NJ

CB East FBLA Club to travel to Hershey, PA

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CB South Girls Winter Track & Field to travel to Staten Island, NY

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CB East Boys Winter Track to travel to Staten Island, NY

CB West Girls Basketball to travel to Lancaster, PA

Approved Personnel Items:

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations

Leaves of Absence

Appointments

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes

Activity EDRs, Technology Coach EDRs, and Athletic Points

Auxiliary Pay Sheet 2021-2022 Amendment

Approved Staff Conferences and Workshops in the amount of \$13,073.00, less registration fee for PETE & C Conference presenters

New Business/Board Comments Regarding

Reviewed Sabbatical Information Report