

**Central Bucks School District**  
**School Board Briefs**  
**December 6, 2021**

At the December 6, 2021 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

**Witnessed** the reading of the Certificates of Elections and the Oaths of Office for newly elected School Directors DEBRA T. CANNON, TABITHA DELL'ANGELO, MARIAM MAHMUD, JAMES PEPPER AND LISA SCISCIO

**Reviewed** the Board Membership List

**Heard** Public Comment regarding School Board Organization:

*Daniela Burg of Furlong* ceded her speaking time to Jodi Schwartz of Warrington.

*Jodi Schwartz of Warrington* spoke about her suggestion to have this meeting's location moved to the CB West auditorium being ignored. Ms. Schwartz spoke about failed Board leadership and the Board's silence after transphobic and anti-Semitic comments were made at the November 2021 School Board Meeting.

*Joan Rosetzky of Doylestown* ceded her speaking time to Tracy Suits of Chalfont.

*Tracy Suits of Chalfont* spoke about her suggestion that the board make a statement that they honor freedom of speech but do not support hatred. Ms. Suits spoke about her request to Mrs. Hunter to move this meeting being ignored, and about virtual conference requests not appearing on the board agenda. Ms. Suits spoke about the Board appointing a president and a vice president at this meeting, advised them not to approve the meeting schedule on the agenda, and asked the Board to encourage public engagement.

**Elected** Sharon Collopy Temporary Board President

**Elected** Dana Hunter Board President

**Elected** Leigh Vlasblom Board Vice President

**Approved** the minutes of the November 9, 2021 School Board Meeting

**Approved** a motion to amend the meeting agenda to include amending the Health and Safety Plan

**Approved** a motion to limit the time allotment for Public Comment to two hours total

**Heard** Superintendent's Reports:

Superintendent Lucabaugh called for a moment of silence to honor the memory of the four students who lost their lives in a terrible act of violence at Oxford High School in Michigan on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Lucabaugh spoke about meeting with focus groups of our students. Dr. Lucabaugh spoke about our students needing us to be a light in a time of uncertainty and darkness. Dr. Lucabaugh spoke about some of our students feeling marginalized, ostracized, or labeled, struggling with mental health, and feel alone, confused, and fearful of the repercussions that come from being different than others. Dr. Lucabaugh wants every student to know that they matter and deserve to come to school and be supported and treated with dignity and respect. Dr. Lucabaugh asks that we embrace the things that make us different and model the behaviors that move humankind forward such as compassion, empathy, humility, and promoting a message of peace and forgiveness. Dr. Lucabaugh asked everyone to recommit to serving each one of our students.

Human Resources Director Andrea DiDio-Hauber shared the following regarding contract negotiations with the support staff: a report from the neutral arbitrator with his recommendations is expected back any day, and we are hopeful that once the recommendations are received, it can be adopted by the union and the board.

**Heard Public Comment:**

*Brett Freeman of Buckingham* ceded his speaking time to Lily Freeman. *Lily Freeman of Buckingham* thanked teachers and friends who have been her allies. Ms. Freeman spoke about anti-Semitic and transphobic lies that weren't condemned prior to this meeting, having respect for people, it being essential that all people respect each other and abide by codes of conduct. Ms. Freeman spoke about not feeling safe to walk in school hallways.

*Seth Soderquist of Chalfont* spoke about being appalled to hear about the comments about the transgender and Jewish communities at the last board meeting. Mr. Soderquist spoke about silence being a choice and that the School Board has a responsibility to create a safe environment.

*Emma Strom of Furlong* spoke about feeling unsafe, irrelevant conspiracies, unfounded prejudice that has been encouraged, and trying to understand each other better and stop politicizing our education.

*Justin Strom of Furlong* spoke about being taught inclusiveness in school, being disappointed that parents who made hateful comments at the last board meeting weren't shut down, and that boards shouldn't be politicized. Mr. Strom spoke about the interests of students being sidelined.

*Anshul Shukla of Chalfont* congratulated the new Board. Mr. Shukla spoke about always striving to be better. Mr. Shukla spoke about the Board not listening, a loud and angry group that has been distracting decisions and hate speech going unchecked in the board room. Mr. Shukla spoke about student safety at board meetings and that the board's job is to do what is best for students.

*Sarah Green of Chalfont* spoke about schools being a safe space. Ms. Green spoke about being a proud Jewish individual. Ms. Green spoke about not feeling safe after the last board meeting.

*Cheyenne Torres of Warrington* spoke about the behavior and language at board meetings being inappropriate. Ms. Torres spoke about things that should be focused on including staffing and student mental health. Ms. Torres spoke about the board needing to start caring about students.

*Silvi Haldipur of Doylestown* congratulated the new school board members and spoke about looking forward to leadership and meaningful action. Ms. Haldipur spoke about supporting DEI, hate having no place in CB, focusing on our children, and about letting the experts and top-tier talent we hire do their jobs.

*Mary Margaret Briggs of Chalfont* ceded her speaking time to Heidi Tarshis. *Heidi Tarshis of Furlong* congratulated the new board members. Ms. Tarshis spoke about rising COVID numbers in schools that cannot be ignored and about being the parent of an immunocompromised student. Ms. Tarshis spoke about masks, vaccines, mitigation measures, mask exemption forms, and the 3-day quarantine period listed in the current Health and Safety Plan.

*Mindy Freeman of Buckingham* ceded her speaking time to Dawn Haaz. *Dawn Haaz of Plumstead* spoke about Judaism, anti-Semitism, and micro-aggressions. Ms. Haaz spoke about the hateful remarks made by adults at school board meetings. Ms. Haaz spoke about COVID 19 deaths and mandates. Ms. Haaz spoke about 5 board members not publicly condemning hate speech at the last board meeting.

*Adi Strigl of Doylestown* spoke about being proud of the students who spoke at tonight's meeting. Ms. Strigl spoke about Linden Elementary being a great school and asked everyone who feels like they belong at their school to stand up. Ms. Strigl congratulated the new board members and asked them to remember kids, teacher, and support staff. Ms. Strigl spoke about hate speech at the last meeting and asked board members to condemn it in unison.

*Jessica Pollner of Doylestown Borough* spoke about CB having wonderful teachers, counselors, and support staff. Ms. Pollner spoke about the board setting the tone for public comment and asked that the new board work together.

*Sandra Kerr of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County* spoke about the role of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County. Ms. Kerr spoke about public education being the bedrock of democracy, approaches to education, supporting the school district to infuse equity and inclusion, the role of educators, and civil dialogue regarding DEI.

*Michael Dodaro of Ambler, CBSD employee*, spoke about CBSD Support Staff being essential workers and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD Support Staff personnel. Mr. Dodaro ceded the remainder of his speaking time to Stacy Sills. *Stacy Sills of Warrington* spoke about the CBESPA ensuring schools are operating properly and supporting all students.

*Rev. Abigail Rusert of Buckingham* thanked the board members for their service to the public. Pastor Rusert spoke about respectfully debating politics, a weary world knowing peace, doing your research, and calling for peace.

*Lauren Burchell, CBSD student*, spoke about the aim of the SAGA Alliance Club at CB West being creating a safe space for students, and about attacking students based on who they are and who they love being wrong. Ms. Burchell spoke about supporting LGBTQ students that you know, and about silence leading to violence.

*Melissa Smith of Doylestown Township* ceded her time to Larissa Hopwood. *Larissa Hopwood of Doylestown Borough* spoke about the support staff contract, public comment regarding trans students being a lie, and the importance of calling it out. Ms. Hopwood shared the stories of two students who were bullied in schools. Ms. Hopwood spoke about the need for better LGBTQ staff training, calling out what's wrong, and denouncing hate speech.

*Jasmine Slack, CBSD student*, spoke about creating a petition regarding bullying at Holicong Middle School and read a comment from the petition that a student posted.

*Shana Trichron of Doylestown* read a statement written by Kira Coviello regarding transphobia, racism, anti-Semitism, and comments made by a speaker at a previous meeting that compared not being able to breathe while wearing a mask to George Floyd while the board said nothing.

*Geoff Kramer of Furlong* spoke of his disgust at the ignorance and hate displayed at the last board meeting. Mr. Kramer spoke about the silent majority needing to no longer be silent and having the chance to stop the hate. Mr. Kramer spoke about the phenomenal teachers in this district. Mr. Kramer asked the board to be proper role models and make these meetings productive.

*Katrina Filiatrault of Chalfont* spoke about being appalled at the last meeting and more appalled at the silence at the last meeting. Ms. Filiatrault spoke about DEI, suitable learning environments, and supporting students.

*Jennifer Rivel of Jamison* ceded her speaking time to Steffany Moonaz. *Steffany Moonaz of Doylestown* spoke about diverse perspectives, the failure to recognize and celebrate diversity, guidance department caseloads, the support staff working without a contract, diverse holidays, vandalism in school bathrooms, mental health of students, adults screaming at children in this room, preparing students to collaborate and see the world differently, book banning, letting teachers do their jobs, and bringing the district back in alignment with its reputation of excellence.

*Deneen Dry of Chalfont, CBESPA President*, spoke about the CBESPA being the front line, providing support to students, being short-staffed, and being dedicated to our students and our community. Ms. Dry asked the board to settle the support staff contract.

*Stacey Sills of Warrington* was listed on the sign-in sheet, spoke earlier, and did not speak again at this point in the Public Comment section of the meeting.

*TJ Kosin of Warwick* thanked the board for serving the community. Mr. Kosin spoke about Pennsbury School District being sued over public comment, public speakers getting a designated time to speak, the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, learning loss, IEPs, and then read from an article *5 Tips to Developing a Thicker Skin*.

*Stacey Cohen of Doylestown* spoke about being saddened by events that occurred in our district, not feeling safe in the school community, free speech, hate speech, and going back to being inclusive.

*Donna Shannon of Doylestown* spoke about the last board meeting seeming to be a contrived set-up. Ms. Shannon spoke about the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, censorship in media and social media, loving this country, open debate, and teaching kids the basics.

*Tanya Kovacs of Buckingham* congratulated the new board members. Ms. Kovacs spoke about absolute truth, data, DEI, and anti-fascism.

*Patricia Doebler of Chalfont* spoke about showing the administration and the board that she is ready to work to find solutions. Ms. Doebler spoke about divide still being strong, and about moving meetings to a larger venue.

*Brett Kane of Warrington* spoke about his child's experience in school and spoke about being objective when making decisions.

*Lela Casey of Doylestown* ceded her speaking time to Anu Viswanathan. *Anu Viswanathan of Buckingham* thanked the CB Support Staff. Ms. Viswanathan spoke about the Health and Safety Plan, removing layers of mitigation, public comments at previous meetings which included references to George Floyd and the Holocaust. Ms. Viswanathan spoke about teaching acceptance and unity and speaking out against hate.

*Stacey McBride of New Britain* spoke about CBESPA Educational Assistant personnel being committed to the community and being deserving of a contract.

*Lynn Brauns of Doylestown* spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD administrative assistants and office staff personnel and ceded the remainder of her speaking time to Donna DiMarco. *Lucy Loudenslager of Doylestown* ceded her speaking time to Donna DiMarco. *Donna DiMarco of Warrington* spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD Instructional, and Non-Instructional Paraprofessional personnel. Ms. DiMarco spoke about helping every student succeed and asked the board to treat support staff fairly. Ms. DiMarco ceded the remainder of her time to the next CBESPA speaker, Laura Raguz. *Laura Raguz of Chalfont* spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD staff nurses.

*Vonna DeArmond of Plumsteadville* ceded her speaking time to Mara Witsen. *Mara Witsen of Chalfont* spoke about vaccines, masks, comments made at the last meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights, counter-speech, censorship at Pennsbury School District Meetings. Ms. Witsen thanked Mrs. Hunter for supporting free speech and called for Mrs. Smith to resign for interrupting a speaker at the last meeting. Ms. Witsen ceded the remainder of her speaking time to Erin Mazzoni. *Erin Mazzoni of Buckingham* welcomed new board members and thanked Mrs. Hunter for her leadership in the face of adversity. Ms. Mazzoni spoke about hate not being here, people attacking

the school board, masks, vaccines, parents making medical decisions for their own children, and free speech.

*Heidi Tarshis of Furlong* ceded her speaking time to *Meg Ferry of Warminster, CBSD employee*, spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBESPA Personal Assistant personnel.

*Erin Mazzone of Buckingham*, listed on sign-in sheet, ceded her speaking time to *Jay Callaghan*. *Christy Callaghan of Doylestown* ceded her speaking time to *Jay Callaghan*. *Jay Callaghan of Doylestown* spoke about contempt prior to investigation, systemic racism not being one of America's problems, DEI, and trying to put a spotlight on communism in America. Mr. Callaghan read from some of the "Communism's 45 Goals" that he said were read into the Congressional Record on January 10, 1963.

*Laura Raguz of Chalfont* was listed on the sign-up sheet between *Heidi Tarshis* and *Erin Mazzone* but was skipped over, so Ms. Raguz was called up at the end of the Public Comment section. Ms. Raguz ceded her speaking time to both *Clifford Dilg* and *Melora Hauser*. *Clifford Dilg of North Wales, CBSD employee*, spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD Information Technology personnel. *Melora Hauser of Plumstead* spoke about CBSD Support Staff and shared some of the duties, responsibilities, and assistance provided by CBSD Safety and Security personnel. Ms. Hauser thanked Superintendent Lucabaugh and Human Resources Director DiDio-Hauber for recent emails they sent to support staff and asked the board to vote in a support contract.

Additional names listed on sign-up sheet:

*Clifford Dilg of North Wales*

*Melora Hauser of Plumstead*

*Dr. Judith Fraivillig of Doylestown*

*Justin Lowe of Jamison*

*Meg Ferry of Warminster*

*Donna DiMarco of Warrington*

*Pam Masciotro of Warrington*

*Mariann Davies of Doylestown Township*

**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 \$3,456,354.94

**Approved** FEMO Department Items:

Uhrig Construction, Inc. bid for CB West HVAC Renovation Project in the amount of \$898,000.00

Tri-County Mechanical bid for CB West HVAC Renovation Project in the amount of \$2,598,000.00

S&S Electrical Services bid for CB West HVAC Renovation Project in the amount of \$840,811.00

Guy M. Cooper Fire Protection Inc. bid for CB West HVAC Renovation Project in the amount of \$224,000.00

Selection of GKO Architects for Lenape HVAC Renovation Project Design Consultant

Gilmore & Associates, Inc. proposal for district paving and concrete projects in the amount of \$89,900.00

CB West tractor purchase in the amount of \$18,470.50

New Britain Bus Garage stair replacement in the amount of \$28,723.79

Musco Lighting revised proposal for CB East stadium lighting upgrades in the amount of \$679,150.00

Settlement Agreement with LandTek Group, Inc.

**Approved** Special Education Department Items:

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$53,500.00

Waiver Agreement

Waiver Agreement

2021-2022 School Year NEXUS Agreement in the amount of \$83,000.00

Waiver Agreement

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$378,677.00

**Approved** Student Field Trips:

CB West Girls Basketball Team to travel to Homdel, NJ

CB West Girls Basketball Team to travel to Lancaster, PA

**Approved** Art Curriculum Revisions

**Approved** Personnel Items:

Retirements and Resignations

Leaves of Absence

Appointments

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes

Athletic Points and Activity EDRs

**Approved** the 2022 School Board Meeting Schedule with starting times of 7:00 p.m.

**Approved** the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule: Policy and Curriculum Committees to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, Operations and Finance Committees to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month

**Approved** the BCIU Service Agreement for Title I Services

**Approved** the BCIU Service Agreement for Title IIA Services

**Approved** the Math in Focus Agreement for Reproduction of Materials for Visually Impaired Students

**Approved** Staff Conferences and Workshops in the amount of \$9,068.00

**Approved** a motion to amend the Health and Safety Plan

**Did Not Approve** a motion to Call a Special Meeting regarding the Health and Safety Plan

**Reviewed** Temporary Professional Employees Report