

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The September Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Pennsbury Board of School Directors was held in the Fallsington School Multi-Purpose Room on Thursday, September 7, 2017. Mrs. Redner called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Sanderson requested a moment of silence for the passing of a Pennsbury Alumna.

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Hilty, Mr. Kannan, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wachspress, Mr. Waldorf and Mrs. Redner.

Administrators Present: Dr. Gretzula, Mr. Dorsey, Mrs. Godzieba, Mrs. Langtry, Mr. Millward, Mrs. Morett, Mrs. Rarrick, Mr. Rodgers and Mrs. Spack.

Administrators Absent: Mrs. Aldridge and Dr. Dunar.

Others Present: Mr. Cooper, Student Representative and Mr. Clarke, Solicitor.

Others Absent: Miss Camara, Student Representative.

BOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Smith reported that the first topic discussed at the Committee meeting this evening was the Instrumental Music trip to the Rose Bowl for a better understanding of both fundraising and expenses. Another topic discussed was the Second Steps Program started in the K-2 age groups with plans to move forward into the middle schools this year focusing on character, how we treat each other, ways to deal with disagreements or issues, how to identify bullying and how to stop bullying. Mrs. Redner shared information regarding Suicide Awareness Month with September 10th being named as National Suicide Awareness Day. In conjunction with this, Mrs. Morett explained the Project Orange project which will include 10,000 students writing inspirational messages on sticky notes that will be placed on banners for our community to know that we believe in suicide awareness. Project Orange will photograph each sticky note for the message to go to someone in need. This initiative is aligned with our Addiction and Mental Health Task Force. Mrs. Smith shared that this meeting was also the kickoff to look at District facilities as a whole to develop the vision about where we want to go in the next 10 years with the idea being that in order to build a facility you have to understand how you are going to use it. A Steering Committee will be developed.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Mr. Waldorf questioned the status of the Chromebooks. Mr. Gretzula shared that at this date there were 5,228 devices enrolled which is just about 95% of the devices. Dr. Gretzula gave kudos to the many people who participated in helping with the dissemination with special thanks to Mr. Dorsey. Demographics will be examined to study the percentage of students not participating.

Dr. Gretzula explained the framework for Chromebook training which is basically SAMR (substitution, augmentation, modification and redefinition). Specific Google trainings will take place with professional development opportunities throughout the year from which the staff can select.

Discussion took place regarding online books, battery charging procedures and computer access points.

BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Schwartz reported that the Facility Committee met last Tuesday also discussing and looking at the future of the District's buildings. A discussion took place about our RFP for Architects with the Committee accumulating a list of about 12 architectural firms to contact and include in a proposal at a meeting in the coming weeks. It is the Committee's goal to look at all of our high school facilities, our middle school campus and some of the other schools on the elementary level that need some work between October and June and come up with a plan for the next 7 to 10 years on what to do in our District. An update on the Pennwood Project was given as well as routine business which included facility usage and upcoming change orders for summer work at Pennwood.

BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Kannan reported that the Committee has not met this school year and the next Finance Committee meeting is planned for next month. The Committee will now meet throughout the year.

Mr. Rodgers gave an update regarding the delay of the State Budget and its impact on the District.

Mrs. Smith asked if there would be a ballot question in this year's November Election regarding elimination of real estate taxes. Mr. Amuso addressed her question.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Waldorf reported that the Committee last met in June and the subjects covered were School Sports Sponsorship Programs and Booster Programs as well as policies related to the financial management of affiliated organizations. Online payment options via the website were discussed. Mr. Waldorf welcomed Mrs. Langtry as the administrative liaison to this Committee. The upcoming meeting is scheduled for October 9th at 5:00 p.m. with plans to start looking at the Pennsbury Partnership Program, a Capital Campaign for our sports programs and sponsorships and naming rights. Other Committee foci are on the Comprehensive Plan regarding stakeholder engagement, social media, the website content, marketing the high school to our middle school families, looking at Halls of Fame, expansion of the Wall of Honor and enhancements of the web and cable TV. All are invited to bring your expertise to these public meetings.

BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Redner announced that the next cycle of policies will not start until December 2017 so there is no report from the Policy Committee this evening.

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOINT BOARD REPORT

Mr. Schwartz reported that the Tech School Joint Board met last week, the first meeting of the new school year. At the Authority meeting prior to the Joint Board meeting, a presentation explaining the funding formula was provided for a better understanding amongst the current Board members. Routine business took place at the Joint Board meeting including hiring of teachers and appointments. The Negotiating Committee, of which Mr. Palmer is a member, will begin their talks with the teachers on September 19th. Mrs. Redner, Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Schwartz attended last Tuesday night's Authority meeting at which a motion was made and approved to move forward with their Capital Improvement Plans. Tech School Administrators and Mr. Lynch from D'Huy will visit districts to present the plans.

Mr. Palmer questioned if discussion ever took place regarding putting money aside for capital improvements so that they don't have to go to Bond. Mr. Schwartz replied that it had come up in discussions both in the Joint and Authority meetings and explained that the Tech School is not permitted to carry an escrow balance from year to year. One of the options Mr. Schwartz described is maybe an adjustment to the Articles of Agreement that would set up a percentage of the budget that could be put in escrow to keep as an emergency fund.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

BUCKS COUNTY SCHOOLS INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD REPORT

Mrs. Smith reported that this Board has not met and no report was given this evening.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Kannan informed the Board that he attended the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors meeting and he hopes to have a future meeting with the Traffic Engineer and the Chief of Police to discuss LMT traffic patterns and speed limits around the middle school areas.

Mr. Schwartz questioned the possibility of emergency contact cards being filled out on the Home Access Center and the information printed out and saved for the hardcopy version. Mr. Dorsey replied that plans are underway to open the Home Access Center for parents to update their telephone numbers and their email addresses. Mr. Dorsey and Mrs. Aldridge are working together to streamline the process and also working on paperless registration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Redner opened the floor to public comment at 8:15 p.m. The following people came forward to speak and public comment was closed at 9:07 p.m.

Rich Deley, Falls Township	Penn Aquatics
Kathy Woltman, Falls Township	Penn Aquatics
Robert Abrams, Lower Makefield Township	PennLive RE: Teacher Salaries and Student/Teacher Ratio; FT K Enrollment; Second Public Comment
Paul Gould, Yardley	Penn Aquatics
BethAnn Deley, Falls Township	Penn Aquatics
Frank Carr, Falls Township	Transparency
Lilly Lott, Yardley	Penn Aquatics
Charlene Lawton, Yardley	Penn Aquatics
Ann Prime Monaghan, Non-Resident	Penn Aquatics
David Olhasso, Non-Resident	Penn Aquatics

Mr. Rodgers, liaison between Pennsbury School District and Penn Aquatics, responded to public comments and promised that he would sit down with all parties involved to reevaluate and confirm that the Dive Team was truly presented to Administration in the proper manner.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Mr. Sanderson informed the Board about a community event, One Community-One Concern, being held at the Barnes and Noble Store in the Court at Oxford Valley regarding the drug addiction crisis. This event will be held on Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Wachspress shared information from the Peace Center to raise awareness to hate related instances that are occurring in the Greater Community of Bucks County and further.

Mrs. Redner announced that the agenda for the monthly Action Meeting will be available 48 hours prior to the meeting on the District's Website.

Mr. Kannan questioned the format of the Committee of the Whole meetings. Discussion ensued with a majority of Board Members requesting that the schedule be revised after Board Reorganization in December 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mrs. Wachspress and unanimously approved with no abstentions to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel C. Rodgers
Board Secretary