



Wednesday Morning

Highlights of Tuesday Evening's Abington School Board Meeting
Vol. XXIX No. 11
February 15, 2017



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**WEDNESDAY MORNING AND MATERIALS PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
ARE AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEB SITE AFTER EACH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT LAST NIGHT'S SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

The School Directors approved: The Preliminary Budget for 2017-2018 ... The first reading of School Board Policies in the Curriculum Policy section ... Authorization to appoint the finance team to investigate the issuance of General Obligation Bond Series A of 2017 to fund renovations and additions for Abington High School and other capital projects ... PLANCON Document, Part K: Project Refinancing of Series 2007 with Series 2017 Bonds ... Membership Services Intermediate Unit 2017-2018 Budget ... Montgomery County Agreement for School Based Outpatient Services ... Tax Collectors' Remuneration ... Personnel Appointments and Changes ... The District's Financial Report and Payment of Bills ... Permits for Buildings and Grounds Use ... An Advertisement for Bids ... Awards of Contracts.

BOARD ORIENTATION ... 2017-2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ... Dr. Sichel and Mr. Lionetti presented and reviewed the Preliminary Budget last night, conforming to the state's 2.5% index plus a referendum exception for pension costs. The presentation indicated that there are still many unknown revenue and expense items that are too early to reliably forecast at this time. However, the proposed 2017 state budget presented by Governor Wolf earlier this month proposed subsidy increases in basic and special education for school districts, but also included decreases in student transportation subsidies. The presentation indicated that this preliminary, proposed state budget information budget could add approximately \$888,000 to state revenue received compared to the Proposed Preliminary Budget presented in January. Final adoption of the district budget is planned for the June 27, 2017 meeting. Last night's presentation can be viewed with the materials from last night's meeting.

BOARD ORIENTATION ... REVIEW AND FIRST READING OF CURRICULUM BOARD POLICIES ... Dr. Sichel and Dr. Fecher reviewed the first reading and recommendations of Curriculum School Board Policies, categorized in one of three categories: Policies with minor or no modifications; Policies for repeal; or Policies with revisions. The second reading and approval is scheduled for the next Board meeting, after which the policies will be posted on the district website when approved.

Curriculum Policies (Policy and Category)

- Academic Proficiency and Requirements for Graduation - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- After-School and Saturday Educational Programs - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Charter Schools - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Classroom Libraries and Library Materials - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Course Placement and Selection - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- End-of-the-Year Procedures - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Homework Guidelines - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Information Regarding Curriculum and Instruction - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Instruction for English Learners (ELs) - *Policies with Revisions*
- Instructional Materials - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Instructional Time Allocations - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Lesson Plans - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Nondiscrimination of Students in Classroom Practices - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Nonparticipation in Selected Instruction/State Assessments - *Policies with Revisions*
- Progress Reports - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Reading Support Services - *Policies for Repeal*
- Religion in the Public Schools - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*
- Reporting Student Progress - *Policies with Revisions*
- Retention Guidelines - *Policies with Minor or No Modifications*

BOARD HONORS ... The Board honored Willow Hill Elementary School for receipt of the 2016-2017 Pennsylvania Title I Distinguished School Award. Dr. Sichel and Mr. Jordan attended the 2016-2017 PA Title I Improving School Performance Conference this month where they accepted the 2016-2017 Distinguished Title I School Award on behalf of Willow Hill Elementary School. In addition, Dr. Sichel and Mr. Jordan presented Abington's "Opportunities to Learn" Initiative with a specific focus on Willow Hill Elementary School, which generated a great deal of interest by other schools and school districts. Last night Mr. Jordan displayed the plaques awarded to the school.

Dr. Pellico introduced a 6abc Action News video of an outstanding book drive by Junior High School student Juwan Adams who, in conjunction with V.I.B.E and I.M.A.G.I.N.E. and Overlook Elementary School, collected and donated 9,500 books for a library at Children's' Hospital.

Mr. Berrios introduced a 6abc Action News video of the very successful Abington Senior High School Mini-THON that raised approximately \$46,000 to fight pediatric cancer. The students and staff organized the 8-hour non-sitting event that featured a choreographed line dance, pillow polo, basketball, face-painting, dancing, volleyball, basketball, a Jell-O-eating contest, and more. Over 300 students, staff, and community members attended and participated. Mr. Berrios mentioned that over the past four years students have raised over \$113,000 in funds via the Mini-THON to combat pediatric cancer.

Mr. Berrios introduced a 6abc Action News video of Abington Senior High School student George Reid signing a National Letter of Intent to play Division 1 football at Temple University.

HONORS ... Congratulations to Highland Elementary School for receipt of a \$999.07 Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Agriculture Farm-to-School Mini-Grant for taste-testing and for enhanced school garden planting of fresh vegetables and fruits. The competitive grant, with a maximum value of \$1,000, provides third grade students with a "tasting party" of fresh, healthy foods sourced locally that they might not usually eat. The school's cafeteria will incorporate what is grown in the garden into the school lunch program and Garden Club students will taste test what they have grown. The grant application was planned and submitted by teacher Ms. Francine Lee-Kim, with input with the co-sponsor of Garden Club, teacher Ms. Patricia Forrest; input from parent Ms. Karin McGarry-Rosen; and Ms. Judy Bomze helped review and proofread the grant application.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Hilliard, a junior at Abington Senior High School, who has been selected to perform with the PMEA Pennsylvania All-State Jazz Choir through submission of her audition materials including a vocal recording. Elizabeth is one of only 24 students across the state to be selected for this choir, which will be performing at the PMEA Annual Conference in April.

BOARD AUTHORIZES ADVERTISEMENTS FOR BIDS AND AWARDS OF CONTRACTS ... The Board authorized an advertisement for bids for additional closed-circuit security cameras at the Senior and Junior High Schools.

The Board awarded contracts to: McNeill Land Surveying, LLC for boundary and topographic surveying service for Abington Senior High School; Abington Transportation, LLC for student transportation services July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022; Constellation Energy Resources, LLC for low volume natural gas basis pricing; Direct Energy Business for high volume natural gas basis pricing; and to Steve Weiss Music for marching band drums for Abington Senior High School.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... (meetings at the Administration Building, unless otherwise noted)

Next Board Meeting: February 28, 2017 7:30 p.m.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Don't Miss Abington Junior High School's Musical – "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" February 23, 24, and 25, 2017. See the District website and Facebook for ticket information.

Abington Senior High School's Musical – "Once on This Island" – March 2, 3, and 4, 2017. See the District website and Facebook for ticket information.

SAVE THE DATE! Tickets Now on Sale for Abington Educational Foundation's Harlem Wizards Family Fun Evening – April 8, 2017. See the District website and Facebook for ticket information.

REMEMBER TO CHECK COMCAST DIGITAL CHANNEL 968, VERIZON CHANNEL 34 AND COMCAST CHANNEL 43 FOR EVENTS IN ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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