



Wednesday Morning

Highlights of Tuesday Evening's Abington School Board Meeting
Vol. XXIX No. 16
May 10, 2017



**SIX TIME
WINNER!**

Visit our website: www.abington.k12.pa.us

TOLL-FREE TIP LINE TO REPORT VIOLENCE 1-877-APD-TIPS

We are on Facebook & Twitter. Check our mobile app ASD ToGo!

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

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

The School Directors approved: The 2017-2018 Proposed Final Budget ... School breakfast and lunch prices for 2017-2018 ... Renewal of the contract with Chartwells School Dining Services for Contracted Food Services for 2017-2018 ... Re-election of Mr. Christopher Lionetti as Secretary of the Board of School Directors for a four-year term effective July 1, 2017 ... The second and final reading of School Board Policies in the Students section ... 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS ... Mr. McGarry and Board members congratulated Dr. Sichel on receiving the Margaret Smith Leadership Award (see story below). Board members commented that the award from the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center (see story below) acknowledged and praised the district for creating its groundbreaking Holocaust curriculum. Mr. Share and Mr. Kaye, who attended the ceremony at the Holocaust Museum and Education Center, commended the district for this important educational program. Board members complimented the Administration on its diligent work and presentation on the 2017-2018 Proposed Final Budget. Board members were pleased to re-elect Mr. Christopher Lionetti as Secretary of the Board of School Directors, commenting that his work as Business Manager and Board Secretary is outstanding. The A.C.T.I.V.E. Academy students were complimented for being hard workers and are "bright spots in the day" when they visit organizations in the community. Also complimented last night was Ms. Melinda Walker (see story below).

Yesterday was "*Teacher Appreciation Day*" and last night Board members complimented and thanked Abington teachers for all they do to educate our students so well.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT ... Dr. Sichel acknowledged and thanked the Abington Health Foundation and its Dr. Mark Rosenthal Fund for its donation of \$10,000 toward replacement Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for school district buildings. The Dr. Mark Rosenthal Fund provided many of the initial AEDs for the school district and the Foundation generously offered to help fund the replacements.

BOARD HONORS:

- ABINGTON RECEIVES HOLOCAUST AWARENESS MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER'S FIRST "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD" ... Abington School District received the first "Excellence in Education Award" from the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center last week. The organization's president, Mr. Chuck Feldman, stated that the Museum and Education Center selected Abington in recognition of the district's pioneering effort as one of the first school districts in the country to develop an internationally recognized Holocaust and genocide education curriculum, programs, and teacher training. According to Dr. Sichel, as she received the award on behalf of the school district, "We felt it was extremely important to codify the curriculum, having it standardized to ensure that there are lessons across grade levels that are done specifically throughout the school year, not just during Holocaust Remembrance Day." An important aspect of the curriculum has been bringing in survivors to speak with students. Dr. Sichel stated that there are "so many messages of the Holocaust, but I think the one that's most personal to me is 'Never Forget.'" For more information and background see the post on the district website and Facebook page, which includes a citation that State Representative Madeleine Dean presented to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to recognize the Abington School District program.

- DR. SICHEL RECEIVES PASA WOMEN'S CAUCUS MARGARET SMITH LEADERSHIP AWARD ... Dr. Sichel was honored last night for receiving the Margaret Smith Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Association of

School Administrators (PASA) at the recent PASA Women's Caucus Annual Conference. Last night Dr. Fecher explained that the Margaret Smith Leadership Award is given each year to a woman administrator who has demonstrated proven leadership and innovation in education. The award is named for Dr. Margaret Smith a former Superintendent in Pennsylvania, as well as former Pennsylvania Secretary of Education. Dr. Smith traveled from Florida to Pennsylvania to personally present the award to Dr. Sichel. For more information about the award and Dr. Sichel, see the post on the district website and Facebook page.

- **ABINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER MELINDA WALKER HONORED** ... Ms. Melinda Walker was honored last night for her selection as the recipient of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 Citation of Excellence. Mr. Baxter explained that PMEA District 11 includes music teachers in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. PMEA grants this award annually to one member in each of the 12 PMEA districts to bring special recognition to outstanding educators. Ms. Walker is the sixth Abington Music Teacher to receive this award since 1992. She received the award at the 2017 PMEA Annual Conference last month. For more information about the award and Ms. Walker, see the post on the district website and Facebook page.

- **McKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD DAY FEATURED ON 6ABC ACTION NEWS** ... Last night Dr. Lentz introduced a 6abc Action News video of McKinley Elementary School's terrific Field Day activities. Under the direction of physical education teachers Ms. Kristen Early and Ms. Megan Olinger, teams organized by grade level competed to earn points on the various activities. The day promoted teamwork and sportsmanship and Dr. Lentz commented that he was very proud of the students.

BOARD ORIENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2017-2018 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET ... Last night Dr. Sichel and Mr. Lionetti presented the 2017-2018 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$157,603,727. The Proposed Final Budget is available now for public inspection and review before final adoption scheduled for June 27, 2017. The budget includes best estimates of revenues since we do not yet know exactly what the state and Federal revenues will be for next year. Mr. Lionetti explained the changes in revenue and expense portions of the budget compared to the Preliminary Budget, including the reduction of \$627,026 in expenses. The presentation can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting via the district website.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES FOR 2017-2018 ... Last night the Board approved the school breakfast and lunch prices for the 2017-2018 school year with no changes in the prices for students compared to the current year's prices. The elementary lunch will be \$2.75; the secondary lunch will be \$3.10; and the adult lunch will be \$5.65 (beverage not included with the adult lunch). Breakfast will be available at all schools again next year; elementary breakfast will be \$1.30 and the secondary breakfast will be \$1.60.

BOARD AUTHORIZES AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS AND AWARDS OF CONTRACTS ... The Board authorized an advertisement for bids for replacement 72-passenger and 30-passenger student school buses.

The Board awarded contracts to: Wolfington Body Company, Inc. for a replacement 9-passenger student transportation school van; Abington Health Foundation for replacement automated external defibrillators; and to several vendors via Montgomery County School Entities Joint Purchasing for No. 2 fuel oil, unleaded gasoline, and diesel fuel for 2017-2018.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE ... Last night the Board approved the retirements of Ms. Marie Page, a reading teacher at Willow Hill Elementary School, who has served Abington for 24 years and Ms. Merle Silverbook, a special education teacher, who has served Abington for 22 years. We wish Ms. Page and Ms. Silverbook good luck, health, and pleasant, well-earned retirements.

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

Next Board Meeting: May 23, 2017 7:30 p.m.

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

**SUPPORT THE ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.
FOR INFORMATION, A CONTRIBUTION FORM, OR TO SUGGEST PROGRAMS, CALL 215-517-2888
OR VISIT WWW.AEF-PA.ORG.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING is distributed to the community and staff of Abington School District to highlight actions taken at School Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the minutes of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings; for information, call 215-884-4700. Compiled by Byron L. Goldstein.