



# Wednesday Morning

Highlights of Tuesday Evening's Abington School Board Meeting  
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**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:** Adoption of the 2017-2018 Budget ... Homestead and Farmstead Taxpayer Relief Act exclusions for the 2017-2018 fiscal year ... Budget transfers in the 2016-2017 Budget ... The Charge to the Abington and Rockledge tax collectors ... Classification of Fund Balances according to Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 54 ... The Real Estate Transfer Tax resolution ... Federal Grant Applications... Investment Advisor and Administrator Services – PFM Asset Management, LLC and The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) ... A lease agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Head Start Program ... Personnel Appointments and Changes ... Permits for Buildings and Grounds Use ... Awards of Contracts.

**COMMENTS FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ...** Board members commented that the high school graduation was excellent and complimented the student speakers on their wonderful speeches. It was proudly noted that the Class of 2017 earned \$9.4 million in scholarships, a new record! Mrs. Tinsman, Mr. McGarry, and Board members thanked and congratulated the Administration on its hard work to prepare the 2017-2018 Budget and commented that it meets the needs of Abington and Rockledge students. Mrs. Tinsman complimented the Administration for a budget that maintains beneficial class size, educational programs, and improvements to technology and buildings.

**REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT ...** Dr. Sichel noted that the district again received an excellent Pennsylvania Department of Education review of our Single Audit Report for Federal programs for the year ending June 30, 2016.

**BOARD HONORS ...** Last night the Board honored and thanked the Abington Health Foundation of the Abington Jefferson Health System and the Dr. Mark Rosenthal Memorial Fund for the donation of \$10,000 toward the replacement of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for our schools. Mr. Goldstein, Community Relations Specialist, explained that the Rosenthal Memorial Fund donated nine AEDs to our schools in 2008 and that they now need to be replaced. Mr. Goldstein recognized Ms. Jill Kyle of the Foundation for helping to facilitate the donation, Ms. Judy Bomze for coordinating the on-line training for our staff on the new AEDs, and Ms. Amy Buick, Director of Major Gifts at the Foundation, who was present to accept a Certificate of Appreciation from the school district last night.

Last night Mr. Ernest Johnson, Abington Senior High School Assistant Principal, introduced a wonderful video of the high school's first-ever "Grad Walk" organized by Abington Senior High School's Ghost Team. The Ghost Team is a group of teachers and counselors who promote school spirit and *esprit de corps* through various activities and student recognition. The Grad Walk was planned as a way to connect senior high school students to the elementary schools. The Grad Walk, occurring the day before the high school's commencement ceremony, took place at Copper Beech, McKinley, and Roslyn Elementary Schools. The high school students were excited to be a part of the program and the elementary students were thrilled to see the students in their caps and gowns. The enthusiasm from the elementary students was amazing as they lined the halls with signs and cheered the seniors as they paraded through the halls. The event provided an opportunity for many of the 100 seniors who participated to reminisce with their former elementary school teachers and discuss their future plans. The Ghost Team that coordinated the Grad Walk is comprised of Mr. Robert Banks, Mr. James Garry, Ms. Gretchen Hansen, Ms. Kelly Miller, and Ms. Rhonda Paules. The video can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting available via the district website.

Last night McKinley Principal Dr. Charles Lentz introduced two NBC10 News videos of closing events at McKinley Elementary School. On June 19, McKinley enthusiastically ended the school year with recognition of third, fourth and fifth grade students' accomplishments in academics, physical education, music, and the arts at the end of the year closing ceremony. Teachers were excited to present their students with awards recognizing their hard work and achievement throughout the school year. In the afternoon, the school commemorated the end of the year with its traditional flag lowering ceremony. Students in various scouting organizations assisted in lowering the school flag and the chorus led the school in singing the school song. The weather did not cooperate with the flag lowering ceremony – the event was moved inside and was still very exciting as students displayed their enthusiasm for this McKinley tradition. The videos can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting available via the district website.

**HONORS ... Congratulations to Jared Stevenson, Abington Senior High School Class of 2017, who was named June Student of the Month at the EASTERN Center for Arts and Technology. Jared was in EASTERN's Protective Services program. At EASTERN, Jared was a Skills USA Statewide officer and a student ambassador, speaking to parents and potential students at EASTERN recruitment events. At Abington he had been involved with activities such as TADA and VIBE and participated in many community service activities, winning special recognition and awards such as for being a Special Olympics swimming coach, the 24 Hour Relay, CPYA Rock-a-Thon, Second Alarmers, and as a junior firefighter with the Edge Hill Fire Company. Jared plans to continue his education at Montgomery County Community College and continue to work with the Edge Hill Fire Company.**

**Congratulations to Samantha McGee, Abington Senior High School Class of 2017, who was named "Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year" by *The Intelligencer* newspaper in its "All Intell Spring Sports" supplement this past weekend. Samantha earned All American recognition this past year and according to the newspaper, "faced defenders assigned the sole task of trying to 'lock down' the Ghost's most dangerous weapon." Next fall, Samantha will be playing for Saint Joseph's University. Lacrosse coach Amanda Kammes was quoted in the article saying that "It was luck of the draw that I was blessed with such a special player like Sam. They only come around every so often."**

**Dr. Sichel announced that a large group of Abington Senior High School students traveled to Washington D.C. to receive Congressional Awards and honors. Details and names will be announced at a future Board meeting.**

**BOARD APPROVES 2017-2018 BUDGET WITH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FAVORABLE CLASS SIZES**

**INTACT ... Last night the Board approved the 2017-2018 Budget in the amount of \$159,283,771. Since the state budget has not yet been approved, there is still some uncertainty in state funding. A major portion of the budget increase is due to state mandated benefit costs over which the school district has no control. The approved tax increase is 3.05% or 3.0% for homestead owners. Taxpayers who are approved homesteads or farmsteads will realize a \$345 tax reduction in the 2017-2018 year due to property tax relief, compared to \$333 in the 2016-2017 year.**

**The budget provides the resources to retain Abington's quality, comprehensive instructional program. It maintains current K-12 programs and maintains favorable class size. It includes 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the Senior High School; increased electives at the Junior High School; resources for safe schools, professional development, and quality co-curricular academic and athletic programs including after-school transportation. The budget provides for debt service payments for the capital and construction projects; capital projects and equipment for operations and maintenance of plant services, technology, transportation, and telecommunications; and funding for utility costs and fuels. The presentation on the budget can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting available via the district website.**

**BOARD APPROVES AWARDS OF CONTRACTS ... Last night the Board awarded contracts to several vendors for art, music, and physical education supplies and to several vendors for desktop, notebook and Chromebook computers, interactive flat panels, and related components. The Board authorized a change order to Clark Food Service Equipment Co. for kitchen equipment for the high school.**

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE ...**

**Last night, the Board approved the retirements of: Mr. Lawrence Freidel, effective October 30, 2017, a bus driver, who has served Abington for 18 years; Mr. David Howard, a paraprofessional at McKinley, effective June 19, 2017, who has served Abington for 4 years; and Mr. Byron Goldstein, effective June 30, 2018, Community Relations Specialist, who has served Abington for 29 years. We wish these fine folks good luck, health, and pleasant, well-earned retirements.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... *There are no regular School Board meetings scheduled for July***

**Next Board Meeting: August 8, 2017 7:30 p.m.**

***Check Comcast Cable Channels 968 and 43, Verizon Channel 34, the district website, and the mobile app ASD ToGo! for announcements over the summer.***

**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.**