



Wednesday Morning

Highlights of Tuesday Evening's Abington School Board Meeting
Vol. XXX No. 8
November 29, 2017



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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**

PLEASE NOTE

**The Board meeting originally scheduled for December 12, 2017 has been
rescheduled to December 19, 2017**

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

The School Directors approved: Budget transfers for the 2016-2017 school year ... Personnel Appointments and Changes ... Permits for Buildings and Grounds Use ... Awards of Contracts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS ... Mr. McGarry noted that last night's meeting was the last meeting for Ms. Marsha Levell as a School Board Director since she had decided not to seek re-election. He thanked her for her dedication and service to the school district and the community as a School Board Director since 2013. Ms. Levell graciously said that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve and to work with the Board, with Dr. Sichel, and the school district staff.

BOARD HONORS ...

- The Board honored and thanked Ms. Marsha Levell for her service to the Abington School District as a member of the Board of School Directors for the past four years.
- Ms. Lyndsay Morgan presented a 6abc Action News and Channel 17 video of Rydal Elementary School's Mathematics Night. On this special evening 250 students and their families had a wonderful time working with Everyday Math "learning games" and Chromebook stations. The video can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials for last night's meeting on the District website.
- Dr. Bacon and Dr. Fecher presented a PowerPoint that reviewed a sampling of the exceptional 2016-2017 student, staff, school, and District accomplishments.

Dr. Bacon noted that there were too many student accomplishments to cover them all so highlights were presented. The Abington Senior High School Class of 2017 won an incredible \$9.4 million in scholarships, a new record. Local and national competition wins and awards at the High School included awards in the Greenfield Youth Film Festival; the National Center for Women and Information Technology; many awards in the US Chess Federation's Super Nationals Competition; TruMark Financial's Financial Jeopardy Game; another First Place Award in the Congressional Art Competition; "Student of the Month" awards at the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology; PMEA All-State Jazz Choir; a selection as the *Intelligencer* newspaper's Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year; PIAA's "Sportsmanship: The Only Missing Piece is You" award"; 21 High School students honored for their National Merit Scholarship Program achievements; and awards at the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Unified Sports Track & Field events.

At the Junior High School: first place in the Attorney General's "Peer 2 Peer Prevention" public service announcement; national award winner in the Project CS Girls Computer Science Competition; first place in the Anti-Defamation League's 2017 "No Place for Hate" essay contest; first place team award in the Atlantic-Pacific Mathematics League Contest; and 21 Montgomery County Science Fair awards.

At the elementary schools, all schools won many awards in the Mathematical Olympiad program and Statistics Poster Competition. At Copper Beech, students won awards in the Anti-Defamation League's 2017 Student Essay Contest and the Cancer Support Community of Greater Philadelphia's "It's Always Something" teen essay contest. Highland won a PDE/PA Department of Agriculture Farm-to-School Mini Grant and a Highland student won first place in the National and PA Statistics Poster Competition. McKinley won a PA Horticultural Society Gardening and Greening 2016 Garden of Distinction Award and a fifth grade class won the 2016 Lenfest Citizenship Challenge award.

Staff accomplishments included Dr. Sichel's Margaret Smith Leadership Award from the PA Association of School Administrators; Ms. Melinda Walker's PA Music Educators Association District 11 Citation of Excellence; Ms. Julianne

Petersen's PA Council for Social Studies Leadership Award; and Ms. Lauren Strohecker's Youth Literacy Award from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

School accomplishments include Willow Hill's recognition of a 2016-2017 PA Department of Education Title I Distinguished School Award, and the High School's *U.S. News and World Reports* Best High Schools Silver Award, an AP District Honor Roll Award, and a World Language Golden Globe Award.

District accomplishments include the first-ever Excellence in Education Award from the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center and the NAMM Foundation's Outstanding Music Education "Best Communities for Music Education" award.

The PowerPoint presentation with the awards and honors can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting via the District website.

ANNOUNCED HONOR: Under the direction of Ms. Mindy Walker, music teacher at Abington Junior High School, 60 members of the Junior High School's 8th and 9th Grade Choirs sang the National Anthem at Lincoln Financial Field before a Temple University Football Game. They were there on "Survivor Night" and shared the tunnel to the field with cancer survivors who cheered them on as they cheered them on!

BOARD APPROVES AWARDS OF CONTRACTS ... Last night the Board awarded contracts to BSN Sports, Inc. and The Run Around, Inc. for boys and girls basketball team uniforms for Abington Senior High School and to Constellation NewEnergy for bundled electric generation service for December 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019 and July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021, potentially a cost avoidance to the District of an estimated \$678,000 over four years.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE ...

Last night, the Board approved the retirements of: Ms. Patrice Harris, librarian at Copper Beech and Willow Hill Elementary Schools, who has served Abington for 18.5 years and Ms. Margaret Kunz, an administrative assistant at the High School, who has served Abington for 30.5 years. We wish these fine folks good luck, health, and pleasant, well-earned retirements.

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

Board Reorganization Meeting: MONDAY, December 4, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: - *NOTE CHANGE OF DATE* - December 19, 2017 7:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Important Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 7:30 p.m.
Highland Elementary School

TOPICS:

Abington Educational Foundation
Abington Police Department Presentation on *Internet Safety & Privacy*

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AND COMCAST CHANNEL 43 FOR EVENTS IN ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

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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.