

ASD Board Brief

Summary of the latest meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Abington School District

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Approval Highlights:

Minutes of the April Board Meetings – Personnel – Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Awards of Contracts – Advertisement for Bids – Instructional Materials Adoption for the 2019-2020 School Year – Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board Member Election

Please note: Meeting materials are available on BoardDocs, accessible via the ASD homepage

Announcements

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher shared the news that as a result of feedback he heard from students during his Superintendent Listening Tours, Abington School District will host its first-ever Sixth Grade Community Day later this month. Students had expressed to Dr. Fecher that they would like more opportunities to meet their peers from other elementary schools, and Community Day will bring together sixth grade students from all seven elementary schools for a day to get to know their future classmates prior to transitioning to Abington Junior High School in September.
- As last week was Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Fecher thanked the teachers of the Abington School District for their dedication to their students.

Honors

- Dr. Fecher congratulated Abington Senior High School on once again being listed among the “Best High Schools” in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Dr. Fecher thanked Ms. Judy Bomze, Director of Student Services, for successfully submitting an application that earned Abington School District a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Grant in the amount of \$80,100, which will be used to purchase security cameras for the elementary schools and provide training and materials for staff on trauma-informed practices.
- Dr. Fecher and Ms. Bomze honored A.C.T.I.V.E. Academy teachers, Ms. Caroline Gimbel and Ms. Kathleen Rafter, for being named “Teacher as Hero” award winners by the National Liberty Museum, a program that recognizes exceptional educators who leverage their excellence in teaching to make a difference in the lives of their students. Ms. Gimbel and Ms. Rafter’s work will be exhibited at the museum for the next year.
- Dr. Damon Jordan recognized Willow Hill Elementary School physical education teacher, Ms. Cynthia Santee, on being named the Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Southeastern District Local Association of the Pennsylvania State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.
- Dr. Kevin Osborne shared an NBC 10 News video of fifth grade student, Maya Jarmul, performing for her classmates before school as a preview to her scheduled DJ set at the 40th annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run the following Sunday.
- Mr. Angelo Berrios shared a 6abc Action News video covering UNITE’s Arrive Alive® Tour, which was brought to Abington Senior High School last month by the Red Cross Club to educate students on the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Orientations

- Impact of Sterling Act and Gaming Property Tax Relief Distribution on 2019-2020 Proposed Final Budget – Dr. Fecher and Business Manager, Mr. Christopher Lionetti, provided an orientation on the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s release of the 2019-2020 homestead property tax relief information and its impact on the budget for the 2019-2020 school year. The homestead allocation is a revenue neutral change in the overall revenue budget as it decreases local real estate taxes by \$5,431,997 and increases state revenue by the same amount. The qualifying 15,231 Abington School District homesteads will each receive a \$357 reduction in property tax. Last year homestead relief was \$358 for each of the then 15,316 qualifying property owners. The impact of no tax increase and a one dollar reduction in homestead relief equates to a one dollar or 0.02 percent tax increase. Property tax relief information will be reflected in the 2019-2020 final general fund budget, on which the Board is scheduled to vote for adoption on June 11, 2019.
- Instructional Materials Adoption for the 2019-2020 School Year – Assistant Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, Dr. Stephanie Viola, and Assistant Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, Dr. Kelly Murray, presented the proposed instructional materials for adoption for the 2019-2020 school year, which were unanimously approved by the Board.

Personnel

- The Board approved the retirements of:
 - Ms. Susan Drubin, an itinerant speech and language teacher, who has served the District for 22 years
 - Ms. Margo Eberman, a fourth grade teacher at Overlook Elementary School, who has served the District for 43 years
 - Mr. David Guendelsberger, a mathematics teacher at Abington Junior High School, who has served the District for 15 years
 - Ms. Cynthia Kane, a reading teacher at Abinton Junior High School, who has served the District for 28 years
 - Mr. Christopher West, a fourth grade teacher at Copper Beech Elementary School, who has served the District for 23 years
 - Mr. Thomas Carr, a bus driver who has served the District for 16 years
 - Ms. Lynn Garry, an aide and paraprofessional at Abington Junior High School, who has served the District for 19 years
 - Mr. William Morris, a bus monitor, who has served the District for 11 years

Awards of Contracts and Advertisement for Bids

- The Board awarded four contracts:
 - Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) for ACCESS Program Services for the 2019-2020 school year
 - Garaventa Lift USA for portable wheelchair lifts for stage access at Rydal East and West elementary schools
 - Third Dimension Specialties for replacement toilet partitions at Rydal East Elementary School
 - Wolfington Body Company, Inc. for 15 school bus security camera/DVR units for the existing fleet of buses
- In addition, the Board approved a rejection of bids for security upgrades at McKinley, Rydal East and Rydal West elementary schools. The Board authorized the advertisement to re-bid the security upgrades, which in the specifications will include an expanded number of acceptable manufacturers of door and window systems in an effort to promote more interest.

Miscellaneous Items

Additionally, the Board of School Directors completed their ballots for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Election of School Board Members, a board which will have eight vacant seats come July 1, 2019. At the April 9, 2019 meeting of the Board of School Directors, Mr. Brian Allen was nominated to represent Abington School District for a three-year term.

Next Board Meeting

May 28, 2019, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

REMINDER:

There are no classes on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, for a Teacher Inservice Day

This communication from Abington School District and its Board of School Directors is meant to be a summary of actions taken at the most recent Board meeting, and is not intended to serve as minutes of the meeting. Materials presented at all meetings of the Abington Board of School Directors are available on BoardDocs, accessible via the ASD homepage. Recordings of the meetings are also found on the ASD website, in addition to being broadcast on Comcast XFINITY channel 968/Verizon Fios channel 34. For more information, please visit www.abington.k12.pa.us/board-of-directors or call 215-884-4700. Compiled by Allie Artur.