

ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXII, No. 16



March 10, 2020

Approval Highlights:

Minutes from the February Board Meetings – Personnel – Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts – Secondary Program Changes

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

Announcements

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher shared information about Abington School District's preparedness and response plan regarding the spread of the coronavirus in our area. He encouraged Abington School District community members to visit the District's Coronavirus Resource Center on the ASD website for updates: <https://www.abington.k12.pa.us/news/coronavirus-resource-center>. A link to the Resource Center can also be found on the homepage under "Recent Postings".
- Abington Junior High School assistant principals, Mr. Ronald Brison, Mr. Daniel Oldham, Mr. Jonathan Kovaleski, and Ms. LaVonda Daniels, in addition to Coordinator of Student Services Mr. Matthew Wexler, provided an update on the school climate of Abington Junior High School, including short-term solutions and ongoing initiatives for improvement.

Honors

- Dr. Fecher congratulated and thanked Director of Student Services Ms. Judy Bomze for helping Abington School District earn a \$455,000 grant to support safety initiatives in all nine schools, such as the purchase of equipment, supplies and communication systems.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher shared that on Friday, March 6, he and several members of administration had the pleasure of attending an event at Cabrini University, where Abington School District received the Moral and Courageous Commitment to Equity School Award. The District was recognized for intentional continuous improvement efforts, and exemplar practices and programming for students of color, students whose first language is not English, students with disabilities, and also for stakeholders of the school community, such as teachers and staff. Additionally, Abington School District was honored for its commitment to focusing on equity and inclusion in professional development. Dr. Fecher thanked Cabrini's Education Department for recognizing this commitment.
- Dr. Fecher also recognized two students:
 - McKinley Elementary School second-grader, Brigitte Wilkens, for winning Best in Show Artistic Class in her age group for the overall Junior Flower Show at the Philadelphia Flower Show.
 - Abington Senior High School and Eastern Center for Arts and Technology student, Emma Rose, for winning a gold medal in the SkillsUSA District Competitions in the Applications event. Emma is enrolled in the Business and Technology program and will move on to the state-level competition next month.

Orientations

- Construction Update – Mr. Alfred Howard, Director of Facilities, and Mr. Damian Spahr, of SiteLogIQ—formerly Reynolds—provided an update on the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project including information regarding phasing schedules for the project. Mr. Spahr shared that the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology would be complete by the start of the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, Mr. Howard and Mr. Spahr provided an overview of the Abington Junior High School Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) project and the planned use of that project for the replacement of existing Promethean ActivPanels with new interactive flat panels throughout the building, which is part of the District's phased Digital Transformation Plan. The Board ultimately awarded a contract to Gilbert Architects, Inc., for design planning for this project, allowing the company to coordinate planning and design with SiteLogIQ to begin installation at the end of the school year.
- Secondary Program Changes – Assistant Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, Ms. Laura Enama, and Abington Senior High School Principal, Mr. Angelo Berrios, shared the proposed additions, deletions and modifications in courses for grades 7 through 12 for the 2020-2021 school year, which included new courses such as media literacy, video production, and entrepreneurial innovation and design. The Board approved the proposed changes, and authorized the publishing of programs of studies for both Abington Junior High School and Abington Senior High School.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

The Board approved permits for the use of District buildings and grounds, including regular meetings and annual events for the 2019-2020 school year, such as the Arts in ASD Parent Group meeting on May 5, 2020, which is open to all Abington School District parents/guardians, and will be held at the Abington Senior High School library.

Advertisement for Bids

The Board authorized the advertisement for bids for a multifunction tractor to serve as a replacement to grounds equipment.

Awards of Contracts

In addition to the contract the Board awarded to Gilbert Architects, Inc., for design consulting services for the installation of interactive flat panel monitors at Abington Junior High School, the Board awarded contracts to:

- Fox Fuel Company for emergency No. 2 heating oil for Abington Senior High School
- Mobile Technology Graphics for a large-screen LED rental for Abington Senior High School's commencement
- A to Z Air Compressor Corp. for replacement air compressors for the bus garage

REMINDER:

Schools are closed through March 27, 2020.

Visit our Coronavirus Resource Center for more info:

<https://www.abington.k12.pa.us/news/coronavirus-resource-center>

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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.