

# ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXIII, No. 3



September 8, 2020

## **Approval Highlights:**

Minutes of the August Board Meetings – Personnel – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts – Board Policies – District-wide Assessments – Act 75 – Flexible Instructional Day Program

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

### **Announcement**

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher welcomed back the students and staff of Abington School District. He emphasized that there will likely be a need for adjustments to the virtual learning process over the next few weeks, but families can reach out to their student's teachers, principal or District administrators if they have questions. Additionally, Dr. Fecher provided an update on the District's Chromebooks, which were ordered as early as April and are continuing to be delivered on a rolling basis due to delays with the manufacturer that are impacting delivery of devices to school districts across the country. He reminded families that the District is prioritizing getting devices to students who are in the greatest need first, and that those who have an immediate need for a Chromebook for virtual learning should fill out a Chromebook request form. The Technology Department is contacting all families who fill out a form.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher was proud to share that Abington School District was named to the Forbes list of "America's Best Employers by State", ranking no. 58 out of 100 in Pennsylvania.

### **Orientation**

- Review of Board Policies – Dr. Fecher and Dr. James Melchor provided an orientation on Board Policies that have been reviewed in consultation with the Solicitor's Office, including:
  - Several policies with non-substantive changes, which require public Board notification
  - Revisions to the Human Resources Policy, entitled "Harassment by and of District Employees", due to legal changes, which was approved by the Board
  - The first reading of one policy requiring revisions—"District-Initiated Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals"—which was approved by the Board. As delineated in that Policy, the Board also approved the parallel changes in the related Superintendent's Administrative Procedure (SAP)

### **Personnel**

- The Board approved the promotion of Ms. Marie Levins to the position of Coordinator of Special Education. The Coordinator is a new position created to support the virtual instruction model for staff and students with IEPs and the fall reopening plans. Ms. Levins will serve as a resource for students with IEPs and their parents/guardians to receive help with any aspect of their instruction.
- In addition, the Board approved the retirements of:
  - Ms. Keren Glick, a special education teacher at Abington Senior High School, who has served the district for 7 years
  - Dr. Steven Portman, an Elementary Curriculum Specialist at Copper Beech and Rydal Elementary Schools, who has served the district for 27.5 years

### **Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds**

The Board approved permits for use of District buildings and grounds, including for sports and activities—which are contingent upon the provisions of the Health and Safety Plan pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic—and for Virtual Open Houses at each of the elementary schools, scheduled for September 9 and 10.

### **Advertisement for Bids**

- The Board authorized advertisement for bids, including for:
  - Upgrading of the existing district radio communication system
  - The purchase and installation of two, four-ton cooling units and one humidifier for the Technology Server Room in the Administration Building

### **Awards of Contracts**

- The Board awarded contracts to:
  - Five vendors for instructional supplies for the 2020-2021 school year, such as scientific calculators, puzzles, flashcards, sentence strips, etc.

- Seven vendors for science supplies for the 2020-2021 school year, such as laboratory glassware, chemicals, Bunsen burners, etc.

### Miscellaneous

- Further, the Board approved:
  - The district-wide assessment program, thereby providing representational consent for this method of collecting information about students with the stipulation that parents/guardians be provided written notification of the name and purpose of each assessment to be administered
  - The resolution regarding revision to the school tax due date
  - The District's application for Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years

### Next Board Meeting

September 22, 2020, 7:30 p.m., <https://www.YouTube.com/AbingtonSchoolDistrict/live>

## **WELCOME BACK!**

**We wish our students and staff a happy and healthy 2020-2021 school year!**

 @AbingtonSD  @AbingtonSchoolDistrict  @AbingtonSchools  @AbingtonSD

[www.abington.k12.pa.us](http://www.abington.k12.pa.us)

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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](http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/board-of-directors) or call 215-884-4700. Compiled by Allie Artur.*