

ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXIII, No. 5



October 13, 2020

Approval Highlights:

Minutes of the September Board Meetings – Personnel – Payment of Bills –
Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Awards of Contracts

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

Announcements

Board President, Mrs. Shameeka Browne, announced that in lieu of voting on the revised Health and Safety Plan and Remote Learning Waiver following the night's Board orientation, the Board would instead convene a special meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 7 p.m. for that purpose. Due to the amount of comments received and the allotment of time for public comment, the Board is extending the period during which the public can review the orientation and provide feedback. The special meeting, where the Board will vote on whether to move to the proposed hybrid instructional model, will be held virtually, via a YouTube livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/AbingtonSchoolDistrict/live>. Public comments submitted for the October 13th Board meeting will be posted on the District's Coronavirus Resource Center no later than Friday, October 16th.

Honors

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher announced that the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) has recognized Abington School District for its outstanding commitment to visual arts education with the endorsement Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2020. The District is one of only 26 honorees selected across Pennsylvania to receive this year's endorsement, which demonstrates the importance of their visual arts programs. Dr. Fecher highlighted that highly qualified and certified arts educators are a key component of this recognition.
- Dr. Fecher was proud to share that in partnership with Wissahickon Trails, Abington School District was awarded a grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for green infrastructure projects at Overlook Elementary School. The grant will allow Wissahickon Trails to improve the green landscapes of the school, which will be used as an educational opportunity for students to learn about environmental stewardship and gain awareness of watershed issues within the community.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher congratulated seventh grade student Madeline Krassner, who was named the Grand Prize winner in the Anti-Defamation League's 2020 No Place for Hate Student Essay Contest. Approximately 220 essays were received in the 5th and 6th grade division of the competition last spring, and Madeline was awarded the top honor.

Orientation

ASD Forward: Planning for What's Next in Abington School District - Dr. Fecher and Dr. James Melchor, along with Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Toni Butz; Assistant Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, Dr. Stephanie Viola; Assistant Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, Ms. Laura Enama; Director of Student Services, Ms. Judy Bomze; and Assistant Director of Student Services, Ms. Marie Capitolo, provided an orientation on Abington School District's revised Health, Safety and Instructional Plan, outlining a proposed hybrid instructional model, with a virtual option for families who prefer to continue 100% remote learning. It was recommended that the new schedule and hybrid instructional plan would be implemented at the elementary level beginning on Monday, November 9th. The secondary schedule and hybrid instructional plan would be implemented on Monday, November 30th, with the Senior High return contingent upon the schedule of the additions and renovations project at the school. The Board orientation is available on the Abington School District [Coronavirus Resource Center](#).

Personnel

The Board approved the retirement of Ms. Maryann Gans, an itinerant paraprofessional, who has served Abington School District for 36.5 years.

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded contracts to:
 - Wolfington Body Company, Inc., for 12 automatic snow tire chain units
 - W.B. Mason Co., Inc., for classroom furniture for a large group instruction room and Student Think Tank for Abington Senior High School
 - Unlimited Technology, Inc., for closed-circuit security cameras and related components for Abington Senior High School

- Ace Relocation Services for packing, storage and relocation of materials, furniture, and equipment from Abington Senior High School in conjunction with the additions and renovations project
- 3B Services, Inc. for the rental of two temporary steam boilers for Abington Senior High School while the mechanical plant is under construction as part of the additions and renovations project
- Raptor Technologies LLC for a visitor management system for Abington School District's nine schools and administration building
- The Board awarded contracts for supplies related to hybrid instructional technology to:
 - CDW Government LLC for 90 document cameras to be utilized by faculty to project onto the classroom Promethean Board so that students and staff can maintain social distancing while the teacher is displaying demonstrations in the classroom
 - CDW Government LLC for 300 LogiTech wireless headsets to allow for a teacher's voice to be broadcast via the classroom Promethean Board to increase ability of his/her voice being heard clearly by students in the classroom while wearing a face covering
- The Board also awarded contracts for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), COVID-related signage, and cleaning supplies to:
 - Pennsylvania Paper & Supply Company for 300 automatic hand sanitizer dispensers with floor stands for Abington School District's nine schools and administration building
 - Imperial Bag & Paper Company LLC for social distancing signage
 - 16 vendors through joint purchasing with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for various PPE supplies, cleaning equipment, and machinery, such as cordless backpack electrostatic sprayers, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, social distancing signs, gloves, sneeze guards, face coverings and goggles
- The Board awarded contracts for replacement facilities grounds and maintenance vehicles to:
 - Whitmoyer Ford, Inc., for two replacement cargo vans
 - Whitmoyer Ford, Inc., for one replacement maintenance utility body pickup truck
 - Whitmoyer Ford, Inc., for one replacement maintenance stake body truck
- In addition, the Board approved four change orders related to the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations project, which includes 13 individual items related to general construction, fire suppression, plumbing and HVAC work.

Next Board Meeting

October 20, 2020, 7 p.m. (Special Meeting), <https://www.YouTube.com/AbingtonSchoolDistrict/live>

Visit the Coronavirus Resource Center for ongoing updates and information:
www.abington.k12.pa.us/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.