

# ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXIII, No. 19



April 27, 2021

## Approval Highlights:

Personnel – Financial Report – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts – Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Services Contract/Cost Plan – Agreement for IDEA Pass Through Funds and Notice of Adoption of Policies and Procedures – Instructional Materials Adoption for the 2020-2021 School Year – Request for Act 80 Exception

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

## Announcements

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher provided an update on local COVID-19 health metrics and data from Abington schools. He also reminded parents/guardians of students age 16 or older of the COVID-19 vaccination clinic being held at Abington Junior and Senior high schools in partnership with Eric's RX Shoppe in Horsham.
- Dr. Fecher reminded families of the schedule change occurring on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, which will become a synchronous day of learning, with Cohorts A and B learning in-person and Cohort C learning online. The change is the result of teachers and staff having professional development the day prior, when schools will be closed for primary election voting.
- Mr. Angelo Berrios provided an update regarding the Abington Senior High School 2021 Commencement, which will be held at Schwarzman Stadium during two separate ceremonies on Monday, June 7, 2021.

## Honors

- Dr. Fecher was proud to share that for the seventh consecutive year, Abington Senior High School was named a "Best High School" by *U.S. News & World Report*. This is the school's ninth time making the overall list, which evaluates more than 18,000 public high schools across the country.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher congratulated the Abington Senior High School students who earned impressive honors at the 2021 Greenfield Youth Film Festival. This festival is the largest and most competitive in the Philadelphia/Montgomery/Bucks county area. Brendan Herley and Mairead DiCesari won the award for Best Comedy; Samantha Shackleton placed second in the Documentary category, with contributions of Julia Hopkins and Valerie Neske; and Samantha also took home the Kids Choice Award.
- Mr. Berrios introduced "King or Queen of the Classroom" award winners Ms. Caroline Gimbel and Ms. Kathleen Rafter. The King or Queen of the Classroom awards, sponsored by Stroehmann Bakeries and the Philadelphia 76ers, honor educators who have demonstrated their commitment to education and have been instrumental to the education of students. Ms. Gimbel and Ms. Rafter, special education teachers at Abington Senior High School, were nominated by one of their A.C.T.I.V.E. Academy students, Reed Simmons, and his family.

## Orientations

Mr. Alfred Howard, Director of Facilities, and Mr. Damian Spahr, of SitelogIQ, provided an update on the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project.

## Personnel

- The Board approved the retirements of:
  - Mr. Robert Hartung, a science teacher at Abington Senior High School, who has served the district for 13 years
  - Mr. John Hoffman, a special education teacher at Abington Senior High School, who has served the district for 29 years
  - Ms. Beth Palocsko, a special education teacher at Abington Junior High School, who has served the district for 35 years
  - Mr. Fabio Tulli, an art teacher at Abington Junior High School, who has served the district for 23 years
  - Mr. George Goldston, a custodian at Abington Junior High School, who has served the district for 14 years

## Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

The Board approved permits for use of District buildings and grounds, including for Copper Beech Elementary and McKinley Elementary schools to use Schwarzman Stadium for their Grade 6 Promotion Ceremonies to be held in June. All permits are contingent upon the provisions of the Health and Safety Plan pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Advertisement for Bids

- The Board authorized advertisement for bids for:
  - A digital assessment and data management system to streamline core student assessment and academic data management and analytics processes
  - Instructional furniture and equipment for the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project, including accommodations for the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology, the new cafeteria and the new auxiliary gymnasium, as well as renovated classrooms
  - Online adaptive, personalized assessment and instruction programs for students at the elementary level (targeting learning needs in multiple content areas) and the secondary level, grades 6-10 (targeting learning needs particularly in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics)
  - Two replacement new, or previously owned, 72-passenger student transportation buses

## Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded contracts to:
  - Unlimited Technology, Inc., for closed-circuit security cameras and related components for Abington Senior High School
  - Access Security Corporation for closed-circuit security cameras and related components for Schwarzman Stadium
  - ARMM Architecture Associates, Inc. for Roof Installation Monitoring Services at Abington Senior High School
- In addition, the Board awarded a retroactive contract to Mobile Technology Graphics for a large-screen LED rental for the Abington Senior High School 2021 Commencement in Schwarzman Stadium

## Miscellaneous

- Further, the Board approved:
  - The authorization for the Board President and Chief School Administrator to execute an agreement between the Abington School District and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit No. 23, where the Intermediate Unit will provide the school district with special education services for the 2021-2022 school year
  - The authorization for the Superintendent to enter into the Use of Funds agreements with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit No. 23 for IDEA Funds for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and adopt the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's policies, procedures and use of funds
  - The adoption of instructional materials for the 2020-2021 school year, which includes IXL, a standards-based, K-12 learning platform for math and literacy that combines curriculum, continuous diagnostics, individual guidance, and real-time analytics to support teachers in differentiating their instruction, and meeting students' individual needs
  - The authorization for the Superintendent to request the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to approve Act 80 exception days for the 2021-2022 school year
  - The authorization for the Administration to enter into a Right of Way agreement with PECO Energy Company

## Next Board Meeting

May 11, 2021, 7:30 p.m., <https://www.YouTube.com/AbingtonSchoolDistrict/live>

### **REMINDER:**

**Schools are closed on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for primary elections  
Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> will be a *synchronous* instructional day**

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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.*