

ASD Board Brief

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

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October 12, 2021

Approval Highlights:

Minutes of the September Board Meetings – Personnel – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds –
Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts –
Superintendent's Elementary Sub-Committee Regarding Reconfigured Grade Spans

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

Announcements

- Dr. Jeffrey Fecher and Ms. Judy Bomze, Director of Student Services, provided a COVID-19 update, which included health metrics to watch in Abington School District. Ms. Bomze announced that the scheduled COVID-19 vaccination clinic dates for ages 5-11 have been postponed due to awaiting authorization from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). A communication will be sent to families via Skyward when a new date is announced. A vaccine Q&A forum will also be held ahead of the clinic.
- Dr. Fecher provided advance notice to the public that at the next meeting of the Board of School Directors on October 26, 2021, a resolution will be on the agenda for the Board to vote on renaming Abington Junior High School to Abington Middle School, effective July 1, 2022, as a result of the Grade Span Reconfiguration and the school becoming a building for grades 6-8. Information will be presented at that meeting explaining the differences between a middle school and junior high concept, and the reasons for the name adjustment.
- Dr. Fecher introduced Ms. Allie Artur, Communications Coordinator, who shared recent coverage of Abington School District in the news, including from last week's International Walk to School Day event at Roslyn Elementary School and the Abington Senior High School Select Choir Coffee House fundraiser.
- Board President Mrs. Shameeka Browne shared with the public new additions to the [Communications Resources](#) page of the Abington School District website, which outlines for parents/guardians and community members the best avenues to pursue to have questions or concerns resolved at different touchpoints throughout the District, depending on the nature of the individual inquiry.

Orientations

- Mr. Michael Witkowski, Professional Engineer, Vice President and Director of Mechanical Engineering for McHugh Engineering Associates, Inc (MEA), a multi-discipline consultant engineering firm specializing in Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical system design, provided an update regarding the HVAC system at Abington Junior High School. Through the review of the school's systems, coupled with the reports provided by H.T. Lyons Engineers as part of their balancing and commissioning services, MEA determined that the HVAC equipment at Abington Junior High School already exceeds what would be incorporated into a modern-day building in regard to the exchange of outdoor air. As a result, it was not recommended to pursue any immediate replacements of the system, but to include this information in the District's Facilities Condition Assessment for long-term planning, which is already underway across all buildings.
- Dr. Stephanie Viola, Assistant Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Robert Rosenthal, Supervisor of Student Services, provided an update on the work of the Superintendent's Elementary Sub-Committee Regarding Reconfigured Grade Spans, including the committee's recommendations, which were approved by the Board. Beginning in September 2022—in conjunction with the completion of the Additions and Renovations Project at Abington Senior High School—the expanded high school building will become a school for grades 9-12. As a result of the ninth grade moving up to the Senior High, Abington Junior High School will become a middle school for grades 6-8, while all seven Abington School District elementary schools will serve grades K-5 beginning in September 2022. [A website has been created to serve as a resource to families during the ASD Grade Span Reconfiguration.](#)

Personnel

The Board approved the retirements of Ms. Barbara Ames, an aide at Copper Beech Elementary School, who has served the District for 16 years, and Ms. Nora Gardner, an Administrative Assistant in the Student Services Department, who has served the District for 17 years.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

- The Board approved permits for the use of District buildings and grounds, which are contingent upon the provisions of the Health and Safety Plan pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. The permits include:
 - Abington Senior High School's annual Trunk or Treat event, to be held on October 29th in the faculty parking lot

- Abington Senior High School's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month fundraiser football game, to be held at Schwarzman Stadium on October 29th following the Trunk or Treat event
- Abington Senior High School's musical production of "Almost, Maine" with performances to be held on November 18th, 19th and 20th

Advertisement for Bids

The Board authorized advertisement for bids for three additional new, or previously owned, 72-passenger student transportation buses.

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded contracts to:
 - M.A. Brightbill Body Works, Inc., for one, 30-passenger student transportation bus
 - CDW Government, LLC, for 135 Lenovo 11e laptops for the District's paraprofessionals to support students
- Further, the Board approved a change order to the contract between the District and H.T. Lyons Engineers for balancing and commissioning work and related HVAC system repairs at Abington Junior High School and the seven elementary schools.

Conference Attendance and Professional Leaves

Dr. Fecher shared the conference attendance and professional leaves for the Board's information, and highlighted that Ms. Nicole Caracciolo, Art Teacher at Abington Senior High School, will present at the Pennsylvania Art Education Association Conference held at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia from October 21st to October 24th.

Next Board Meeting

October 26, 2021, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

Beginning September 2022: Abington School District Grade Span Reconfiguration!

[Visit our website for more information](#)

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www.abington.k12.pa.us

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.