



Wednesday Morning

Highlights of Tuesday Evening's Abington School Board Meeting
Vol. XXX No. 18
May 9, 2018



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**WEDNESDAY MORNING AND MATERIALS PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
ARE AVAILABLE VIA BOARDDOCS ON OUR WEBSITE FOR EACH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT LAST NIGHT'S SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

The School Directors approved: Minutes of the April Board Meetings ... Personnel Appointments and Changes ... The District's Financial Report and Payment of Bills ... Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds ... Advertisement for Bids ... The Proposed Final Budget for 2018-2019 ... The Submittal of "PlanCon Part D Project Accounting Based on Estimates" and "PlanCon Part E Design Development" to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations ... The Use of Facilities at Copper Beech Elementary School for the YMCA 2018 Summer Camp Program

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL ... With this school year's snow days of January 4, March 7, March 21 and March 22, Dr. Amy Sichel announced that there will be no changes to the school calendar for students, while the professional staff will have three days of inservice. The last day of student attendance will remain on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

ANNOUNCED HONORS ... Dr. Sichel recognized the Abington Senior High School Chess Team for their strong performance at the National High School Chess Championship held in Ohio.

- In the u1200 division, junior Brecon Hession scored six wins and a draw to claim the first-place individual championship over a field of 462 competitors in the largest division of this tournament. Brecon's first place finish as an individual is the third time an Abington player has achieved this prestigious ranking in the last decade.
- The Abington team consisting of Brecon, Amin Mojarad, Timothy Hetzel, Yonatan Wiese-Namir, and Zacharia Hammad placed 4th overall of the 78 teams competing in the u1200.
- The u1600 team placed fifth in their division with strong performances from Christopher Ginion, Carter Stephens, and Micah Cheng. Chris placed 27th, Carter 29th, and Micah 31st individually in their field.
- David Whang, Sofiya Lysenko, Cordell Cheng, and Ethan Weilheimer also competed for Abington.

In addition, Dr. Sichel congratulated junior Olivia Schrecengost, who won second place in the 13th Congressional District art competition, and was honored at an awards ceremony hosted by Congressman Brendan Boyle.

Dr. Sichel also recognized the Abington Senior High School students who participated in the 2018 Greenfield Youth Film Festival at Upper Dublin High School. This festival is the largest and most competitive in the Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Bucks county areas, with over 20 schools submitting almost 300 films that are judged by industry professionals. Abington students did extremely well at this prestigious competition, taking home four major awards and many nominations.

- Peirce Robinson and Stephen Maransky, both seniors, won the Best Comedy award for their film "Lavastory." Stephen also took 3rd Place in the Narrative category for his film, "Love at First Heist."
- Matthew Lee, a senior, was one of only three filmmakers to be presented with a Distinguished Achievement Award for outstanding work in Acting, Screenwriting, Direction and Editing over his three-year involvement with the festival. Matthew was also the lead producer for the second-place Group Project.
- Neil Byrnes, a junior, was the lead producer for the first-place Group Project, which was chosen by the audience.
- Many students also received certificates for being finalists in certain categories and/or for being nominated for specific awards, including Stephen Maransky, Matthew Lee, Peirce Robinson, Mykael Lindsey, Sarah Kruger, Anthony Oliphant and Justin Gamble.
- Lastly, the following students assisted in the production of the award-winning films: Evan Sutch, Andrew Alcedo, Caeden Cloud, Shane Gaber, Eric Miller, Andrew O'Neill, Dylan Caliguiri, Ethan Manton, Calvin Wamser, and Grace Spurrier.

BOARD HONORS ... Mr. Angelo Berrios recognized Abington Senior High School senior, Charles Mandel, who was named the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology April Student of the Month, where he is enrolled in the construction technology program. The Student of the Month Award is sponsored by EASTERN's faculty, Joint Committee and the Willow Grove Rotary Club to highlight student excellence, success and service.

Mr. Berrios also recognized the achievements of Abington Senior High School junior, Eric Dixon, who was named the 2017-2018 Pennsylvania Sports Writers All-State Boys Basketball Class 6A Player of the Year. In a video announcement earlier this spring, which Mr. Berrios shared at the Meeting, Dixon unveiled he would be attending Villanova University upon graduating in June 2019.

BOARD ORIENTATION ... 2018-2019 Proposed Final Budget Update ... Mr. Christopher Lionetti presented options for the 2018-2019 Proposed Final Budget Update in the amount of \$162,140,016. The Board recommended a zero percent millage increase, which maintains the current tax rate. The Proposed Final Budget is available now for 30-day public inspection and review before final adoption, scheduled for June 12, 2018. The presentation is available on BoardDocs, as well as on the Business Office page under the Administration tab on the ASD website.

PlanCon Part D Project Accounting Based on Estimates and PlanCon Part E Design Development ... Dr. Jeffrey Fecher and Mr. Thomas Schneider, Director of Facilities, presented the components of the District's PlanCon submittals to The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project.

PlanCon Part D describes the estimated project costs, the potential reimbursement from PDE for the newly constructed spaces, and the School District's revenue sources to fund the project. Integral to PlanCon Part D is the Act 34 Booklet that the Board approved at the February 27, 2018, Board Meeting, and subsequently publically presented at the March 22, 2018, Act 34 Hearing. Included with the submittal of PlanCon Part D are the Act 34 Booklet and Act 34 Hearing transcript. PlanCon Part D includes the maximum project cost of \$102,172,168 and a maximum building construction cost (new additions only) of \$47,408,420. The maximum building construction cost establishes the cost that may be eligible to receive state reimbursement. PlanCon Part E identifies the design development elements for the project. This presentation can be viewed with the BoardDocs materials from last night's meeting.

2018-2019 Proposed Textbook Adoptions ... Dr. Ann Bacon, Director of Curriculum, provided an overview of the textbooks and instructional materials the District will propose for adoption for the 2018-2019 school year, including:

- *Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity, Facing History and Ourselves* (for use in the new Holocaust, Genocide Studies and Crimes Against Humanity course, which will be offered as a dual enrollment course with Stockton University)
- *The Tipping Point* (for use in the new AP Capstone Seminar course)
- *Healthy Relationships and Autism: A Guide into Adult* (for use in autistic-support classes for grades 3 through 12 as a new health program)
- Renewals of annual subscriptions to periodicals used in various K-12 subject areas

This presentation is also available on BoardDocs, and the resolution regarding this adoption will be placed on the May 22, 2018, Board Meeting agenda.

BOARD AUTHORIZES ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ... The Board authorized advertisement for bids for the replacement of five, 72-passenger school buses; three, 30-passenger school buses; one, 48-passenger wheelchair-lift-equipped school bus; two, nine-passenger school vans; and one bus engine.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE ... Last night, the Board approved the retirements of Mrs. Rosemary Hartman, an Administrative Assistant at Abington Junior High School, who has served the District for 22 years; and Mr. Martin O'Donnell, a Multi-trade Mechanic, who has worked for ASD for 12 years.

In addition, it was with a heavy heart that the Board approved the retirement of Dr. Bacon, who, with nearly six decades of education experience, spent an unprecedented 54 years serving the Abington School District, starting here in 1964 and working her way up to become Director of Curriculum. Dr. Sichel commented on the many years she spent working alongside Dr. Bacon, whom she praised for being an innovator, trusted expert and dedicated educator.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... (meetings at the Administration Building, unless otherwise noted)

Next Board Meeting:

May 22, 2018

7:30 p.m.

The Abington School District website has been updated to create two new resource pages regarding the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project and the Foundation for Abington School District. These two pages can be found under the "Resources" menu on the top navigation bar of the ASD website.

Relevant materials that previously existed on the "Abington Senior High School Project and Resources" site have been moved to the two new pages.

In honor of **Teacher Appreciation Week,
the Abington School District Board of School Directors and
Administration thank all of our wonderful, dedicated and hard-
working teachers and educators.
You help make our mission of “Excellence is our standard,
achievement is the result” possible for all our students.**

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ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

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WEDNESDAY MORNING is distributed to the community and staff of Abington School District to highlight actions taken at School Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the minutes of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings; for information, call 215-884-4700. Compiled by Allie Artur.