

ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXI, No. 2



August 14, 2018

facebook.com/AbingtonSD • www.abington.k12.pa.us • twitter.com/AbingtonSchools

Approval Highlights:

Minutes of the June Board Meetings – Personnel Appointments, Changes and Retirements – Financial Report and Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Awards of Contracts – Title I, IIA, and IV Services to Non-Public Schools – Lease Agreement with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Head Start Program – District-Wide Assessment Program – Project ACCESS – Applied Behavior Analysis and Cortical Visual Impairment Services for Abington School District's Special Education Program

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

Announcements

- Class Additions: Dr. Amy Sichel announced that the District is in the process of calling select elementary school parents/guardians to determine the number of returning students as it relates to class enrollment. As a result of the calls, it has been decided that sections would be added to Copper Beech, grade 5; Highland, grade 2; Rydal, grade 6; and at the Senior High, Junior High, Copper Beech and Roslyn through the addition of special education classes – all of which have already been staffed for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Bus Transportation: Dr. Sichel also announced that bus transportation routes for the 2018-2019 school year will be posted on Skyward Family Access during the week of August 27, 2018.

Board Orientations

- Property Taxes in the Greater Delaware Valley: The Philadelphia Inquirer – July 11, 2018 – Dr. Jeffrey Fecher and Mr. Christopher Lionetti provided a historical analysis of property tax increases in Abington Township and the Borough of Rockledge over the past decade, citing figures from a July 11, 2018, *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, as well as data submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education showing a 10 percent increase in ASD enrollment during that same timeframe. Of the 60 districts in the Delaware Valley listed within the *Inquirer* article, Abington is ranked No. 10 among the districts with the smallest increase in taxes over a 10-year period (the second lowest in Montgomery County).
- Additions and Renovations to Abington Senior High School: Sustainable Features – Mr. Thomas Schneider provided an overview of the sustainable features in the plans for the additions and renovations to Abington Senior High School, utilizing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED v4) sustainable features to identify those components that are part of the design documents for the project.

Personnel

- The Board authorized the appointments of:
 - Dr. Steven Portman to Elementary Curriculum Specialist and teacher of Gifted Education at Copper Beech Elementary School
 - Ms. Samantha Stutz to Acting Elementary Curriculum Specialist at Roslyn Elementary School
- The Board authorized the retirements of:
 - Ms. Bonnie Blasy, a fifth-grade teacher at Roslyn Elementary School, who has served the District for 21 years
 - Ms. Barbara Gogoj, a paraprofessional at Abington Junior High School, who has worked for the District for 24 years
 - Ms. Virginia Hamilton, an Itinerant Health Assistant, who has been with the District for five years
 - Mr. Paul Robinson, a bus driver, who has served the District for 18 years
 - Mr. Gilbert Zimmerman, a painter in the Facilities Department, who has served the District for 15 years
- In addition, it was with a heavy heart that the Board approved the retirement of Dr. Amy Sichel, who announced her retirement last month after serving the District for 42 years, 18 of which were in the role of Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Sichel's retirement will be effective November 9, 2018.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds:

The Board approved permit applications, including for:

- The Montgomery County Health Department Flu Clinic on October 13, 2018, in the Abington Junior High School gymnasium
- The Abington Senior High School performance of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, to be held November 15-17, 2018, in the auditorium

- The Abington Senior High School College & Career Night, scheduled for March 4, 2019, in the gymnasium
- The Abington Educational Foundation's annual Harlem Wizards Basketball game, to be held on March 30, 2019, in the Abington Senior High School gymnasium

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded six contracts last night:
 - Bristol Environmental, Inc. for asbestos abatement at Abington Junior High School
 - Siemens Industry, Inc. for a three-year, automatic temperature controls service contract for Abington Junior High School, Abington Senior High School, Copper Beech Elementary School and Rydal East Elementary School
 - CDW Government, Inc. for backup software
 - Clark Food Service Equipment for a reach-in refrigerator at McKinley Elementary School
 - Wolfington Body Company, Inc. for a replacement bus engine
 - Kurzweil, Inc. for special education software, Kurzweil 3000 Firefly
- The Board also approved two contract change orders: one being a reduction in the contract value with United States Roofing Corp. for the roof replacement project at Abington Senior High School, and the other being an increase in the contract value with B & F Petroleum Installations, Inc. for the underground storage tank sump pump repairs and related work at the bus garage.
- Lastly, the Board approved one Montgomery County School Entities Joint Purchasing award for No. 2 fuel oil, unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2018-2019 school year.

Miscellaneous Items

- The Board of School Directors also approved and/or authorized the Administration's:
 - Execution of an agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) for the 2018-2019 school year to provide the mandated Title I, IIA and IV services to eligible students, as well as professional development for staff in qualifying non-public schools in Montgomery County
 - Entrance into an agreement for the operation of a Head Start pre-school program with the MCIU for the 2018-2019 school year, which includes costs for use of the Administration Building facilities
 - 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 during the school year
 - Entrance into an agreement with the Public Consulting Group and SivicSolution Group for the processing of school-based ACCESS Program claims for the reimbursement of direct and transportation services for eligible students who participate in the District's special education program during the 2018-2019 school year
 - Contract with Quinn Developmental Services for the provision of Applied Behavior Analysis services for the District's 2018-2019 special education program
 - Contract with Mrs. MaryAnne Roberto/Envision CVI Consulting for services for students with visual impairments for the 2018-2019 school year

Next Board Meeting

- September 4, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

#ASDBackToSchool

It's almost the First Day of School! We look forward to seeing all our ASD students on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

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.