

ASD Board Brief

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

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Approval Highlights:

Election of Superintendent of Schools – Personnel Appointments and Changes – Financial Report and Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts

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

Election of Superintendent of Schools for the Abington School District

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Jeffrey S. Fecher as the next Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Fecher, who has served Abington School District for 12 years, will succeed Dr. Amy Sichel, who announced her retirement in early July following a 42-year career in the District, 18 of which she served as Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Sichel's retirement will be effective as of Friday, Nov. 9, 2018, at which point Dr. Fecher will begin his commission. Prior to voting on Tuesday, the Board of School Directors also reviewed Dr. Fecher's contract, which is effective through June 30, 2023.

Announcements

Dr. Sichel introduced Abington School District's Coordinator of Safety, Student Attendance and School Police Officer, Mr. Steven Hochwind, who was sworn in last week so that he may serve as an official school police officer for the District.

Honors

- Dr. Sichel shared that Mr. Joseph Tagliaferro, Coordinator of Student Support Services at Abington Senior High School, was quoted in an article from the September issue of *MetroKids*, a magazine for parents living in the greater Delaware Valley. In the article, which focuses on what parents need to know regarding the college early admission process, Mr. Tagliaferro provides insight on how to determine whether early decision is a good option for a student.
- The start of school across Abington School District was covered by several of our area's broadcast media outlets:
 - Dr. Stephanie Viola introduced a video of FOX 29's Bob Kelly live at Copper Beech Elementary School on the first day of school for a "Kelly's Classroom" segment, which aired during Good Day Philadelphia.
 - Mr. Daniel File introduced a video of the first day of school at Abington Junior High School, which aired on FOX 29 News.
 - Mr. Angelo Berrios introduced a video of the first day of school at Abington Senior High School, which aired as a "Breakfast with Bob" segment of FOX 29's Good Day Weekend program.
 - Dr. James Eten introduced a video clip of the first day of school at Highland Elementary School, which aired on 6abc Action News.
 - Ms. Marie Kim introduced an NBC10 video of "Challenger" the Bald Eagle visiting McKinley Elementary School as a result of the students' fundraising efforts for the American Eagle Foundation last winter.

Personnel

The Board approved the retirement of Ms. Ruby Stallings, an Administrative Assistant in the Business Office, who tendered her retirement effective November 9, 2018, having served the District for 42.6 years.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

The Board approved permit applications, including for the Abington Junior High School performance of *Grease*, to be held November 7-9, 2019, in the Little Theatre.

Advertisement for Bids

- The Board authorized advertisement for bids, including for:
 - A heavy-duty runway lift at the bus garage, which is needed in addition to the current shop lift configuration in order to service the newer style vans and small buses
 - Up to seven replacement remanufactured bus engines
 - One previously owned 30-passenger student transportation school bus

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded a contract to Bristol Environmental, Inc., for boiler repairs at Abington Senior High School.
- The Board also approved three contract change orders:

- An increase in the contract value with Access Security Corp. for the installation of closed-circuit security cameras at the elementary schools and the Administration Building
- An increase in the contract value with Environmental Control Systems, Inc. for the environmental survey of Abington Senior High School
- An increase in the contract value with 3B Services, Inc. for the temporary boiler at Abington Junior High School

Miscellaneous Items

- The Board of School Directors cast its vote and registered its selections for Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) officers.
- Dr. Sichel provided an update on a letter she received on Aug. 31, 2018, from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding the District's compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is an annual review. PDE has determined that the District "meets requirements" of Part B of the IDEA, with the letter adding: "PDE commends your LEA for the hard work being done to deliver high quality programs to students with disabilities."

Next Board Meeting

- October 9, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

SAVE THE DATE:
Abington Senior High School's Annual
Breast Cancer Awareness Month Football Game
Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 – Schwarzman Stadium

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.