

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 Assistant Superintendent – Minutes of the September Board Meetings – Personnel Appointments and Changes – Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Advertisement for Bids – Awards of Contracts – PlanCon Part G: Project Accounting Based on Bids – Professional Architectural and Engineering Services Contract Addendum

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

Election of Assistant Superintendent for the Abington School District

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. James A. Melchor as Assistant Superintendent for the Abington School District, effective Nov. 10, 2018. Dr. Melchor will assume the position as Dr. Jeffrey S. Fecher moves into the role of Superintendent of Schools following the retirement of Dr. Amy F. Sichel, who served as Superintendent for 18 years of her 42-year career in the District.

Announcements

Dr. Fecher announced that the Montgomery County Office of Public Health will host its annual influenza immunization clinic for residents of Montgomery County on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Abington Junior High School gymnasium.

Honors

- Dr. Fecher congratulated Dr. James Eten and Highland Elementary School for being named a Title I Distinguished School for the 2018-2019 school year by the Division of Federal Programs of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher shared that Abington School District has been selected as a recipient of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Safe Schools Targeted Equipment Grant in the amount of \$17,698. The grant will enhance Abington School District's emergency communications and will allow for additional staff training. He credited Ms. Judy Bomze, Director of Pupil Services, for securing the grant for the District.
- Dr. Charles Lentz, Assistant Director of Curriculum, recognized the students who have created artwork and dedicated their pieces to the Administration Building as part of the 21st Annual Abington School District Art Exhibit. Dr. Lentz, along with ASD art teachers, presented the students with certificates in recognition of their accomplishments.
- Dr. Stephanie Viola introduced a video from *6abc Action News* covering Copper Beech Elementary School's "Start With Hello" week, an initiative funded by the Sandy Hook Promise to encourage connections and advocate for more inclusive practices for our children.

Orientations

- Dr. Fecher presented the Abington School District Comprehensive Plan for July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, which is on public display for the next 28 days, prior to the Board voting on a resolution to approve the plan at its meeting on Nov. 13, 2018. The plan is available via the right-hand column of the ASD homepage, under the "Information" section.
- Mr. Thomas Schneider presented an overview of a project delivery option for Abington Junior High School's renovation project. In the orientation, Mr. Schneider provided information and outlined the benefits to a project delivery option based on the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA), delivered by an energy services company, similar to the energy project that was performed districtwide in 2010.

Personnel

The Board approved the appointment of Ms. Kirsten Crooks, a long-term substitute world language teacher at Abington Senior High School, who will teach Latin.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

The Board approved permit applications, including for the Abington School District 2019 Arts Fest to be held March 15 through March 22, 2019, in the Administration Building's gymnasium.

Advertisement for Bids

The Board authorized requests for proposals for certain renovations to Abington Junior High School, in accordance with Act 77 and to be considered for a GESA contract, which will include replacing two 1964 boilers and two chillers; installing the associated electrical hardware and wiring; modifying existing air handlers; and fireproofing the concrete deck above the ceiling of the Commons area.

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded three contracts, including to:
 - EMR Power Systems, LLC, for emergency generator repairs at the Administration Building
 - Anthem Sports, LLC, for multi-sport ball stop nets for the lacrosse and soccer fields at Abington Junior High School
 - Five vendors for photography supplies for the 2018-2019 school year

Miscellaneous Items

- Dr. Fecher noted that in November, Ms. Danni McGinty, Speech Language Pathologist at McKinley and Roslyn elementary schools, will present on the prevention of concussions in adolescent athletes at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Conference in Boston.
- The Board approved the submission of PlanCon Part G: Project Accounting Based on Bids to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the additions and renovations to Abington Senior High School.
- The Board authorized the Administration to enter into a contract addendum to the existing contract for professional architectural and engineering services with Gilbert Architects, Inc., for security upgrades to Rydal East, Rydal West, and McKinley elementary schools, which includes improvements to the building entrances.

Next Board Meeting

- October 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

SAVE THE DATE: Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Roslyn Elementary School

OPERATION SAFE STOP: Wednesday, Oct. 24

ASD will participate in PennDOT's annual program in conjunction with the Abington Township Police Department to educate the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus, when children are loading or unloading, is both dangerous and illegal.

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.