

ASD Board Brief

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

Vol. XXXI, No. 6



November 13, 2018

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

Approval Highlights:

Minutes of the October Board Meetings – Personnel Appointments and Changes – Payment of Bills – Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds – Awards of Contracts – Comprehensive Plan – PlanCon Part H: Project Financing – The First Reading of Two Board Policies – Budget Transfers for the 2017-2018 School Year – Agreements with Abington Township for the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project

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

Oaths of Office

Last night, Dr. Jeffrey S. Fecher was sworn in as Superintendent of Schools for the Abington School District, and Dr. James A. Melchor was sworn in as Assistant Superintendent, by the Honorable Gail A. Weilheimer.

Announcements

- School Director Mr. Brian Allen congratulated the players of the 2018 Abington Raiders Mitey Mite football team, who recently won 16-0 in the Pop Warner Eastern Regional Championships and are now headed to Orlando, FL, to represent the Eastern Region of the U.S. at the National Pop Warner Mitey Mite Bowl on Dec. 1, 2018. The community-based team includes children from across Abington Township and the Borough of Rockledge, many of whom are students in Abington elementary schools. Dr. Fecher also wished the team best of luck.
- In honor of Veterans Day, Dr. Fecher thanked those who have served our country in the military, including the veterans among the District's staff.

Honors

- Dr. Fecher congratulated Ms. Judy Bomze, Dr. Kelly Doyle, and Ms. Regina Rausch, who helped secure McKinley Elementary School's participation in a new pilot program called "Beyond the Dyslexia Pilot: Advancing and Applying Evidence-based Literacy Practices at the Core," which focuses on phonics and phonemic awareness instruction.
- In addition, Dr. Fecher congratulated McKinley Elementary School for receiving a Blue Ribbon in the 2018 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gardening and Greening Contest. The McKinley garden was selected from over 300 entries.
- Dr. Melchor shared an NBC10 video clip, a KYW Newsradio audio clip, as well as photos of the Nov. 2, 2018, groundbreaking event for the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations and Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology.
- Dr. Kevin Osborne presented a video from 6abc Action News covering a pie-eating contest at Roslyn Elementary School to kick off the annual PTO pie sale.

Orientations

Dr. Fecher presented a final review of the Comprehensive Plan for 2019-2022, which the Board approved for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Personnel

- Due to the promotion of Dr. Melchor from Assistant Director of Curriculum to Assistant Superintendent, the resignation of Dr. Charles Lentz as Assistant Director of Curriculum, and the retirement of Dr. Ann Bacon, the former Director of Curriculum, Dr. Fecher made several recommendations to the Board for the fulfillment of the vacancies in ASD's Curriculum Department, which will be renamed the Department of Teaching and Learning to better reflect the scope of the department's responsibilities.

The Board approved the appointments of Dr. Toni Butz as Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Kelly Murray as Assistant Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Stephanie Viola as Assistant Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning. Dr. Butz most recently served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction in the North Penn School District, where she was also the interim Principal of Northbridge School. Prior to that she was Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction for the district. Dr. Murray previously served as Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning (K-12) and an Elementary Assistant Principal in the Radnor Township School District. Dr. Viola is currently Principal of Copper Beech Elementary School, a role she has held since 2013. She was previously the principal of Rydal Elementary School.

Dr. Viola will continue to serve as principal of Copper Beech Elementary School until a new principal is appointed and a transition plan is implemented.

- The Board also approved the retirement of Ms. Eleanore Luczkowski, Administrative Assistant at Abington Junior High School, who has served the District for 15 years.

Permits for Use of Buildings and Grounds

The Board approved permit applications, including for:

- The Abington Educational Foundation to hold its Kindness Campaign Obstacle Course Finale Event on Dec. 1, 2018, on the Abington Senior High School fields
- Abington Township to host its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration on Jan. 21, 2019, in the Abington Senior High School auditorium

Awards of Contracts

- The Board awarded three contracts, including to:
 - M.A. Brightbill Body Works for one, 30-passenger student transportation school bus
 - Del-Val International Trucks, Inc., for replacement bus engines
 - SHI International Corp., for virtualization software support
- One contract change order was also approved by the Board for an increase in the amount of the contract with J. Lorber Company for the domestic water backflow preventer at Abington Senior High School, due to import tariffs.

Miscellaneous Items

- Further, the Board approved the following:
 - Submission of PlanCon Part H: Project Financing to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Additions and Renovations to Abington Senior High School
 - The first reading of the Board Policies entitled, "Reporting of Waste and Wrongdoing in District Operations (Whistleblower)" and "Outside Employment and Outside Business Interests," which fall under the Human Resources section
 - The Development Agreement and Stormwater Controls and Best Management Practices Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Abington Township, which pertain to the Additions and Renovations to Abington Senior High School

Next Board Meeting

- November 27, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Board Room of the Administration Building

AEF Kindness Campaign

Sign your student(s) up to participate, or donate to a participating student, at

<https://anython.com/AEFKindnessCampaign>

The pledge-a-thon ends Dec. 1, 2018, with an Obstacle Course Finale Event!

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.