

West Chester Area School District Board Meeting Highlights
Meeting Held Monday, April 26, 2021
Summary of Action Taken:

The West Chester Area School Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021 virtually. Board president Chris McCune called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was then recited (led by Norah Laasri and Suryan Chakavorty of Penn Wood Elementary School).

The school board heard reports from High School Board Representatives: Alice Tran, East High School; Colleen Kinkead, Henderson High School; and Davis Patel, Rustin High School.

In addition to its regularly scheduled business, the board approved the following actions:

- 1. Approval of 2021-22 CCIU Core Budget** - The board approved the 2021-22 CCIU Core Service Budget in the amount of \$31,006,260.
- 2. Approval of 2021-22 CCIU Occupational Education Budget** – The board approved the 2021-22 CCIU Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$29,460,271.
- 3. Approval of the Parameters Resolution in the Amount of \$40 million to fund the elementary school’s renovation projects** -The board approved a resolution to allow the administration and bond counsel to watch the bond market and to seek the best bond rates to approve borrowing funds to complete the renovations of Glen Acres and future school renovations. Once bonds have been sold, they will be brought to the board for approval.
- 4. Approval of Critical Capital Projects 2021-22** – The board approved the following Capital projects for 2021-22:
 - a. Rustin High School – replace floor covering in the library - \$39,600.
 - b. Rustin High School – install new gymnasium divider - \$23,230.
 - c. Peirce Middle School – Replace floor in music rooms and computer labs - \$34,690.
 - d. Stetson Middle School – Replace floor in music rooms and computer labs - \$38,745.
 - e. Starkweather Elementary School – Replace emergency generator - \$91,960.
 - f. East High School – Replace stadium lighting - \$309,256.
- 5. Approval of Resolution to Adopt Proposed Final Budget for 2021-22** - The Board approved a proposed final budget for 2021-22 in the amount of \$279.6 million. This is not the final budget. The administration and Board will continue to work to reduce expenses prior to the final budget adoption on May 26. School code requires the board to pass a preliminary final budget 30 days before adopting a budget. This proposed budget includes a 2.8% tax increase for Chester County residents (\$115), and a 1.4% increase for Delaware County residents (\$67). Key increases include:
 - a. \$2.3 million increase in state-mandated pension expenses, a 6.5 percent increase over the current year’s budget.
 - b. \$724,000 increase in tuitions and services for special education students, a 4.7 percent increase over the current year.

- c. \$656,000 increase in transportation expenses for both public and non-public students, 3.9 percent increase over the current year.
- d. \$3.1 million staffing increase for the opening of the Greystone Elementary School.

6. In addition to its regularly scheduled personnel report action items, the board approved the following retirements:

- Susan Allen – Mary C. Howse, effective 10/16/20 (4 years of service)
- Mark Belczyk – East Goshen/Hillsdale – effective last day of 20-21 year (35 years of service)
- Margaret Blaker – Westtown-Thornbury – effective last day of 20-21 – (22 years of service)
- Antonella Butler – Henderson/Rustin – effective last day of 20-21 – (20 years of service)
- Erin DeRafelo – East HS - effective last day of 20-21 – (16 years of service)
- Eric Fisher – Henderson HS - effective last day of 20-21 – (35 years of service)
- Denise Kelly – East Goshen ES - effective last day of 20-21 – (24 years of service)
- Luke McNichol – Henderson HS - effective last day of 20-21 – (37 years of service)
- Cheryl Mulqueen – East Bradford ES - effective last day of 20-21 – (17 years of service)
- Sidney Pinnie – Fugett MS - effective last day of 20-21 – (16 years of service)
- Jim Scanlon- Spellman Administration Building - effective August 13 2021 – (12 years of service)
- Llewellyn Small – Fugett MS - effective 7-9- 21 – (22 years of service)
- Marypatricia Tang – Rustin HS - effective last day of 20-21 – (21 years of service)

The Board also approved the following administrative appointments:

- Sean Ryan – Assistant Principal at East HS, effective 5/3/21
- Dr. Robert Sokolowski – Superintendent, effective 8/14/21

7. The Board approved the following policies/administrative guidelines for a second reading, they are now active:

- Revised Policy 103 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- New Policy 218.4 - Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault
- Revised Policy 150 - Title I - Comparability of Services
- Revised Policy 707 – School District Facility Use

For more information about the West Chester Area School District Board meetings, please visit the School Board Webpage.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - 7:00 pm