



Board Notes

A Monthly Summary of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board Meetings

April 2022

Board Members

David P. Brown, President
Jennifer Wilson, Vice President
Theresa E. Brown, Treasurer
Tara Conner-Hallston
Susan E. Hunsinger-Hoff

Maggie A. Kistner
Denise J. Schultz
Erin B. Stroup
Erin K. Whalen
Scott Eveslage, Superintendent



OVERVIEW

The Board met on April 4 and April 19, and heard many presentations including an update on the Pennypack Elementary School property, budget development, and student safety procedures.

View the full Board meeting [here.](#)

PRESENTATIONS ON APRIL 19

Pennypack Elementary School Property Update

Superintendent Dr. Scott Eveslage presented an update on the current offers that have been received for the Pennypack Elementary School property, and although two offers were formally voted on by the Board, neither was approved and the property remains available for sale.

Dr. Eveslage outlined the four offers and counteroffers that HHSD has received for the property:

- Borough of Hatboro - \$400,000 (public park, flood mitigation)
- Sant Properties - \$2,500,000 (redevelopment)
- Swift Holdings, LLC - \$2,250,000 (school reuse and redevelopment)
- Christopher Spinio - \$2,300,000 (school reuse and redevelopment)

Dr. Eveslage further noted, per School Code, that HHSD may only use revenue generated from property sales to pay down debt service or to fund capital expenditures. Revenue from property transactions may not be used to directly balance the budget.

Also, the Borough of Hatboro has authorized its solicitor to draft an ordinance to begin the process of eminent domain for the Pennypack property. Eminent domain is the right of a government to condemn (or "take") property from a property owner through a legal process and with the payment of estimated just compensation.

After discussion on the merits and challenges of each offer, there was a motion to approve the agreement of sale with Swift Properties for \$2,250,000, but it failed (six votes against, three votes for). Most Board members that objected had concerns about the potential for development on the property. Next, there was a motion to approve the agreement of sale with the Borough of Hatboro for \$400,000. That motion also failed (four votes in favor, five opposed; the School Code requires a two-thirds majority to approve a property sale to a government entity). The Board members that objected to this agreement indicated that the offer was below appraised value and that the Borough had not obtained a second appraisal to possibly increase its offer. Because no agreement was approved, the Board authorized the administration to continue negotiations for the property.

PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

2022-2023 Budget Development

Bill Stone, Director of Business Affairs, presented an update on the 2022-2023 budget development process. Since Mr. Stone's budget presentation on February 22, the District's budget deficit has been reduced to approximately \$3.6 million from \$4.5 million. If HHSD increases real estate taxes by the maximum amount permitted by Act 1 (3.4%), the deficit would fall to just over \$1 million. Since February, projected revenues increased to \$116.7 million from \$116.4 million, while projected expenditures decreased to \$120.3 million from \$120.9 million. The Administration will recommend a Proposed Final Budget for approval on May 16 and a Final Budget on June 20.

Crooked Billet: Student Leadership through the Media/TV Studio

Crooked Billet Elementary School Principal Kelli Sendel, 5th grade teachers Tiffany Hood and Meghan Daily, and several 5th grade students presented on leadership opportunities through the school's Media/TV Studio. Students described their various roles — both on and off camera — and necessary skills involved in producing the daily morning announcements including collaboration, communication, and responsibility.

Hatboro-Horsham High School: Student Voice

High School Principal Dennis Williams, High School English teacher Kim English-Murphy, and High School students Mahdia Ahmed and Seth Cooper presented on student voice, a method of engaging students by responding to their input as to what happens within the school and classroom. The Senior Leadership Seminar, a course designed to help top students develop, practice, and enhance leadership skills is one example of student voice. Students Mahdia and Seth discussed Key Club's "Multicultural Carnival" (held on April 30) that shared school spirit with the community and celebrated the school's appreciation for diversity and representation, all while raising money for the Kids in Need Foundation.

Safety and Security Presentation

Rick Kerrigan, Director of Safety & Security, presented on changing student security procedures through the ALICE Model (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) that HHSD will adopt this spring. Mr. Kerrigan discussed the District's ongoing effort to modify its current emergency response to an armed intruder, shifting away from the current "lockdown" protocol. Mr. Kerrigan and a team of administrators developed age-appropriate lesson plans to teach the ALICE method to students. HHSD will notify families of its intent to modify the existing protocol.

ACTIONS

Business Office Actions

The Board approved:

- The 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, which has been revised due to the lack of necessity to close schools for a second winter weather event. The last day for student attendance will be Thursday, June 16, 2022.
- The 2022-2023 MCIU Subcontract Agreement for ACCESS Program.

Personnel Actions

HHSD is pleased to welcome Felicia Harrison as a special education teacher. The District congratulated Colleen McKenna, kindergarten teacher at Blair Mill, on her retirement after 14 years of service to the District; Jo-Ann Evans, 4th grade teacher at Crooked Billet, after 22 years of service to the District; and Patricia Durics, 2nd grade teacher at Blair Mill, after 35 years of service to the District.

Reports

Facilities Committee

Jennifer Wilson reported that the Act 34 Hearing for the KVMS replacement project took place on April 4. HHSD received preliminary land development approval from Horsham Township on April 13.

Finance Committee

Theresa E. Brown reported that the Finance Committee met on April 12 and discussed three topics:

- Mr. Stone presented a detailed review of 2022-23 budget documents.
- ESSER III application and proposed initiatives to be funded.
- A potential bond refinancing opportunity.

Policy Committee

DJ Shultz reported that the Policy Committee met on April 6 and reviewed the status of Policy No. 625, *Fund Balance*. The Board approved a Second Reading of that policy on April 19.

Dr. Sue King, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, provided an update on Policy No. 226, *Searches*. The committee will also be reviewing Policy No. 121, *Field Trips*; Policy No. 231, *Special Events and Class Trips*; and Policy No. 816, *Use of Audio and Video Monitoring Equipment*.

Curriculum Committee

Susan E. Hunsinger Hoff reported that the Curriculum Committee heard updates from Dr. Ryan Thomas and Dr. Brea D'Angelo, Supervisors of Curriculum, on the K-12 ELA resource review, in addition to a list of novels approved as supplemental resources for grades 6-12.

Federal Programs

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Monica J. Taylor reported that HHSD is in the midst of assessing its Title I program with non-public school partners. HHSD will host its annual spring Parent Advisory Council Meeting. Additionally, HHSD is planning its Summer Academy which will take place from June 27 through July 29. Dr. Taylor also reported that HHSD's ESSER III grant submission was approved.

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Theresa E. Brown reported about the biggest challenges facing education, according to PSBA, are student mental health, staffing issues, and charter school tuition.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of HHSD, Dr. Eveslage offered his sympathies to the family of Hatboro police officer Ryan Allen who recently passed away. Officer Allen and his canine Louie visited HHSD elementary schools and formed a strong bond with students. Dr. Eveslage noted that both the students and community looked up to Officer Allen who will be dearly missed.

Next Board Meeting

The next Legislative/Action Meeting is Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

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