

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MAY 14, 2020
MINUTES

A joint meeting of the Finance & Facilities Committee & the Student Achievement & Support Committee was held May 14, 2020 via Zoom virtual meeting platform.

The meeting was convened at 5:01 p.m.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton announced the joint meeting of the Finance & Facilities committee and the Student Achievement and Support Committee. **Co-Chair Egea-Hinton** also made announcements concerning recording, copyright laws, participation in, and viewing the meeting.

Board Members present: Leticia Egea-Hinton (Co-Chair), Lee Huang (Co-Chair), Dr. Angela McIver (Co-Chair), Ameen Akbar, Julia Danzy, Mallory Fix Lopez, Dr. Maria McColgan, and Joyce Wilkerson (President)

Committee Members Absent: 0

District Liaisons Present: Uri Monson, Chief Financial Officer, Jim Creedon, Interim Chief Operations Officer, Naomi Wyatt, Chief of Staff, and Christina Grant, Chief of Charter Schools

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton provided a statement on behalf of the Board of Education, urging for funding advocacy and encouraging members of the education community to call on elected officials to preserve state funding at current levels and to ensure that the school district receives its full share of federal funding.

Co-Chair Dr. McIver called the roll and announced that in efforts to comply with current safety guidelines, the meeting was held remotely. **Co-Chair Dr. McIver** also announced that **Co-Chair Egea-Hinton** would facilitate portions of the meeting that are related to the Finance and Facilities Committee and that **Co-Chair Dr. McIver** would facilitate portions of the meeting that are related to the Student Achievement and Support Committee.

Co-Chair Dr. McIver announced that the Board of Education suspended general procedures for the public comment portion of the meetings which was noticed on May 11, 2020.

Co-Chair Dr. McIver acknowledged a written email from Michael Burke, sent to the Board of Education on May 13, 2020 raising an objection to how the meeting is being held and claiming it is in violation of the Sunshine Act. The full objection can be found attached to this document.

Co-Chair Dr. McIver facilitated the adoption of minutes for the April 23, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Student Achievement & Support Committee Meeting. The minutes of the April 23, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Facilities and Student Achievement & Support Committee

Meeting were considered for approval by Committee members. A voice vote approved the minutes of the meeting by a vote of:

Yes:7 and No: 0 and Abstention: 1

Co-Chair Dr. McIver invited **Naomi Wyatt**, Chief of Staff, to provide updates on the School District of Philadelphia's Continuity of Education Plan. **Co-Chair Dr. McIver** announced that the Board of Education has asked for key updates on equity of access to remote learning, plan to support at risk students, update on district curriculum work, update on what lessons will be taken from this time to advance student achievement.

Board members asked clarifying questions to better understand the District's efforts. **Board member** questions centered around the implementation of [Policy 252 - Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students](#) during remote learning, participation by younger students and teachers during remote learning, and ensuring that professional development is provided to teachers who continue to serve as mandated reporters during virtual learning. **Board members** also asked clarifying questions to better understand the role of principals as a support for students and families, data for social media outreach, plans to survey teachers and students on what is working and what is not working. Lastly, **Board members** looked to ensure that teachers are being provided the proper support and resources they need during this time and that arts, physical education, & electives were still available to students. **Ms. Wyatt** reported that students have begun reaching out regarding name change requests based on the established process that is in place, and teachers have been instructed to submit at least two grades a week. Additionally, **Ms. Wyatt** noted that the Office of Family and Community Engagement is working on a set of questions to survey students and families regarding their experience during remote learning.

Lynn Rauch, General Counsel, announced that Michael Burke, had "raised his hand" via the virtual platform, Zoom, to object to the meeting. **Ms. Rauch** also noted that Mr. Burke's objection was acknowledged and addressed at the onset of the meeting, and that he will be permitted to incorporate anything additional in his comments during the speaker portion of the meeting.

Committee members thanked Ms Wyatt and the District for the work that was done to implement [Policy 252](#). **Ms. Wyatt** also thanked District staff member, Rachel Holzman for her support in implementing [Policy 252](#). **Ms. Wyatt** also reported that students in grades K-8 are unable to report their own attendance and that teachers are responsible for inputting this information. **Ms Wyatt** acknowledged **Committee members** concerns regarding mandated reporting during virtual learning and stated that that Dr. Hite will report additional information at the May Board of Education Action Meeting. **Board members** also asked questions regarding student access to school counselors during this time as well. **Ms. Wyatt** noted that students do have access to counselors and BCA's during this time and student interaction with them is considered as participation. Lastly, **Committee members** encouraged the District to diversify communication strategies and be creative in thinking of ways to keep students and families engaged.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton invited **Uri Monson**, Chief Financial Officer to provide the committee with an update on the current proposed budget. **Committee members** asked questions regarding costs for returning to school with social distancing, contract negotiations, liquor by the drink tax, federal funds, and how the District is determining what business is essential during this critical time. **Mr. Monson** reported that discussion regarding school reopening has begun and the District has begun to look at the amount of money it will cost and that federal funds are a one time payment. Additionally, **Mr. Monson** noted that the proposed budget does not include any projections for upcoming labor contracts.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton, invited **Jim Creedon**, Interim Chief of Facilities Management and Capital Projects to provide the committee with an update on environmental and capital projects. **Mr. Creedon** invited **Alicia Prince** to provide an update on the new school on Ryan avenue, school boundaries, and identified swing spaces. **Committee members** asked clarifying questions to better understand the impact of the (Comprehensive School Planning Review) process, potential delays due to COVID-19, and the impact of social distancing requirements on classroom size and design. **Committee members** also requested information regarding demographic shifts as a result of this project. **Ms. Prince** reported that construction and the Comprehensive School Planning Review project are happening separately but the District does plan to meet with the contracted consultants as they begin the preparation for a September 2021 school opening. **Mr. Creedon** also noted that when considering class size, the district will not be making any permanent decisions until better understanding the needs and will pass along Board member's questions to the design team. Lastly, **Mr. Creedon** addressed concerns regarding potential supply chain delays responding that at this time, that does not seem to be of concern.

Ms. Prince also provided information regarding swing spaces and responded to **Committee members'** questions with clarifying information regarding social distancing, asbestos remediation, and charter school AHERA reports as it relates to swing spaces. **Ms. Prince** indicated that current proposed swing spaces have been assessed and AHERA reports have been completed. **Mr. Creedon** also reported that the District is responsible for AHERA reports for charter schools operating in district owned buildings.

Mr. Creedon provided **Committee members** with information on cleaning protocols and capital budget projects. **Committee members** asked questions regarding monitoring compliance of CDC, federal, state, and local social distancing guidelines on site at various District construction projects. Additionally, committee members ask for information regarding the District's medical director, and the Districts planning regarding medical, facilities, financial, and instructional needs post COVID-19. **Committee members** also asked clarifying questions regarding change order processes specifically related to the [Ben Franklin/SLA construction project](#) and the ongoing asbestos remediation project at McClure elementary school. **Committee members** highlighted concerns they heard from staff at McClure Elementary who submitted written testimony urging the District to ensure that teachers were aware of all updates.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton invited committee members to ask clarifying questions regarding Action Items associated with the Finance and Facilities committee. **Mr. Monson** highlighted Action Items [2, 3, and 4](#). **Mr. Creedon** highlighted Action Items [14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20](#). **Ms. Wyatt** highlighted Action Items related to summer programming that would be posted in advance of the Action Meeting. **Co-Chair Dr. McIver** invited committee members to ask clarifying questions regarding Action Items associated with the Student Achievement & Support committee.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton i facilitated the public participation portion of the meeting.

Sade Parham, district staff member, thanked Board members for their commitment to McClure school and expressed concerns and requested an update in writing to ensure the planned asbestos removal.

Virginia McHugh, district staff member, thanked Board members for their commitment to McClure school and expressed concerns and requested an update in writing to ensure the planned asbestos removal.

Michael Burke, community stakeholder, stated an objection to the format of the meeting and expressed concerns regarding the rate of change orders for the Ben Franklin/SLA construction project and the Superintendent's salary.

Rachel Bosehen, district staff member, expressed gratitude for hearing about the plan to remove asbestos from McClure school and asked the Board to ensure the District finds their way to completing this project despite the Coronavirus.

Ella Schwalb, district staff member, expressed gratitude to Mr. Creedon for confirming the plan to remove asbestos materials from McClure school and urged the District to ensure the completion of the project despite the Coronavirus.

Zoe Rooney, parent/guardian, expressed concerns regarding Ben Franklin/SLA, extended school year, and Actions Items [5](#), [19](#), & [20](#).

Lisa Haver, community stakeholder, expressed concerns regarding [Action Item 5](#) and [charter school renewal votes](#).

Diane Payne, community stakeholder, expressed concerns regarding [Action item 20](#) and change orders.

Donna Cooper, community stakeholder, asked the District to ensure that they do not make budget cuts at the school level, refuse cuts for student learning, and continue to do the early literacy work currently happening throughout the District.

Tim Gibson, community stakeholder, urged the District to hold harmless the arts programs when considering budget cuts.

Cindy Farlino, retired SDP principal, urged the District not to cut arts education funding.

Shauneille Taylor, district staff member, urged the District to hold harmless the arts programs when considering budget cuts.

Leatta Lyons, parent/guardian, urged the Board to ensure the financial commitment to improving McClure school.

Theresa Nesbitt, parent/guardian, asked the District to find a way to recognize 8th graders who are graduating despite the Coronavirus.

Cecelia Thompson, parent/guardian, expressed concerns regarding remote learning for special education students, food distribution, and graduation.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton thanked participants for their comments and ended the public comment portion of the meeting.

Board Member Fix-Lopez let the meeting at 7:46pm.

Co-Chair Dr. McIver provided an overview of any key takeaways, requests and pending questions to be resolved ahead of the May 28, 2020 Action Meeting.

Co-Chair Egea-Hinton thanked all who attended the meeting, encouraged members of the public to engage in future meetings and announced that this meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Finance and Facilities Meeting - 5-14-20

From : m b <mjb1683@gmail.com>

Wed, May 13, 2020 04:37 PM

Subject : Finance and Facilities Meeting - 5-14-20

To : schoolboard@philasd.org

WARNING: This message originated from outside the School District of Philadelphia.

DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email.

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I wish to register to give public comment at the Finance and Facilities Meeting scheduled for May 14, 2020.

I wish to speak on Agenda Item Numbers 2, 13, 19, 20 and 25. In addition, I would like to address Executive Compensation.

Please note that my participation in this meeting does not constitute a waiver of any rights that I might have pursuant to any law. In addition, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act (65 Pa. C.S. Section 701, et seq), I hereby object to the conduct of this meeting.

Prior to business being conducted by the Board, I would like to orally object to the conduct of the meeting and would expect a ruling on my objection.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Michael Burke
Zip Code 19145

Sent from my iPhone
