

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
WALLINGFORD-SWARTHMORE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Monday, February 22, 2016
Middle School Library 7:00 p.m.

AT THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
THE BOARD CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Dr. Richard C. Sonntag, President
Dr. Marylin Huff, Vice President
Ms. Sally Morbeck, Treasurer
Ms. Wendy Voet, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jerry Ballas
Ms. Chapin Cimino
Dr. Allison Karpyn
Dr. Robert C. Reiger
Mr. Paul Schregel

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Student Representative, Charlotte Brake, provided the Board of School Directors with a complete report on news and activities across the District schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. February/Black History Month

Across the nation, February is celebrated as Black History Month and a number of special events are occurring throughout the District. One of the very special events was a musical assembly program held earlier this month at Strath Haven Middle School featuring a wonderful blend of music and history. Another special event includes a living Wax History Museum event scheduled at Swarthmore-Rutledge Elementary School later this week. The observance of Black History Month allows us all as Americans to recognize and celebrate some of the stories and accomplishments that traditionally have not always been told, and we are thankful to all our faculty and staff for assuring that the tale we tell of America is, indeed, an inclusive one.

B. Student Extra-Curricular Activities/Athletics

On behalf of the Board, the Administration, and the School District, I would like to congratulate all of our winter athletes who have recently completed their regular season and now in some cases are moving on to post-season competition. Since our last Board

Meeting, I had the opportunity to see our Boys Basketball team suffer a tough home loss in the opening round District One play-offs and watch our Indoor Track Team compete quite well in the Delaware County Meet held at Glen Mills. A special note of congratulations also to our wrestlers who placed 3rd in this past week's League Meet and will now be sending eight wrestlers on to Districts next week at Springford High School. In other sports action, I also very much enjoyed seeing some future greats and some past greats competing in the annual Middle School Faculty vs. Student Basketball Game w/the Faculty once again prevailing (though conditioning did seem to be a bit of a factor for the faculty as the game wore on!). Congratulations and best of luck to all of our winter athletes, on the court (basketball or bocce ball), the mat, the track, or in the pool.

c. *Student Extra-Curricular Activities/On the Stage*

The reviews from the high school production of *Rent* under the direction of John Shankweiler have been outstanding, with performances also slated for this coming Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and I very much look forward to seeing the production. Also on the near horizon, the thespians at Strath Haven Middle School are working very hard preparing for their production of the musical *Tarzan* which will be performed on March 10, 11, 12, and 13th.

d. *State Budget*

The news update on the State Budget is *that there is still no state budget for the current 2015/2016 fiscal year*, with speculation abounding that the state budget for 2016/2017 might also be delayed as well. The resulting uncertainty makes budget projections for school districts extremely difficult and, depending on how long it takes to pass a budget, may cause some significant potential cash flow issues for all local districts, ours included. Our State Representative Leanne Krueger-Braneky has remained in close contact with the three local districts she represents: Penn Delco, Ridley, and Wallingford-Swarthmore, and even spent a good part of this past Friday touring and visiting classes at Strath Haven High school. Representative Krueger-Braneky, a Swarthmore resident and parent, is very much aware and concerned about the impact the budget stalemate is having on our local schools. More information and, hopefully, better news to follow...

e. *Discipline Code/Code of Conduct*

On the agenda for tonight's meeting is approval of the *School District's Code of Conduct/Discipline Code* along with the Guidelines for Suspension from Extra-Curricular Activities. I would like to thank all the administrators who worked in bringing these policies forward, along with the present Board members for their input as well as that of past Board Member Mary Gay Scanlon who helped initiate much of the dialogue and remained a steadfast member of the Policy Committee. The Code of Conduct and the supporting Guidelines brought forward do not represent any major changes to the policies as they are currently being followed, but rather the hope is to simply better articulate and formalize the regulations in place through the Board approval process. In

the future, to assure an ongoing, more systematic opportunity for review and discussion, the Board will be asked to approve these policies on an annual basis as part of the adoption of the Student Handbooks each summer.

In closing, two other brief, but very special announcements:

- A reminder to all faculty, staff, and community members that the annual Arts4Smarts Fundraiser, one of the two major fundraisers conducted each year by the Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools Foundation will be held at 7:00PM on Saturday, March 5th on the campus of Swarthmore College. For more information and to register, please click on the following website www.arts4smarts.org. If you can, please consider joining us for this very worthwhile event as we show our support for a group who does so very much for our students and our faculty and staff.
- And finally, on both a personal and professional note, I would like to extend my commendations to Lisa Palmer, to the Board of School Directors, and to the Wallingford Swarthmore School District on the pending appointment of Dr. Palmer as the new Superintendent of Schools. It truly has been a privilege to work with the Board of School Directors, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Ferg Abbott, and all the other outstanding administrators, faculty, and staff I have met throughout these past seven months and I am, indeed, thankful for the opportunity to hand off the baton to Dr. Palmer, wish her all the best, and to assist in any way that I can to assure a smooth transition these next few months.

This concludes my report...

FOCUS TOPIC PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Deirdre Abrahamsson, Communications and Social Media Consultant for the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, shared an informative presentation with the Board of School Directors. Mrs. Abrahamsson provided insight to the District's Facebook and Twitter accounts and informed shared that she monitors and frequently posts to these social media networks. "These are great ways to connect with the students, faculty, staff, schools, and community" she said. Mrs. Abrahamsson attends most happenings throughout the district including special guest visits, award ceremonies, athletic and sports events, as well as art, music and theatre events and continuously updates the District website with new, fresh photographs and captions.

MINUTES

The Board of School Directors approved the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Regular Business Meeting.

PERSONNEL

The Board approved the leave of absence for Certified Staff - Kerri Lawler, Teacher, Wallingford Elementary School, paid FMLA leave (use of sick days), on or about March 25, 2016 through May 10, 2016; unpaid FMLA leave, May 11, 2016 through the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved the appointment of John Kauffman, Substitute Bus Driver, Transportation Department, effective February 23, 2016, replacing Patricia Bondrowski, \$23.33 per hour, hours as needed.

The Board approved the additions and deletions to the 2015-2016 Activities, Winter Athletic and Spring Athletic supplemental appointments, as stipulated.

The Board approved the additions to the 2015-2016 conference requests and the 2016 Summer Band and String Program, as stipulated.

The Board approved the addition to the 2016 curriculum work in development of elementary data and assessment systems, as stipulated.

The Board approved the additions to the non-supplemental theater positions for the 2016 Spring Musical at Strath Haven Middle School, as stipulated.

The Board approved the resolution to elect Dr. Lisa Palmer as the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District Superintendent, in accordance with 24 P.S. Section 10-1071, 10-1073, and 10-1075, and to enter into a contract to establish salary and fringe benefits for the position of District Superintendent.

CURRICULUM

The Board approved homebound instruction for student #1899001, SHHS, and approved a Tuition Contract for the 2015-2016 School Year.

The Board approved the Category 1A Overnight field trips, as stipulated.

The Board approved the Code of Conduct/Discipline Code and the Suspension from Extra-Curricular Activities, as stipulated.

FINANCE

The Board approved the payment of invoices to Vendors dated 01/07/2016 through 02/10/16, as stipulated.

The Board approved the January 2016 Treasurer's Report, as stipulated.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following January 2016 financial reports, as stipulated:

- General [Fund 10]
- Capital Reserve [Fund 32]
- Student Activities [Fund 81]

The Board approved budget transfers, as stipulated.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Sonntag adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
