

West Chester Area School District Board Meeting Highlights
Meeting Held Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Summary of Action Taken:

The West Chester Area School Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Spellman Education Center. The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance led by Jouseline Soto-Gaud, Najeedah Daniels, and Inaijah Meaur Hallaia of Stetson Middle School. The Board also heard reports from high school students, Amber Hawkins (EHS), Camille Parkinson (HHS), and Grace Ibach (RHS). The high school students were thanked for their service this year, presented with a certificate of appreciation, and were wished well as they continue their educational journey.

The Board also recognized National Merit Scholars from East High School and Henderson High School, as well as other state recognition including the following: Pa Music Educations Association, Distributive education Competition of America, Future Business Leaders of America, RHS hockey team, HHS Cross Country student as state champion (Jenna Mulhern), perfect AP score in Computer Science (Siddhardth Chenrayan). The Board also recognized the HHS State Bocce Team, and Rustin HS Hockey team state champions. More than 200 students were recognized for state and national competitions from all three high schools.

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

- 1. Approval of final budget** – The Board approved the final budget of \$261.8 million for 2019-20. The budget calls for and \$8.4 million increase over the current budget or about 3.3 percent increase over the current budget. The following areas are the largest increases:
 - \$1.9 million increase in pension expenses(6.0 %increase)
 - \$700,000 increase in tuitions and services for special education students (7.1 % increase)
 - \$230,000 increase in student transportation costs (1.5% increase)
 - \$4 million increase in salary and benefits for 1400 employees (3.2%)
 - \$1 million set aside for expenses associated with the new, Greystone Elementary School to open in 2021.

The budget includes a 1.8 percent tax increase for Chester County (about \$74 per average household) and a 1.1 percent increase for Delaware County (about \$52 per average household).

- 2. Approval of the acceptance of a state grant**– The Board approved the acceptance of a state grant for safe schools for \$400,050. This grant will pay for additional mental health specialists (2 at the elementary), one at East HS, and two behavior specialists for the school district.
- 3. Approval of the sale of the Spellman Building located at 829 Paoli Pike.** The board approved the sale of the old Spellman building for \$2.75 million to Stanbury West Goshen, LLC, from Bexley, OH. The property has approximately 3.5 acres of developable land and will most likely be used as a commercial property.
- 4. Approval of the Takeover Agreement Between the Hartford Fire Insurance Company and WCASD regarding the East Goshen Elementary School Construction Project.** The Board approved the final agreement with the Bonding Company to complete the construction work at the East Goshen Elementary School. This agreement will enable work to continue.
- 5. In addition to its regularly scheduled personnel report action items, the board approved the following retirements:**

Patricia Davison, Secretary to Supervisor of Special Education at Spellman, 17 years of service.

Linda Wittig, Secretary to Supervisor of Special Education at Spellman, 20 years of service.

6. The Board approved the following administrative appointment

- a. Mr. Richard Thornton – Safety and Security Supervisor, effective June 24, 2019. Mr. Thornton comes to us from Valley Forge Military Academy, where he served as head of security. He has also served in the British Armed Forces as a Royal Marines Commando.
- b.

7. The Board approved the following policies for a second reading, and are now in effect:

- Revised Board Policy 307 Student Teachers/Interns
- New Administrative Guideline 307AG1 Student Teaches/Interns Guidelines
- New Board Policy 225 – Student Debt
- Revised Board Policy 815.3 – Lending Technology Equipment

For more information about the West Chester Area School District Board meetings, please visit <https://www.wcasd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=8&ChannelID=40&DirectoryType=6>

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 24, 2019 - 7:00 pm at the Spellman Education Center