

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
February 7, 2023

At the February 7, 2023 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session from 6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on February 7, 2023 regarding safety and security.

Approved the minutes of the January 10, 2023 School Board Meeting

Heard Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Lucabaugh, the CBSD Board of School Directors, and Mr. Mark Hayden recognized and congratulated two CBSD students who have been named Top 300 Scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search Competition:

Mason Matich, CB East student (project title: dataBASE DNA Data Storage)

Lance Xu, CB West student (project title: The Correlation of Different Demographics to the Effects of Different Types of Framing in Medical Contexts)

Superintendent Lucabaugh announced that a periodic review of the existing Health and Safety Plan took place. Administration and the pandemic coordinator have no recommended changes, and the Health and Safety Plan will remain as-is.

Approved limiting the Public Comment section to a total of two hours.

Heard Public Comment:

(1) *Katherine Semisch of Doylestown Borough* ceded her speaking time to Jerel Wohl.

Jerel Wohl of Warrington Township (not listed on sign-in sheet) spoke about a Torah scroll from his synagogue that survived the Holocaust, an Elie Wiesel quote at a school that was taken down, and hateful policies passed by the Board.

(2) *Michael Esris of Warrington Township* ceded his speaking time to Elizabeth Esris.

(3) *Elizabeth Esris of Warrington Township* spoke about 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s history, her child's experience in school, autism, hiding sexual orientations, neutral classrooms, tax money spent on a PR firm, and the Family Research Council.

(4) *Stuart Bush of Doylestown Township* spoke about the Board in the context of the six Quaker testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. Mr. Bush spoke about the redistricting map, new policies that isolate and minimize LGBTQ+ students, PR firm payments, \$114,000.00 spent to defend a discrimination investigation, and retracting Policy 321.

(5) *Amy McGahran of Doylestown Township* ceded her speaking time to John Rackas.

John Rackas of Buckingham Township (not listed on sign-in sheet) spoke about his child's CB school experience and graduation ceremony, advocating for LGBTQI students, the Board majority, a CDC survey statistic, and advising others not to move to this district.

(6) Doreen Stratton of Doylestown Borough spoke about reading books written by Black authors and then ceded her speaking time to Kathy Cranmer.

(7) Kathy Cranmer of Doylestown Township spoke about an email sent by the Board, threats, the 45th President and casinos in Atlantic City, morals and values, the weaponization of faith, the removal of a quote at CB South, neutrality police and faith-based holidays violating Policy 321, clergy, and making social policy exceptions to Policy 321. Ms. Cranmer spoke about adults bearing responsibility for their words and actions, as well as any harm resulting from them.

(8) Tanya Casas of Doylestown Township read aloud a letter from the Pennsylvania School Libraries Association.

(9) Andrew Goretsky of Whitemarsh and of the Anti-Defamation League's Philadelphia Office spoke about anti-Semitic attitudes, Policy 321, an Elie Wiesel quote being taken down, repealing Policy 321, and that the ADL is available to help recommend common-sense policies.

(10) Jason Holtzman of Bucks County Kehillah and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia spoke about Policy 321 discouraging students who often belong to marginalized communities from sharing their thoughts and feelings, an Elie Wiesel quote being removed at a school, and repealing or heavily amending Policy 321.

(11) Liz Downing of Doylestown Township (note: Lisa Sandler, listed as #33 on the sign-up sheet, ceded her speaking time to Liz Downing) read aloud portions of a letter from the Foundation for Individualized Rights and Expression (FIRE).

(12) Evi Casey, CB student, spoke about policies, an Elie Wiesel quote, students not feeling safe, Pride flags, and getting rid of Policy 321.

(13) Dalen Casey of Doylestown Township spoke about Policy 321, neutrality, threats to LGBTQ students, equality for children, Pride flags and posters, US flags, the effects of slavery, genocide, discrimination, and about repealing Policy 321.

(14) Mary Hughes of Doylestown Borough ceded her speaking time to Anne Ferguson.

(15) Anne Ferguson of Doylestown Township spoke about sources of fake news and misinformation, school board candidates, teachers, Pride flags, reading LGBTQ+ books, policies, and belittling the only Board member whose expertise is in being an educator. Ms. Ferguson spoke about the Board looking at their own motivations.

(16) Alan Gold of New Britain Township spoke about being active in both state and national Atheist organizations and about being active in Jewish organizations. Mr. Gold spoke about a movement

obliterating the line between religion and government, LGBTQ community being treated equally, flags, and censorship.

(17) *Laura Napier of Buckingham* spoke about Black History Month, quoted portions of Policy 321, and spoke about neutrality, Pride flags, social policy, and fascism.

(18) *Skylar Ginsburg, CB student*, spoke about anti-Semitism in CB schools, censorship by the Board, Mr. Pecic at CB South, and the removal of an Elie Wiesel quote. Ms. Ginsburg spoke about the Board doing something to make change that does not harm students that they claim to protect.

(19) *Doug Claybourne of Buckingham Township* spoke about the Board not protecting students and teachers from COVID and the need for a reasonable policy. Mr. Claybourne spoke about COVID-positive CDC recommendations. Mr. Claybourne spoke about CB not requiring masks and about his child's experience with COVID.

(20) *Emma Dickinson, CB student*, spoke about the Board ignoring what students say, policies, and a lack of concern for students' mental health.

(21) *Paree Pasi, CB student*, spoke about the education she received at CBSD, teachers who encouraged her learning, the School Board serving students, and School Board Policy 321 preventing strong, smart, independent thinkers.

(22) *Diana Leygerman of Warwick Township* ceded her speaking time to Walter Masterson.

Walter Masterson (municipality not given and not listed on the sign-in sheet) spoke about books that our children are seeing, indoctrination of students, the foundation of our Democracy, Ancient Greece, protecting Democracy and freedom of speech, banning Pride flags and books in schools, the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence.

(23) *Anusha Viswanathan of Buckingham Township* spoke about a cornerstone of her children's education being inclusion and diversity, passed policies, library policy regulations, the Independence Law Center, neutrality, activists, Mr. Pecic displaying an Elie Wiesel quote, and law firms.

(24) *Sarah Michener of Doylestown Borough* ceded her speaking time to Leslie Watson, listed as #26 on the sign-up sheet.

Leslie Watson of Buckingham Township (addressed the Board out of sign-up sheet order) thanked the Board and the Superintendent. Ms. Watson spoke about School Board Policy 321, LGBT Pride parades and Pride flags, respecting citizens to express themselves freely, subverting the rights of parents, children feeling unsafe in schools, gender, ideology in schools, and transgender pioneers.

Sandy Gerger of Warrington Township (addressed the Board out of sign-up sheet order) spoke about policy 321, school displays of ideology, sexual preferences and political views, a friend's

child being distracted by all the posters and slogans. Ms. Gerger spoke about visual noise, and visually calm and quiet classrooms, pornographic books in school libraries.

(25) Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead Township asked to switch speaking positions with Milo Morris, listed as #31 on the sign-up sheet as William DeVane.

Milo Morris, listed as William Devane of Plumstead Township on the sign-up sheet, (addressed the Board out of sign-up sheet order) spoke about the origin and history of the Pride flag and its modifications over the years. Mr. Morris spoke about Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov not wearing Pride flag colors on Pride night. Mr. Morris spoke about the Pride flag's political origins and messaging, and encouraging teachers and employees to be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, and loved.

(26) Leslie Watson of Buckingham Township spoke earlier.

(27) Sandy Gerger of Warrington Township spoke earlier.

(28) Shannon Monson of Doylestown Township ceded her speaking time to Donna Shannon.

(29) Donna Shannon of Doylestown Township spoke about hateful people in the room, the Democrat-run media, name-calling, political activist groups trying to influence school district curriculum and policy. Ms. Shannon spoke about teachers pushing political views on students, neutrality being the balancing of lesson plans, the LGBTQ community being the recipients of bullying, schools being for socialization and learning, "Lay's" potato chips being rebranded "Gay's" chips, and books in school libraries. Ms. Shannon spoke about no one wanting any child to be preyed upon by adults, three books by Black authors, redistricting school board regions, and about the Holocaust.

(30) Tanya Kovacs of Buckingham Township spoke about earthquakes in Turkey and Serbia, lies about what is really going on in our district, Policy 321, attacking those with religious convictions, the Democratic process, and the justification of your own beliefs having no impact on whether it is an imposition on someone else.

(31) William DeVane of Plumstead Township spoke earlier.

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead Township switched her position in speaking order to William DeVane, aka Milo Morris, (addressed the Board out of sign-up sheet order) Ms. DeArmond spoke about misinformation spread tonight, Policy 321, guidelines for teachers to remain neutral, the amazing staff and teachers at CBSD, a message she received from another parent, and online bullying by people in this room.

(32) Jean Mollack of New Britain Borough spoke about banning books, indigenous Native Americans forcibly taken away from their land, Africans brought here on slave ships and brutally treated, whitewashing history, women waiting 150 years for the right to vote, the Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade, restricting voting rights, backlash resulting in members of the LGB community being bullied, and people being allowed to read what they want.

(33) *Lisa Sandler of Plumstead Township* had previously ceded her speaking time to Liz Downing, listed on the #11 spot on the sign-up sheet.

(34) *Chris Linso of Warrington Township* spoke about most public comment being meant to incite, shared a note from a former student, spoke about building a rapport with students and building a positive learning environment, School board Policy 321, and filling board seats with members who will support and trust our teachers.

(35) *Dev Avadaria, CB student*, spoke about School Board Policy 321, money for a PR firm, discriminatory board policies, the next school board election, the parliamentary election of President by our board, and Democracy.

(36) *Art Larson of Doylestown Township* provided a handout to the Board (attached to official minutes) and spoke about a CB West webpage regarding No Place for Hate, the Anti-Defamation League being a front for organized crime, issues with kids, issues with adults who are unfit to be teaching, school revenue, and the Mastery School in Philadelphia.

(37) *Cheyenne Torres, CB student*, spoke about School Board Policy 321 limiting teacher expression in the classroom and silencing the voices of their students, the possibility of losing the No Place for Hate certification at her school, Pride flags, and spoke about a quote from a holocaust survivor.

(38) *Jen Biundo of Plumstead Township* ceded her speaking time to Shannon Harris.

(39) *Shannon Harris of Buckingham Township* provided a handout to the Board which included a Request for Reconsideration of Library Material form for the book "Living Dead Girl" (attached to official minutes) and spoke about misinformation regarding Policy 109, reviewing sexually explicit books, upholding moral standards, Policy 321 being an employee policy, and providing the best educational environment for students. Ms. Harris spoke about Director Smith attending a protest and speaking to the media and asked for Director Smith's resignation. Ms. Harris spoke about an article by Emily Rizzo about Matthew Pecic. Ms. Harris spoke about the book "Living Dead Girl" and about how many copies of books listed on a WOKE-PA database are in CB schools. Ms. Harris spoke about librarians having more guidelines when buying books with taxpayer dollars and the book review process.

Note: the following speakers were listed on the sign-up sheet but were not afforded time to speak due to the two-hour time limit. Their names will be listed at the top of the Public Comment speaker list at the next School Board Meeting:

	Name	Municipality	Topic
40	Audrey Strein	Warwick Township	Policy
41	Susan Kennedy	Doylestown Borough	Policy
42	Alayna Kennedy	Doylestown Borough	Anti-LGBTQ Policies
43	Danielle Zolotnitsky	Philadelphia	Petition with 2,000 signatures

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Curriculum Committee

Finance Committee

Operations Committee

Policy Committee

Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved Business Department Items:

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$5,186,468.59

Financial Reports

Ten-year broadband contract with Crown Castle Fiber in the amount of \$119,600.00

Wireless equipment bid in the amount of \$38,675.00

Uninterruptible power supply devices in the amount of \$52,969.17

Staff Conferences and Workshops in the amount of \$4,199.00

Reviewed Business Department Item: Student Activity Reports

Approved Operations Department Items:

CB East chiller 3-month rental extension

Lenape Middle School temporary classroom partition rental in the amount of \$17,864.00

Approved Special Education Department Items:

Pathway 1:1 aide for the 2022-2023 school year

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$189,949.28

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$14,300.00

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$278,350.00

FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$127,640.00

Addendum to Settlement Agreement

IEP Waiver Agreement

IEP Waiver Agreement

Approved Student Services Department Items:

Elementary school tuition student for the remainder of the school year in the amount of \$6,775.44

Staffing services agreement with Aspire

Approved Policy Items:

Approved School Board Policy 005

Tabled for First Read School Board Policies: 218.2, 218.3, and 815

Approved Student Field Trips:

CB East Orchestra to travel to NY in April 2023

Study Abroad Trip to Spain in July 2024

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Resolution to terminate the employment of Matthew Gaulden

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations

Leaves of Absence

Appointments

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes

New Position

EDRs and Athletic Points

Extended School Year pay rates

Reviewed Human Resources Department Items:

Sabbaticals Report

Semi-annual ratings, second semester 2021-2022

Approved Other Items:

2023-2024 BCIU Programs and Services and Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget

Appointment of Debra Cannon as CBSD representative to the BCIU Board of School Directors