

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
March 12, 2024

At the March 12, 2024 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on February 27, 2024 regarding legal matters, and the Board met in Executive Session on March 12, 2024, prior to this evening's meeting, regarding cases: Burgess 223-01369, petition to redistrict 2023-00469 and 2022-06425, and Callaghan vs CBSD 2024-00025.

Heard Superintendent's Report: Dr. Scanlon thanked Titus Elementary School's Mrs. Zaleski and students Mason and Mackensie for leading us in the Pledge.

Dr. Scanlon announced that CB East student Maryam Abdel-Azim has been named a finalist in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search 2024. This nationwide competition recognizes the brightest minds in science and math among high school seniors. Dr. Scanlon congratulated Maryam for the highest honors in this distinguished event.

Dr. Scanlon congratulated Mr. Michael Saltzgueber, physics teacher at CB East, who has received National Board Certification. National Board Certification is a voluntary, advanced credential for teachers that engages them in an assessment of their knowledge of national standards. The National Board for Professional Teaching standards recognizes teachers who meet this standard through the completion of a rigorous certification process. Michael is now in the company of 44 Central Bucks School District professional staff members who have obtained this certification. Mr. Saltzgueber has served CB students for over 16 years. His principal, Dr. Chad Watters, describes him as a teacher with a gift of using his humor to help build relationships with his students and the school community.

Dr. Scanlon announced that this winter, two 7th grade students, Alex Bernstein and Scarlett Morton from Tohickon Middle School entered the *Samsung Solve for Tomorrow* competition, which is a national STEM contest that encourages students to create innovative solutions to positively impact the local community. The two students brainstormed a solution to help efficiently sanitize hospital rooms, labs and other medical facilities. Alex and Scarlett diligently researched how effective UVC lights can be in sanitizing professional equipment, but how it can also be harmful to those exposed to it. They also researched a glass filtration system model that would help keep safety a top priority. Tohickon Middle School was named one of 50 schools to advance as a State Winner in the 14th annual *Samsung Solve for Tomorrow* contest. State winners were selected from 300 state finalists. Dr. Scanlon congratulated Alex and Scarlett for earning Tohickon a State Finalist title in the *Samsung Solve for Tomorrow* competition.

Dr. Scanlon remarked that in addition to the academic standards awards, he had the pleasure of attending a Family Consumer Science Class last week and served as a judge at the CB South Dessert Competition. A photo of the winning team of students Leah Brouda, Emily Pizzo, and Rupert Swartz, and their teacher Beth Howard were pictured on the screen.

Dr. Scanlon announced that about 100 of our high school students attended a Business Simulation Competition held here at the district offices on February 29. Students were placed in teams to work with business leaders from the community to learn what it is like to operate your own business. They are given business scenarios for each quarter of the year and had to calculate their profit/loss sheets. From there, they had to make strategic business moves to increase their bottom line or move out of a deficit for the quarter. In between their quarter runs, business leaders from the community spoke about business topics and strategies. The president of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce attended and offered to make internships available for students. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to make connections between school and the world of work.

Dr. Scanlon announced that part of his tour of our buildings included a tour of our Operations Center and our bus garage. Dr. Scanlon said that transporting students is a \$35 million operation. Dr. Scanlon shared some Transportation Department statistics:

- We have about 260 buses servicing our students.
- We schedule more than 230 bus runs.
- Our buses travel more than 3 million miles each year.
- We transport more than 12,000 students to our 23 public schools.
- We transport approximately 1,500 students to more than 60 private and charter schools each day.
- Buses are typically on a ten-year replacement plan.

Dr. Scanlon spoke about a new community messenger sign-up email list that people can find on our website to opt-in to receive district-wide messages.

Dr. Scanlon announced that he and Dr. Malone had the pleasure of meeting with high school students over the last two months and are impressed with all that our students have been doing to provide service to their communities. Dr. Scanlon asked students from each high school to share some of the service happening in their schools.

- From CB West, student Diya George presented information on CB West service events including Travis Manion Club, SAGE Club, Cash for a Cause, French Honor Society, Peer Pals, ES Classes, Cooking for the Community, and Interact Club.
- From CB South, students Gianna Grumer and Beckam Polis presented information on the South Sheppard Connection Club.
- From CB East, students Sadye-Faerberg-Gibson and Cassandra Kempinski presented information and an update on the Mini-THON Club.

Heard Public Comment:

1. Barbara Wachter, Doylestown Borough, yielded her speaking time to Stephen Albert.
2. Stephen Albert, Doylestown Borough, spoke about developing a culture of respect, Solicitor Conn being welcome here, speakers from outside the district speaking at meetings, the previous Board's denial of a teacher conference, a teacher strike in the 1980's, and about supporting teachers.

3. Mary Ayata, CB student, spoke about the CB West Muslim Student Association, creating safe spaces, allegations against club advisor Mr. A., the MSA Club being a student-run organization, and about the MSA Instagram account.
4. Mean Alfeen, Chalfont Borough, spoke about his experiences in school and about the MSA Club advisor Mr. A. creating a safe social space for students.
5. Alexandra Coffey, Chalfont Borough, spoke about Mr. A., establishing a school club, Policy 321, and division created by the previous Board.
6. Lamees Shaat, CB student, spoke about her family's experiences, the CB West MSA Club, and false allegations made against Mr. A.
7. Annika Verma, Doylestown Borough, yielded her speaking time to Ginny Morgan.
8. Ginny Morgan, Buckingham Township, spoke about her experience as a Muslim student in CB schools, Mr. A. and the CB West MSA Club, space for prayer, and the plight of Palestinian people and their struggle for justice.
9. Sidharth Nair, Bensalem Township, spoke about the Bucks County with Asian/Pacific Islander political alliance, support for Mr. A., the previous school board and Dr. Lucabaugh creating an unsafe learning environment, and the community voting in a new Board.
10. Van Hall, CB student, spoke about supporting Mr. A., who brings out the best in him.
11. Carla Grabianowski, Plumstead Township, yielded her speaking time to Shannon Harris.
12. Shannon Harris, "Mother of student" listed as Municipality, spoke about President Smith, the resignation letters from Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Sciscio, the Sunshine Act, a conflict of interest for Solicitor Conn, the district calendar being reduced to 180 days, virtual school, flexible instruction days, Policy 321 being moved to Table for First Read, policies that have been suspended, the settlement with Mr. Burgess, children being bullied, and the CB West track. Ms. Harris spoke about postponing realignment- settling lawsuits, and LGBTQ flags.
13. Mara Witsen, Chalfont Borough, spoke about First Amendment rights, religious and political freedom, the Equal Access Act of 1984, the social media handle of a teacher that was written on a school white board, and the district drafting guidelines for club sponsors.
14. Asiyah Jones, "Muslim Conversation" listed as Municipality, said that no one should feel unwelcome in their school community due to their religion. Ms. Jones spoke about Care Philadelphia and helping to ensure that Muslim students feel safe.
15. Daniel Grabianowski, Plumstead Township, yielded his speaking time to Edward Mackouse.

16. Edward Mackouse, Buckingham Township, spoke about Muslim and Hamas Charters, the Jewish population, Christians, deaths in Gaza, conservative books being banned, Orthodox Jews, taking away women's rights, Syria, and about fighting Nazis in World War II.

17. Scott Vogin, Warrington Township, spoke about mixing moral issues and politics. Mr. Vogin spoke about selecting new Board members from Warrington, and about the Warrington Board of Supervisors.

18. Anna Malinsky, Doylestown Township, yielded her speaking time to Kathy Cranmer.

19. Kathy Cranmer, Doylestown, spoke about Leigh Vlasblom working with the Independence Law Center, Dana Hunter not disclosing her work with LCD, the Duane Morris bills, resignation letters from Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Sciscio, a contract that was not read prior to being voted upon, and the prior Board majority hurting a lot of people and wasting a lot of money.

20. Ross Friedman, Warrington Township, yielded his speaking time to Fania Karlitsky.

21. Fania Karlitsky, Warrington Township, spoke about a CB West teacher violating school rules including social media, Instagram, and posting photos of students. Ms. Karlitsky spoke about Bushnell and an "Act of Resistance".

22. Einav Mizrachi, Warwick Township, spoke about the security of our children in schools and presented a handout which is attached to the minutes.

23. Shlomo Sudai, Chalfont Borough, yielded his speaking time to Inna Pyatetsky.

24. Inna Pyatetsky, Buckingham Township, spoke about social media statements made by a teacher, the MSA Club at CB West having politically driven content, a teacher sharing his personal Instagram handle and having a public business followed by students. Ms. Pyatetsky said that history should be taught in a balanced manner.

25. Semyon Sakhabutdinov, CB student, spoke about Senor Abdelwahab and about students being educated about the world.

26. Art Larson, Doylestown Township, spoke about the Duane Morris bills, the Philadelphia Inquirer, money laundering, "No Place for Hate", and crime syndicates. Mr. Larson said that Karen Smith should resign.

27. Sana Mahmud, Chalfont Borough, spoke about Mr. A., her teachers listening when she felt unsupported, and about the community targeting a Muslim teacher.

28. Carnmen Guerrero, King of Prussia, said she is a community organizer for the Hispanic community and for Central American refugees. Ms. Guerrero spoke about being in solidarity with Palestinian people. Ms. Guerrero spoke about discrimination, racism, oppression, and about Palestine. Ms. Guerrero aired an audio clip from Instagram. Ms. Guerrero spoke about a teacher who speaks Spanish being important and a necessity.

29. Mike Sobczak, Doylestown Township, spoke about losing faith in the Board. Mr. Sobczak said the Board bullied two people out of their roles and then laughed about them. Mr. Sobczak spoke about Dr. Lucabaugh, the new solicitor, and about how some small business owners are afraid to speak out.

30. Vonna DeArmond, Plumstead Township, spoke about the BrainPOP program indoctrinating our children by teaching Critical Race Theory and gender ideology. Ms. DeArmond spoke about officer-involved shootings, charter schools, Solicitor Conn, quid pro quo, and breaking state law.

31. Ayesha Umer, Chalfont Borough, spoke about student voices being silenced, freedom of speech and expression for students, allowing students to form clubs and organizations. Ms. Umer spoke about the Board having the responsibility to uphold principles of Democracy and allowing students to express themselves freely.

32. Zenub Umer, Chalfont Borough, spoke about the MSA Club creating a sense of unity, her experience in CB schools, and Mr. A. at CB West being an excellent role model.

33. Zahra Umer, New Britain Township, spoke about Mr. A. being treated unfairly, her current Catholic school being more inclusive and giving the Muslim community more respect than CB West did.

34. Brian Haigh, Doylestown Township, spoke about the 2020 Census listing the median family income at \$90,000.00. Mr. Haigh said the next superintendent's salary should be capped at \$180,000.00. Mr. Haigh said that CB principals represent the strongest cadre of future superintendents and asked why we have never had a female superintendent.

35. Amy McGahran, Doylestown Township, yielded her speaking time to Ellen Lesh.

*Ellen Lesh, Doylestown Borough (not listed on sign-up sheet), spoke about an investigation into what is going on with Mr. A. and giving him a second chance. Ms. Lesh spoke about Gaza and Israel.

Approved the minutes of the February 13, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Approved the minutes of the February 23, 2024 Special Meeting.

Reviewed School Board Reports:

Business and Operational Support Services Committee.

Curriculum Committee.

Policy Committee.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

Approved Business Department Items:

Financial Reports.

Accounts Payable Check Disbursements in the amount of \$4,139,373.70.
KCBA Architects contract for interior renovations in the estimated amount of \$1,028,906.96.
Renewal contract for BrainPop in the amount of \$46,959.11.
Staff conferences in the amount of \$25,312.00.
First Student Bus Drivers list.

Reviewed Student Activity Reports.

Approved Operations Department Items:

Keystone Fire & Security contract for fire alarms, sprinklers, and extinguishers in the amount of \$815,472.00.

Keystone Fire & Security proposal for fire alarm system design in the amount of \$7,900.00.

Snyder Hoffman Associates HVAC projects schematic design professional services proposal in the amount of \$16,940.00.

T. Schiefer Contractors bid award for Cold Spring Elementary outdoor classroom project in the amount of \$89,500.00.

Lenape Middle School HVAC project change orders in the total amount of \$634,328.30.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

Settlement Agreement (1) in the amount of \$36,750.00.

Approved Curriculum Items:

AP Biology Textbook in the amount of \$64,530.38.

Membean ELA Resource Pilot.

Approved Policy Items:

Remove from Table and Approve School Board Policy 006.

Remove from Table and Approve School Board 012.

Remove from Table and Approve the Procurement Attachment for School Board Policy 626.

Move to Table for First Read School Board Policy 321.

Approved Student Field Trips:

CB South and CB East OEG Clubs to NJ in April 2024.

Unami PEN Class to Washington DC in May 2024.

CB East, CB South, and CB West Stem Research Program to University Park, PA in May 2024.

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations.

Leaves of Absence.

Appointments.

Assignment Changes.

New Position Approvals.

Activities EDRs/Athletics Points.

Sabbaticals.

Approved Other Action Items:

Revised 2023-2024 District Calendar.

2024-2025 District Calendar.

Appointment of Dana Foley as CBSD representative to the BCIU Board of School Directors.

Resolution: Burgess v CBSD Settlement Agreement.

Resolution: Grade Realignment Plans with implementation in the 2026-2027 school year.