

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
April 9, 2024

At the April 9, 2024 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on March 26, 2024 and April 4, 2024 regarding the Superintendent Search. The Board met in Executive Session prior to this evening's Board Meeting on April 9, 2024 regarding legal issues.

Heard Superintendent's Report: Dr. Scanlon welcomed Mrs. Zdanowicz to her first official School Board Meeting.

Dr. Scanlon thanked Mrs. Fantaskey and Doyle Elementary students Nicole, Rachel, and Nicholas for leading us in the Pledge and for sharing their STEAM report.

Dr. Scanlon announced that April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month is a month-long observance focused on recognizing the strengths of the autistic community. April 2nd was World Autism Acceptance Day, a day designated to help Americans learn more about autism to improve early diagnosis and to build more welcoming and inclusive communities to support people with autism. Our schools have robust special education services and programs, and we welcome the unique personalities of our students and appreciate their contributions to our schools and community.

Dr. Scanlon shared that the American Library Association recognizes this week as National Library Week. The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library!" Since 2003, the ALA has dedicated this week to recognize the importance of libraries and the importance of reading. We thank all of our librarians for the work they do to support our students, teachers, and families.

Dr. Scanlon announced that Central Bucks School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association for Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 25th year, this designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students. Music education is extremely valuable in Central Bucks and is part of the fabric of this community. We congratulate our dedicated music professionals, students, and supportive community for promoting music education.

Dr. Scanlon said that last month we featured reports from our three high schools. This month we have students from two of our middle schools: Lyla B., Karolina L., and James L. from Holicong, and Madelin C. and Aria W. from Tamanend. Lyla, Karolina, and James shared their school's Be Kind theme, and Madelin and Aria shared highlights from their school's recent trip to Washington DC and the Spring Musical.

Dr. Scanlon shared some information about how student clubs operate: Student clubs are run by students and organized by students. If students are interested in a topic, they ask a faculty member to be their "advisor." Club agendas and topics are designed by students. Our secondary schools have hundreds of clubs. At the last board meeting we heard comments about two CB West school clubs: Muslim Student Association and Jewish Student Union. Public commentors expressed concern about social media posts related to the MSA. Our first priority is always about students, their safety, their emotional wellbeing, and their academic progress. Dr. Scanlon said that he is reviewing the policy on school clubs, in particular language regarding social media use, and is working to provide more clear guidance for clubs that have

social media accounts. Changing and reviewing a policy and its Administrative Regulations is time consuming. Dr. Scanlon shared a summary of what has taken place since last month:

- Dr. Malone met with secondary principals to discuss upcoming changes to club guidelines. We have hundreds of student clubs, and we want to be sure that our guidelines do not resolve one problem but create another. By clearly defining roles for students and club advisors, we can establish clear guidelines for all to follow.
- Dr. Scanlon met with the MSA and JSU club advisors to gain their perspectives.
- Dr. Malone, Principal Davis, and Dr. Scanlon met with both advisors to discuss a path forward. The two clubs are planning to hold a joint education session for the students in the clubs.
- Dr. Scanlon followed up with the MSA club advisor to outline new guidelines for club social media accounts. Social media posts should only include activities about the club, photos about club activities, and information about upcoming events for the club. There should be no reference to events not directly related to the club.
- Dr. Scanlon met with several parents after the last board meeting to discuss their concerns, has had four follow up phone calls and two additional meetings since then.
- Dr. Scanlon spoke with several outside organizations about our path forward and to also seek to better understand concerns brought forward by parents and students.
- Dr. Scanlon met with students from both the MSA and JSU to facilitate a conversation about this topic. Students shared how they felt about the war in the Middle East, and how it has impacted them. Students also shared how actions of each group does have an impact on the other. It was an exceptionally good conversation and students are planning to hold a joint education session with each other later this month.
- School board members Heather Reynolds, Mariam Mahmud, and Dr. Scanlon met with Barbara Simmons (formerly of the Bucks County Peace Center). Barbara has been conducting “community conversations” to help process difficult information associated with emotion. We will be scheduling a night for the community called “Compassionate Listening” at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday May 16th at Tohickon Middle School.

Dr. Scanlon said that our goal is to ensure that our students feel safe and heard. We also want to establish very clear guidance to our club advisors and our student club members regarding what is acceptable for information about each student club. We expect to have those guidelines issued later this month, after we have a chance to review with legal counsel and our school principals.

Heard Public Comment:

1. Adam Wright, Plumstead Township, spoke about his disappointment with this district, anti-Semitism at Tohickon Middle School, the CB West MSA Club Instagram account, and public comments made at last month's meeting.
2. Ross Friedman, Warrington Township, yielded his speaking time to Fania Karlitsky.
3. Fania Karlitsky, Warrington Township, spoke about anti-Semitism in CBSD, MSA Club posts on Instagram, hate speech, and social media policies.
4. Einav Mizrahi, Warwick Township, yielded her speaking time to Elana Sudai.
5. Elana Sudai, Chalfont Borough, spoke about anti-Semitism, school code violations, a teacher's public Instagram account, a teacher posting student pictures online, anti-Semitic posts on a school club Instagram account, propaganda, and the MSA and JSU Clubs.

6. Shlomo Sudai, Chalfont Borough, yielded his speaking time to Inna Pyatsky.
7. Inna Pyatetsky, Buckingham Township, spoke about school district policy violations, propaganda, Mr. A.'s anti-Jewish views, Dr. Mahmud's comments at last month's meeting, Policy 816, MSA Club social media posts, Zionism, and the need for a school assembly to ensure that Jewish hate won't be tolerated.
8. Mara Witsen, Chalfont Borough, spoke about the Equal Access Act, the district's risk of litigation, Dr. Mahmud's comments at last month's meeting, and the CB West MSA Club.
9. Carla Grabianowski, Plumstead Township, yielded her speaking time to Ed Mackouse.
10. Ed Mackouse, Buckingham Township, spoke about Muslim students, Israel, Jews, Christians, honor killings, President Trump, balance of trade, interest rates, and green energy.
11. Barbara Kielbania, Doylestown Township, yielded her speaking time to Kathy Cranmer.
12. Kathy Cranmer, Doylestown Township, spoke about the reasons that people go into public service, Duane Morris attorney fees, Rinaldi's presentation, Andrew Burgess, Dr. Lucabaugh's separation agreement, fiduciary responsibility, and asked Mr. Pepper if he believes that using money to fund a contract he had not read is ethical.
13. Art Larson, Doylestown Township, spoke about CB East supporting the Make A Wish Foundation, a CIA Report, Make a Wish Foundation benefactors, the ADL, transgenderism, the ACLU, crime families, and organized crime.
14. Shannon Harris, "Parent" listed as municipality, spoke about increased fees for the BCIU Special Education Agreement, legal charges from Mr. Conn and SSKW, Mrs. Haring's social media posts and lawsuit discovery, and asked Mr. Pepper and Mrs. Gibson to investigate the Haring lawsuit.
15. Susan Lopatin, Warwick Township, yielded her speaking time to Mark Lopatin.
16. Mark Lopatin, Warwick Township, spoke about comments made this evening, risk/benefit analysis, social media clubs, and freedom of speech.
17. Mike Witsen, Chalfont Borough, spoke about saying that we're working on it 30-days later.
18. Daniel Grabianowski, Plumstead Township, spoke about the new Board, inclusivity, Policy 321, and the previous Board trying to create neutrality.

Approved the minutes of the March 12, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Approved the minutes of the March 18, 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 \$7,014,244.04.

2024-2025 BCIU Special Education Services Agreement in the amount of \$3,000,000.00.

2024-2025 Caron Foundation Drug & Alcohol Education Agreement in the amount of \$15,000.00.

2024-2025 Fertig Social Skills Instruction Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

CB West wrestling mats purchase in the amount of \$19,000.00.

Staff conferences and workshops in the amount of \$10,736.00.

Approved Operations Department Items:

Butler ES Boiler Replacement Contract in the amount of \$400,899.58.

Kutz, Titus, and Warwick ES playground construction contract in the amount of \$1,175,000.00.

Approved Special Education Department Item:

Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$12,000.00.

IEP Waiver Agreement (1) with no fiscal impact.

IEP Waiver Agreement (2) with no fiscal impact.

Dr. David Nover Agreement in the amount of \$750.00.

Approved Student Services Item:

2024-2025 MOU with BCIU for Head Start Grantee/Pre-K Provider/Private Agency

Approved Curriculum Items:

ELD Courses for Middle Schols: Foundations of Algebra A and B.

Reading Horizons Version 9 Pioneer Year in the amount of \$58,433.10

MOU with Montgomery Virtual Program

Approved Policy Items:

Remove from Table and Approve School Board Policy 321.

Move to Table for First Read School Board Policies 803, 904, 317.2, 218.1, 109.2 and 109.1.

Approved Student Field Trips:

High School Band and Choir students to Erie PA in April 2024

CBE Mock Trial Team to Harrisburg PA in March 2024

Approved Human Resources Department Items:

Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations.

Leaves of Absence.

Appointments.

Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes.

New Position Approvals.

Athletic Points.

Sabbaticals.

Semi-Annual ratings.

Approved Other Action Items:

2024-2025 MBIT Budget.

Social Media Litigation Agreement with Franz Law Group, Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Grahams and Levin Legal Group.

