



March 9, 2026 Board Meeting MINUTES

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phoenixville, PA 19460

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2026
Immediately following Committee Meetings
Phoenixville Area School District
Administration Office Board Room
(TV Channel 28 and www.pasd.com)

MINUTES

OPENING

Mr. Scott Overland, Board President, Presiding called the March 9, 2026, Board Meeting to Order at 6:59 PM. The meeting was held in the Administration Office Board Room and broadcast on the website and local cable Channel 28.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Cameron called the Roll of the Board.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRESENT

Dr. Stephanie Allen-Savage
Mr. Scott Overland (President)
Dr. Sean Halloran
Mr. Graham Perry
Ms. Brittany Remington
Mr. Frank Venezia
Ms. Victoria Walker
Mr. Dan Wiser

Eight Board members present.

BOARD MEMBER'S ABSENT

Mrs. Susan Turner (Vice President)

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mrs. Melissa McTiernan, Superintendent
Dr. Jessica Kilmetz, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jeremy Melber, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Sylvia Rockwood, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Nicole McClure, Director of Communications
Dr. Kate Pacitto, Executive Director of Curriculum & Specialized Programs
Dr. Frank Garritano, Executive Director of Schools and Safety/Security
Dr. Chamise Taylor, Executive Director of Schools, and Safety/Security
Mr. Matt Oberecker, Director of Technology
Mr. Brandon Hallman, Director of Facilities

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Lenore Cameron, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Cabinet / Board Secretary
Phantom TV Crew

President Overland announced the meetings that took place prior to this evening's meeting, as well as those scheduled for the coming weeks. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board will adjourn to an Executive Session regarding Legal and Personnel.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

- Policy/Curriculum- 5:30 PM
- Executive session- Legal and Personnel

Monday, March 9, 2026

- B&G and Finance/Personnel- 5:30 PM
- Executive session- Labor and Personnel
- Board meeting- immediately following committee meetings but not earlier than 6:30 PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, March 23, 2026

- Policy and Curriculum- 5:30 PM
- Board meeting immediately following committee meetings but not earlier than 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

- B&G and Finance/Personnel- 5:30 PM
- Board meeting- immediately following committee meetings but not earlier than 6:30 PM

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Senior Student Representative Gabriel Rossi Gross and Junior Student Representative, Yashica Srinivasan provided an update on recent and upcoming student activities and initiatives across the District.

Performing Arts

Middle School

- The Middle School successfully presented *Matilda Jr.*, with sold-out performances held March 5–7.
- Tickets are now on sale for the High School musical *Catch Me If You Can*, scheduled for April 10–12.

Elementary schools

- District elementary schools are presenting musicals throughout the month of March.
 - Hares Hill: *Pirates and Zombies* — March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Schuylkill Elementary: *Finding Nemo Jr.* March 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Manavon Elementary: *Willy Wonka Jr.* March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Field Trips and Student Activities

Student Field Trips and Activities included:

- High School Destinations trip
- Women in STEM Club trip
- AP Literature class trip to see *Twelfth Night*
- HSA trip for organizational competition
- Visit to the Mütter Museum

Student Programs and Recognitions

- Giant Food Stores' Feeding School Kids Program is running throughout March, with the District included as a beneficiary to support efforts to combat childhood hunger.
- The High School French, Spanish, and Latin Honor Societies will hold their induction ceremony on March 19, welcoming new members from the Class of 2028.

Wellness and Community Support Initiatives

- District health classes partnered with the EDC to host Mental Health Exploration Days, focused on positive mental health practices and healthy coping strategies.
- Ann's Heart partnered with the District to support families experiencing homelessness or other emergencies.
- The Phantom Family Fund was introduced as a resource to provide housing and food assistance to students and families, including access to prepared meals and food pantries through PACS.

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS & FUTURE VOTING ITEMS

President Overland opened the floor for reports from the Committee Chairs.

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE – Personnel & Finance Committee Chair Mr. Frank Venezia

Mr. Venezia reported on items reviewed earlier during the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting.

Personnel Report

The committee reviewed the personnel report, which is presented for Board approval this evening. Items include:

- The resignation of Ms. Lopez Robinson, Spanish teacher at the High School, effective at the end of the current school year.
- Several support staff appointments, including custodial positions.
- Appointments within the Director of Athletics and Activities area.
- Standard unpaid leave requests.
- Volunteer approvals.

Finance and Operations Review

The committee received a review from Dr. Melber regarding the District's self-insured health care fund, including performance for the current year, projections for next year, and historical trends over the past two years. The committee also noted the Finance items recommended for approval include:

2. Finance - Approve the Disbursement of School District Funds –January 2026
3. Finance - Acknowledge the Receipt of District Financial Reports - January 2026
4. Finance - Approval of the Anticipated E-Rate Award for Funding Year 2026 (Category 1 - Connectivity) and Category 2 (Internal Connections and Network Infrastructure)
5. Finance - Approval of Exoneration for Real Estate taxes for Schuylkill Township, Parcel ID 27-6-47, located at 930 Valley Forge Road in the amount of \$15,326.51.

Dr. Melber also noted that the Finance agenda items will be set for approval at the board meeting on March 23, 2026.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, Mr. Graham Perry – Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair

Mr. Perry, Buildings & Grounds Chair, reported on the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held earlier that evening, and noted there are no agenda items for approval at the March 23, board meeting. He shared that the committee discussed several project and maintenance updates.

Committee members reviewed progress at the Hares Hill building, including ongoing work related to the lighting system upgrade. The committee also discussed various maintenance matters across District buildings, including roof leaks, piping issues, and general moisture concerns. In addition, the committee held a productive discussion regarding the recent town hall meeting on the High School renovation project, including community feedback and next steps.

The report was informational in nature, and no action was taken.

Board Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026, Approval

President Overland noted the minutes from the February 17, 2026, board meeting is scheduled for approval later this evening.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**PCEF (Phoenixville Community Education Foundation) – Dr. Sean Halloran, Board Representative**

Dr. Halloran reported that the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation (PCEF) will meet again on March 16 and he will share updates at the next board meeting. He said that the annual PCEF Fundraiser was sold out and very successful.

CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT – Graham Perry, Board Representative**Chester County Intermediate Unit (Mr. Perry)**

Mr. Perry, CCIU Board Representative, reported that the CCIU Board committee held its last meeting on February 18th. He shared that CCIU board reviewed several budget-related presentations as part of the ongoing budget development process. In addition, members received a presentation on the District's barbering program, including remarks from both current and former students. The presentation highlighted the program's mentorship model, career preparation,

and job placement outcomes. It was also noted that the CCIU TCHS Pickering Campus is planning to offer the barbering program beginning in 2027, which was received positively by committee members.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Dan Wiser, Board Representative

Mr. Wiser provided the board with a legislative update on current state-level education matters.

- The proposed Phone-Free Schools legislation remains under consideration, with no changes reported at this time. The Board will continue to monitor developments.
- House Bill 2025, which would reimburse school districts for costs incurred during the recent state budget impasse, was discussed. It was noted that the District does not anticipate qualifying for reimbursement, as it managed the impasse without borrowing.
- The Board discussed a student-led presentation advocating for Vote16PA, a proposal to lower the voting age to 16 for school district elections. It was clarified that implementation at the Pennsylvania state level is not currently permitted; however, several other states allow similar measures at the municipal level. Approximately five to six states were cited during the presentation as having some form of local authority in this area. The presentation was well received, and there is interest in potentially hosting a similar presentation by local students in the future.
- It was further noted that the long-term goal of the Vote16PA group is for school boards to consider adopting resolutions in support of the initiative, should the matter progress.
- Discussions with a PSBA representative highlighted that approximately 77% of Pennsylvania school districts have at least one building in need of major repair or replacement. While no immediate funding is anticipated, PSBA expects state-level facilities funding to become a larger discussion within the next 5–10 years.
- PSBA also reported advocacy efforts to support paid student-teacher internships, noting that unpaid placements limit access for candidates from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Regarding cell phone policy, it was reported that a bell-to-bell cell phone policy is a priority for legislative leadership and the Governor, with an emphasis on preserving local control over policy implementation. Passage is anticipated during the budget process or through an omnibus bill.
- The District's legislative breakfast has been rescheduled to April 17 due to a scheduling conflict. Legislator assignments are pending.
- The next legislative committee meeting is scheduled for March 25.

PHOENIXVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY – Brittany Remington, Board Representative

Phoenixville Public Library (Ms. Remington)

Ms. Remington reported that the Library is a beneficiary of the Kimberton Whole Foods “Round Up at the Register” campaign for the month of March.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Mrs. Melissa McTiernan, Superintendent

Superintendent’s Report (Mrs. McTiernan)

Mrs. McTiernan provided several updates and recognition as part of the Superintendent’s Report.

Student and School Highlights

High School

- Alex Bloom and Aiden Charnley were selected to the PMEA All-State Choir and will represent the District in the Tenor II and Bass I sections. The festival will take place April 22–25. This honor reflects the strength of the District’s music program and student commitment.
- For the first time, Phoenixville High School is offering the PA Seal of Biliteracy. Seven seniors are currently scheduled to complete the required assessments, which include demonstrating reading and writing fluency in a language other than English and earning proficient or advanced scores on the Keystone Literature Exam.

Barkley Elementary School

- Students participated in a Super Bowl food drive benefiting PACS. Students placed donations on the table of the team they predicted would win; Barkley students correctly selected Seattle and collected over 200 food items.
- Barkley celebrated Read Across America with activities including Spirit Week, guest readers from the high school, poetry activities, buddy reading, and “Drop Everything and Read” time.
- Fourth grade students presented their annual Black History Month Wax Museum, showcasing researched presentations on influential figures such as Simone Biles, Kobe Bryant, Harriet Tubman, Katherine Johnson, and others.

- On February 26, Barkley welcomed children’s author Jerry Pallotta, known for the *Who Would Win?* series, for a presentation and book signing attended by students and families.

Hares Hill Elementary

- The Hares Hill “Hop-A-Thon” will be held on Friday, March 13, featuring a live DJ during students’ specials periods. All students may participate, and funds raised will benefit PACS.
- Hares Hill celebrated Read Across America from March 2–6, including Spirit Days, “Drop Everything and Read,” buddy reading between second and sixth grades, a digital bookshelf, and visits from high school Varsity Club readers. Appreciation was extended to staff for organizing the week.

Additional Announcements

- Board members were reminded that Pickering Board Appreciation Night will be held on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- Appreciation was expressed to Ms. Amy Darby, the cast, crew, and production team for the Middle School’s production of *Matilda*, which was praised as an outstanding performance.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- President Overland reiterated appreciation to community members, staff, and students who participated in the recent high school facilities Town Hall. Attendance exceeded three dozen participants, with strong engagement and public comment. Feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of investing in District facilities and improving learning environments for students. The Board affirmed its commitment to continuing transparent dialogue with the community as facility planning and decision-making move forward.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION on any Consent Agenda Item

President Overland opened the floor for comment on any consent agenda item.

No public comment.

VOTING ITEMS under CONSENT AGENDA

President Overland listed the following items for board approval under the consent agenda and requested a motion to approve.

- Personnel Report***
 - March 9, 2026, Personnel Report
- Curriculum***
 - Curriculum - Approval of Book Disposal - Schuylkill Library, DAO, and PAMS Library
 - Curriculum - Approval of Overnight Field Trip Request
 - Curriculum - Approval of Chapter 339 Plan
- Finance***
 - Policy 105.2 - Exemption from Instruction
 - Policy 122 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Policy 122.1 - Noncurricular-Related, Non-school-Sponsored, Student-Initiated Groups
 - Policy 204 - Attendance
 - Policy 246 - School Wellness
 - Policy 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 - Policy 611 - Purchases Budgeted
 - Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Policy 805.1 - Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Policy 805.2 - School Security Personnel
- Other Approvals:***
 - Facilities Grant Authorized Official Resolution for a new roof at Barkley Elementary School
 - Acknowledgement that the Education Department of Fox Rothschild, LLP, the appointed Solicitor, will become the Education Group of McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC effective April 1, 2026. No changes are

being made to the terms of the representation, current rate structure, or personnel. The Superintendent and/or Board President are authorized to sign documents necessary to recognize the change.

17. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2026, Board Meeting

President Overland requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Perry with Ms. Walker seconding.

Ms. Cameron conducted a roll call vote on the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ms. Brittany Remington - YES

Mrs. Susan Turner - YES

Mr. Frank Venezia - YES

Ms. Victoria Walker - YES

Mr. Dan Wiser – YES

Dr. Stephanie Allen-Savage - YES

Dr. Sean Halloran - YES

Mr. Graham Perry - YES

Mr. Scott Overland - YES

MOTION PASSES 9 – 0

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION on any School Subject

Kristen Myers, an East Pikeland Township resident and parent, addressed the Board regarding budget-related impacts on library and music programs. She requested a review of recent library staffing changes to ensure equitable student access and expressed concern that proposed staffing adjustments to band, and orchestra programs could hinder program growth, despite the District's strong history and recognition in music education. She encouraged continued support for these programs and thanked the Board for its service.

ADJOURNMENT

President Overland announced that the next scheduled public meetings include the Curriculum and Policy Committee meetings as well as the Board Meeting on March 23rd beginning at 5:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM for an executive session on Legal and Personnel.

The Minutes of March 9, 2026, Board Meeting are scheduled to be approved at the board meeting on March 23, 2026, Board Meeting. Minutes for March 9, 2026, were prepared by Ms. Lenore Cameron, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent & Cabinet/Board Secretary.

Lenore Cameron, Board Secretary

Date