

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE RECEIVER'S
MEETING OF THE PUBLIC**

**February 18, 2021
6:09 P.M.**

A Public Meeting of the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District was held this evening via Zoom.

Executive Staff Present -	Dr. Juan Baughn, Receiver Dr. Carol Birks, Superintendent Mr. Jeffry Schott, COO Dr. Christine Murrin, Director – Spec. Ed. Dr. Lakiyah Chambers, Director - HR
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School Board -	Anthony Johnson, Board President
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Absent:	Dr. Jala Olds-Pearson, Assistant Superintendent
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The Receiver's meeting opened with a call to order by Receiver, Dr. Juan Baughn and the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Good evening Dr. Baughn, good evening board members, our families, our students, our faculty and staff. I am so excited to welcome you to the receivers meeting this evening. We're going to begin this evening with a presentation from our sensational creative and talented students from Chester High School. Yay, Chester High School. We want to thank their teacher Dr. Marsh, and their principal, Pearl Cameron and the leadership at Chester High School. Please join me this evening in welcoming Aaron Bush and Yasmin Perez. They are 11th grade students at Chester High School.

The students gave a presentation on medial careers. Both students belong to the Chester High School Prestige Honors Academy and the Academy has a science based partnership with Mainline Health for Health Careers. They also partner with HRSA for medical career exploration. They did a short video explaining the program that Dr. Barry Mann created with high schools to explore health careers and the model has expanded to 18 cities across the US. They foster minorities in the field of medicine.

Let's give a round of applause for Yasmin and Aaron. Fantastic job. And to Dr. Marsh, we thank you. And to our Chester High School family. And I just want to say to Aaron and Yasmin, you are timely. So next Friday I have a FaceTime set session with the superintendent and nurse Shelby who is joining our team, we are going to meet with students because we are looking for ambassadors to help spread the word throughout the district about preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. So I'd be humbled and honored if you'd be a part of that team with me as I'm making this appeal now because you did a fantastic job in your presentation. And thank you very much. Let's give them a round of applause again. So additionally this evening we have more to come. So Dr. Baughn I need about-

Dr. Baughn - Hold on Dr. Birks, before we let our students go, I just want to say thank you and thank you and thank you again. And it reminds me why my DR doesn't stand for medical and Dr. Marsh. So congratulations. And students, there's nothing you can't do. Thank you Miss Cameron. Thank you very, very much. I know Dr. Birks has some more for us. But before Dr. Birks continues her superintendent report, I like to ask Maillie who did our 2019 audit to make the audit presentation at this point. And once again, I want to thank Dr. Marsh and Miss Cameron and their students for their wonderful presentation. And when we can do so, I'm coming up to check some of that out myself. Okay. Chris Herr, welcome. And we're going to ask that you would give your presentation on our long overdue 2019 audit.

Chris Herr from Maillie LLP gave a presentation on the audit that was done for the June 30, 2019 year end.

Dr. Baughn – Thank you very much, Chris. Dr. Birks, at this point if you would continue your superintendent report, please.

Thank you, Dr. Baughn. So in honor of Black History Month, Chester Upland school district is highlighting trailblazers who change history. So if you look on our social media outlets, we are showcasing national notable figures. We also highlighted a local figure who's made great strides for us as Americans in this country. And so as I began to reflect as an African American and as a woman and as your superintendent, I was just thinking, I saw a T-shirt and I also saw a poster. And it stated, oh, to dream like Martin, to lead like Harriet, to fight like Malcolm, to think like Garvey, to write like Maya, to build like Madam CJ Walker, to

educate like Dr. W.E.B. Du bois, to believe like Thurgood, to challenge like Rosa and to inspire like Obama. I'm so proud that these individuals displayed courage and servant leadership and made sacrifices not just for African Americans, but for all Americans in this country. And so I just want to say please join us as we salute these notable African Americans for their contributions and happy Black History Month. Moving along, we are excited that we welcome back our students to phase two of in person learning, and all of our teachers are back. Let's give everyone around applause.

We have our teachers who are back in district, well not today. And so our phase two, we had pre-K to two students. And we are gearing up for phase three in which we'll welcome our third grade through 12th grade students back on March 2nd. So just want to remind our parents, if you selected the hybrid option, it is imperative that you send our lovely children on the days that they're supposed to report. So if you are in cohort C, your days to report to school are Mondays and Tuesdays. If you are in the cohort U, your days to report to school are on Thursdays and Fridays. And we have this information on our website as well as in social media. And on Wednesdays our children will learn virtually in the morning and then have asynchronous learning in the afternoon. And teachers and support staff and administration will learn in the afternoon so that we are prepared to provide the teaching and learning and the skills and empower our adults in the organization to serve you. So we're asking families, if you selected the hybrid model or virtual or whatever model you selected, that you continue with that learning model until March 27th.

Now if you want to change the learning model, we will send out a survey, you will have an opportunity to switch for the next marking period. But we need you based because of the social distancing guidelines and we want to best manage the district, we're asking you to hold to the model that you selected. And my entire report I'm going to send to the entire learning community as I always do and post on Facebook and all our social media outlets. Just in case you say, "What did Dr. Birks say?" So I'll have it all in writing. Also we want to share that we have launched our ready to learn and accelerate school reopening guide. So that particular document I want to thank our pandemic school reopening task force, our health and safety team and everyone who was involved. So if you go to our website, there is a 135 page document. And I also want to give a special thanks to Carrie who supported in this effort and Mr. Simonson because they were lead players in this. And so it tells you everything you need to know. How do you wear your mask, what did the district purchase in terms of supplies and how are we cleaning our district, what kind of cleaning supplies are we using, how are we teaching our learners, what professional development are teachers receiving. Everything is compiled in one place for you. So please go to our website.

We will also figure out how we PDF it and put it on Facebook and our social media outlets. We even have our decision making guidance, how are they making decisions in the district. So we're excited, that's hot off the presses. Also, we want to share a special recognition. So each month we have our you are the light celebration. And this evening we have members of our learning community that we are showcasing you this tonight. So for the month of February, these are you are the light recipients. Staff members and to faculty and staff. Community hero, Desmond [Hastie 00:33:30] he's from our IT department. Trendsetter, Anthony Moss, Chester High School. Classroom catalysts, Sara Zanara from Chester Upland School of the Arts. These are our student recipients. Our community hero, Myron Echols from Toby Farm School. Trendsetter, Jabali Ward from Toby Farm School. Classroom catalysts, Cristopher Miranda from Chester Upland School of the Arts. Let's give them around applause. And tonight I'm so honored to share this particular recipients name. When I talked with one of her former students, she raved about how much this educator inspired her to believe in herself, who pushed her thinking, who stretched her to be the incredible leader that she is today.

And that particular staff member is Dr. Chambers.

She is a proud graduate of Chester High School. And the teacher that we are going to recognize tonight and I'm going to make sure I go meet her in person is Dr. Dolores Wright. Let's give a round of applause for Dr. Dolores Wright. Doctor Wright has served as a science teacher at Chester High School for more than 40 years. We can't get people to do things for 40 minutes. And she's been a teacher for our 40 years, a science teacher at that. At a time when women didn't go into the sciences, especially women of color. Dr. Wright, we are so honored that you are part of our learning community. We are so inspired by you, by your gifts and your talents. And we want to say thank you. Thank you so much for your leadership and service. And I see people putting in the chat, we love you Dr. Wright. We love you, Dr. Wright. Let's give a round of applause for Dr. Wright. Thank you so much and I am so honored to serve as your superintendent. Finally as part of my report, and we have something special for those individuals. So Dr. Birks and the team will come around to see you in person.

So finally, next Thursday, everyone mark your calendars, we are hosting a community forum. And this one's going to be really exciting because we, although the others were exciting but this was especially exciting, because we are partnering with the Chester County, excuse me, the city of Chester, I'm sorry, the city of Chester, as well as Crozier and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. So we have leading experts. And we're going to have a surprise too. Our receiver and our board president and others will be a part of that particular evening, sharing their insights. And the focus of this particular forum will be on testing how we keep each other safe as a community as well as the COVID-19 vaccination. So we are so excited about next Thursday 6 PM, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. So we did share this with our internal learning community, but we will post all the details on our social media outlets as well as our website. And that concludes my presentation for this evening Dr. Baughn. Thank you.

Dr. Baughn - Thank you, Dr. Birks. Thank you so very much. And Dr. Birk, I have a request or a question, I'm not sure which. Is there a way that we can put pictures of those recipients who are okay with it on our website with the names of what they were awarded?

Dr. Birks - We can do anything you say, Dr. Baughn. Yes, absolutely.

Dr. Baughn - Let's do that.

Dr. Birks - Yes, we'll work on that.

Dr. Baughn - Let's do that. And I don't want to not say yes to everyone, but I can't. But I would like to say congratulations, as a lot of folks are in the chat rooms to Dr. Wright, who I've known for most of those 40 years she's been in Chester. So congratulations to all the recipients and certainly congratulations to the senior of those recipients, Dr. Wright. Thank you Dr. Birks.

Dr. Birks - Thank you, Dr. Baughn. My team reminded me I forgot to mention one more thing in my report, and it's that tomorrow will be a virtual learning day. So we will get that information out. But we will learn virtually tomorrow. So thank you.

Dr. Baughn - There're some things you don't want to forget Dr. Birks. Thank you so very, very much. We're going to move on with our agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF JANUARY 21, 2021

Receiver Dr. Baughn approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Raised Hands:

Pace Chess, Margie Walton - You know us pretty well. And we have sat in on almost all the receivers meeting, even though a lot of times the meeting itself doesn't go well because of technical difficulties. And the very first time where they first met you guys, first introduced Carol Birks as our new superintendent, I wanted so much to speak and greet her. I have all of my staff because it's five of us. It was originally 13 but since we had the COVID and the virtual shift, we only now have five. And just tell her how glad we were. It was so exciting with the fact that she's just so enthusiastic about everything. I love the hands, the clapping, all that. And I'm very familiar with Dr. J, you and of course Cris and most people on staff. I'm so sorry that you've lost quite a few of our administration, Nikki and a few other people have moved on. But I want to say Dr. Birks, congratulations. And as you've taken the time to introduce some of the other things like the medical, different technologies and the other programs, we really haven't had a chance to talk to you about the chess. And although we did sign the contract, we never really got a chance to talk to you about the chess and tell you what we bring to also the district and to education.

So here we are now, since we're getting kind of outed too long winded. But since we're getting back in time, I just want to say thank you to everybody that puts, Mr. Johnson and everyone else for just having this done as well as you have and the transition to going back to school partially. As she was saying, some of us are going back to school a couple days a week physically. So it's been a long process. We had to get training, a lot of things, just to keep the program going. But I just want to say, everybody has done so well and I'm just proud to still being connected with Chester Upland School district. Dr. Baughn you know the office many we've ben to the office many times, no charge myself. We're all on tonight. You can't see us. I hope you can hear me. But thank you for everything. With everything changing as it is, we just want to make sure that when everything goes down, we're doing the classes over there, we're taking the training, we do our due diligence, there was nothing we acknowledged. And I just want to say that we appreciate it as much as some of the other programs.

So that being said, I tried to talk to Mr. Smith earlier. We were here around 5:30 Scott, and with, is it Ms. Shelly, she's out she's sick, well she's out sick. What exactly is going to be the process for when things change are sending and our invoices, and wasn't in the distribution of checks and things of that nature. So I don't want to take all this time, but I didn't have a chance previously to talk about the program. We never ever wholly acknowledged, but we feel we bring a lot to the educational arena. And we're so excited, we love teaching. So that means that I'm done. Charles wants to end and Mr. Brooksie, he's on, he's listening. Miss Kami, Mr. Richard. We're all here, but we don't want to take all day long because I know you have a lot of other people want to raise your hand. And incidentally all the students and the parents who allow their kids to play the chess, thank you. You have a great time every day with the platform. So that's basically it.

Dr. Baughn - Thank you very much. And Dr. Birks may not know you, but the rest of us certainly do. And you keep Pace Chess for us, would you please. Thank you very, very much.

Carol Quasim - Thank you. I just wanted to know, I'm aware that the teachers are supposed to come back in person to be able to perform their duties as a teacher in the classroom. But if one of them were pretty much

sick or had concerns about them having COVID or had any suspicions, how are you guys handling that? Because I'm being told that they're also not supposed to teach from home. So in a situation that they are subjected to just have COVID, how would that go for the kids since now the teachers are back in person?

Dr. Birks - So Miss Quasim, good evening. How are you tonight? So we have pretty clear protocols we're following. I'm going to ask Dr. Chambers just to give us a quick highlight of the process as it relates to how we are keeping people safe.

Dr. Chambers - Good evening. Yes, so much of what you said is correct. If an individual is in fact dealing with a COVID related matter, they would need to follow the guidance and also the guidance from their physician. If someone is exposed to COVID-19, i.e, within close contact, they would need to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure. If someone has tested positive for COVID-19, they would need to self-isolate for 10 days. And this is the guidance that we follow from the CDC, directly from the CDC. During the time that one of our staff members or employees is either self-isolating or quarantining, they would not be working virtually as the district has not approved any virtual working. If it is a teacher situation, then we would provide substitute support to cover that class. Or work with the principals to provide a strategic approach to ensure that the students are still getting what they need in the absence of the teacher. Thank you

Ms. Quasim - Thank you.

Dr. Birks - Some of the information that Dr., and thank you Dr. Chambers, just shared is on our website today on our ready to learn and accelerate guide. So it shows the decision making protocol and all the protocols that we're using.

Dr. Baughn - Miss Quasim, I apologize. But those who are speaking should give their full name and address please, if you don't mind. Thank you.

Ms. Quasim - 27 East 23rd Street.

Mr. Johnson - I have a question because I just listened to that comment and question. So we're saying if a teacher test is positive in their home, we're going to hire a substitute, we're not going to let them teach from home.

Dr. Birks - Yes. And Dr. Chambers can you explain the law.

Dr. Chambers - Yes. So Mr. Johnson, that is correct. There is no virtual working while we are in person learning.

Mr. Johnson – Ok. I will have couple of questions on that later.

There were no further questions on the Q&A and the Chat.

EDUCATION AGENDA

None

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS – THERE WERE NO ITEMS FOR APPROVAL.

PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-1 Approval of appointments, retirements, resignations, position eliminations, recall from furlough, leaves of absence, sabbatical, return from leave of absence, winter sports coaches.

RESOLVED, that the following **appointments** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Level/Step</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>New Position/Replacement</u>
Kratochvil, Carrie	Temporary Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent	\$20 per hour	n/a	02/02/2021	Temporary Replacement
Hughes, Brittany	Spec Ed Teacher/Stetser	\$44,176 (+\$200)	B1	02/08/2021	Replacement

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **retirements** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Marrero, Brulinda	Lunch Aide/Toby Farms	03/21/2021
Moore, James	Teacher/Chester High	06/30/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **resignations** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
McCready, Britney	Teacher/Main Street	03/22/2021
Greenberg, Stuart	Teacher/STEM	03/25/2021
Cogdell, Nicole	Spec Ed Coordinator/ADMIN	01/24/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **position eliminations** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Warren Green, Syreeta	Purchasing Coordinator/ ADMIN	01/22/2021
Worsley, Natalie	Accounts Payable Coordinator/ADMIN	01/22/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **recall from furlough** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Stanford, Phyllis	Lunch Aide/CUSA	02/01/2021
Merritt, Valerie	Lunch Aide/ Stetser	02/01/2021
Mareo, Brulinda	Lunch Aide/Toby Farms	02/01/2021
Irving, Blanche	Lunch Aide/Stetser	02/01/2021
Graves, Scarlet	Lunch Aide/CUSA	02/01/2021
Blackwell-Benson, Deborah	Lunch Aide/CUSA	02/01/2021
Allen, Helena	Lunch Aide/Main Streer	02/01/2021
Ahmad, Ameenah	Lunch Aide/Main Street	02/01/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **leave of absences** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Pawlowski, Melanie	Teacher/CUSA	01/25/2021-02/23/2021 FMLA
Norman-Neal, Viola	Teacher/CHS	11/16/2020-02/12/2021 FMLA
Laws, Darren	Teacher/Toby Farms	01/20/2021-04/20/2021 FMLA
Chapman, Shelly	Business Office Manager/ADMIN	01/21/2021-06/30/2021 FMLA

Robinson, Kinya	Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent	01/20/2021-03/17/2021 FMLA
Forney, Davina	Teacher/CHS	02/03/2021-03/07/2021 FMLA

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **sabbatical leave of absence** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Norman-Neal, Viola	Teacher/CHS	02/13/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **return from leave of absence** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Olds-Pearson, Jala	Assistant Superintendent/Admin	02/08/2021

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **Winter Sport Coaches** be approved for the 2020-2021 school year:

*Corrections from previous agenda.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Thomas, Terry	Boys Basketball Assistant Coach	\$3,939.85
Tate, Keith	Boys Basketball Assistant Coach	\$3,939.85
Dennis, Jimmy	Boys Basketball Assistant Coach	\$3,929.85
Dorsey, Chris	Boys Basketball Assistant Coach	\$3939.85

B-2 Tuition Reimbursement

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for employees listed below to receive tuition reimbursement for the 2020-2021 school year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Administrators</u>		<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
	<u>Credits Submitted</u>	<u>Credits Approved</u>		
Worsley, Natalie	3	3	\$1,785.00	\$1,785.00

B-3 General Fund Budget: \$1,792,787.86. Approval of payrolls

RESOLVED, that the payrolls dated in January, 2021 of the various accounts totaling for all accounts and funds the grand sum of \$1,792,787.86, be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: Lakiyah Chambers

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEM #B-1 THROUGH B-3 WERE APPROVED BY DR. JUAN BAUGHN, RECEIVER.

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 Reports of the tax collectors: \$1,040,537.48

RESOLVED, that the reports of the City of Chester, Borough of Upland, and Chester Township for the period January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021 in the amount of \$1,040,537.48 be received, be noted upon the Minutes and filed.

Executive Sponsor: Jeffrey Schott

C-2 Approval of the Treasurer's Report/Budget Report

RESOLVED, that the attached Treasurer's Report/Budget Report for the fiscal month ended January 31, 2021 be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: Jeffrey Schott

C-3 General Fund Budget: \$5,315,669.54. Approval of list of payments

RESOLVED, that the attached list of payments of the various accounts totaling for all accounts and funds the grand sum of \$5,315,669.54, a copy of which has been given to the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, be APPROVED, and that said list of payments be incorporated into the Minutes.

General Fund	\$5,258,822.06
Food Services Account	56,847.48
Capital Project Fund Account	<u>0.00</u>
 Total Disbursements	 \$5,315,669.54

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Jeffry Schott

TABLED C-4 Approval for CCIU to provide supplemental technology support

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval for the CCIU to provide supplemental technology support services as needed during the months of February and March, 2021.

Payable From: ESSER CARES
Cost: Not to Exceed \$60,000
Executive Sponsor: Noreen O'Neill

C-5 Approval to purchase 300 docking stations, 200 monitors and 400 flash drives

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval for the purchase of 300 docking stations, 200 monitors, and 400 flash drives from Dell Technologies to be used by Chester Upland School District teachers to provide hybrid instruction.

Payable From: ESSER CARES
Cost: \$81,569
Executive Sponsor: Noreen O'Neill

C-6 Approval of the MOU for Chester Township Police Department to provide police services to CUSD

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chester Township Police Department to provide police services to Chester Upland School District.

Executive Sponsor: Ronald Simonson

C-7 Approval to continue legal relationship with Donald J. Weiss, Esq. for tax appeals

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval to continue the legal relationship with Donald J. Weiss, Esq. to litigate tax appeals.

Payable From: General Fund Budget

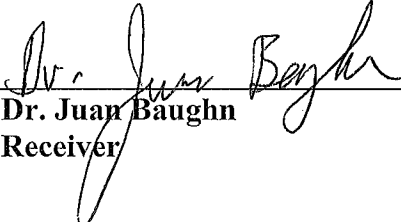
Cost: 30% of amount recovered

Executive Sponsor: Jeffry Schott

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #C-1 THROUGH #C-3 AND #C-5 THROUGH #C-7, WITH C-4 BEING TABLED, WERE APPROVED BY DR. JUAN BAUGHN, RECEIVER

There being no further business *Receiver, Dr. Juan Baughn* adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER**

 _____ Dr. Juan Baughn Receiver	2/18/21 _____ Date
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