

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

**December 19, 2019
6:18 P.M.**

A Public Meeting of the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District was held this evening at the Administration Offices, 232 West 9th Street, 1st Floor, Chester, Pennsylvania.

Executive Staff Present -	Dr. Gregory Thornton, Interim Receiver Dr. Baughn, Superintendent Dr. Jala Olds-Pearson, Assistant Superintendent
Solicitor -	George Dawson, Esquire
Board -	Anthony Johnson, Board President
Absent -	Ms. Sharon Brokenbough, COO

Before the meeting was called to order, Dr. Gregory Thornton, Interim Receiver thanked everyone for their support of his return to Chester Upland School District, as he was Superintendent her 11 years ago. He felt very blessed to be able to come "home" and work for the children of Chester. He said he valued what we are doing on behalf of the children as we move forward.

The Receiver's meeting opened with a call to order by Interim Receiver, Dr. Gregory Thornton and the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Just a couple of things; one is an announcement, and that is that tomorrow STEM High School and Chester School will be on a half day schedule. They're being dismissed at 10:30. The elementary school and middle school will be dismissed at regular time. That's tomorrow. I will be making a robo call as soon as this meeting's over to let the parents and students know that change.

The second thing I want to talk about, Dr. Thornton, is something that came up in court the last time we were in session. Towards the end of the hearing, whatever date that was, I asked to speak as it relates to our facility. Some of you may or may not remember that day we were in court was the day after I had to dismiss students at STEM because it was too cold for our students to be in the building. I was in the building with a number of folks from the city, and the fact was, it was not appropriate for us to stay in school. I mentioned that to the court, and since that time, Mr. Newton, our Facilities Director, and I, have been putting together a temporary, *temporary*, list of items that need to occur immediately for us to have any hope of my not having to close down some of our schools this winter.

I want to be really clear. We put together a list that if we do this gives us a ray of hope that we won't. But there is no guarantee until we change a lot of infrastructure in our buildings, can we guarantee that that won't happen. To that end, we have put forth a \$350,000 request to the Department of Education for immediate relief, and I got a call just today that says that money will be forthcoming. Now, I will celebrate that when the funds are here. But please know, and the Board and I have been dealing with this for a long time, one of the things that I will continue to fight for facilities and infrastructure in our school district. This is just a tiny, tiny, tiny start for something that should have been done a long time ago. That concludes my report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Interim Receiver Dr. Thornton approved for previous Receiver, Peter Barsz.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Delores Shelton - First of all, good evening. I'm Dolores Shelton, 138 East [inaudible 00:06:25] Street. It's been a little while since I've been with you because of my [inaudible 00:06:30] schedule, but, and I really haven't had a chance to go through this with a fine tooth comb, but I'm here, first of all, to just congratulate you for bringing us this far. We know we have to tighten up and do more. Thank you, Dr. Thornton, for at least starting the effort of making a way so our children can go to school every day. And not, some days we have to stay home because of the weather, which we have no control. So it might be really, really cold now, and another month it might be like spring or fall. This weather is very, very different. So let's just keep in prayer the school district that we can just continue on, that that money really does arrive, because we don't celebrate until we actually see it. So we really thank you for making the effort. And it's not just the effort. I know you've been working on it for a long time. So, let's just keep going, Dr. Thornton, congratulation that you're back. But let's make it really significant that you're back, and let's make this district what it should be. Because we know it's not easy, but we're going to keep all of you in prayer, including our teachers. Because

they really have a hard job today. It's not like it was when I taught. The children are altogether different, and the parents are different. It's a whole set of new folks. So we just keep all of you, and I know every night in my prayer, I pray for this district. From the door, to everybody within the district, and that means everybody. So I shall continue to do that every day. And so far we're blessed, we haven't had all these shootings and stuff in schools. We just keep praying. And just, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a prosperous New Year for this district.

John Shelton, Sr. - Board, Dr. Baughn. Come back, Dr. Thornton And all of you that are almost home grown. I'll say congratulations to you. We pray that we be before you, because we're not together enough to pray with you. But the prayers are going to help, anyhow. For action is prayer with our church. It's very much alive. And that's what we've been doing, praying, staying, fighting, arguing, for the survival of our children. And to keep a district, and to get back control, and to fight for the children, also. Like my wife just stated. They're different, too. So we are trying to do that, trying to help them, and we have to go to school, too. Learn how to help them. We have to go to school to learn how to get the parents out, which is the hardest part of the job. But that's part of the problem. We got to get some teachers. We used to call it PTA, PTO, and all of that. That's gone. The next, your job, my job, and all of our jobs suffer. Because all of us should be going towards self esteem for those children. So it's a thing that has to come together, because we're all working for the same party. It's a self esteem issue. Can't do it separately. It will never happen. That's why it took this long to get where we are right now. And we're still fighting. As today, we're still fighting. We're fighting the union, we are fighting the people in Harrisburg. And we are fighting to help you all, because you are fighting them, too. So we understand that not many of us really understand this whole, because most of them haven't lived as long as we have. So we can tell you, being the Lord has blessed us, to be here this long, to bring it this far. It's not impossible, but tough. We say congratulations. And the only way we're going to really save it is for us to come together. And that's been the toughest job. That's why it took us this long to get here. There's been enough fighting in the world without us fighting each other. Some of us have not yet found that out. But thank God for the ones that have. And we say congratulations for staying power. A merry Christmas. That's all it is.

John Shelton, Jr. - Good evening. I thank you that you sing to my family, I thank them for everything they've done for me, made me that man that I am. And made me the person I am. I am not a saint. So first of all, Dr. Thornton, congratulations on coming back to the district. Thank you for coming back. I know you're going to serve us well. Dr. Baughn, all the things you've done for the district, and things that are going well, things that have gone wrong, but at least you've stood up for us when we need to stand up. Mr. Johnson, that's the Board President. We thank you for fighting the long fight, the good fight, and staying in the fight, and allowing us to keep fighting for our children. Mr. Dawson, thank you, sir, for serving as the leader of our legal. And of course, Dr. Pearson, thank you for all the things that you've done. I'm not telling you bye, I'm just telling you, thank you.

I want to thank all the people who showed up tonight to represent Chester. All the parents, all the teachers, all the individuals that have come forth and set a precedent of our children being first. We thank you for doing the things that they've done, supporting the things they've supported. And now it's time to get down to brass tacks. We got a district to save. And the only way it's going to stay alive, if all the persons in front of me do their job. The job is a responsibility to our students, responsibility to our community, responsibility to the staff that's working for them that does the hard work. We're asking everyone to please work with us, so we can be about our children, and educate our children, and make a better community, and make a better stand for the city of Chester. Without us, the children will falter. Without the children, the city will falter. The city is on a brink right now of collapsing. We need every educated person to do their job to keep this city alive. This is not a joke. We are not playing; we need everybody on our team. We don't need nobody coming

behind us, nobody attacking us. If you are on our team, then be with our team. If you are not on our team, then get lost. If you are not for this team, then stand up and walk off, because we don't need you. We have too many people committing and sacrificing themselves to keep this district alive. For those that are trying to sabotage us, I say, there's a place for you that's all burning. If you want us to succeed, then do so. If you take the position to keep us alive, then do so. If you don't, get off the boat and sail somewhere and be sure that we don't have you to worry about. (Applause).

I have committed my life to these children. I left, I came back and saw a need and I did it. I'm not as strong and committed as Dr. Baughn was. I don't have the position that Dr. Thornton has. I don't have the legality that Mr. Dawson has, nor do I have the credentials that Dr. Pearson does, but all of these individuals are running our school district and are staying afloat, staying alive, and making sure we do what we've got to do. Don't depend on me. I'm not going to be around forever. Never this position, but surely, I will be around to make sure that anybody who stands up, and recognizes, and volunteers for these positions, I will be on your throat to make sure that you do what you've got to do. At some point, it becomes necessary; I will come for your job.

Dr. Juan Baughn - A small edit I'd like to make here Dr. Thornton. Dr. Thornton, Mr. Shelton, you said that the people in front of me do their job.

Mr. Shelton - Yes, sir.

Dr. Baughn - And I would say the same for the people in front of me, and we're going to do this thing. The people that were in front of you and the people behind you need to do their job, and that's when we become, "we" and not, "I". (Applause)

Jean Arnold - I wasn't going to say anything today, that's why I didn't sign up, which is a milestone. And then I looked over the packet that is in front of me and I just need some help. I think I'm misreading a number. I'm not sure, but you look at cash disbursements, page seven. The two sets of numbers. If you go to the section in the back that says cash disbursements. Dr. Baughn, I think this long Baughn here with the check, and it seems to me that the total amount is \$523,823!

Christina Coleman - It's the total, Jean. It's the total of this page, okay? Then Dr. Baughn is underneath of it and up to the next page.

Ms. Arnold - So where is his?

Ms. Coleman - Here. Look. See, look. Okay, see here. This is the total amount of everything up until then, and then this is Dr. Baughn here.

Ms. Arnold - What is his?

Ms. Coleman - \$343.

Ms. Arnold - Oh, oh. Thank you.

EDUCATION AGENDA

A-1 Approval of Homebound Instruction for Students

<u>Student #</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective</u>
None		

A-2 Approval to adopt and approve Determinations from Student Hearings

<u>Student #</u>	<u>Date of Hearing</u>
211433	11/18/19
211082	11/18/19
1005355	11/26/19
213290	11/26/19
78603	11/26/19
211410	11/26/19

A-3 Approval for four SSTLs to provide services to SpEd teachers and administrators

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors grants approval for the Chester Upland School District’s five Student Service Teacher Leaders (SSTLs); Markeisha Bell, Dariah Jackson, Jon Osborn, Maria Laut and Julia Davis, to provide building level support services to special education teachers and administrators. The supports take place either an hour before or an hour after the beginning and end of the school day. The supports will focus on adhering to and maintaining special education policies and procedures as outlined by PDE and CUSD. These supports will include: supporting special education programing, ensuring documentation compliance, providing ongoing professional development opportunities, and acting as liaisons between district and building administrators, and assist in annual special education audits. SSTLs were also identified as part of the previous and current updates to the Finance Recovery Plan. This resolution has great cost saving potential by avoiding errors that can turn into due process complaints resulting in settlement agreements. The cost has already been written into the Ready To Learn Grant for this school year.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: \$7,500 stipend per SSTL, not to exceed \$37,500
Executive Sponsor: Mark McIntyre

A-4 Approval for reimbursements for tutoring sessions for SpEd students

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for reimbursement of tutoring sessions for a student identified as Special Education from 9/9/19-11/11/19.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: \$720
Executive Sponsor: Mark McIntyre

A-5 Approval for Dr. Juan Baughn to attend Superintendents Summit on Jan. 22-24, 2020 in Tucson, AZ

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for Dr. Juan Baughn to attend the Superintendents Summit on Jan. 22-24, 2020 in Tucson, AZ

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: Not to Exceed \$1000
Executive Sponsor: Juan Baughn

A-6 Approval for The Education Board, Inc. to provide coaching to principals

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for The Education Board, Inc. to provide coaching service to all six principals Jan. 2nd- June 30th, 2020.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: \$51,900
Executive Sponsor: Juan Baughn

A-7 Approval for Chester High School students to participate in the annual college tour

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the School Board of Directors, grant approval for Chester High School students to participate in the annual college tour from February 24-28, 2020.

Payable From: Title IV (Transportation) & General Fund Budget
Cost: Not to Exceed \$40,760
Executive Sponsor: Juan Baughn

A-8 Approval for Inspired Instruction, LLC to provide professional services

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for Inspired Instruction, LLC to provide professional services in support of the creation of cohesive and rigorous academic and career-ready Information Technology and Criminal Law Academies within Chester High School.

Services will include:

- Planning and facilitation of PLC meetings
- Review and analysis of data
- Creation and alignment of assessments (formative, summative)
- Development of resources needed for the academies
- Creation and alignment of, and professional development related to, Project-Based Learning units
- Other tasks as identified by the administrative team

Payable From: Comprehensive School Improvement Grant

Cost: Not to Exceed \$200,000

Executive Sponsor: Nikki Monroe-Hines

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AGENDA

A-9 Approval of renewal of MOU for Delaware County Foster Grandparent Program

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for renewal of the MOU for the Delaware County Foster Grandparent Program for 2020-2023. There is no charge for this service.

Executive Sponsor: Mark McIntyre

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #A-1 THROUGH #A-8, AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM #A-9 WERE APPROVED BY DR. GREGORY THORNTON, INTERIM RECEIVER

PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-1 Approval of appointments, reassignments, retirements, resignations, rescinded recall from furlough, leaves of absence, teacher mentors, grant funded programs, and fall/middle and winter school 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>Effective Date</u>	<u>New Position or Replacement</u>
Gallashaw, Latasha	School Safety Officer Chester High School	\$25,277 10 months	12/5/2019	Replacement 0770 G.F.B 2019-2020
Handy, Janera	Middle School Girl's Basketball Coach STEM	\$1,500 10 months	12/10/2019	Replacement 0184 G.F.B 2019-2020
Shaw, Dennis	Middle School Boy's Basketball Coach STEM	\$1,500 10 months	12/10/2019	Replacement 0208 G.F.B 2019-2020

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u> <u>Position/Location</u>	<u>To</u> <u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Date</u>
Foreman, Marchelle	Assistant Principal Chester High School 12 months	SPED Supervisor Administration 12 months	\$92,000	1/2/2020
Robinson, Kinya	Employment Specialist Administration 12 months	Interim Human Resources Director Administration 12 months	\$80,000	10/7/2019

Corrections to November Agenda (Date)

Greene, Lavada	Teacher Stetser 10 months	Interim Principal Stetser 12 months	\$102,500	11/18/2019
Johnson, Thomas	Technology Administration 12 months	Interim Information Technology Administration 12 months	\$95,000	12/3/2019

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

Correction to November Agenda (Effective Date)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Davis, Bonita	Teacher Main Street	4/13/2020

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>
Ayala, Yemele	Special Assistant to the Superintendent Administration	11/12/2019
Clark, Rebecca	Teacher Chester High School	1/14/2020
Culbertson, Joshua	Information Technology Director Administration	12/2/2019
Flynn, Bridget	Volleyball Coach Stetser	9/24/2019
Massa, Dayanara	Bilingual Teacher Assistant CUSA	11/18/2019
Richardson, Darelle	Custodian CUSA	11/25/2019

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Taylor, Lateefah	Teacher Assistant Toby Farms	11/21/2019

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Hardee-Brown, Katrina	Executive Assistant Administration	11/22/2019-3/1/2020 FMLA
Hoffman, Kurt	Teacher CUSA	11/20/2019-1/2/2020 FMLA

Mangini, Lisa	Teacher CUSA	11/27/2019-12/19/2019 FMLA
Pratt, Dinah	Teacher CUSA	12/2/2019-9/4/2020 Medical Sabbatical

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Wright, Delores	10/30/2019
Norman, Viola	10/30/2019
Marsh, Rose	10/30/2019
Murphy, Shannon	10/30/2019
Dearden, Jennifer	10/30/2019
Sas, Kamilla	10/30/2019
Clark, Rebecca	10/30/2019
Fachet, Mary Sue	10/30/2019

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the following individuals to participate in the **grant-funded Programs** during the 2019-2020 school year as listed below:

Afterschool STEM

September 9, 2019-June 30, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Matteo, Christina	Teacher	\$32./hr
Schoppet, Larry	Teacher	\$32./hr
Thomson, Rachael	Coordinator	\$40./hr
Joe, Shareeta	Teacher Assistant	\$15./hr

Afterschool Stetser

September 9, 2019-June 30, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Goodwin, Maureen	Teacher	\$32./hr
Ruiz, Joann	Teacher	\$32./hr
Walker, Tammy	Teacher	\$32./hr

PBIS Team-Main Street

August 8, 2019- June 30, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Cox-Cottman, Tammy	Teacher	\$25./hr
Cartwright, Diane	Teacher	\$25./hr
DiFurio, Margaret	Teacher	\$25./hr
Dougherty, Joan Ray	Teacher	\$25./hr
Hudnell, Sheena	Teacher	\$25./hr
McMahon, Marybeth	Teacher	\$25./hr
Messenger, Jason	Teacher	\$25./hr
Naylor, Mellonease	Teacher	\$25./hr
Wilches, Maria	Teacher	\$25./hr
Shuster, David	Teacher	\$25./hr
Shuttlesworth, Sonny	Teacher	\$25./hr
Stewart, LaTasha	Teacher	\$25./hr
Stokes, Gloria	School Security	\$18./hr
Tiffany, Rebbekah	Teacher Assistant	\$15./hr

Correction to October Agenda (Rate)

PBIS Team-Stetser

August 8, 2019- June 30, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Francis, Jennifer	Teacher	\$25./hr
Walker, Tammy	Teacher	\$25./hr
Flatley, Jennifer	Teacher	\$25./hr
Jackson, Dariah	Teacher	\$25./hr
Bell, Markeisha	Teacher	\$25./hr
Greene, Lavada	Teacher	\$25./hr

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver grant approval for individual listed below to receive **supplemental salary** (Title II) for serving in the following capacities during the 2019-2020 school year.

School Based Academy Leader

December 10, 2019-June 30, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Norman, Viola	Chester High School	\$2,000
Scott-Brown, Donna	Chester High School	\$2,000

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following additional **Fall/Middle and Winter School Coaches** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Collins, Lamont	Middle School Basketball Coach	\$1,500
White, Shakanda	Middle School Cheerleading Coach	\$1,500
Sherrod, Michelle	Middle School Cheerleading Coach	\$1,500
Taylor, Keith	Head Coach, Boys Basketball	\$5,253.13
Dennis, James	Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball	\$3,750
Mooore, Durell	Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball	\$3,750
Tate, Kenneth	Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball	\$3,750
Burney, Harry	Head Coach, Girls Basketball	\$3,677.19
Stevenson, Shari	Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball	\$2,625.00
Allen, Jamal	Head Coach, Girls Indoor Track	\$4,202.50
Wharton, James	Head Coach, Boys Indoor Track	\$4,202.50
Thomas, Terry	Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball	\$3,750
Dorsey, Christopher	Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball	\$3,750

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEM #B-1 WAS APPROVED BY DR. GREGORY THORNTON, INTERIM RECEIVER.

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 Reports of the tax collectors: \$1,260,342.29

RESOLVED, that the reports of the City of Chester, Borough of Upland, and Chester Township for the period November 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019 in the amount of \$1,260,342.29 be received, be noted upon the Minutes and filed.

Executive Sponsor: Sharon Brokenbough

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

RESOLVED, that the attached Treasurer's Report/Budget Report for the fiscal month ended November 30, 2019 be APPROVED by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: Sharon Brokenbough

C-3 General Fund Budget: \$2,138,782.94. Approval of payrolls

RESOLVED, that the payrolls dated in November, 2019 of the various accounts totaling for all accounts and funds the grand sum of \$2,138,782.94, be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

General Fund Budget: \$7,231,309.91. 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 \$7,231,309.91, of which General Fund payments total \$7,219,892.78, Food Services Fund payments total \$2,578.75 and Capital Projects Fund payments total \$8,838.38, a copy of which has been given to the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, and a copy of which is now before the Receiver, be APPROVED, and that said list of payments be incorporated into the December 17, 2019 Minutes.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Sharon Brokenbough

C-4 Approval for the Deposit of Proceeds of Bonds into Settlement Account

RESOLVED, that the receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the **Deposit of Proceeds of Bonds into Settlement Account: Application of Moneys in Settlement Account.** Any reserve in the Settlement Account for the future payment of costs of issuance of the Bonds shall be disbursed from time to time by the Paying Agent to pay such costs upon the written order of the President or Vice President of the Board of School Directors or the Treasurer of the School District, approved by the School District Receiver, and the presentation of proper invoices for such costs, and any balance of such reserve ultimately remaining in the Settlement Account after payment of all such costs of issuance shall, upon the written order of the President or Vice President of the Board of School Directors or the Treasurer or Director of Business Management

of the School District, approved by the School District Receiver, be paid over by the Paying Agent to the Sinking Fund Depository for deposit to the credit of the Sinking Fund, whereupon the Settlement Account shall be closed.

Executive Sponsor: Shelley Chapman

C-5 Approval to renew the business arrangement with LogiSoft

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, renew the business arrangement with the LogiSoft for the provision of Adobe Creative Cloud licenses on a District-level to the Chester Upland School District for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Payable From: General Fund Budget

Cost: \$11,915

Executive Sponsor: Thomas Johnson

C-6 Approval to continue business relationship with BMC Software, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, continue its business relationship with the BMC Software, Inc. for the provision of their "Track It!" software for help desk ticketing and tracking for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Payable From: General Fund Budget

Cost: \$1,173.89

Executive Sponsor: Thomas Johnson

SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS AGENDA

C-7 Approval for JLP & Associates LLC to provide finance counsel

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval for JLP & Associates LLC to provide finance counsel to assist in the amending the Financial Recovery Plan for the District.

Payable From: General Fund Budget

Cost: \$285/hr. plus business expenses, not to exceed \$200,000

Executive Sponsor: Juan Baughn

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS #C-1 THROUGH #C-6 AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM #C-7, WERE APPROVED BY DR. GREGORY THORNTON, INTERIM RECEIVER

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Anthony Johnson, President of the School Board asked to speak and was granted the floor:

Some of the people came up from the community. Moving forward, we see a lot more people here than usual. A lot of it has to do with the so-called rumor about the charters taking over the District. The Board, we sat not silent, but when the reporters called me, as the Board president, they asking that question, I gave them the only comment I could give them. It's the law. It's written in the law. It's not written in the agenda, it's the recovery.

If you look at Act 141, it's one of the recommendations that a PE or a receiver could come with in this, and it's supposed to be in an amended play. But to have that out that the charters were taking over, that wasn't even close to being true. The RFP process was supposed to be done, that hasn't been done yet. Financially, for the past 25 years, PDE has not made this District whole. If you look the past eight years, the board members that are standing, it was this elected board that filed a lawsuit nine years ago, to try to make this District whole. And that was only a \$30 million settlement, and we're in a \$30 million deficit, so it didn't make us whole. Four years ago, we sat down with the brick-and-mortar charters, not PDE, to make them realize that the rate they were getting for the special ED children, that \$44,000 was too much. They cut that rate, the brick-and-mortar, the Cybers didn't. There was a court case that went to the Commonwealth Court, which, the District and the State lost. Now, we owe the cybers moving forward, \$4 million dollars for their backup to that \$44,000 rate.

It's how you read and how people give it to this community. And what had me upset, as a board member, who's been fighting since day one, is how they like to keep up divided between the charter school children, which is all Chester kids, and the public school children, they're all Chester kids. If I can keep a community divided, then the people who don't want us to succeed win. This ain't my law, this wasn't my court decision, and even in here, bill- Actually a House bill, for a starter. That always starts in the House and then into the Senate, 1307, you can look this up, 2011. It was written in the receivership law, or The Recovery Act, that you could charterize a District if you didn't meet certain points. There's 16 points that they want the District to make. It's on our school website, the original Recovery Plan, with Joe Watkins, at any given time, could have charterized this District. But this local board, and the community, stood up and said, Joe, there should be both or choice. Me and Dr. Thornton was talking earlier, and we talked about what's best for the students, whatever mold or design it is. And that's what we've been pushing for, myself and the board, is whatever is best for our children. And this law for the teachers who are in here, and concerned about that, the receiver cannot break the collecting bargaining agreement.

How can we charterize the District, and get rid of over 300 teachers. It would have been impossible. By law, if you were in court, even the Judge said, your lawyer was in the wrong courtroom. You should have been at the labor law, that's a labor issue. Misinformation here, we supposed to be the educator, and when you get misinformed that quick, that you rally out in front of the back of our school, not to say what's wrong and wrong in this District, but to rally... You didn't rally when they ain't got no heat. When we went to Harrisburg, these board members went to Harrisburg five years ago... This where we at. When I had to sit down with them brick-and-mortars. I don't like sitting down with Vaughn and I'll tell you right now, but for him to get down from, 44 to 26, yeah I had a sit down with him a whole lot of times. If you didn't have to do it with this Commonwealth Court right here, them winning, we owe them \$24 million and that's real. And you want to go toe-to-toe with a person you owe \$54 million with, then go ahead, because when it comes down to,

I want to see somebody in this room want to sit with him and try to negotiate that again. Because that agreement, that this board agreed to, four years ago and shook him hand, he kept his word.

He don't go recruiting in our District anymore, he has to take kids that come there, because that's the law, Fred will tell you he went and got 1,000 kids from Philly that keep us owed that \$6 million it would have cost them to do the Chester kids. The School of Arts, what's written in their charter, K to 12. What's written in his charter, K to 12. We got the high school part out of his charter. At the same time, they were building that brand new spanking building. Then you supposed to negotiate with somebody, that both schools got leverages on us. We owe them money, and that's real. If we going to sit here and sit here and say Vaughn going somewhere, or go ahead School of the Arts. Nobody changed their name, it's the Chester School of Scholars now, because they coming after our stem program, saying they're the best. They always got a marketing tool and we don't. Like Dr. Thornton, we talked about earlier, we got to start... Whatever we do, we got to start promoting that. We have a problem promoting what we do well. Of course, they're always concerned about what we don't do well.

PD sat there silent, had me and Ms. Quail and Bill Reily, and Dr. Baughn in a meeting that Dr. Volkman, and told us to look at the RFP process. We didn't do that on our own. He don't come to court the last two times to let this commu-... I did tell him to go out there and see if a RFP was possible financially. We're not going to sit there and deal with anybody that makes us more financially in a deficit, who would do that? My name and my word would be on that, and as the board President.

I'm trying to find any means necessary to keep this District open for the students, not the adults. I'm going to be honest with y'all right now, I don't do anything for adults. I do this voluntar-... I don't get paid a penny, I do it for the students. And I don't have no kids in the game, my daughter been out of this District for five years, she graduated from Penn State Brandywine last May, and my son graduated from the charter, so I had two kids in two different school entities.

We got parents now that got kids in the charter, and public school, so what I'm supposed to tell them, that parent? Love that charter school more or love that public school parent more? Come on now, this is our community, and the parents that are in here, our bureau that preside in Chester Upland School District, that should be your concern. Not about, they going to charter mine and the board didn't say nothing. Some Mom said in the paper, or what is that Facebook thread? That the board had a personal agenda. I do have a personal agenda, it's to educate every child in this District from charter down to the public school, because they're all of our children. Ain't no separation. The charter school kids ain't coming from no other district. 90% of their kids come from the same household, so think about that when you go home. In this law, they cannot mess with y'all collective bargain agreement, and that's what you concerned about. It would save the schools... Let's be honest, you going to talk, it was about saving y'all jobs, because when you heard that rumor, that's what you thought. If you read the law, and read these lawsuits, that it had nothing to do with that. Thanks for listening.

There being no further business *Interim Receiver, Dr. Gregory Thornton* adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER

Dr. Gregory Thornton	Date
Interim Receiver	