

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

**October 31, 2016
6:15 P.M.**

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

Executive Staff Present:	Mr. Peter R. Barsz, Receiver Mr. Gregory Shannon, Superintendent Ms. Andria Saia, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Karen DeShullo, Chief Business Administrator
Absent:	Dr. Christopher McGinley, CRO
School Board:	Anthony Johnson, President
Solicitors:	George Dawson, Esquire

The Receiver's meeting opened with a call to order by Receiver, Mr. Peter R. Barsz and the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

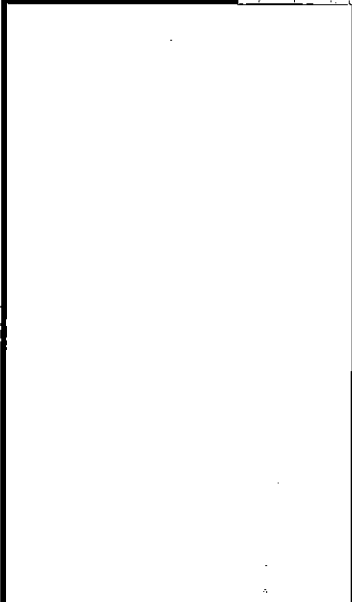
(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

Proof of Publication of Notice in Delaware County Daily Times

Under Newspaper Advertising Act. No. 587, Approved May 16, 1929

AD#

1164746



State of Pennsylvania, }
County of Delaware, } SS.

Heather Lawler designated agent of CENTRAL STATES PUBLISHING, INC., being duly sworn, deposes and says that the DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES, a daily newspaper of general circulation as defined in the above-mentioned Act, published at Primos, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, was established September 7, 1876, and issued and published continuously thereafter for a period of 100 years and for a period of more than six months immediately prior hereto, (under the name Chester Times prior to November 2, 1959) in the City of Chester, County of Delaware and further says that the printed notice or publication attached hereto is an exact copy of a notice or publication printed and published in the regular edition and issues of the DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES on the following dates, viz:.....

October 28th

A.D. 20 16

and that said advertising was inserted in all respects as ordered.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Financial Recovery Receiver will conduct a Special Meeting of the Public, in the Board Room at the Administration Offices located at 232 W. 9th Street, 1st Floor (Chester High), Chester, Pennsylvania on Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. to approve Architect Services for Phase II of the HVAC System for Chester

High School and other such business that shall come before him. This is an open hearing and will be open to the Public.

CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Peter R. Barsz
Receiver
DCT-Oct 28-1a

Affiant further deposes that he is the proper person duly authorized by CENTRAL STATES PUBLISHING, INC. publisher of said DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES, a newspaper of general circulation, to verify the foregoing statement under oath and that affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or advertisement, and that all allegations in the foregoing statements as to time, place and character of publication are true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

28th day of October 20 16

Notary Public

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NOTARIAL SEAL
Joan McCarty Babiak, Notary Public
Upper Darby Twp., Delaware County
My Commission Expires April 19, 2020
MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jean Arnold – Wants a copy of the first witness’s statement from the Hearing in front of Judge Kenney on October 25, 2016. Wants to know who authorized him to do the focus groups with our children that he spoke about. What was the purpose of the focus groups and the findings? She thought that some of the comments that the witness made as to answers from the focus group about our schools were inaccurate, old and/or redundant and, mostly, misleading. She said that she took issue with the comments about technology, especially. She said the witness made it seem as though we were somewhat deficient and in the “dark ages” with our technology and she knows that is not true. She feels that statements that were made, like this and the statement that “Chester Upland is a black hole where money goes in and nothing comes out” did not put our district in a positive light. She does not understand why we need three 501(c)(3)s, one that is the district’s, one being run by Unity and another that is going to be the watchdog of Unity. She doesn’t like the innuendos made about the district, such as we don’t have toilet tissue for our children and that we are so dishonest that we cannot raise funds ourselves for us that we need a second and third party to help us do that. She believes, herself, that they can keep their money because she doesn’t see how that puts us in a better light. She is very offended, and wants that on the record, that someone could say those things about our district. She feels that Josh (Culbertson, Technology Director) has worked too long and too hard and done amazing work in this district and for someone to say our technology is substandard is just not well informed. She wants someone in the administration to meet with her after they have had time to go over this testimony because she wants to know what this is about. She doesn’t think we need help to raise funds or to know what we need. We have done our own studies. She believes that you can influence children to say what you want them to say. She would like us to respond to that testimony.

Receiver Barsz asked Attorney Dawson what the procedure was to get the testimony and Attorney Dawson said that we can request a copy of the transcript from Delaware County Electronic Recording and they will transcribe it. Right now it only exists on tape.

Ms. Arnold – Said that is ok and she wanted to know if they (Receiver’s panel) understand why she was so concerned.

Attorney Dawson – acknowledged her concern and said that he believes that everyone up there (on the panel) were equally concerned.

Mr. Barsz – said that Dr. McGinley (CRO) did give a rebuttal.

Ms. Arnold – acknowledged that but said it wasn’t enough for her.

Mr. Barsz – said that he believed that we had two witnesses, Dr. McGinley and Superintendent Shannon, rebut that and that he didn’t think anyone sitting up there was pleased with the “black hole” statement. He said that we would look into getting the testimony.

Bettie McClairen – She has a concern that there are four eighth grade classes in Toby Farms and the smallest is 30. Toby Farms has a lot of behavior problems and they need another eighth grade teacher. She asked if, as in other times, a Board member sat in on interviews in the hiring process and wanted to know if that was still going on.

Anthony Johnson, School Board President – answered that yes, it was started up again after about four years. He sits in on the Principals' interviews and if he couldn't make it, Tyra Quail, Board Member, would take his place.

Ms. McClairen – asked if he sat in for staff.

Mr. Johnson – said that they were just sitting in on Principals' interviews and higher, but not staff yet.

Ms. McClairen – said that there is a gentleman, a licensed therapist, that, for some reason, cannot be hired by our district as a Climate Manager and wants to know why. He is involved with the community and can't get a job here.

Mr. Shannon – said that he will follow up with her on the issues of Toby Farms' class sizes.

EDUCATION AGENDA

A-1 Approval for Director of Curriculum and Instruction to receive training from DCIU's Curriculum Summit

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grants approval for the Delaware County Intermediate Unit to provide educational leadership training for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at its annual Curriculum Summit scheduled November 16, 2016 thru November 18, 2016.

Payable From: Title II
Cost: \$446
Executive Sponsor: Jala Olds-Pearson

A-2 Approval for students, parents and staff to participate in a series of college visits

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for Students, parents, and staff to participant in a series of college visits November 15-22, 2016. Institutions included in the visits are: Howard University, Virginia State University, North Carolina Central University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, Tuskegee University, Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

Payable From: School Improvement Grant and School Intervention Grant
Cost: Not to Exceed \$48,000
Executive Sponsor: Nikki Monroe-Hines

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #A-1 AND #2 WERE APPROVED BY PETER R. BARSZ, RECEIVER

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 General Fund Budget: \$478,148.43. 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 \$478,148.43, of which General Fund payments total \$478,148.43, Food Services Fund payments total \$0, and Capital Projects Fund payments total \$0, 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 October 31, 2016 Minutes.

(List of Payments Attached)

Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

C-2 Approval to hire the architectural services of Bonnett Associates, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval to hire the architectural services of Bonnett Associates Inc. for Phase 2 of the High School HVAC project. The estimated construction cost for this project is \$6,806,875. Bonnett Associates' cost will be \$348,000.

Payable From: Qualified Zone Academy Bonds
Cost: \$348,000
Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

C-3 Approval to accept the Qualified Zone Academy Bond

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval to accept the Qualified Zone Academy Bond to finance Phase 2 of the High School HVAC project.

Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

C-4 Approval of four change orders from WTI Contracting for the roof at Toby Farms School

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for four change orders for the Toby Farms roof project from WTI Contracting.

Payable From: Future borrowing
Cost: \$(19,702.84) (reduction in total contract price)
Executive Sponsor: Kenneth Caulk

C-5 Approval to renew the service contract with Integra 1

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, renew the previously existing service contract with Integral for web filtering services for 1 year (the period from November 14, 2016 to November 13, 2017).

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: \$7065
Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

C-6 Approval to renew current contract with Blackboard Engage

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, renew the current contract with Blackboard Engage for the purposes of website hosting for a period of the 2016-2017 academic year not past January 3, 2017 to ensure coverage during the transition to our new website provider, SchoolPointe.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: \$6515.18
Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM #C-1 THROUGH #C-6 WERE APPROVED, BY PETER R. BARSZ, RECEIVER

Receiver Barsz asked Mr. Robert Schoch, Turnaround Specialist, to explain the QZAB Bond Program.

Mr. Schoch – We are one of six districts that has been accepted for the Qualified Zone Academy Bond. It is a federal program that gives us very low interest rates which will probably save the district over the repayment period close to \$1Million in interest. In order to qualify for this we had to get a 10% match of the \$7.5Million, so that match is coming from the National Education Foundation and they are going to provide on-line educational software that will be available to our students K-12, 24 hours a day in their homes, but also in community and school locations. This money will be borrowed in conjunction with a larger borrowing. The two bonds together will total about \$30Million and it should be concluded by the end of the calendar year, 2016 and we will implement the program within several months of that. The programs will go on for about a year and can be continued on after that point.

Ms. Arnold asked how the children would access the program and would they need internet connections and would we help with that.

Mr. Schoch answered that we would get the software and the children would be given an access code to be able to access it from home or in the community. Also there would be a coordinator and teacher to help the children in an after-school setting.

As Mr. Barsz was ending the meeting, Mr. Johnson asked to speak and Mr. Barsz said yes.

Mr. Johnson – said that he didn't think Ms. Arnold's question was answered as to who authorized the first witness to speak with our children. He heard the judge say that he was to have meetings with the parents but never that he was to speak with our children. Does he have his clearances? Should he be around our children? He thinks that he undermined the Receiver and the Elected School Board and the Superintendent by not coming to us first with those issues and then doing it in an open court session and he believes that it should have been a stronger rebuttal and he may have to get on the stand in February and do it. Judge Kenney needs to hear the truth. But we need to know first if he has his clearances. Did he furnish Human Resources with them as any other volunteer has to? He believes that he "led" them into some of the answers that they gave.

Ms. Arnold – said that yes he should have clearances as he insisted on speaking with the children alone.

Mr. Barsz – said that he did know that the points that he raised in his testimony were based on repeating what the children had said to him. Her basically compiled answers based upon the answers that the children gave. I thought that Dr. McGinley and Mr. Shannon rebutted his testimony.

William Riley, School Board Treasurer – said he believed that those kids were led also. How do we know if he is giving us the same as he gave to the kids? He could be saying to them, "Oh, you mean such and such, don't you?" And, they as kids, can be persuaded that way.

Tyra Quail, Board member – said that after the court hearing she went over to STEM and everywhere that Mr. Shannon said that there was a computer lab and other tech equipment for the children.

Mr. Shannon – said that he was texting Josh and he replied with the specifications of each lab and tech equipment, such as smart boards, etc. that were at STEM.

Mr. Johnson – wants Judge Kenney to come to Chester and visit these schools so he can get a clear picture so he wouldn't be persuaded as he was to see us in a negative light.

Mr. Shannon- wants to take Mr. Foehl on a tour and show him how wrong he is about us.

Mr. Barsz – said he thought that was a good idea to have both Mr. Foehl and Judge Kenney visit. He said he was also taken aback by his comments.

Ms. McClairen – wanted to know about the software that is being provided by the National Education Foundation and if the children will be using it to study from it independently.

Andria Saia – It is very similar to the programs we use for credit recovery and acceleration and is used as a secondary form of study.

There being no further business *Receiver, Peter R. Barsz* adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER

 _____ Peter R. Barsz Receiver	11/9/16 Date
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