

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

**March 19, 2015
6:45 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 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania.

Executive Staff Present:

- Mr. Joseph Watkins, Receiver
- Dr. Francis Barnes, Chief Recovery Officer
- Mr. Gregory Shannon, Superintendent
- Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith, Deputy Superintendent
- Mr. George Crawford, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Claudia Averette, Chief of Staff
- Ms. Andria Saia

Solicitor: Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

The Receiver's meeting opened with a call to order by Receiver, Joseph Watkins and the Pledge of Allegiance led by George Crawford, Chief Financial Officer.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Gregory Shannon gave a report on the status of the schools. Congratulated the children of CUSA for their program on dance and music, a clip of which was shown. Pointed out that last year we had no Arts at the School of the Arts and this year the children are enjoying a full complement of art, music, theater and DASH.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

None

PRESENTATIONS

Chris Hearn, of Maille, independent auditors to the District, gave a short presentation on the audit that was completed for year-end June 30, 2014.

COMMENDATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Receiver Watkins approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Jean Arnold – Commended Josh Culbertson and Zach DiFonzo for doing such wonderful work on setting up the computer lab at STEM. Wanted all positive notices of things going on in the district be sent to Chris Coleman to have them highlighted on our Website, etc. Mr. Watkins thought that that was a good idea. Chris will work with Becky Taylor to implement.

Also asked Mr. Crawford about page 5 of 19, Charter School Payments, payments for Special Ed and Regular Ed and adjustments. Mr. Crawford said that we pay charter schools based on a formula that is generated through a State format and is based on prior year expenditures. After audit, tuition rates are revised and there is an adjustment made. There are two rates, a regular rate and a special education rate and based on the number of students reported by the Charters and Cybers and reconciled here at the district, and these are the payments that are processed. When the revised rates come in, we go back and reconcile and do a retroactive adjustment. We do not pay in a lump sum if money is owed, but based on the number of months left in the Fiscal Year.

Asked Mr. Watkins about the sale of William Penn. Mr. Watkins said we had several offers, but one offer came in almost twice the previous bids. We do not have a done deal but we are moving forward.

Dr. Janice Hoffman-Willis – Had a presentation with comments and questions of which she did not want answers. The written presentation is attached and made part of these minutes.

Anthony Johnson – Commented on the program at CUSA and thanked Ms. Ferguson, Principal and Ms. Beemer, teacher. Because of the cut the Governor made, our children were without music and art, etc. for 3 years and we are thankful that they are back. Talked about the Governor’s budget. Said since the reimbursement is together with the BEF money, it is not good for our district. It is not enough. Asked to go to the PSBA Advocacy Conference, so they can meet with the legislators and advocate for our district. Asked for the audit report and other things that the Board needs to transition back to power. Mr. Watkins said that he supported the Board going to the conference.

John Shelton, Jr. – Spoke about the sales of William Penn and asked that the Receiver reconsider selling district buildings as we are over 95% capacity and that children are overcrowded. We need space to put our children and to expand. We are not building anything new, but the surrounding districts are all putting up new buildings. We should not be selling our properties.

William Riley – Commended CUSA on their program this morning. He said that it proved our children can compete with the best and brightest. Spoke about the display Nita Baker had in her classroom on Black History and we should allow all of the children in the district to go see it and it should be on display all the time. Our children need to know about their background and the struggles and sacrifice to get here today.

Rev. Bernice Warren – She also wanted to commend Ms. Baker on her display and was disappointed to hear that all of the children, even in their own school, were not encouraged to go to visit it.

EDUCATION AGENDA

A-1 Homebound Instruction for Students

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for student(s) listed below by student identification number to receive homebound instruction:

Student ID #:	School:	Effective Dates:
071873	CUSD Cyber	3/2/15
070546	Camelot	3/2/15
070349	STEM	2/25/15
069125	CHS	3/10/15
070610	CHS	3/2/15

Payable from: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Tamara Thomas Smith

A-2 Approval to enter into a Special Education Agreement with Student #067371

RESOLVED, that the Settlement Agreement and Release with reference to Student #067371 is hereby approved along with the payment in the sum of Twelve Hundred (\$1,200.00) Dollars to McAndrews Law Offices, P.C.

Payable from: 2014-2015 General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Andria Saia

A-3 Approval for the proposed calendar for the 2015-16 academic year

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the proposed calendar for the 2015-2016 academic year, with September 2, 2015 the first day of school for students.

Executive Sponsor: Gregory Shannon

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #A-1 THROUGH A-3 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AGENDA

A-4 Approval for an Amendment to the Agreement for Communities In Schools (CIS)

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the amendment to the Communities In Schools contract for the 2014-2015 school year..

Executive Sponsor: Claudia Averette

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM #A-4 WAS APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER

PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-1 Approval of appointments, completion of probation, leaves of absence, returns from leaves of absence, resignations, terminations, Saturday school program appointments – STEM, after school program appointments - CUSA, and pay for extended sports season

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

Name	Position/Location	Salary	Effective Date	New Position or Replacement
Conquest, Debra	PCA Stetser	65./Daily 10 months	2/4/2015	Replacement 2014-2015 G.F.B.
Smith, Kasai	Security Chester High School	17,277	3/10/2015	Replacement 2014-2015 G.F.B.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Long, Edward	Bus Driver Transportation	2/9/2015
Martin, Elmore	Bus Driver Transportation	11/13/2014
Wilson, Booker	Bus Driver Transportation	2/19/2015

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>
Downs, Robert Medical Sabbatical	Science Teacher	2/9/2015-6/17/2015
Fryer, Thomasina Chester High School	Physical Education Teacher FMLA	2/19/2015-3/3/2015
Legette, Jeffrey	Athletic Director/Phs. Ed. Chester High School	2/9/2015-4/8/2015 FMLA
Seefelt, Barbara	Elementary Teacher Toby Farms	2/21/2015 – 3-13-2015 FMLA 3/13/2015-5/9/2015 Medical LOA

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>
Burks, Michael	Bus Driver Transportation	2/18/2015

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>
Crews, Charles	Social Studies STEM	3/2/2015 (Date Change)
Sloan, Nicole	Math Teacher Chester High School	3/9/2015

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
George, Jahnee	PCA Toby Farms	3/19/2015
Harris, Sonja	Confidential Secretary Human Resources	3/19/2015
Whitaker, Tiarre	PCA Chester High School	3/19/2015

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **employees for the Saturday School for STEM Academy** be approved effective 2/7/2015 to 5/9/2015 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. (Title I funds previously approved A-13 10/23/14 agenda):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Murray, Latosha	General Program Support	\$12/hr

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **employees for the CUSA After School Program** be approved effective 2/7/2015 to 5/9/2015 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. (Title I funds previously approved A-13 10/23/14 agenda):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Davis, Bonita	Teacher	\$25/hr
Williams, Dearist	Teacher Assistant	\$10/hr
Cunningham, Sandra	Security	\$18.17/hr

Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

B-2 Approval of Extended Pay for Participation in Sports Extended Season

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for individuals listed to receive extended pay for the participation in the extended two weeks for the District One Playoffs. Extension dates February 9-February 29, 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Moore, Andre	Middle School Athletic Director	\$250
Yarbray, Larry	Head Coach Boys' Basketball	\$833.33
Dennis, James	Assistant Coach Boys' Basketball	\$625
Spence, Derick	Assistant Coach Boys' Basketball	\$625
Springfield, Jimal	Assistant Coach Boys' Basketball	\$625
Miah, Karen	Head Coach Cheerleading	\$266.67
Hamm, Janifer	Assistant Coach Cheerleading	\$200

B-3 Acceptance of Resignation of Nicholas Carrabetta - TABLED

RESOLVED that the resignation of Nicholas Carrabetta is accepted in accordance with the terms of the Separation Agreement, which is hereby approved, and payment as specified therein in the amount of \$28,799.10, is hereby approved.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

B-4 Approval of 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 2014-2015 school year, in the amount of \$4,614.00.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Credits Submitted</u>	<u>Number of Credit Approved</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Approved Amount</u>
Johnson, Pressley	6	6	\$4,614	\$4,614

Payable from: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEMS #B-1 THROUGH B-2 AND B-4 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEM #B-3 WAS TABLED

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 Reports of the tax collectors: \$370,439.51

RESOLVED, that the reports of the City of Chester, Borough of Upland, and Chester Township for the period February 1 through February 28, 2015 in the amount of \$370,439.51 be received, be noted upon the Minutes and filed.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

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

RESOLVED, that the attached Treasurer's Report/Budget Report for the fiscal month ended February 28, 2015 be APPROVED by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-3 General Fund Budget: \$1,258,569.26. Approval of payrolls.

RESOLVED, that the payrolls dated in February, 2015 of the various accounts totaling for all accounts the grand sum of \$1,258,569.26, be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

General Fund Budget: \$10,442,958.92. 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 \$10,442,958.92, of which General Fund payments total \$10,280,908.92, and Food Services Fund payments total \$162,050.00, 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 March 19, 2015 Minutes.

Payable from: General Fund Budget
Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-4 Acknowledgment of Receipt of District’s 2013-14 Local Audit Report

RESOLVED, that the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District (hereinafter “School District”) acknowledges receipt of the District’s 2013-2014 Local Audit Report as prepared and presented by Maille, LLP.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-5 Approval of Audit Citation Action Plan

RESOLVED, that the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District (hereinafter “School District”) approve the Audit Citation Action Plan in response to the District’s Local Audit Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 as prepared and presented by Maillie LLP.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-6 Rejection of all bids to replace/lease CUSD Maintenance Fleet

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, reject all bids for the replacement/leasing of the Chester Upland School District Maintenance Fleet.

Executive Sponsor: Kenneth Caulk

C-7 Approval of Agreement with Bonnett Associates Inc. for consulting service for Architectural and Engineering services

RESOLVED, that the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District (hereinafter “School District”) approves the agreement with Bonnett Associates Incorporated regarding consulting services for architectural and engineering services for the term January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Payable from: General Fund
Cost: Determined per project
Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-8 Approval for natural gas supply for district be awarded to Constellation

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the Natural Gas Supply for the District for the 2014-2015 school year be awarded to Constellation, An Excelon Company.

Payable from: General Fund
Cost: \$168,000.00
Executive Sponsor: Kenneth Caulk

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS #C-1 THRU #C-8 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER

SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS AGENDA

C-9 Approval to accept an offer on William Penn School site

RESOLVED, that the School District accept the offer to sell the William Penn School site located at 15th Street and Highland Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania, for the sum of \$450,000.00 to Murphy Ford subject to execution and approval by the Receiver of an agreement of sale acceptable to the solicitor and Receiver.

Executive Sponsor: Joseph P. Watkins

SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM #C-9 WAS APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER

There being no further business *Receiver, Joseph P. Watkins* adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER**

Joseph P. Watkins

Date