

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

**February 18, 2016
6:05 P.M.**

A Public Meeting of the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District was held this evening at the Administration Building, 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania.

Executive Staff Present: Dr. Francis Barnes, Receiver
 Mr. Gregory Shannon, Superintendent
 Ms. Karen DeShullo, Chief Business Administrator
 Ms. Claudia Averette, Chief of Staff
 Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith, Deputy Superintendent

Solicitor: Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

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

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Gregory Shannon – Began with an incident that happened at the High School yesterday at dismissal, where one of our High School students was the victim of a shooting with a hand gun. He said that the victim is in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery and we support the family of the victim.

We are well on our way with our Mass Insight Education diagnostic protocol. We have had a series of meeting regarding this and we will be moving that information out to the public in the very near future. Invited all to come out on March 10th at the City Hall Community Room to discuss the Mass Insight information and there will be ongoing conversations throughout the remainder of the year.

He acknowledged that there was a wonderful news story on Channel 6, ABC, about a program called CHAMP, the Chester High Achievement Mentoring Program. They honored Mayor Kirkland. They are a group of young men involved in a mentoring program that helps them think critically; examine a sense of understanding and compassion for others and the courage to respond to their beliefs. Their key belief system wraps itself around integrity, responsibility, respect, honesty, patience, discipline, service and courage. They have done a lot of community service, including service to senior citizens. They had a great veterans' program to honor the great veterans of the Chester community. They started off with a cohort of about 6 or 7 and have grown well above 100 young men. He asked that next month during our Meeting of the Public that the young men come and do a presentation of their offerings. He also acknowledged Mr. Darrin Laws, Mr. Ronald Simon and Mr. Earl Carter who are the sponsors of the CHAMP program and do a magnificent job with our young men at Chester High School.

He also acknowledged Ms. Jean Arnold for her work with the children applying for the Gates Millennium Scholarship. We have four students who have won the scholarship in the last three years. We have five students this year who we are anxiously awaiting word on their Gates Millennium decision, hopefully by the first or second week in March. The scholarship is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and it is an unlimited financial scholarship which can take students right through doctoral studies or medical school.

He wanted to recognize a few students that he met while touring around the district. There is a student, Kaleer Blacks, a student at STEM, who sat in a meeting with him and Dr. Barnes at STEM regarding growing the STEM offerings and the STEM pathways and he was a great contributor as a student voice. The administration wants to include the students' thoughts, opinions, feelings and ideas and Kaleer was a great contributor at the meeting with NextGen STEM Solutions.

There was an NCAA signing day and we had two great students, Tymeer Friend, who signed with Cheney University and Edward Nelson, Jr., who signed to play at Bloomsburg University and we are very proud of those young men.

And lastly, he encouraged everyone to come out tomorrow at 7:00pm to support the Chester High Clippers Basketball team who are 2-0 in the playoffs will be taking on Bucks East. He also wanted to encourage our student body to come out and cheer them on. That concludes my report.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

See above.

PRESENTATIONS

Students of Chester High School did a presentation on Black History Month.

Also, students of Main Street presented a poem around their core values, and also information on the water cycle, about which they are learning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2015

Receiver Barnes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Creative Edge Academy Charter School

Anthony Johnson said in light of the situation we are in academically and financially, I say we deny that application for a charter school. Thank you.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Johnson and said, "As there were no other comments regarding the Creative Edge academy Charter School, we will move on to general public comment."

General

Dennis Martinelli said that there were supposed be some parents coming to the meeting tonight, but Mayor Kirkland had a meeting at City Hall which was really serious so they went there instead. He wanted to address Karen DeShullo, Chief Business Administrator, regarding the pay for referees as we are in the playoffs. He said that before and at other schools, the receipts are counted after the 3rd period and all venue workers, refs and staff, are paid immediately following the game but that they were not paid after recent games. He wanted to know where all of the money that was collected at the door of sporting events has gone.

Karen DeShullo said that all receipts (cash) from the games go into the general fund. We have to follow the state accounting manual. The state dictates the rules for how money is disbursed. It has to go through an approval process, there has to be an accounting of it and we are expressly forbidden to pay cash out from the receipts before tendering it to the office for full accountability. She said that she can provide documents to him from the state. There is extensive training for cash receipts procedures. She said she can't speak for other districts, but that is the procedure dictated by the state.

Mr. Martinelli said that this is athletic money and wants to know how they can put it in the general fund and hold the refs and worker pay. He said that this is money being made by the athletics department and he doesn't understand how the state could hold up paying the people who provide services at the games; if money is made on Tuesday and there is a game on Friday, then checks should be made out immediately to pay the workers on Friday for their services. Chester is the only school district that the referees don't want to come to for games because they are not being paid.

Ms. DeShullo told him that the paperwork and the money has to be sent up to the Business Office and has to go through the approval process before we can make out checks.

Mr. Martinelli wants all of the paperwork and an accounting of where the money is and if it has been used or spent on other district things.

Ms. DeShullo told him to come in the next day and she would provide him with the paperwork.

Mr. Martinelli then asked about the money that the Senior Class collected through fund raising and dues and was then turned over to the district, but their bills are not paid...

Ms. DeShullo said that the money goes into the general fund and that they put in extensive cash receipts procedures, so student activity money is raised by students and is for students so we can give you a full accounting of that as well.

Mr. Martinelli asked so it is not true that the High School sold candy in September and the bill for the candy was not paid until last week.

Ms. DeShullo answered that we pay the bills as they come up and we can go through all of that tomorrow. Our books are open. That is one of the things we put in place, transparency in accounting...

Dr. Barnes said that he knows of three audits just since he has been here and they have found nothing untoward in our books. He also said that there are strict procedures and rules for student funds and there needs to be minutes and the students need to vote on how the money is being spent.

Mr. Martinelli agreed to come in tomorrow to see Ms. DeShullo and look at the books and paper trails.

Anthony Johnson said that he had spoken to one of the head referees and that he had not been paid since October. Mr. Johnson said that it then hurts the school, it makes it look worse, when the refs come in and don't know if they are going to be paid or not. He said that unless school code has been changed, which he hasn't seen or heard, that after the money is counted, put in the lock box and line itemed and accounted for, that the workers are always paid. If the money is going into the General Fund then it is being used to pay for other things. He said that that is how we got in trouble before with control boards we had when they were doing that. The audit said that no one know where the money was going. It was supposed to be allocated for athletics. (Turning to Ms. DeShullo) You are saying it's going into the General Fund. You are paying other bills with athletics' money, that is why the referees are not getting paid and to clarify, so the Community can understand, the state is dictating what bills are being paid. So they are not following their own school code law. So they are violating the code, which we couldn't do as an elected board, and they are making you, Karen, say to us put it in the General Fund and not worrying about the referees getting paid. Barbara Nelson is probably telling you to pay something else out of that money. The referees are being told not to come to Chester because they are not getting paid. The quality of the referees is going to go down, so you won't get the best refs for the playoffs, we may get someone new or from the mid-tier, but we need the best! The few that are the best will not come because they know they won't get paid. I don't know how the state can change school code law to fit their need or make us fit under this, so called communist Receivership. That's what it comes down to. Everybody in Delco, as Dennis said, that is how they pay their referees. That is their fund. You can set a budget, but Mr. Moore doesn't even get to set a budget if he can't pay the referees or for equipment or anything for the athletics department. You are putting everything in the General Fund to pay

everyone else. As they say, robbing Peter to pay Paul, this is not fair to us as a school district. The parents in this district and this community need to understand what's happening. Nobody else does that, they follow the school code law, but the state is telling us we can't follow it, you have to follow our law, which is made up. All of the money does not go into the General Fund because you can't allocate it and find out where it goes. And the audit should have seen that. The referees haven't been paid since October. That means that the money from that football game attendance went right into the General Fund and we are spending it on something else.

Ms. DeShullo told him that around 2010-2011, the state mandated that the athletic fund be rolled into the General fund, so the law had changed around that time and we have to follow procedure which is an approval process...

Mr. Johnson said that he understands that, but he is trying to get out to the community what the state is doing to us. He said that she could fluff it any way she wants, but he wasn't elected to fluff anything. The point is that the referees are not being paid and haven't been paid for months and the money that is being collected at the games is being used for other things. But he said that if the school code changed and all money has to go into the general fund then ok, he would back-off, he just wanted to clarify it.

Dr. Barnes said that that still didn't excuse the fact that the refs and other workers at the games haven't gotten paid for five months and that we would look into it.

Mr. Johnson also spoke on the fact that, although we are proud of our athletes, we need more scholars coming out of Chester Upland. We have to also teach our children to be proud of their heritage. We need them to learn more about the black leaders in history. They need to love themselves so that these factions in the city will be no more. He believes we need more Malcolms and Martins, doctors and professionals coming out of Chester Upland; we have enough kids that want to be rappers and basketball players. We have to push unity and love. The culture in Chester has to change; it has to be education.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Johnson and asked if there were any other comments.

Amrah Ahmad said that she heard that the children in the 11th and 12th grades did very poorly on the Keystone tests and that means they won't get a regular diploma. The scores for 2013-14 only 33.5% passed, 2014-15 34.5 % passed and at STEM 33%. This is really poor. She wants to know when the principals will let the parents know how poorly their children did; and will you, at the next Board Meeting, share how you will improve these scores, so the students can get normal diplomas like other students in the county?

Dr. Tamara Smith told her that the state actually sent out the results of the Keystone Exams to the parents. She said that if Ms. Ahmad did not receive the parent reports, she can call the school and request one, but the schools did not produce those reports so they did not send them out. The parents received them before the school district received them. Regarding the diplomas, I think I heard Ms. Arnold telling you that that is on moratorium now, and not just because of Chester, but educators at the state level realize that that is not the best way to determine whether a student gets a diploma or not, so that is on pause for now. It may come back or go away for good; at this time we don't know. As to what is being done to improve the test scores and student performance, the first thing is there are scheduling changes taking place at the High School and also at STEM to give the students more intensive support in those particular areas so the students have up to 86 minutes at the High School, and up to 90 minutes at STEM in the Keystone areas such as Biology, Literature and Algebra I. All of the teachers that teach those subjects have received additional training to do a plan for what they are going to do for students from now until they take the test. They will tailor the plan to the

students' needs. If you ever have any questions regarding what is being done to help the students, you can call the principals and if you do not receive an answer there, you can call the Superintendent's office or Ms. Averette's office to ask.

Ms. Ahmad asked if the state requires a parent to be on the district leadership team school improvement plan to develop strategies to improve these schools and do we have a team?

Claudia Averette answered yes we do and it is a part of Title I actually and so the principal should be inviting them and I think it would be the PTO President if they are available to be part of the team and sit on the team to advocate how those monies can better support the parents. If the principals have not asked, then she will contact them and make sure they do, because that is absolutely a mandate.

Ms. Ahmad said that she would like to see how the Title I money has been spent in the last two years and what are we doing this year as well. She wants to know if the money is being spent ethically and efficiently.

Dr. Smith said that she could get that information at the school level as each principal maintains a Title I binder with their budget and samples of what they spent those monies on with all back-up. Nikki Monroe-Hines, who is in this building, oversees all of the Title I and she keeps a budget and back-up for all monies and it is where you can get a district wide picture.

EDUCATION AGENDA

A-1 Homebound Instruction for Students

None for this month

A-2 Approval to adopt and approve Student Hearings

RESOLVED, that the Recommendations by the Hearing Officer pertaining to the following students being presented to the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, be hereby adopted and approved:

Student ID #:	Date of Hearing:
080963	2/8/2016
100312	2/8/2016
072858	2/8/2016
210671	2/8/2016
073458	2/8/2016
073124	2/8/2016
210906	2/8/2016
100449	2/8/2016

A-3 Approval to enter into a contractual agreement with GHR

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors enter into a contractual agreement with GHR shall provide one to one nursing services, Certified special education teachers, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, PCA/IAs, and PT, OT and SLP specialists (hereinafter collectively “Specialists”) for School District students on an “as needed” basis.

Payable from: General Fund Budget

Cost: Not to exceed \$36,000

Executive Sponsor: Andria Saia

A-4 Approval to extend Charter Agreement for Widener Partnership Charter School

WHEREAS, the Widener Partnership Charter School (WPCS or Widener Partnership) was issued a Charter on July 1, 2006 by Chester Upland School District to operate a Charter School grades k through five which was amended on November 18, 2010 authorizing the charter school to serve grades k through eight for a term ending June 30, 2016 and;

WHEREAS, Widener Partnership has applied for an extension of the term of the charter school for grades kindergarten through eighth grade for a term of five (5) years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval that the charter of the Widener Partnership Charter School is amended to extend the term of the charter for a period of five (5) years from June 30, 2016 and ending June 30, 2021, and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the approval is for a kindergarten through eighth grade charter school in accordance with the charter renewal application and subject to the execution of a charter agreement substantially in the form previously agreed to by the parties.

Executive Sponsor: Gregory Shannon

A-5 Approval of denial of Charter for Creative Edge Academy Charter School

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, hereby approves the Report of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law with regard to the application of Creative Edge Academy Charter School.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Application of Creative Edge Academy Charter School is hereby denied for the reasons set forth therein.

Executive Sponsor: Gregory Shannon

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #A-1 THROUGH A-5 WERE APPROVED BY DR. FRANCIS BARNES, RECEIVER

PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-1 Approval of appointments, decline of position, reassignments, leaves of absence, return from leave of absence, terminations, resignations and Title I After School Program

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>
Ballard, Ayesha	PCA Toby Farms	\$65/daily 10 months	2/1/16	Replacement 0572 2015-2016 G.F.B.
Burns, Daphanie	PCA Toby Farms	\$65/daily 10 months	1/21/2016	Replacement 0575 2015-2016 G.F.B.
Desir, Dominique	Guidance Counselor STEM	63,331 M30/1 10 months	2/22/2016	Replacement 0170 2015-2016 G.F.B.
Lewis, Kandice	Elementary Teacher Main Street	55,778. M/1 10 months	2/5/2016	Replacement 0343 2015-2016
Scott, Kyah Monae	PCA Main Street	\$65/daily 10 months	1/25/16	Replacement 0022 2015-2016 G.F.B.
Smith, Derrick	SpEd Teacher Toby Farms	55,778+200 M/1 10 months	2/18/2016	New Position 2015-2016

RESOLVED, that the following **decline of position** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Butterworth, Kerry	Secondary Counselor Chester High	2/1/2016

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>From Position/Location</u>	<u>To Position/Locations</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Orr, Christopher	Teacher Main St. 68,192 10 months	Instructional Tech. Lead District Wide 68,192 + 6,819.20 10 months + 18days	2/5/2016

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>
Adore-Ross, Andrea	Teacher Toby Farms	12/10/2015-6/30/2016 FMLA - Intermittent

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Orr, Christopher	Teacher Main Street	2/5/2016

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Distasio, Nicholaus	Teacher Assistant Toby Farms	2/9/2016
Whitehead, Tyrell	Teacher Assistant Stetser	2/9/2016

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>	
Brown, Keith	PCA Chester High	2/18/2016	0572
Hooks, Randolph	PCA Toby Farms	2/10/2016	0253
Wright, Michael	PCA CUSA	09/18/2015	

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>	
Beaty, Carl	Head Football Coach Chester High School	1/28/2016	0151
Cohen, Jan	Spanish Teacher Toby Farms	3/20/2016	0510
Cruz, Luis	PCA Toby Farms	2/2/2016	0575
Katz, Jennie	Psychologist Toby Farms	2/22/2016	
McDougal, Lakeidra	Sp. Ed. Teacher High Schools	Charter School Leave 0295	
Moat, Trina	PCA CUSA	1/21/2016	0022
Nixon, Thomas	Custodian Toby Farms	2/1/2016	0590

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the following additional individuals to participate in the grant-funded Title I After-School Program during the 2015-2016 school year as listed below:

Stetser Elementary School

Effective: November 1, 2015 thru May 30, 2016

3:45pm – 5:15pm

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
High Carolyn	Teacher	\$25/hr
Walker, Tammy	Teacher	\$25/hr
Sargent, June	Teacher	\$25/hr
Crosby, Shenice	Nurse	\$25/hr
Logan, Shamirah	PCA	\$8.17/hr
Morgan, Robin	Teacher Aide	\$12/hr

B-2 Approval of contract with Dr. Anthony Georeno as Interim Principal at Toby Farms

RESOLVED, that the contract with Dr. Anthony Georeno as Interim Principal at Toby Farm Intermediate School for the period March 7, 2016 to the end of the 2015-16 School Year at the rate of \$650.00 per day is hereby approved in accordance to the contract approved by the Solicitor.

Payable From: General Fund Budget

Cost: Not to Exceed \$58,500

Executive Sponsor: Gregory Shannon

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEMS #B-1 THROUGH #B-2 WERE APPROVED BY DR. FRANCIS BARNES, RECEIVER.

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 Reports of the tax collectors: \$457,855.27

RESOLVED, that the reports of the City of Chester, Borough of Upland, and Chester Township for the period January 1, 2016 through January 31, 2016 in the amount of \$457,855.27 be received, be noted upon the Minutes and filed.

Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

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, 2016 be APPROVED by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

C-3 General Fund Budget: \$1,170,256.05. Approval of payrolls

RESOLVED, that the payrolls dated in January, 2016 of the various accounts totaling for all accounts the grand sum of \$1,170,256.05, be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

General Fund Budget: \$6,905,770.63. 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 \$6,905,770.63, of which General Fund payments total \$6,720,972.95, and Food Services Fund payments total \$161,312.39 and Capital Projects Fund total \$23,485.29, 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 contingent on cash availability , and that said list of payments be incorporated into the February 19, 2016 Minutes.

Payable from: General Fund Budget

Executive Sponsor: Karen DeShullo

C-4 Approval for Joshua Culbertson to attend the 2016 PDE Data Summit

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for Joshua Culbertson to attend the 2016 PDE Data Summit at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA on May 22nd through May 25, 2016. This is without loss of pay and expenses including registration, travel, meals, lodging and transportation not to exceed \$830.00.

Payable From: Title I

Cost: \$830

Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

C-5 Approval to extend the contractual agreement with John Lombardi

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, extends the contractual agreement with John Lombardi to provide consulting services to the district for transportation and to be a liaison between the district and Durham Transportation Services. Consultant will work approximately forty (40) school calendar days at the rate of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) per day, sum amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000). Term of agreement shall be from January 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: Not to exceed \$16,000
Executive Sponsor: Claudia Averette

C-6 Approval to enter into a contractual agreement with Robert Crawford, Esq.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the school district to enter into a contractual agreement with Robert Crawford to provide consulting services as a Hearing Officer, on an as needed basis. The term of the agreement shall be from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The School District shall pay the consultant the sum not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per day, to be billed monthly by consultant to School District for the services rendered each month. Services rendered by consultant should not exceed the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) during term agreement without the express written approval of the District Receiver.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: Not to exceed \$30,000
Executive Sponsor: Claudia Averette

C-7 Approval to purchase district electricity for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years from Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the purchase of electricity for the 2017–2018 and 2018-2019 school year be granted to Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., an Exelon company.

Payable From: General Fund Budget
Cost: At a rate of 0.03791 per KWH
Executive Sponsor: Kenneth Caulk

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS #C-1 THROUGH #C-7, WITH ESQ. ON C-6 BEING STRUCK FROM THE MINUTES, WERE APPROVED BY DR. FRANCIS BARNES, RECEIVER.

There being no further business *Receiver, Francis Barnes* adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER

Francis V. Barnes, PhD.
Receiver

Date