

Board of School Directors - Monthly Liaison Reports - February 2022

Educational Advisory Committee

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Equity and Empowerment

Through the generous support of the Upper Dublin Education Foundation, UDSD hosted a webinar entitled "The Search for Identity and Freedom from Expectations". The 1.5 hour event was led by Kim Porter of the Be a Part of the Conversation agency. During the engaging and enlightening session we heard from Dr. Ley Cray and Damion Holbrook. Both individuals described their journey in their search for identity. They reminded us that identity is more than labels but concepts to adequately help describe our experiences. We learned about the importance of having a sense of belonging in our home, school, and work spaces. They provided strategies in working with students at home and in the school setting. To view the webinar and additional information, please click on this link. <https://conversation.zone/identity/>

The African American Black Student and Family (AABSF) subcommittee had a successful 2022 UD Celebrate! Black History Event last Thursday. A recording is available, email UDExcellence@gmail.com for the link. Also, SAVE THE DATE -- FIRST EVER AABSF Food Truck Festival will be held THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST. Details to come.

The LGBTQIA+ subcommittee will have a meeting in March, date to be determined. Our focus will be honoring the GLSEN Day of Silence on April 23rd, planning for our flag raisings on May 31st, and our pride event in June.

The Asian American Student and Family subcommittee will celebrate the May Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by holding an art contest in March. School principals are going to communicate about the contest this month.

Eastern Center for Arts & Technology

EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee (JOC) met on Zoom February 9, 2022.

February Student of the Month - Lauren Ricchini, an Upper Moreland High School senior, is the February 2022 Student of the Month. Lauren is being recognized for her outstanding work in EASTERN's Culinary Arts program.

Career Expo Report – Eastern held a successful in-person Career Expo for 2021 –2022. On December 16, a total of 259 students participated from Lower Moreland, Upper Moreland, Jenkintown, Hatboro-Horsham, and Upper Dublin school districts. On February 3, 2022, a total of 212 students participated from Abington, Cheltenham, and Springfield Township school districts.

PA Multi-Agency Black History Month Poetry Contest - Nicolette Attarian-Kimber, an Allied Health/Hatboro-Horsham senior, won first-place for Pennsylvania's Multi-Agency Black History Committee's poetry contest. Nicolette and her poem, The Legacy's Left Unknown, will be recognized during their Virtual Black History Program on February 23, 2022.

SkillsUSA District Competition - 44 students participated in the SkillsUSA District Competitions January 25 & 26. From Upper Dublin – a Gold medal was awarded to Tyler Wildgust (Information Technology) and a Bronze medal was awarded to Samuel Ottenbreit (Business- Technical Computer Applications).

2022 – 2023 Operating Budget - EASTERN's 2022 – 2023 operating budget as adopted by the participating Boards of School Directors was approved by the JOC.

Next meeting of the JOC is March 9, 2022.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

The MCIU Board of Directors met on Feb 23, 2022 via zoom to conduct the business of the board. The following items were presented by the administration and approved:

- Memorandum of Understanding between Montgomery County Intermediate Unit No. 23 Board of Directors and Montgomery County Intermediate Unit No. 23 Education Association, PSEA-NEA regarding specially scheduled Retirement Incentive Program and Saveon Prescription Drug Utilization Management Program;
- Head Start Program Budget, Transportation Services Budget and Facilities & Operations Budget;
- Results of 2022/2023 Vehicle Fuels and Heating Oil Bids
- Revenue opportunities from the Office of Business Services, Office of Facilities and Operations, Office of Professional Learning, Office of Student Services, and Office of Technology Services

The next meeting of the MCIU Board of Directors is scheduled for March 23, 2022.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee

On the Federal level, there is a bill pending to extend the USDA's authority to establish, grant or extend child nutrition waivers through June 2023. These waivers were set to expire on June 30, 2022. In Pennsylvania much of the focus is on Governor Wolf's proposed Education Budget which includes the following:

- Basic Education Funding--proposed \$1.5 billion increase (22%) with \$1.25 billion driven through the Fair Funding Formula and \$300 million through Level-Up;
- \$200 million increase in special education
- \$60 million increase in Pre-K Counts
- \$10 million increase in Head Start
- \$6 million increase in Career/Technical Education

- \$16 million increase in student transportation

The proposed budget also calls for a statewide cyber charter school tuition rate of \$9600 per student, per year to better align tuition with the actual costs of providing an online education.

Applying a tiered Special Education Funding formula to all charters to better align with special education funding with actual costs of providing services to special education services. The Governor estimates that this will save school districts approximately \$174 million annually.

State Funding Lawsuit--Closing arguments have been scheduled for March 10, 2022. During trial, the plaintiffs (six school districts, three families and two statewide advocacy groups) called 29 witnesses who described inequity and poor school conditions--one bathroom for 75 kindergarteners; collapsing ceilings; no art or music classes in elementary school and insufficient funds to attract qualified teachers. The defendants (Republican legislators) called 10 witnesses who refuted that there is a relationship between resources and student outcomes. Respondents assert that public schools are just one piece of the state's educational offerings which also encompass cyber schools.

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

On February 8, Governor Tom Wolf delivered his 2022-2023 state budget plan, presenting a \$43.7 billion proposal which again includes an emphasis on education. PSBA is pleased with the plan, which includes a \$1.55 billion increase in Basic Education Funding, the bulk of which will be distributed through the Fair Funding Formula to all school districts and a \$200 million increase for special education. The Governor also estimates that school districts will receive an estimated \$373 million from projected savings gained from proposed charter school funding reforms.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is expected to publish 2021 PSSA and Keystone assessment scores on Tuesday, March 1.

PSBA is a member of a national coalition of education and disability organizations that recently sent a joint letter to Congress seeking the maximum possible increase in funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

PSBA also joined with Governor Tom Wolf, legislators, and other education associations in a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, requesting the creation of a school bus driver specific commercial driver's license to provide relief in addressing the severe shortage of school bus drivers.

The U.S. Department of Education released updates to its College Scorecard that make the tool more useful for students and families weighing college options. The tool also includes new and updated

information that may be beneficial to school counselors, college access providers, researchers, and other critical stakeholders.

Upper Dublin Education Foundation

UDEF's Board of Directors met on Tuesday, 2/22/22. The Board reviewed various financial/investment/fundraising matters, noting its appreciation of, among others, the many generous donors who contributed to UDEF's recent annual appeal fundraising campaign. The Board received an update on Cardinal Opportunities, a mentoring program that spans both middle school and high school in an effort to provide students better opportunities for success with the assistance of dedicated and caring mentors. The Board discussed upcoming events in the busy spring season, including the UDHS Hall of Fame induction ceremony scheduled for March 26, 2022 and UD Mission Possible scheduled for early April 2022. It was noted that nominations for Upper Dublin Medals are now open, with the Medals Ceremony currently scheduled for May, 2022. The Board received an update on innovation grants funded through UDEF. The update highlighted, among other things, pottery wheels funded by a UDEF grant that recently arrived at UDHS. The Board discussed upcoming work to interface a new donor management system with a refreshed UDEF website. UDEF is aiming to launch its refreshed website in advance of the 2022-2023 school year. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022.

Upper Dublin Township

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