

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

**OCTOBER 17, 2013
6:10 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 P. Watkins, Receiver
 Mr. Gregory G. Shannon, Superintendent
 Mr. George Crawford, Chief Financial Officer
 Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith, Deputy Superintendent
 Ms. Andria Saia, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
 Ms. Claudia Averette, Chief of Staff

Solicitor: Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

Special Counsel: George B. Dawson, Esquire

The Receiver's meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by George Crawford, CFO.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Receiver Watkins recognized students in attendance. Chester Upland School of the Arts students performed songs for those in attendance. The CUSA students were led by district teacher, Shirley Warren.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE RECEIVER

None.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent expressed that although this is a business meeting, it should also be a meeting to highlight and showcase the talent that exists through out the Chester Upland School District. Mr. Shannon thanked Sara Ferguson, Principal, and the students from our CUSA program for their beautiful presentation. From a data standpoint, the Superintendent reported at the close of September the District had a fantastic school opening, reduction in violent incidents, the average daily attendance is up and truancy is down. There are a number of community organizations, organizations of higher education and financial institutions that have returned to the district in order to provide support for our students. Some of these organizations are Widener University, Neumann University, the City of Chester Fire Department and Police Department, the Chester Township Police Department, Crozer Behavioral Health Programs, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, the American Reading Company, Independence Blue Cross, Citizens Bank and Crozer Chester Medical Center. The district is in the process of developing a firefighter's academy and attempting to bring back the Jr. ROTC program. Mr. Shannon publically thanked John Shelton, Jr., President of CUEA, for his leadership, his inspiration and all that he does for the children of the Chester Upland School District. The Superintendent encouraged everyone to attend the Parent Summit on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Showalter building starting at 8 a.m. in order to take advantage of the many positive opportunities that they will be provided.

PRESENTATIONS

Nikki Monroe-Hines, Malika Savoy-Brooks and Josh Culbertson spoke on the changes in the ESEA Flexibility Waiver and how this will affect Title I schools.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2013.

THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Art Henry – Spoke on concerns regarding the district’s health insurance package for retired employees. Expressed his concerns regarding the district not providing transportation for the CUSA students who sang at tonight’s meeting. Questioned why the district did not make an attempt to correct the news media in reporting the serious fighting incident that happened on the Southeast Delco school bus and not on the Chester Upland School District bus?

Joe Watkins responded.

Claudia Averette responded.

Tyra Quail – Requested an update on the findings in the matter of the Chester Community Charter School.

Leo Hackett, Esq. responded.

Jean Arnold – Questioned how the new A.Y.P ratings will affect the Recovery Plan?

Joe Watkins responded.

Dennis Martinelli – Expressed concerns regarding employees not coming to work.

Anthony Johnson, School Board Member – Expressed his concerns regarding senior pictures for the students at STEM. Spoke on the problems at Toby Farms. Regarding Item #C-7, questioned why payment is coming out of the district’s budget?

Leo Hackett, Esq. responded.

Bernice Warren – Inquired as to why there is no public comment on non-agenda items? Asked why some people are permitted to speak on non-agenda items while others are not?

Joe Watkins responded.

Greg Shannon responded.

Wanda Mann, School Board President – Expressed her concerns regarding public comment not being allowed for non-agenda items.

Charlie L. Warren II, School Board Member – Expressed his concerns regarding public comment not being allowed for non-agenda items.

EDUCATION AGENDA

A-1 Approval to adopt and approve Student Hearings.

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

STUDENT I.D. #:	DATE OF HEARING:
#071173	08/30/13
#069365	08/30/13
#076943	08/30/13

Executive Sponsor: Tamara Thomas Smith

A-2 Homebound Instruction for student(s).

FURTHER 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:
071760	CHS	9/30/13-1/7/14
069488	CHS	10/7/13-1/13/14
068458	CHS	10/7/13-1/13/14
071562	CHS	10/10/13-1/17/14

Payable from: 2013-2014 General Fund Budget

Executive Sponsor: Tamara Thomas Smith

A-3 Achieve 3000: \$44,215.00 for Reading and Science Intervention

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for Achieve 3000 to provide Reading and Science web-based intervention services to students in Chester High School, STEM High School, and Toby Farms Elementary School. The intervention is available for every student in grades seven through nine. In collaboration with the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Technology, Assessment, and Accountability, Achieve 3000 will provide 2 days of professional development services to ensure the appropriate set-up, instructional expectations, and support for teachers assigned to implement the intervention.

Payable from: 2013-2014 Curriculum and Instruction; Professional Services and Software Supplies Budget

Executive Sponsor: Malika Savoy-Brooks

A-4 American Reading Company: \$46,000.00 for Professional Development
\$119, 704.00 for Students' Materials and Teaching Tools

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for American Reading company to provide materials and services to support reading instruction, reading development and the reading capacity of students in grades Kindergarten through nine. American Reading Company will provide professional services, including collaboration with the Director of Curriculum instruction to ensure instructional alignment with the district's Recover Plan and the Superintendent's Discover 2015 Plan.

Payable from: 2013-2014 Title I- Professional Development and Title II- Material
& Supplies and Parental Involvement

Executive Sponsor: Malika Savoy-Brooks

TABLED A-5 \$38,935 for Professional Development & Student Enrichment

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the Chester Upland School District to contract with Dr. Derrick Pledger to provide professional development and student enrichment activities for the purposes of enhancing school climate, providing staff with tools to manage student behavior, encouraging students to use effective critical thinking skills and decreasing instances of student misconduct Topics to be covered include Accountability, Respect, Discipline, Character Education, Economics, Making Education a High Priority, Bullying, The Importance of Math and Science, Work Ethic. CUSD will contract with Dr. Derrick Pledger for the period of June 2013 – June 2014. CUSD will contract with Dr. Derrick Pledger. Contract amount includes: Professional Development \$4,800; Student Workshops \$3,800; Materials and Supplies (@\$37.40 per student) \$38,935.

Payable from: Title I Function 3300 and Title II Function 2270

Executive Sponsor: Malika Savoy-Brooks

A-6 Showalter Intermediate Closing

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the formal closing of Showalter Intermediate school.

Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

A-7 Toby Grade Configuration Changes

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for grade configuration change for Toby Farms from grades 4-8 to grades 3-8.

Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

A-8 STEM at Showalter Grade Configuration changes

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for grade configuration change for STEM at Showalter from grades 7-12 to grades 8-12.

Executive Sponsor: Joshua Culbertson

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS #A-1 THROUGH #A-4 AND #A-6 THROUGH #A-8 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM #A-5 WAS TABLED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-1 General/Categorical Funds. Approval of appointments, return from leave of absence, assignment, reassignment, resignation, termination, correction of transfers and fall (middle school) coaching appointments.

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

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>New Position or Replacement</u>
Moore, Durell	Cyber Monitor S.T.E.M. at Showalter	\$32,000 10 months	10/10/13	New Position 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Murray, Lynne Ellen	Teacher, Science Toby Farms School	\$41,607 (B/1) 10 months	10/07/13	Replacement 2013-2014 G.F.B.

(b) Non Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>New Position or Replacement</u>
Case, Michael	Bus Aide Transportation Department	\$10.99/hour	10/07/13	Replacement 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Day, Alonza	Substitute School Safety Officer School Safety Department	\$11.27/hour	10/02/13	New Position 2013-2014 G.F.B.

Ortiz Nieves, Betsy	Substitute Van Driver Transportation Department	\$16.37/hour 10 months	09/23/13	Replacement 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Payne Grasty, Tishira	Bus Aide Transportation Department	\$10.99/hour 10 months	09/23/13	Replacement 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Smith, Eugene	Substitute School Safety Officer School Safety Department	\$11.27/hour	10/01/13	New Position 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Tiller, Mark	HVAC Maintenance Department	\$20.22/hour 12 months	10/21/13	Replacement 2013-2014 G.F.B.
Williams, Nanette	Bus Driver Transportation Department	\$18.17/hour 10 months	10/03/13	New Position 2013-2014 G.F.B.

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

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Katz, Jennie	School Psychologist Toby Farms School and Stetser Elementary School	10/07/13

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

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Bennett, Rose	Substitute Teacher Floater	\$100/day	10/07/13

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

(b) Non-Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Bloom, Harris	Bus Driver Transportation	Substitute Bus Driver Transportation	10/28/13

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

(c) Non Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Muhammad, Fatimah	Bus Driver Transportation Department	09/25/13

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

(a) Non Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Michael, T'Sa	Special Education Clerk Special Education Department	10/03/13

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

(a) Non Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Thomas, Kevin	Custodian Stetser Elementary School \$11.78/hour	Custodian Administration Building \$16.66/hour	09/02/13
Womack, Floyd	12 months Custodian Toby Farms School	12 months Custodian Stetser Elementary School	09/02/13

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **fall (middle school) coaching appointments** be approved as respectively noted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Greenberg, Stuart	Head Coach, Volleyball	\$1,500.00
Miller, Dwayne	Head Coach, Soccer	\$1,500.00

Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEM #B-1 WAS APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

BUSINESS AGENDA

C-1 Reports of the tax collectors.

RESOLVED, that the reports of the City of Chester, Borough of Upland, and Chester Township for the period September 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 in the amount of \$5,332,860.48 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 September 30, 2013 be APPROVED by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-3 General Fund Budget: \$ 8,289,932.54. Approval of list of payments.

RESOLVED, that the attached list of payments dated September 20, 2013, through October 17, 2013 checks numbering 00033460 through 00033688, of the various accounts totaling for all accounts the grand sum of \$8,289,932.54, 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 17, 2013 Minutes.

(LIST OF PAYMENTS ATTACHED)

General Fund Budget: \$1,912,336.01. Approval of payrolls.

RESOLVED, that the payrolls dated September 11, 2013 and September 25, 2013 of the various accounts totaling for all accounts the grand sum of \$1,912,336.01 be approved by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors.

Payable from: General Fund

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-4 Approval to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 312.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Chester Upland School District and Teamsters Local 312 from October 1, 2013 through and including October 31, 2013.

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS #C-1 THROUGH #C-4 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL AGENDA

B-2 General/Categorical Funds. Approval of assignment, resignation and termination.

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

(d) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Osman, Eiman	Substitute Teacher Floater	\$100/day	09/25/13

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

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Murray, Lynne Ellen	Teacher, Science Toby Farms School	10/15/13

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

(b) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Hyman, Amos	Long-Term Substitute Teacher Floater	10/11/13

B-3 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (Cohort 6A) - Credit Recovery After-School Program.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the following individuals to participate in the grant-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Cohort 6A) Credit Recovery After-School Program during the 2013-2014 school year, effective October 1, 2013 through June 12, 2014, serving in the capacity of teacher at the rate of \$25 per hour:

Name
Archibald, Jennifer
Fryer, Thomasina
Howie, Farela
Legette, Jeffrey
Lineberry, Myra
Sas, Kamila

Payable from: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Grant (Cohort 6A)
Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

B-4 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (Cohort 6) – T.E.A.M.S. After-School Enrichment Program.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval for the following individuals to participate in the grant-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Cohort 6) T.E.A.M. S. After-School Enrichment Program during the 2013-2014 school year, effective October 1, 2013 through June 12, 2014, as listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Baxter, Sharon	Teacher	\$25.00/hour
Johnson, Margaret	Teacher	\$25.00/hour
Saunders, Dakisha	Teacher	\$25.00/hour
Bright, Marcia	School Safety Officer	\$17.85/hour
Richardson, Josette	School Safety Officer	\$17.85/hour
Simonson, Ronald	School Safety Officer	\$17.85/hour

Payable from: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Grant (Cohort 6)
Executive Sponsor: Alvina Jenkins

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

SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS AGENDA

C-5 Approval to enter into Consulting Services Agreement with Bonnett Associates, Incorporated.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, grant approval to enter into Consulting Services Agreement with Bonnett Associates, Incorporated regarding architectural services for various facility related issues. Including the proposed building consolidation as contained in the Receiver's Recovery Plan.

Cost: \$100,000.00

Payable from Cost Center Budget: Facilities

Account Code: 10-4300-000-00-000-000-FACI

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

C-6 Approval of the Chester Upland Excellence Fund.

RESOLVED, that the Chester Upland School District (hereinafter "School District") hereby authorizes the establishment of a foundation to be known as the Chester Upland Excellence Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, to be formed pursuant to non-profit corporation code and as a qualified §501(c)(3) tax exempt entity; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District is hereby authorized to expend up to Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the cost of the formation and start up of the Fund which start-up cost shall be reimbursed to the School District by the Fund upon receipt by the Fund of monies sufficient to reimburse the actual cost advance; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the law firm of Laura Solomon and Associates is hereby engaged to provide services related to the formation of the Fund and the filing of the Internal Revenue Service §501(c)(3) qualifying application at a fee not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars based upon a fully executed Agreement for Legal Services and billings to the School District detailing the services provided and the rates for the services pursuant to the engagement letter from the firm.

Cost: \$5,000.00 initial retainer

Payable from Cost Center Budget: Legal

Executive Sponsor: Joe Watkins

C-7 Approval of Agreement with the School District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

RESOLVED, that the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District (hereinafter “School District”) approves the Agreement with the School District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Commonwealth”), and Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (“Pilcop” or “Class Counsel”) regarding the payment of legal fees in full satisfaction of any claim it may have for attorney’s fees or costs arising out of relating to the Motion to Enforce the Settlement Agreement filed with the Court on or about March 8, 2013 (hereinafter “the First Motion to Enforce”), and the Motion to Enforce filed on or about June 28, 2013 with the Court (hereinafter “the Second Motion to Enforce”).

Cost: \$40,000.00

Payable from Cost Center Budget: Legal

Account Code: Board Services Cost Center

Executive Sponsor: George R. Crawford

SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS #C-5 THROUGH #C-7 WERE APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business *Receiver Joseph P. Watkins* adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER**

Joseph P. Watkins

Date