

[Home](#) [Bucks County](#) [Montgomery County](#) [Politics](#) [Entertainment](#)
[Calendar](#) [Knits2Go](#) [Contact](#)

Efficiency and new policies top Centennial School District agenda

pawirenews / 2 days ago

Jack Firneno, *the Wire*

Members of the Centennial School District administrative team met with parents last Thursday night to discuss their roles at the district and how they're addressing changes for the district.

The meet-and-greet was part of a series of events aimed at keeping parents involved with what's going on not only at their children's schools, but in the education community at large. "There's been a lot of change over the last decade, and we have some new team members," said Centennial Superintendent Joyce Mundy.

New to the district are Katie Braun, interim business manager, Tim Trzaska,



JACK FIRNENO / WIRE PHOTO Members of Centennial School District administrative team met with parents last Thursday night as part of a series [+](#) Follow

operations manager, and Human Resources interim director Barbara Stevenson.

of events aimed at keeping parents involved with what's going on not just at their children's schools, but in the education community at large.

At the meeting, they were joined by Judy Hengst, director of special education, Director of Student Affairs Izzy Franklin and Director of Technology and Information Services Ray Kase.

Along with highlighting the recent additions of staff members, the meeting served to introduce upcoming initiatives and explain how new state laws would affect the schools.

One of the biggest changes affecting the district is the new statewide mandated reporting requirements that were passed into law last December. Prompted by the Penn State sex abuse scandal in 2011, new laws require that all school district personnel update their child abuse clearances every three years.

Additionally, the Pass the Trash law requires school districts to obtain clearance letters from every former employer of a new district employee. All new school district workers are placed on a 90-day probationary period while the clearance letters are gathered. During that time, they are not allowed to be alone with children.

While somewhat cumbersome, Stevenson said the new laws are a positive step toward keeping students safe.

At the same time, the district recently completed a new special education plan that Hengst said will support both students and teachers by identifying the best programs for kids and ensuring the teachers are properly trained on them.

The plan, which is still in the process of being adopted, is available on the school district's website. "We're solidifying our process so all administration and staff are going in the same direction," she explained.

Also upcoming is a Bring Your Own Device, or BYOD program, where students can use personal devices like smartphones and tablets in school as part of their lessons.

The initiative, which has been adopted by nearby school districts, marks a change in the way schools think about IT, according to Kase.

"The school networks used to be heavily locked down, with only their own devices allowed on it," he explained. "Now, the current trend is to be more welcoming in our networks."

The BYOD program would allow students to access assignments and work online using web-based programs like Office 360, a suite of products including Microsoft Word,

 Follow

Excel and Powerpoint that exist on a network instead of on a specific device, allowing users — including students and teachers — to collaborate on documents.

It would also grant students access to online learning management programs like Canvas, which allows students to access assignments and resources through their own devices.

The program requires improvements to the network's infrastructure, which would keep areas like payroll and records secure.

Kase said some of those enhancements would be made over the summer, and the program will roll out with a handful of high school classrooms next year. After that, BYOD will expand incrementally through the middle and elementary schools, as teachers and administrators create "instructional strategies" for each grade level, until it's available district-wide.

Acknowledging that cost can be a prohibitive factor to parents providing devices for their children, Kase pointed to a few products like a Windows tablet that sells for less than \$100 as an example of affordable electronics.

"The magic floor when it comes to prices is when they're less expensive than the kids' sneakers," he noted.

Costs are, of course, a consideration whenever a school district adopts new policies and initiatives, which is where Braun comes in.

New to the district last year, already Braun has been investigating ways to cut costs and make processes more efficient and cost-effective. Recent efforts have included auditing and new tracking programs for deposits and purchasing.

"No matter what my colleagues do, it affects my budget," Braun explained. "These are ways to streamline those things while incorporating their needs."

Braun so far has been "relentless, in a very positive way" about saving money, according to Stevenson, whose job also includes reviewing every time card for the district and questioning any possible discrepancies.

"That's gotten me very popular right away," she joked.

Similarly, operations manager Tim Trzaska has implemented a new internal website where maintenance requests can be entered and tracked through their completion. "This way, there's no guessing. Everyone knows what's going on," he explained.

 Follow

Along with working on the district's move to a new administration building next year, Trzaska's big project will be overseeing feasibility studies for Centennial's middle schools.

He expects to have an architect review the buildings over the summer and, then work with the district to form a plan regarding options, including renovations or construction of new facilities.

"We're going to look at these schools and ask, 'Are they good for the future or bad for the future?'" he said.



Be the first to like this.

April 13, 2015 in Bucks County. Tags: Bucks County, Centennial School District, schools

Related posts



Knits2Go: Rectangle Scarf

Bucks County Events Calendar 4/15 – 4/22



Bucks County Wine Trail Tour offers local flavor for casual to connoisseur wine drinkers

[← Second class graduates from Bucks Community College's new manufacturing training program](#)

[Commissioner Val Arkoosh updates seniors on state of Montgomery County →](#)

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

Follow

Search

Trending



[Loss matters: Bucks family seeks support for ACA amendment to benefit addicts in recovery](#)



['Meet me at the monument': The story behind the quiet battle in Hatboro](#)



[Santarsiero receives wealth of support for nomination](#)




[Second class graduates from Bucks Community College's new manufacturing training program](#)



[Efficiency and new policies top Centennial School District agenda](#)

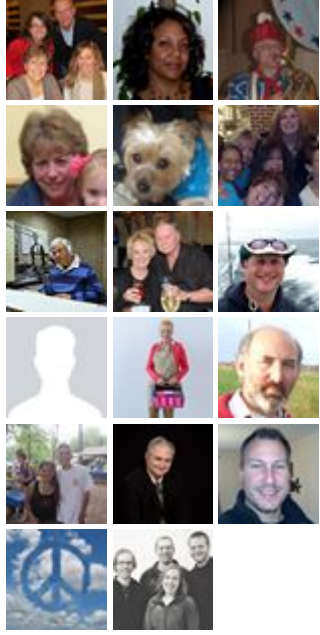
 Follow

Like us on Facebook



The Midweek Wire
Like

600 people like The Midweek Wire.



Follow us on Twitter

Today, Truffle Shufflin' Albert Marnoch of Hatboro earned his #wingbowl seat. Read in next week's Wire. @SportsRadioWIP <http://t.co/2oICRwIYLh> 4 months ago

[Follow @PAWireNews](#)

Subscribe

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Subscribe

[+ Follow](#)

Contact

[2412 Progress Drive](#)

[Suite C](#)

[Bensalem, PA 19020](#)

267.329.2218

pawirenews@bsmphilly.com

[Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.](#) [The Expound Theme.](#)

u

 Follow