

Message from John C. Landino, BASD Board President

March 24, 2017

I hope this finds you and yours doing well. We are all so excited about our school district, especially these days with our incredible high school women's basketball team, champions in the hearts of every Bears fan. We should all celebrate their success!

As you may know, the school board meets monthly in public session and our next meeting at the Boyertown Junior High School East is at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. In advance of that meeting, a number of community members have expressed comments about one particular issue – a recently filed lawsuit – so I thought it appropriate to reach out to you and other district residents before we gather in hopes of promoting an organized, respectful and forthright discussion about an issue that ultimately will almost certainly be determined by officials – possibly the courts – outside the district. Importantly, we must not lose our focus as a district or a community on providing the finest education possible to each and every student in our school system.

By way of background, you should have received on [March 22<sup>nd</sup> an email](#) from Superintendent Faidley informing you of the Federal lawsuit – filed March 21<sup>st</sup> by one of our students and his guardians - against BASD. While we acknowledge a range of opinions on this issue, we also must respect the legal process and avoid even the perception of trying the case in public – or in the press – given the fact it is in the legal system. Our solicitor will explain, among other things, what the board and the administration, can and cannot discuss regarding the lawsuit and the plaintiffs' Demand Letter (available at [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org)) that was also presented to the district. That letter specifically requested direction from the board to determine if it would agree to the demands by April 4<sup>th</sup>. Those demands included specific changes in bathroom and locker room-access policies. Before the board considers that [Demand Letter](#), it looks forward to hearing from the community on this issue.

It goes without saying that this is a serious, complex and complicated situation, compounded by the lack of guidance from state or federal government agencies. Be assured that your board has acted thoughtfully and respectfully and will continue to do so.

As it relates to the upcoming board meeting, we want to hear from as many community members as possible in the time allowed. With that goal in mind, these are the guidelines that we will be following:

- Comments regarding the lawsuit, a non-agenda item, will be received during public comment period number two toward the end of the board meeting.
- Speakers will be asked to limit their remarks to 3 minutes or less. Due to time considerations at the meeting, some commenters may wish to instead offer written opinions through our [Comments and Inquiries](#) portal located on our website. Each comment, presented in person or over the website, will be considered by the board.
- Public Comment is limited to individuals who are residents of BASD, BASD students, parents of BASD students, BASD employees and/or BASD taxpayers. As per Board policy, a “BASD taxpayer” is a person who pays school tax on real property located within BASD as well as any other tax imposed by the BASD Board of School Directors.
- The meeting will be videotaped and will be broadcast on local public access television at a later date. Minutes and a video of the meeting will also be made available on the website.

Thank you for your interest and your understanding.