

**Abington Senior High School  
Initiative and Building Project**

**Semiannual Report to  
The Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation**

**December 20, 2018**



## Introduction

As reflected in the grant agreement with the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation, Abington School District will provide the grantor with semiannual written reports regarding the Abington Senior High School initiative and building project. This report, dated December 20, 2018, is the second semiannual report and includes information regarding the **High School Initiative** planned for Abington Senior High School, a **Financial Summary** regarding the senior high school additions and renovations project, and a **Construction Update**.

## High School Initiative

The Superintendent's Committee regarding *Secondary Programming for Reconfigured Grade Spans*, which commenced its work in January 2018 with a charge to make specific recommendations with respect to the new Abington Senior High School grade level configuration of grades 9-12, is continuing its work. The recommendations, based upon a series of tasks for the Committee's completion by the 2022-2023 school year, will include consideration of student transitions from one grade span to another (i.e., from middle school to high school) as well as school schedules, curriculum, instruction and assessment, facilities, pupil services, student activities, and the continuum of programming from grades K through 12. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Committee is focused upon further investigation of potential schedule changes to accommodate the reimagined high school program, exploration of academic programs that will support a pathways instructional model, consideration of revisions to the culminating graduation project, and identification of additional community partnerships that may be incorporated into the pathways program through opportunities for internship and mentorship.

As noted in the first semiannual report, technology-related components of the re-imagined instructional program for Abington Senior High School are an important consideration for the Superintendent's Committee as it develops recommendations regarding implementation of a pathways program that will emphasize students' future readiness. At the December 11, 2018 meeting of the Board of School Directors, an Advertisement for Bid was approved for the purpose of purchasing a new firewall and associated attack protection appliances and software to replace and upgrade the existing protection devices for the network at the senior high school. The new system will allow for better tracking of activity and more comprehensive filtering on mobile devices such as Chromebooks. This system will be essential as use of Chromebooks is expanded and preparations are made for a one-to-one program at the senior high school that may include student use of District Chromebooks at home.

Network switches are also being bid for replacement as a necessary upgrade to prepare the high school for greater internet utilization due to the future one-to-one program. In addition, upgraded switches are a component of the Advertisement for Bid in order to accommodate increasing bandwidth needs and allow for increased throughput and redundancy. Finally, 253 new wireless access points and cloud management subscriptions are being bid. Using the latest Wi-Fi standard, which provides up to four times the speed of the access points being replaced, the access points allow for greater coverage and higher capacity. These infrastructure upgrades will enable support of an increased quantity of student devices, as well as the instructional

technologies that will be available in classrooms, including the Student Think Tank and other spaces in the high school additions and renovations.

Beyond the recent approval of an Advertisement for Bid, the school district continues a focus on integration of coding and computational thinking skills in the secondary instructional program. An opportunity to collaborate with the Montgomery County Community College on a PAsmart grant application related to STEM and computer science instruction was identified in early fall. The application, which is being finalized for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board by December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 promotes enhanced integration of computer science and coding in music instruction across all grade spans. This collaborative opportunity has the potential to not only provide students with increased exposure to coding applications, but also directly connect coding and computational thinking skills to instruction in the Visual and Performing Arts Pathway (one of the eight potential pathways identified last spring by the Superintendent's Committee for the implementation at the senior high school as part of its reimagined instructional program).

The pathways program which is under development, as mentioned in the first semiannual report, will incorporate opportunities for students to be engaged in computational thinking related to potential career field areas of interest. These opportunities will build upon skills introduced in earlier grade spans such that students in grades 7-12 will have exposure to future-ready skills and relevant technology by the 2022-2023 school year. A build up to this end goal began with the introduction in the 2017-2018 school year of *STEM I* at the junior high school, a course in which students in both grades 7 and 8 were enrolled. This year, grade 7 students are enrolled in *STEM I* and grade 8 students are enrolled in *STEM II*, a course which builds upon the drag-and-drop coding skills introduced in *STEM I* and engages students in text-based programming. For the 2018-2019 school year, 673 grade 7 students are presently enrolled in *STEM I* and 653 grade 8 students are presently enrolled in *STEM II*.

In addition to the 1,326 students in grades 7 and 8 who are participating in *STEM I* and *STEM II*, a number of grade 9 students are enrolled in two additional courses available at the grades 7-9 junior high school which relate to coding—*Computer Programming Fundamentals* and *Advanced Multimedia Technology*. Combined, 37 grade 9 students are enrolled in these courses, in comparison to 23 grade 9 students having been enrolled in the two courses during the 2017-2018 school year. As students' exposure to computer science continues to grow in grades 7 and 8, future increases in enrollment for these courses are anticipated.

The high school sub-committee's planning activities for a reconfigured grades 9-12 high school with a pathways initiative include development of course recommendations that integrate future-ready and career-ready skills such as computational thinking. These courses will expand upon the already existent computer science-related courses available to students in grades 10-12. Coding or other comparable future-ready computer literacy skills will be made available to students at the high school in a format relevant to specific career pathways in which students are engaged, with a goal of approximately 100% of students (with recognition of the cognitive and behavioral limitations of individual students) participating in these courses during their high school career by 2022 and thereafter.

A task of the Superintendent's Committee for the current school year is to develop a new course, *Foundations of Innovation I*, which will build upon skills taught in *STEM I* and *STEM II* in a manner that demonstrates application of coding and computational thinking skills in a variety of career fields represented by the proposed senior high school pathways. Those potential pathways include: Business and Entrepreneurship; Computer Science and Information Technology; Government and Legal Services; Health Sciences; Manufacturing and Construction; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; Social Science and Human Services; and, Visual and Performing Arts. It is anticipated that *Foundations of Innovation I* will be approved by the Board of School Directors in Spring 2019 as a new course offering for the 2019-2020 school year. While this course and future courses are developed and implemented over time in conjunction with the pathways program initiative, enrollment in existing computer science-related courses remains steady with 162 students currently enrolled in *Computer Programming Fundamentals*, *Cisco I/II* and *Cisco III/IV*, *AP Computer Science A*, and/or *AP Computer Science Fundamentals*.

### **Financial Summary**

The sources of funds for the Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations project include \$75,140,000 from Abington School District's Series 2017A General Obligation Bonds and \$25,000,000 from the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation, in accordance with the May 29, 2018 pledge agreement, for a total of \$100,140,000. As reflected in Attachment 1: Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 Project Summary, for the project period ending December 20, 2018, expenditures for architectural design services, construction management services, design development surveys, municipal and government agency approvals, township development escrow, and an owner controlled insurance program total \$8,632,568. Expenditures and encumbrances for architectural services, construction management and construction contracts total \$102,871,499. Inclusive of \$518,365 of interest earnings, funds dedicated to the project total \$75,658,365, which is presently a funding shortfall of \$27,213,134. This shortfall is anticipated to be covered by receipt of annual pledge agreement installment payments from the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation and school district fund balances. On December 12, 2018, the first installment payment was received by the Foundation for Abington School District (FASD) in the form of 82,000 shares of Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. common stock at a value of \$6,038,070. When FASD is successful in converting the stock shares into cash, the funds will be transferred from FASD to Abington School District to use for high school additions and renovations project construction expenses.

Details regarding \$8,632,568 of project payments are provided in Attachment 2: Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 List of Payments. Payees include Gilbert Architects, Inc., Reynolds Construction Management, Inc., Abington Township, CM Regent, LLC, approval agencies, and environmental engineers.

### **Construction Update**

Since submission of the first semiannual report, the project's design was finalized and the following approvals and permits were received:

- Montgomery County Conservation District approval – July 20, 2018
- NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit – July 20, 2018

- Abington Township code review approval – August 14, 2018
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) sewer permit – November 14, 2018

The project was officially advertised for public bid on June 22, 2018 and bids were received on August 21, 2018 for general construction, electrical construction, plumbing construction, fire suppression construction, food service construction and asbestos abatement. On August 28, 2018 bids were received for HVAC construction. The bids were reviewed, presented to the Board of School Directors on September 4, 2018 and the Board of School Directors unanimously approved its intent to award the contracts to the lowest responsible bidders. The intent to award was pending receipt of all required regulatory approvals. The final approval, from the PA DEP for the sewer permit, was received on November 14, 2018. Notice to Proceed letters were issued to all contractors on November 28, 2018 at the official pre-construction meeting. The awarded contractors include:

Prime Contractor Trade	Contractor	Contract Amount
General Construction	Boro Construction	\$54,740,370
Fire Suppression Construction	Guy M. Cooper, Inc.	\$2,044,500
Plumbing Construction	J. R. Reynolds, Inc.	\$4,766,500
Electrical Construction	Boro Construction	\$12,131,000
HVAC Construction	Myco Mechanical, Inc.	\$17,366,000
Food Service Construction	11400, Inc.	\$238,700
Asbestos Abatement	Neuber Environmental Services	\$957,000
Total		\$92,244,070

Abington School District hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on November 2, 2018. This ceremony was attended by students, staff, School Board members, local dignitaries, a representative of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation, the design professionals, and contractor representatives. The groundbreaking took place on the site of the new Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology and was well received by the community, local media and attendees.

Prior to the start of construction it is required that pre-construction meetings be conducted with the Montgomery County Conservation District and Abington Township. The meeting with the Montgomery County Conservation District to discuss the NPDES permit and all items related to soil and erosion controls was conducted on December 5, 2018. The pre-construction meeting with Abington Township was conducted on December 12, 2018. Construction is ready to begin, with the initial work including installation of the soil and erosion controls.

Attachment 3: Capital Improvement Report - Fund 38 Construction Contract Status reflects the status of the high school project contracts between the District and its architect, construction manager, and construction contractors. Construction contracts were awarded for general

construction, electrical construction, asbestos abatement, fire suppression sprinkler construction, food service construction, mechanical construction, and plumbing construction in the amount of \$92,244,070 at the September 4, 2018 public meeting of the Abington Board of School Directors.

### **Conclusion**

Abington School District's work regarding *Secondary Programming for Reconfigured Grade Spans* continues to progress toward implementation of a 1:1 computing initiative at Abington Senior High School by September 2022. In preparation for implementation of a pathways program, courses related to future-ready skills and computational thinking/coding are being developed and introduced to students in our secondary schools. To date, 11.5% of the available project funds have been expended toward architectural and other professional services. All required approvals and permits to begin the additions and renovations project have been received, and construction commenced this week. Abington School District continues to be appreciative to the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation for its most generous gift to support the Abington Senior High School additions and renovations project. As always, we are available for further discussion regarding this second semiannual report.

Abington School District  
Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 Project Summary  
December 20, 2018

Attachment 1

Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations

	Source of Funds	Budget	Funds Available	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Balance
38-4600-450	2017A Bond Issue	75,140,000	\$ 75,140,000	\$ 8,632,568	\$ 94,238,931	\$ (27,731,499)
38-4600-450	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2018	\$ 6,038,070	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
38-4600-450	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2019	\$ 5,961,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
38-4600-450	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2020	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
38-4600-450	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2021	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
38-4600-450	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2022	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 100,140,000	\$ 75,140,000	\$ 8,632,568	\$ 94,238,931	\$ (27,731,499)

Available Interest Earnings 518,365

Anticipated Future Allocations (27,213,134)

**Abington School District  
Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 List of Payments  
November 25, 2018**

**Attachment 2**

**Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations**

**Capital Projects 2017A and Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift**

<b>Check No.</b>	<b>Check Date</b>	<b>Vendor Name and Comment</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1001-1034		PROJECT INCEPTION THROUGH PERIOD ENDING 5/25/2018 AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF CONTRACTED SERVICES PAYMENTS	\$ 2,131,044
1036	6/6/2018	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC - Environmental Survey	\$ 2,221
1037	6/6/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 184,581
1038	6/12/2018	MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT - Approvals	\$ 1,735
1039	7/20/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 185,269
1040	7/20/2018	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC - Construction Management	\$ 53,000
1041	8/8/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 79,232
1042	8/8/2018	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC - Construction Management	\$ 14,137
1043	8/14/2018	CODE INSPECTIONS, INC - Code Review for Abington Township	\$ 28,066
1045	9/12/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 165,672
1047	9/26/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 1,211,483
1048	10/4/2018	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC - Construction Management	\$ 9,000
1049	10/12/2018	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, INC - Bid Specifications	\$ 6,240
1050	10/12/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 49,427
1051	11/16/2018	ABINGTON TOWNSHIP - Development Escrow	\$ 2,248,306
1052	11/16/2018	CM REGENT, LLC - Owner Controlled Insurance Program	\$ 2,236,177
1053	11/16/2018	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC - Design Services	\$ 26,978
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 8,632,568</b>



Abington School District  
Capital Improvement Report - Fund 38 Construction Contract Status  
November 25, 2018

Attachment 3

Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations

Contract Number & Project Code	Description & Location	Amount of Original Award	Estimated or Final Cost with Change Orders	\$ Expended to Date	Percent Expended	Starting Date	Estimated Completion
<b>Contract #2016</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Architectural Design Services</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Gilbert Architects, Inc.	\$ 4,541,564.00	\$ 4,541,564.00	\$ 3,908,119.00	86.05%	11/7/2016	9/1/2022
<b>Contract #2022</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Construction Management</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Reynolds Construction, LLC.	\$ 1,485,000.00	\$ 1,485,000.00	\$ 129,138.07	8.70%	10/1/2017	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2026</b> 38-4600-450	<b>General Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Boro Developers, Inc.	\$ 54,740,370.00	\$ 54,740,370.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2027</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Fire Suppression Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Guy M. Cooper, Inc.	\$ 2,044,500.00	\$ 2,044,500.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2028</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Plumbing Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Jay R. Reynolds, Inc.	\$ 4,766,500.00	\$ 4,766,500.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2029</b> 38-4600-450	<b>HVAC Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Myco Mechanical, Inc.	\$ 17,366,000.00	\$ 17,366,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2030</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Electrical Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> Boro Developers, Inc.	\$ 12,131,000.00	\$ 12,131,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
<b>Contract # 2031</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Food Service Construction</b> <b>Additions and Renovations</b> <b>Abington Senior High School</b> 11400, Inc.	\$ 238,700.00	\$ 238,700.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022

<b>Contract Number &amp; Project Code</b>	<b>Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Amount of Original Award</b>	<b>Final Cost with Change Orders</b>	<b>\$ Expended to Date</b>	<b>Percent Expended</b>	<b>Starting Date</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
<b>Contract # 2032</b> 38-4600-450	<b>Asbestos Abatement Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School</b> Neuber Environmental, Inc.	<u>\$ 957,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 957,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
	Totals	\$98,270,634.00	\$98,270,634.00	\$4,037,257.07			