

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

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

December 19, 2019



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 19, 2019, is the fourth 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* continues work related to its charge to make specific recommendations with respect to the new Abington Senior High School grade level configuration of grades 9-12. The Committee, which began its work in January 2018, is focused on 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 for student internship and mentorship opportunities. Further 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 digital badging related to reporting "soft" skills, grade reporting and related procedures, professional development needs, student services, student activities, and the continuum of programming from grades K-12.

Implementation of Abington School District's *Digital Transformation Plan for 2019-2025* has begun with replacement of interactive whiteboards at the senior high school with new interactive flat panels in conjunction with the phasing of the additions and renovations project, as well as exchange of all teachers' desktop computers for laptops to increase mobility and functionality. The Plan calls for continued phased-in installation of interactive flat panels across all District classrooms in place of existing interactive whiteboards and projectors that have become obsolete due to lack of available replacement parts and manufacturer support, as well as suboptimal performance across all schools. A one-to-one Chromebook initiative will begin for students in grades 10-12 in September 2020, with the program extending to students in grades 7-9 at the junior high school the following year and to students in grades 4-6 in September 2022. As highlighted in the plan, professional development is occurring with all K-12 teachers related to effective use of technology to supplement instruction, with sessions occurring in August and November 2019, as well as planned for February and April 2020. Further, a District instructional technology coach position was approved by the Board of School Directors for the 2019-2020 school year. That individual, paid through use of Title II Federal funds, is providing professional development and instructional coaching related to integration of technology. A specific focus for the current school year is senior high school teaching and learning in anticipation of the one-to-one Chromebook initiative in September 2020.

A Superintendent's Committee regarding *Instructional Innovation* is currently being developed for implementation in the new calendar year to provide specific recommendations related to the

District's *Digital Transformation Plan for 2019-2025* and District vision statement as noted in Abington School District's *Comprehensive Plan* for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022, that "Abington Schools will be 21st Century, state-of-the-art, innovative learning environments. Promoting student excellence, achievement, and academic exploration will ensure our students are prepared for the nation's fastest growing industries and motivate the next generation of global leaders for the challenges of the future." Beginning first with a focus on the senior high school, the Committee will explore opportunities to integrate an instructional framework based upon what we have termed "i4C" (Innovation + Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication and Creativity) to enhance and extend upon students' learning experiences. The use of current digital technologies such as Chromebooks will provide additional tools and resources for teachers to increase student engagement and differentiated instruction or personalized learning efforts. These technologies will promote data-informed instruction practices, such as Universal Design for Learning and Project-Based Learning, as well as teaching and learning in areas such as digital literacy and digital citizenship.

As noted in prior reports, efforts are underway to provide students in grades 7-12 with exposure to future-ready skills and relevant technology by the 2022-2023 school year. That work 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. The course replaced a prior required grade 7 computer literacy course which was reimagined to address 21st Century computational thinking skills rather than Microsoft Office skills. Likewise, the existing Exploring Technology course, required for students in grade 8, was reimagined to promote expanded computing skills relevant to a variety of career paths. For the 2018-2019 school year, grade 7 students were enrolled in *STEM I* and grade 8 students were 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 2019-2020 school year, 1,357 students in grades 7 and 8, including 666 grade 7 students and 691 grade 8 students, are enrolled in *STEM I* and *STEM II* respectively. Additionally, grade 9 students have the opportunity to enroll in three other courses available at the grades 7-9 junior high school which relate to coding—*Computer Programming Fundamentals* (27 grade 9 students enrolled), *Advanced Multimedia Technology* (7 grade 9 students enrolled), and *Foundations of Innovation I* (45 grade 9 students enrolled). By comparison, 35 grade 9 students completed *Computer Programming Fundamentals* and *Advanced Multimedia Technology* in the 2018-2019 school year, and 23 grade 9 students completed the two courses during the 2017-2018 school year. *Foundations of Innovation I* will be required for grade 9 students beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The course content will build upon skills taught in *STEM I* and *STEM II* in a manner that promotes application of coding and computational thinking skills to a variety of career fields represented by the proposed senior high school pathways. In its first year as an offering, the course this year is focused on the STEM career pathway, with additional pathways to be integrated as this course expands to include all grade 9 students.

At the senior high school, students continue to demonstrate interest in available courses related to coding and computational thinking, including: *Computer Programming Fundamentals*, *Cisco I/II* and *Cisco III/IV*, *Honors Advanced Computer Science*, *AP Computer Science A* and *AP Computer Science Principles*. In comparison to enrollment by 124 students during the 2016-2017 school

year, 196 students are enrolled in these courses for the 2019-2020 school year. The 2019-2020 school year has also seen the addition of *Advanced Placement (AP) Research*, the second course in the *AP CapstoneTM* program which was implemented for the 2018-2019 school year. Students enrolled in this course are able to engage in research projects related to computational thinking. Seventeen students are currently enrolled in *AP Research* and 26 are enrolled in *AP Seminar*.

Enrollment in courses at the senior high school related to coding or other comparable future-ready computer literacy skills is anticipated to continue to grow through introduction of these skills in grades 7-9, 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. For the 2020-2021 school year, in addition to a continuation of the courses noted above, students will also have an opportunity to enroll in *Foundations of Innovation II*, which will be offered at the senior high school as an elective course for grade 10 students. This course, which is currently under development for next school year and will be recommended for approval by the Board of School Directors in Spring 2020 as a new course offering for the 2020-2021 school year, will continue promotion of coding and computational thinking skills related to career fields represented by the proposed senior high school's pathways. Over the course of *Foundations of Innovation I* and *II*, offered to students in grades 9 and 10 respectively, students will apply skills learned in *STEM I* and *STEM II* to projects related to all offered pathways in advance of internship and mentorship experiences in grades 11 and 12 related to a specific pathway.

In addition to work related to implementation of *Foundations of Innovation II*, the Committee remains engaged in further development of internship and mentorship opportunities for implementation in the pathways program for the 2022-2023 school year and further consideration of new and reimagined courses, including those offered through *Project Lead the Way*, in support of specific pathways. Additionally, opportunities for advancement of student and teacher understanding of pathway careers are being advanced through expansion of Career Chatter (a speaker series related to careers in the proposed pathways) and participation in Teacher in the Workplace grant activities. This grant provides faculty the opportunity to learn about specific careers and network with professionals in those careers "in the field" so they can bring that knowledge and awareness back to their classrooms. While Abington School District is currently participating in these experiences through an existing grant for senior high school teachers, the District is submitting a new grant application to seek funds for program expansion at both the senior and junior high schools.

The District is also finalizing applications for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board for funding related to computational thinking through two PASmart grants. The grants are designed to accelerate learning and professional development in the fast-growing fields of STEM and computer science. The first PASmart application is for a targeted grant to increase our teachers' capacity to instruct computational thinking, through professional development, and to expand students' access to computer science programs, through curriculum and material resources. The second PASmart application is for an advancing grant in collaboration with additional school districts and higher education institutions to develop enhanced integration of computational thinking in music instruction. That application builds off of an unsuccessful PASmart grant application submitted

in December 2018 in collaboration with Montgomery County Community College, which focused on integration of computational thinking skills in the Visual and Performing Arts Pathway (one of the eight potential pathways identified by the Superintendent's Committee for the implementation at the senior high school as part of its reimagined instructional program).

Financial Summary

The primary 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. Additional project funds are available from current and future earnings on investments and Abington School District's general fund – fund balance to meet the total budgeted project costs of \$108,166,736. As reflected in Attachment 1: Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 Project Summary, expenditures for construction contractors, architectural design services, construction management services, design development surveys, municipal and government agency approvals, township development escrow, engineering and environmental services, and an owner-controlled insurance program total \$34,492,159. The project expenditures and encumbrances total \$105,134,812.

To date, Stephen A. Schwarzman's gifts to the Foundation for Abington School District (FASD) total \$12,059,347. This gift total includes \$6,021,277.29 received by the Foundation for Abington School District in July 2019. This second gift installment consisted of \$1,716,250 in cash, 24,800 shares of PayPal Holdings stock (\$2,898,872) and 47,537.366 mutual fund shares of Vanguard International Growth Fund (\$1,406,155.29). The cash gift and proceeds from the sale of the mutual fund and stock shares totaled \$6,031,931, which was transferred from the FASD to Abington School District for the support of Abington School District's high school building project. As of September 27, 2019, the gifted funds were fully expended for their intended purpose. Presently the project has a funding allocation shortfall of \$17,924,496, which is anticipated to be covered by receipt of three additional annual pledge agreement installment payments from the Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation, earnings on investments, and the school district general fund – fund balance for capital projects.

Details regarding \$34,492,159 of project payments are provided in Attachment 2: Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 List of Payments. To date payees include the environmental abatement firm, architect and engineer, construction management firm, insurance provider, inspection and monitoring firms, construction contractors, the local municipality, and approval agencies. Attachment 3: Capital Improvement Report - Fund 38 Construction Contract Status reflects the payment status of the high school project contracts between the District and its architect, construction manager, and construction contractors.

Construction Update

Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology Addition

Construction of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology continued through the summer and fall of 2019 and is progressing well. Structural steel, concrete floors, and exterior block walls were complete by the end of November 2019. Roofing commenced in

October and is scheduled to be completed prior to the end of December 2019 allowing the addition to be watertight prior to winter setting in. The General Contractor will start installation of the exterior windows and winter protection to allow for the interior finishes to proceed through the winter. Interior block walls and rough in of all mechanical and electrical systems are ongoing. The site work contractor is continuing the installation of the storm water controls and the service road which extends around the building from Ghost Road.

Construction is progressing with no anticipated delays for the ninth-grade transition to Abington Senior High School scheduled for September 2022.



The Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology facing Ghost Road.



First floor of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology.

Administration, Guidance and Career Center, and Main Entrance Additions

The new Administrative offices, Guidance and Career Center, Nurse's Suite, and main entrance addition construction proceeded through the summer and fall of 2019. These areas are scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2020 for occupancy.



New main entrance to Auditorium and Administrative wing.



Administrative, Guidance and Career Center wing.

Summer 2019 Interdisciplinary Wing Renovations

The scheduled work for the summer of 2019 which included renovating 9 classrooms, family and consumer science rooms, and the Library was successfully completed for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.



Completed Library ready for the start of the new school year.



Interdisciplinary wing hallway.

Auxiliary Gymnasium

Construction of the Auxiliary Gymnasium commenced in early fall. The first step of the construction included underpinning the existing building's footings and reinforcing the existing retaining wall. Subsequent to the completion of the underpinning, the building pad's subgrade was established and the installation of footings commenced. The Auxiliary Gymnasium is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2020.



Excavation work for the Auxiliary Gymnasium.

Conclusion

Abington School District's work regarding *Secondary Programming for Reconfigured Grade Spans* continues to progress toward implementation of a one-to-one 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, 39.6% of the available project funds have been expended toward architectural and other professional services. The additions and renovations project is well underway and the project remains on schedule for completion for the September 2022 opening of school. Interior finishes to the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology addition are anticipated to begin in early winter, and construction of the Auxiliary Gymnasium has begun. 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 fourth semiannual report.

Abington School District
Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 Project Summary
December 19, 2019

Attachment 1

Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations

Budget	Sources of Funds	Funds Allocated	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Balance
\$ 83,166,736	2017A Bond Issue, Interest & Fund Balance	\$ 75,140,000	\$ 22,421,840	\$ 70,642,653	\$ (17,924,493)
\$ 6,038,070	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2018	\$ 6,038,388	\$ 6,038,388	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,021,277	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2019	\$ 6,031,931	\$ 6,031,931	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 5,940,653	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 3,500,000	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 3,500,000	Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift-2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 108,166,736		\$ 87,210,319	\$ 34,492,159	\$ 70,642,653	\$ (17,924,493)

Anticipated Receipt of Funds from Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation \$ 12,940,653

Available Interest Earnings \$ 1,773,756

Anticipated Fund Allocations & Interest Earnings \$ 3,210,084
\$ 17,924,493

Period ending November 25, 2019

Abington School District
Capital Improvement Projects - Fund 38 List of Payments
December 19, 2019

Attachment 2

Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations

Capital Projects 2017A and Stephen A. Schwarzman Foundation Gift

Check No.	Check Date	Vendor Name and Comment	Amount
1001-1099		PROJECT INCEPTION THROUGH PERIOD ENDING 5/25/2019 AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF CONTRACTED SERVICES PAYMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 15,969,401
1100	5/31/2019	MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INC.	1,700.00
1101	6/14/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	375,570.00
1102	6/14/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	349,702.20
1103	6/14/2019	GUY M COPPER INC	5,400.00
1104	6/14/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC.	27,823.72
1105	6/14/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC.	149,107.50
1106	6/26/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	1,164,260.12
1107	6/26/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	290,860.20
1108	6/26/2019	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC	4,576.00
1109	6/26/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	13,952.01
1110	6/26/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	25,954.49
1113	6/26/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION, INC	34,205.00
1116	7/15/2019	CDW GOVERNMENT LLC	123,582.60
1117	7/18/2019	MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INC.	1,640.00
1118	7/22/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	630,447.47
1119	7/22/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	222,076.80
1120	7/22/2019	GUY M COOPER INC	2,700.00
1121	7/22/2019	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC	4,110.00
1122	7/22/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	13,109.56
1123	7/22/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	25,817.57
1124	7/22/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC.	265,650.75
1125	7/22/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC.	382,419.00
1126	7/22/2019	NEUBER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	84,752.55
1127	7/22/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION, INC	34,420.92
1129	7/23/2019	CDW GOVERNMENT LLC	10,395.00
1130	7/23/2019	CDW GOVERNMENT LLC	450.00
1131	8/6/2019	ACCESS SECURITY CORPORATION	19,169.00
1132	8/9/2019	CDW GOVERNMENT LLC	54,851.20
1133	8/22/2019	INFRARED PREDICTIVE SUREYS INC.	1,525.00
1134	8/23/2019	CODE INSPECTIONS, INC.	357.00
1135	8/27/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	2,510,221.69
1136	8/27/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	223,159.50
1137	8/27/2019	GUY M COOPER INC	90,303.75
1138	8/27/2019	EAGLE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOC INC	14,925.19
1139	8/27/2019	ENVIROMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC.	6,660.00
1140	8/27/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	13,915.13
1141	8/27/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	25,973.61
1142	8/27/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC.	232,761.87
1143	8/27/2019	MANTENANCE MANAGEMENT INC.	820.00
1144	8/27/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC.	1,105,731.00
1145	8/27/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION, LLC	34,205.00
1147	8/27/2019	GERHARDS INC	12,076.95

Check No.	Check Date	Vendor Name and Comment	Amount
1148	9/27/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	2,712,159.44
1149	9/27/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	407,444.40
1150	9/27/2019	GUY M COOPER INC	121,430.45
1151	9/27/2019	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC.	5,230.00
1152	9/27/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	13,772.63
1153	9/27/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	26,431.86
1154	9/27/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC.	136,400.45
1155	9/27/2019	MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INC.	1,640.00
1156	9/27/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC.	356,766.51
1157	9/27/2019	NEUBER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC	41,956.47
1158	9/27/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION, LLC	34,205.00
1160	10/18/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	1,845,025.88
1161	10/18/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	79,117.88
1162	10/18/2019	GUY M COOPER INC	27,551.25
1163	10/18/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	11,581.88
1165	10/18/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	25,536.27
1166	10/18/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC	119,204.64
1167	10/18/2019	MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INC.	820.00
1168	10/18/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC	235,687.50
1169	10/18/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTURCTION, LLC	34,205.00
1171	11/21/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	2,329,798.50
1172	11/21/2019	BORO DEVELOPERS, INC.	248,525.10
1173	11/21/2019	GUY M COOPER INC	60,630.75
1174	11/21/2019	GEOSTRUCTURES, INC.	18,892.38
1175	11/21/2019	GILBERT ARCHITECTS, INC.	25,707.54
1176	11/21/2019	JAY R. REYNOLDS, INC.	201,611.07
1177	11/21/2019	MYCO MECHANICAL, INC.	775,881.00
1178	11/21/2019	REYNOLDS CONSTRUCTION, LLC	34,205.00

Total 34,492,159.00

Period Ending November 25, 2019

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
Contract #2016 38-4600-450	Architectural Design Services Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Gilbert Architects, Inc.	\$ 4,541,564.00	\$ 4,541,564.00	\$ 4,355,049.77	95.89%	11/7/2016	9/1/2022
Contract #2022 38-4600-450	Construction Management Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Reynolds Construction, LLC.	\$ 1,485,000.00	\$ 1,485,000.00	\$ 506,407.29	34.10%	10/1/2017	9/1/2022
Contract # 2026 38-4600-450	General Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Boro Developers, Inc.	\$ 54,740,370.00	\$ 56,145,564.75	\$16,169,111.37	28.80%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2027 38-4600-450	Fire Suppression Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Guy M. Cooper, Inc.	\$ 2,044,500.00	\$ 2,044,500.00	\$ 340,416.20	16.65%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2028 38-4600-450	Plumbing Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Jay R. Reynolds, Inc.	\$ 4,766,500.00	\$ 4,766,500.00	\$ 1,597,671.81	33.52%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2029 38-4600-450	HVAC Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Myco Mechanical, Inc.	\$ 17,366,000.00	\$ 17,439,094.69	\$ 3,537,987.51	20.29%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2030 38-4600-450	Electrical Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Boro Developers, Inc.	\$ 12,131,000.00	\$ 12,225,500.39	\$ 2,559,423.83	20.94%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2031 38-4600-450	Food Service Construction Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School 11400, Inc.	\$ 238,700.00	\$ 238,700.00	\$ -	0.00%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Contract # 2032 38-4600-450	Asbestos Abatement Additions and Renovations Abington Senior High School Neuber Environmental, Inc.	\$ 957,000.00	\$ 957,000.00	\$ 173,301.79	18.11%	11/28/2018	9/1/2022
Totals		\$98,270,634.00	\$99,843,423.83	\$29,239,369.57			