POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard C. Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent were Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Ms. Valerie Harris and Mr. Nat White. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mrs.Gail Cooper, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mr. Matt Moyer, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

MRS MICHELE PARGEON ARRIVED AT 7:32 PM.

AWARDS

Mr. Ummarino recognized Mrs. Jolie Martinez for her achievement of the Inspiration in Teaching Excellence Award.

MS. VALERIE HARRIS ARRIVED AT 7:45 PM.

Dr. Sparagana introduced each writing award winner for grades K – 8th grade. Each student read their writing. Mr. Huss presented each winner with an award/certificate of award.

K-5 - Zavion Paschall, Barth
1st Grade - Kishan Patel, Edgewood
2nd Grade - Arianna Rumley, Franklin
3rd Grade - Milani Roberson, Lincoln
4th Grade - Brionna Walton, Rupert
5th Grade - Alexandra Hickey, Barth
6th Grade - John Johnson, Middle School
7th Grade - Abigayle Reisner , Middle School
8th Grade - Nicole Grassi, Middle School

Mr. Ummarino introduced the High School writing award winners. Each student read their writing Mr. Huss presented each winner with an award /certificate of award.

9th Grade - Kenneth Zallie
10th Grade - Megan Thomas
11th Grade - James Kinten
12th Grade - Olivia Coleman

PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the minutes of the Regular meeting held on April 22, 2010, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 6, 2010, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the list of bills for the period of April 14, 2010 to May 12, 2010 from the Athletic Fund totaling $97,827.07; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $127,514.75; the Elementary Activity Fund totaling $2,356.24 and the General Fund totaling $1,207,673.80 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-079.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Treasurer's Report be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-080.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Carmody expressed her support to re-elect Mrs. Zahora as the Treasurer for the school year 2010-2011. She urged the board to vote unanimously in favor of the budget.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the following consent items be approved, in accordance with Policy 1120, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Personnel

Resignations/Terminations

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following resignations/terminations:

Co-Curricular

Natalie Wright, Lacrosse Assistant Coach, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective April 23, 2010, employed since March 3, 2008.

Amie Ward, Cheerleading Head Coach, Pottstown High School, resignation effective last day of 2009-2010 school year, employed since August 14, 2002.

Margaret Munz, Key Club Advisor, Pottstown High School, resignation effective last day of 2009-2010, employed since September 1, 1973.

Classified

Benjamin Bullock, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective May 12, 2010, employed since August 25, 2009.

Leaves

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following leaves of absence:

Professional

Jared Leimeister, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for military leave of absence under Section 2024(d) of Chapter 432 of Part III of Title 38, United States Code, effective June 7, 2010 through June 16, 2010.

Elections

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following elections:

Substitute Teachers

Jessica Martin, Per-Diem Substitute Teacher, effective May 10, 2010, in accordance with Board Policy 3920. She will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective May 10, 2010.

Justin Walsh, Special Substitute Teacher, $100/day, effective May 3, 2010. He will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective May 3, 2010.

Positive Transitions Into Employment Program, effective April 24, 2010 through May 22, 2010, paid through the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board, not to exceed 35 hours per teacher and 25 hours per assistant:

Jolie Martinez	Teacher	$29/hr
Helen Bowers	Teacher	$29/hr
Janice Bobst	Teacher Assistant	$13.50/hr
Cindi Dixon	Clerical Assistant	$13.50/hr

Instruction in the Home, $29/hour, not to exceed 5 hours per week

Theresa Dundon, Pottstown High School, from May 10, 2010 through June 16, 2010.

Marianne Brownie, Pottstown High School, from May 10, 2010 through June 16, 2010.

Classified

Jinnell Coleman, Human Resources Student Intern, Administration Building, effective April 26, 2010, $10.79/hour, replaces Amber Quinter.

Professional

Lt. Col. James C. Porter, AFJROTC Instructor, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective date TBD, $82,800.48/yr, replaces Major Joseph P. Fitz-Patrick.

Employee Disciplinary Action

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following employee disciplinary action:

Pottstown Middle School employee, two (2) days unpaid suspension, effective April 27, 2010 through April 28, 2010.

MOTION TO MERGE POSITIONS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the merging of the following positions: Receptionist, Printing Clerk, and Supervisor Word Processing/Copy Center into one position, effective July 1, 2010. The position will be titled: Word Processing and Copy Coordinator. As a result of the merging of these three positions, the administration has the authority to lay-off two non-professional employees due to the fiscal/budgetary issues currently facing the District.

ALTERATION OF PROGRAM

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution Regarding Alteration of the Computer Science Program at Pottstown High School resulting in the non-renewal of one temporary professional employee and a copy by filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-081.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES – Dr. Lindley

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following professional leaves:

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Rupert	Matthew Laureen	Moyer Gresko	21st Century Conference	Washington, DC	6/21/10 – 6/23/10	Approx. $2000.00 paid by the 21st Century Grant
Middle Admin.	Regina Lisa	Collins Schiavone	Straight Talk by the Experts	Harrisburg, PA	6/21/10 – 6/25/10	Approx. $4685.00 paid by Title I Grant
Sr. High	Danielle Jerry	McCoy Ummarino	Penn State Law & Education Institute	State College, PA	6/21/10 – 6/25/10	Approx. $3595.00 paid by Tech Prep Grant
Annex	Rita	Cohen	Check & Connect Training	Minneapolis, MN	6/16/10 – 6/18/10	Approx. $545.00 for registration paid by the district, all other expenses paid by Mrs. Cohen

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-082:

1. Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
2. Education Alternatives
3. Opportunities School
4. Opportunities School
5. Opportunities School
6. Opportunities School
7. Melmark

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Designation of Depositories as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-083.

BID AWARDS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the bid awards listed below and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-084.

1. Cafeteria Supplies & Equipment
2. Winter Sports Supplies & Equipment
3. MCIU Custodial Supplies
4. MCIU Paper Supplies
5. MCIU Fluorescent Tubes, Lamps Supplies

POLICY

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve Policy 201: Admission of Students and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-085.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT

ELECTION OF TREASURER

Mr. Huss opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

Mr. Hartman nominated Mrs. Zahora. Mrs. Pargeon seconded the nomination.

Mr. Wausnock nominated Mr. Hylton. Ms. Harris seconded the nomination.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the nominations be closed.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: None. Absent: one. Nominations were closed.

Upon roll call, the vote for Mrs. Zahora as Treasurer was recorded as follows: Mrs. Weand: aye, Mrs. Wilson: aye, Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: nay. Ayes: five. Nays: three. Absent: one. Motion carried.

Mrs. Zahora was declared Treasurer.

FIRST SUBURBS

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board join with 21 southeastern Pennsylvania members (which includes Pottstown Borough Council) in seeking an equitable state formula for financing public education that guarantees every school district has adequate resources to provide a quality education to its students, promotes accountability and efficiency, and ensures that no community is overtaxed locally.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

HOUSE BILL 67

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board support House Bill 67 and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-086. The bill calls for stricter teen driving regulations. Passage of this bill has the potential to save lives and make Pennsylvania roads and highways safer for all of its citizens.

Upon roll call, all members present vote aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2010-2011 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board approve the Budget Resolution and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum 2009-02010-087.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the adoption of the 2010-2011 Preliminary Budget resolution was recorded as follows: Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mrs. Wilson: aye, Ms. Harris: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: one Absent: one. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

In accordance with sections 10-1071 and 10-1073 of the School Code, a motion is hereby made to elect Dr. Reed Lindley as District Superintendent for a term of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2010; conditioned, however, upon Dr. Reed Lindley and the Board entering into a mutually satisfactory Employment Contract which will replace the one entered into between the Board and Dr. Reed Lindley in October 2009. The Board solicitor is hereby directed to meet with Dr. Reed Lindley to discuss proposed terms to then be included in an Employment Contract for review and approval by the Board.

Mr. Hylton explained he was voting no because he felt it was in the best interest of the district to hire an interim superintendent.

Mr. Huss stated the Mr. White was attending his son's graduation and was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Hylton stated the Mr. White knew his vote would not make a difference and decided not to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Hartman stated that at the May 13th meeting Mr. White did support the election of Dr. Lindley as District Superintendent.

Mr. Huss asked that Dr. Sparagana and Dr. Tuck continue as administrators for the school district.

Mr. Hartman thanked all the candidates. He stated it was a difficult decision. All three candidates demonstrated their abilities and all three candidates are very qualified for the position of District Superintendent.

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the board elect Dr. Lindley as District Superintendent.

Upon roll call, the vote to elect Dr. Lindley as District Superintendent was recorded as follows: Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mrs. Wilson: Aye, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Hartman: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: one. Absent: one. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Policy 5900: Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities for Pottstown High School and Pottstown Middle School, 1st Reading
2. Policy 5910: Co-Curricular Awards and Recognition for Co-Curricular Participation, 1st Reading

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. NCEE Meeting with Montgomery County Community College
2. Monthly Meeting Notice: June 2010
3. PEAK Update
4. Website Report: April 2010
5. Technology Update: April 2010

Mr. Krem provided a brief update on the NCEE Meeting with the Montgomery County Community College. He stated that many topics were discussed and he would keep the school district apprised as future discussions progressed.

Dr. Sparagana congratulated Dr. Lindley. He reported on the last Family Literacy night events that took place on May 26th.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Marchek congratulated Dr. Lindley. She stated that the federation looks forward to continuing a good working relationship with the administrators.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Pargeon commented on various school district events she had attended during the past month. She stated that the students writings tonight were a testimony to their talents. Mrs. Pargeon stated that all three candidates are very qualified for the position of District Superintendent and are great assets to the district.

Mr. Hartman agreed with Mrs. Pargeon's comments. He stated that is was great to see the talents of the students and commented on the importance of developing reading skills.

Mrs. Weand congratulated Dr. Lindley as the District Superintendent and congratulated Dr. Sparagana and Dr. Tuck on their interviews. She stated that it was a very difficult choice. Mrs. Weand commended the students for their great writings and the teachers and parents for their guidance.

Mr. Wausnock stated that the school district is very fortunate to have three very qualified administrators. He expressed his hope that Dr. Tuck and Dr. Sparagana would continue working for the school district.

Ms. Harris commended the students for a wonderful job on their writing assignments. She stated that selecting a superintendent was a very tough decision. Ms. Harris acknowledged the individual strengths of each of the candidates and has no doubt that each candidate would introduce the district to the next level. She encouraged Dr. Tuck and Dr. Sparagana to continue their endeavors and challenged Dr. Lindley to achieve the results that he promised.

Mrs. Wilson congratulated Dr. Lindley as the District Superintendent. She stated that it was a difficult decision to make. Mrs. Wilson was impressed with the talents demonstrated by the students writings and to witness the progression from K – 12.

Mr. Hylton asked Mrs. Adams for an updated forecast of the budget deficit for the 2011-2012 budget. He stated that he requested this information at the May 6th meeting but it was not reflected in the minutes. Mr. Hylton stated that it is his intention to make a motion next month asking the district to close ten modulars. He suggested that closing ten modulars would be a good opportunity for the school district to start getting accustomed to doing with less.

Dr. Lindley thanked the Board for their confidence. He expressed his feelings regarding working in unison with Dr. Sparagana, Dr. Tuck and Mr. Krem. He stated that the school district would not be where it is today if their positions were ego driven.

Mr. Krem congratulated Dr. Lindley. He hopes that Dr. Lindley, Dr. Sparagana and Dr. Tuck would continue to work together as they have all done during the past 15 years. He congratulated the Board for making a unified decision. Mr. Krem stated that tonight's writing awards is evidence of an effective curriculum.

Mr. Huss thanked the Board for working together in making an almost unified decision. He urged the Board to continue to work together and continue to support Dr. Lindley as the District Superintendent.

Mr. Huss announced there would be an Executive Session for the purpose of Teacher Contract Negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary