POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
October 7, 2010 - 7:30 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, October 7, 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: Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

None.

REPORTS

None.

THE BOARD ADJOURNED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL AND POSSIBLE LITIGATION AT 7:36PM.

THE BOARD RECONVENED AT 7:55 PM.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Dave Kraybill spoke briefly about an opportunity for the school district to participate in a community health and dental center through a federal grant. He introduced Ms. Bridgette Madden, CEO of Community Health and Dental. Ms. Madden asked the Board to bind with the health center to support a Federally Qualified Health Center Grant. The grant would provide a school based health center to provide health and dental care to the students, parents and the community. The health center accepts all insurances, works with the families/individuals to find the best insurance plan in addition to accepting payment based on a salary scale. She explained that the school based health center could be located in a designated room within a school building or a separate modular outside of a school building. Board Members voiced their concerns regarding additional costs to the district, designating a central location for a health center, the effects on staffing positions, safety issues and interruption to student class time. Ms. Madden stated that the grant would provide for all costs to the school district and all details could be worked out at a later date. Dr. Lindley asked the Board if they were interested in drafting a memorandum of understanding to review at the next meeting. All Board Members agreed.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 16, 2010 to be placed on the October 21, 2010 board agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mrs. Adams announced that the ACT 1 Index has been published. Mr. Wausnock asked the Board to direct the administration to proceed with the timeline required to prepare the 2011-2012 budget.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman reported that the sound system repairs in the LGI Room are now completed. He stated that the committee reviewed new rental rates for the use of school district facilities and will be sending their recommendations along with a revised policy to the Policy Committee for board approval in December. Other topics discussed at the September committee meeting were:

- Discussion concerning the future of the Chestnut Street Park
- Lincoln Elementary sound system
- DCNR North Fields Project's final contract
- Coordinating start dated for the recoating of the running track project

Montgomery County Legislative Representative/PSBA Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported that the Marcella Shale legislation and ACT 1 Index have passed. She asked the Board Members for their direction on the various topics being presented at the PSBA Legislative Platform in Hershey on October 14th. Mrs. Weand and Ms. Harris questioned topics relating to Construction, School Government, Personnel, Pension, and Special Education Mandates. The Board agreed these topics are of special interest to the school district.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

Mr. Hartman reviewed the topics highlighted at the September Montgomery County Intermediate meeting. Key items discussed were Alternative Education, legislative bills with hidden factors and Keystone Exams. The MCIU's Technology Service Unit's report included their goal to become self-sufficient, keeping costs down for all school districts. Dr.Lindley asked the Board Members if they were interested in hearing a presentation on how the district was handling the Keystone Exams or if he should continue to work through the Technology/Curriculum Committee. It was agreed by all Board Members to continue to work through the Technology/Curriculum Committee.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon presented the committee's October report as follows:

- Vanguard Day of Caring painted the modulars at Edgewood & Franklin Elementary Schools.
- Rupert Elementary was the recipient of student school supplies donated by Dr. Patel of Chiropractic and Wellness valued at approximately $600.
- Barth Elementary was the recipient of student school supplies donated by Carol Royce and Ursinus College staff valued at approximately $1,500.

- Recognition Award received from the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities for the School District's support and commitment to the community.
- A Letter of Appreciation from Diamond Credit Union for the School District's participation in fundraising efforts for Relay for Life.
- Questions and responses from The Superintendent's 1st Forum are posted on the web-site.
- Development of school district use of social media as a means of communicating with the community/Pottstown High School Career and Technology Facebook page.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

Mr. Hartman provided updates on the Jiu-jitsu Club's interest to renovate the old laundry room of the High School basement, a Coach Mentoring program, Policy 122, developing a central school district calendar, and guidelines for standardized advertising signs for revenue to support co-curricular activities.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson reported the committee had an opportunity to view the Middle School's on-line French Program. Mrs. Wolfe's IT Report highlighted a series of (3) teams each focusing on specific goals. Technology training on the Treasures Reading Program will be given at the In-Service day on Monday, October 11th. This is a Social Studies Adoption year. The process to begin rewriting the social studies curriculum will also take place at Monday's In- Service day. The committee discussed collaborating with colleges to recruit teachers. Mrs. Wilson suggested the possibility of developing a Family Host Program to accommodate student teachers traveling from Lincoln University. Ms. Harris asked for clarification on a comment made at the committee meeting regarding opposition to recruiting minority teachers. Mrs. Wilson stated the only opposition was on "hiring the best candidates for the job" and not on ethnic background. Mrs. Weand suggested that many student teachers are lured to other school districts that offer higher salaries and bonuses. Mrs. Pargeon stated that her comments were focused on "hiring the best qualified teachers" regardless of ethnic background. She voiced her concerns about how much time the school district is spending on recruiting teachers when the district is not hiring and positions are being cut. Mr. Hylton suggested the district develop "a long term program to nurture our own minority teachers". Dr. Sparagana talked about a student teacher program currently in place at the high school that was part of the committee's agenda. Mr. Hylton recommended that the Personnel Committee and Ms. Harris be involved in the efforts to promote the program. Ms. Harris stated that she is focused on all minority teachers and believes the school district should prepare for future positions that will become available through new retirees.

Policy Committee

Mr. White stated that Dr. Sparagana will speak to Policy 212 and Policy 213 addressing reporting student progress and assessing student progress. The committee will meet on Tuesday, October 12th.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Harris stated the Personnel Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 12th to continue discussion on recruiting minority teachers and will also discuss dress code concerns raised by union members.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

Professional Leaves

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

Field Trips

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the field trips as presented to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

Contracts

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the October 21, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

Mrs. Pargeon requested clarification on the Olivet Boys and Girls Club Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Sparagana explained the services that are provided under the COHORT Grants and the locations where the services are provided. He will verify the locations and students that will benefit from the services provided by the memorandum.

NON-CONSENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Policy 122: Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities for Pottstown High School and Pottstown Middle School – Dr. Lindley
2. Policy 122.1: Co-Curricular Awards and Recognition for Co-Curricular Participation – Dr. Lindley

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the first reading for Policy #212 and #213, formerly policy #5200. He stated that additional language will be added to Policy #212 under Guidelines. The information was inadvertently missed when converting Policy #5200 to the new policy format. He reported that the policies are being amended to reflect today's technology.

INFORMATION

1. Technology Update: June 2010
2. Technology Update: July 2010
3. Webmaster Report: June/July/August 2010
4. Conference Report

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker confirmed that the district currently has a good number of teachers that grew up in Pottstown. In addition to the valuable student teacher program offered at the high school, the Federation offers a $1,000 scholarship for each year over a 4 year period to a student pursuing a teaching degree. He thanked the school board for taking time to enrich the student-teacher program.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Pargeon reminded the Board that she will be attending the PSBA Conference in Hershey next week.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. He was pleased with the outcome of the first Superintendent's Forum. He thanked Dr. Lindley for doing an excellent job. Mr. Hartman announced the Pottstown Halloween Parade will take place on October 21st.

Mrs. Weand offered her support to Mrs. Pargeon as the school district's PSBA Representative at the PSBA Legislative Platform. She thanked the Pottstown Rotary Club and Ambucs for supporting the Halloween Parade.

Ms. Harris thanked Ms. Haden for her presentation. She congratulated Dr. Sparagana for a very successful Parent Literacy Night. She was impressed with the demonstration of the French On-Line Program presented by the Career & Technology Department. Ms. Harris was pleased with the information provided at the Equity Summit she attended with Dr. Lindley. The district was recognized for its community engagement endeavors.

Mrs. Wilson – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mr. White – no comment

Dr. Sparagana talked about a Parent Education Partnership Series being offered at the Middle School. He reported that our staff, 4 Pre-K teachers and some community teachers through PEAK will have the opportunity to attend an Early Literacy Letter Workshop free of charge, compliments of Step by Step.

Dr. Lindley encouraged the Board Members to join him at the Alumni Reunion on Saturday. He stated that several administrators will be attending the Pottstown Cluster Outreach fund raiser event being held at Sunnybrook this weekend. Dr. Lindley provided an update on PAID. He talked about meetings with various community groups to promote partnerships and develop entrepreneurships with the school district.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss thanked everyone for a good meeting, good discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary