POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
September 2, 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, September 2, 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. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly M. Weand and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent were Mr. Robert H. Hartman and Mr. Nat White. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Lori Hoch, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

AWARDS

None.

REPORTS

None.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 19, 2010 to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Zahora asked for an update of the Teachers' Contract. Mr. Kalis stated that negotiations on still on-going.

Staff Sgt. Wyatt asked the board for clarification on summer school. Dr. Lindley suggested that Staff Sgt. Wyatt meet with Dr. Sparagana.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock stated there will be no September meeting.

Montgomery County Legislative Representative/PSBA Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported that the Montgomery County Legislative did not meet in August. She provided several updates on current legislative items she received by email:

- Marcellus Shale Extraction – impact on school districts.
- PSERS investment returns were higher than anticipated.
- PDE has provided information regarding the reduction in budgets.
- Full implementation of the National Standards in English, Language and Arts in all Pennsylvania schools is expected by 2013.

MR. HARTMAN ARRIVED AT 7:42 PM.

Mrs. Pargeon reported the actual cost for her to attend the PSBA Legislative Policy Platform at Hershey is $189. The $140 savings is due to her position as the liaison for the Pottstown School District. She will provide, at the October Committee of the Whole meeting, the topics that will be discussed and voted on. This will give the Board an opportunity to provide direction as to what topics are important to the Pottstown School District to debate at the platform. Mrs. Pargeon will also provide to the Board Members information regarding Pay-To-Play. She does not see the value in implementing this program unless it it's the only way to maintain the athletic activities.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman provided an update from the July committee meeting. The administration advised the committee that it is educationally sound to close four modulars, (3) at Rupert and (1) at Franklin). The modulars can be used for storage. Mr. Hartman reported on the summer activities utilizing the remaining bond funds for the Stadium repairs:

- Electrical repairs have been put on hold
- Light poles – engineer is working on finalizing scope of work.
- Re-lamping – looking into getting estimates.
- Press Box windows are in the process of being installed.
- 2nd Floor Egress proposed renovations – seeking additional information from the Borough.
- Stadium gate – waiting for quote from AGG.
- Chestnut Street Park – equipment is being removed.
- Recoating of the Running Track is anticipated to be completed this fall.
- Old High School Auditorium Sign will be displayed in the vestibule.
- Auto shop has removed the old vehicles.
- Courtyard – wooden tables built by students are now in place at the high school and middle school.
- Curb replacements – repairs were done based on what funds were available.
- North Fields Project – waiting for final approval from National Parks Service.
- Electrical repairs at the Tennis Courts and Auxiliary Fields to begin this week.

Mrs. Pargeon questioned if the tree roots have an impact on the current condition of the Tennis Courts. Mr. Hartman responded that the condition of the Tennis Courts is attributed mostly to age.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

Mr. Hartman was unable to attend the August meeting. He reported that the Intermediate Unit Director Agreement is reviewed each year and is currently being re-done.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon welcomed the students, teachers, staff and parents back to the new school year. She recommended that everyone use the tools available through out the school district to access event information. Mrs. Pargeon expressed the need to have a strong base of volunteers involved in the Parent Teacher Association through out the school district. The PTO fund-raisers benefit various events

for the students including field trips and assemblies. She commended the Middle School Staff for implementing the "Passport Program". This program encourages parental and community involvement. Mrs. Pargeon asked the board members to demonstrate their support during October's Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Mr. Armato presented a Pottstown Open House Flyer listing a tentative schedule of events. Dr. Lindley stated that the mission behind this fun day of activities is to create enthusiasm about education. Mrs. Pargeon encouraged Board Members to visit the various locations and engage with the community. Ms. Harris provided information regarding a Health Fair sponsored by Keystone Mercy. She will forward this information to Mr. Armato for posting on the website.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

Mr. Hartman reported the Borough Council provided a Future Fire Safety and EMT presentation. It was a great opportunity to explore ways to get students interested. The Jui-jitsu Club expressed interested in renovating the old part of the High School basement into a padded room accessible to all groups. Mr. Hartman was pleased to report the progress Mr. Connors is making as the Director of Co-Curricular Activities. He stated that the committee hopes to have their recommendations for Policy 122 ready later this fall.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson reported the committee is reviewing Policy 5200 in regard to Mid-Progress Reports. The committee is looking into the costs to offer French as an on-line program. Board members discussed the option to offer a French Language course versus providing a Reading Intervention Specialist for those students who are not proficient in reading. Mrs. Wolfe provided Technology highlights that are taking place around the district. Dr. Lindley expressed the need for more information on virtual learning. Dr. Sparagana stated that the committee is looking to educate students and parents about what is safe for on-line courses.

Policy Committee

No report.

Personnel Committee

No report.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Zahora presented the list of bills to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Professional Leaves

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the professional as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Field Trips

None.

Contracts

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Approval of Resolution for Appointments and Certifications of Administrators and Supervisors

Dr. Lindley reviewed the resolution for approving appointments and certifications to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

School Resource Officer Agreement 2010-2011

Mrs. Adams reviewed the School Resource Officer Agreement for 2010-2011 to be placed on the September 16, 2010 board agenda for approval.

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

Ms. Lampe requested the Board approve naming rights by the Porter Family for the Tennis Courts upon the successful award of a $230,000 grant funded by the Porter Estate. She explained that the Porter Family was the former owner of the property. The Foundation for Pottstown Education feels this would be a fitting gesture. Mr. Kalis stated that the grant could be refused if any stipulation of use would be part of the language in the grant. All Board Members agreed to approve the naming rights by the Porter Family.

INFORMATION

1. Partners in Public Education
2. Pottstown Open Doors 9/11/10: Schedule of Events Flyer
3. Conference Report
4. Superintendent's Forums
5. President's Task Force Meeting 9/13/10: Barth Elementary at 7:00 pm

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker reported it was a great week for the beginning of the school year. The teachers are looking forward to participating in the Open Doors event. Everyone is proud of making AYP. He voiced his concern that the class size can have a negative impact on the ability to move the district forward.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Pargeon agreed with the classroom size getting out of control. She looks forward to the Task Force recommendations.

Mr. Hartman realized that class size would be affected by the budget constraints. He would like to see what options are available; if anything can be done. Mr. Hartman expressed his excitement about the upcoming community events. He commended Dr. Lindley and Dr. Sparagana for an excellent kick-off at the In-Service Day.

Mrs. Weand stated it is very gratifying to see the community coming together for the September 11th Open Doors event.

Ms. Harris welcomed the teachers, students and parents back to school. She expressed her excitement about the community events. Ms. Harris feels the teachers will do their best with the class sizes and looks forward to finding ways to resolve the oversized classrooms.

Mrs. Wilson welcomed everyone back. She is looking forward to the exciting events and listening to the Jazz band.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Dr. Sparagana reported on current enrollments and some withdrawals. He will provide an update at the next Board meeting. Dr. Sparagana was pleased with the excellent start at the In-Service day. He stated that Dr. Lindley's message was inspiring and clearly articulated the high expectation for everyone in the school district. Dr. Sparagana commended the support staff for the manner in which they prepared the buildings.

Dr. Lindley appreciated the positive response from the staff. "It is easy to address a staff with a challenging message, when they are ready to hear". He thanked everyone for their patience and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

Mr. Huss was pleased with the great opening of the school year. He welcomed Lt. Col. James Porter, AJROTC Instructor.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss announced there would be an Executive Session for the purpose of pending litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary