**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**
**JANUARY 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, January 7, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent was Ms. Valerie Harris. Also present were: Superintendent, Mr. David Krem, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Dr. Reed Lindley, Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams, Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Lori Hoch, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, member of the press and interested citizens.

## AWARDS

The Barth Writing Award Winners:

K – Xaiver Price
1st Grade – Steven Bodine III
2nd Grade – Phillip Shiffler
3rd Grade – Rebecca Harper
4th Grade – London Clipper-Faison
5th Grade – Bryan Nussbaumer

Mr. Giering introduced the Barth Writing Award winners and each winner approached the microphone to read their story. He presented a power point presentation of various activities, programs and clubs that take place at Barth Elementary School.

## REPORTS

Mrs. Lisa Snyder described her responsibilities as Supervisor of Elementary Special Education. She works in close collaboration with the building teams, other school representatives and agencies, supervisors the special education teachers and Para-professionals, assists in the coordination and implementation of related services and supports for federal compliance. Mrs. Snyder assists in the oversight of the budget for in district programs and oversees the Extended School Year (ESY). Mrs. Snyder presented an outline explaining the importance of ESY, eligibility factors and the ESY service delivery models.

## MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 17, 2009 to be placed on the January 21, 2010 board agenda for approval.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock reported the Finance Committee will meet Thursday, January 14th.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman reported the Facilities Committee will meet on Monday, January 11th.

Montgomery County Legislative Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported that the Senate Education Committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 1086 to push through to the Senate floor. This bill takes the politics out of school board. Senate Bill 1086 takes the primaries out of the picture. School Board candidates would then run in the General Election. As of third class district, Pottstown School Board candidates would need at least 50 signatures to run for election. This Senate Bill would also eliminate lame duck school boards.

PSBA Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported on the various publications she received on the PSBA legislative platform. Several of the items are ones that the Pottstown School Board had voted on to send to the legislative platform. She recommended that each board member go through the information they receive in their packets.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

Mr. Hartman reported that the IU did not meet last month. There will be a meeting held on January 28th.

Community Relations Committee

Mr. Armato reported that over 600 H1N1 vaccinations were administered to our students this week. Mrs. Yoder's art students had the opportunity to display their art work at the Pennsylvania Department of Education building in Harrisburg. The website is experiencing approximately 27,000 views per month and 2,000,000 hits every month. The re-design of the website should be ready by the end of January including the availability of an on-line Alumni Directory. Mrs. Pargeon passed around various clippings from the media highlighting accomplishments of our students and staff. Mr. Armato reported three donations were made to the school district: 1) approximately $25,000 worth of used office furniture from Yellow Book Corporation, 2) $1,000 donation from a local business for winter clothing to be donated to needy children in our community and 3) $1,000 from A+ Communications to the Foundation For Pottstown Education.

Mrs. Pargeon reported on the success of the H1N1 vaccinations and the great talent of Mrs. Yoder's art students. Mrs. Pargeon asked for the board's permission to meet with Mr. Pollock and discuss a fee for PCTV to video tape the board meetings. She also suggested that there be a Board Blog in the school newsletter and open up Global Connect to anyone wishing information.

Mr. Hartman was in favor of taping the meetings. This would make the meetings more accessible to those who cannot attend the meetings and would eliminate any misunderstandings of information.

Mrs. Weand was also in favor of PCTV taping the meetings. She would like to define the cost.

Mr. Wausnock did not have any objections to have PCTV tape the meetings. He did advise the board that if Verizon becomes available in the community PCTV will not be aired on their system and could reduce the number of people viewing the meetings.

Mr. White did not have a comment.

Mr. Hylton did not have a comment.

Mrs.Wilson was interested in the cost factor. She agreed with Mrs. Pargeon and felt it would be good to make the meetings more accessible to the community.

Mr. Huss would like PCTV to provide the taping at no cost.

Mr. Huss directed Mrs. Pargeon and Mr. Armato to initiate a meeting with Mr. Pollock and report back to the board.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

Mr. Hartman stated there was no meeting last month. The Co-Curricular Activities Committee will meet on January 25th.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Technology/Curriculum Committee met on January 12, 2010. Dr. Lindley will present a report on the Virtual Learning Network contract later this evening.

Policy Committee

Mr. White stated the Policy Committee did not meet last month. The Policy Committee will meet on January 12th.

Personnel Committee

Mr. Wausnock reported the committee did not meet last month.

Neighborhood Schools Committee

Mr. Hylton reviewed the LDA findings stating that the buildings are structurally sound and in basically good condition. He presented an outline of some areas where maintenance work could

begin this summer: 1) replacing windows at Rupert and Edgewood, 2) replace the worn out heating systems and 3) work on the electrical panels. Mr. Hylton stated that Mr. Huss directed the Neighborhood Schools Committee to address these issues and to get something done as soon as possible. The committee has defined goals that would address these items:

- The Pottstown Schools will be among the most energy efficient schools in Pennsylvania.
- The Pottstown School will be among the most cost effective schools in Pennsylvania.
- The Pottstown Schools will be among the most environmentally responsible facilities in Pennsylvania.
- The Pottstown Schools will be among the most Child and Family Friendly schools in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hylton stated that the Neighborhood Schools Committee would meet next week to discuss things that could be started this summer. He presented an agenda to begin replacing the windows, to designate an ADA compliant school and in the year 2011 install geothermal heating and air conditioning systems beginning with drilling the wells. The five elementary schools could then be done simultaneously. Mr. Hylton provided a cost estimate for each phase of his plan totaling approximately $8,300,000. He stated the energy savings would help to pay for the renovations. The renovations do not have to go through Plan Con or codes and allows for future expansion. Mr. Hylton asked the board to decide this month on an architect to begin replacing the windows this summer. He stated the committee is following the directive of Mr. Huss to get the job done.

Mr. Hylton asked Mrs. Adams for suggestions on how to pay Mr. Schmidlapp for his services. Mrs. Adams recommended the funds be absorbed from the general fund or if this is not possible, the funds could be drawn from contingency funds or from the capital reserve. Mr. Huss asked Mrs. Adams to inform Mrs. Zahora of the payment recommendation.

Discussion ensued among the board members. Mrs. Weand, Mrs. Pargeon and Mr. Hartman expressed their disappointment in the quality of Mr. Schmidlapp report. They voiced their concerns about the safety of the students and the development of possible health and environmental problems once the projects were under way.

Mrs. Weand recommends an environmental study be conducted prior to undertaking Mr.Hylton's renovation plan.

Mr. Hartman stated the Board President does not have the authority to direct a committee to move forward on any item. The Board President is only one voice. Mr. Hartman presented a history of the district's renovations and the unforeseen problems that occurred.

Mrs. Pargeon expressed her concerns that Mr. Hylton's plan did not address the modulars and it's designating only one school as ADA.

Mr. White believed Mr. Schmidlapp's report is reasonable. This is not remodeling, only heavy duty maintenance. He is in favor of moving forward.

Mr. Hylton referred to the qualifications of Mr. Schmidlapp as being an expert in building evaluations. Mr. Hylton's plan will install historical windows in the Rupert Elementary School. The replacement windows will pay for themselves.

Mr. Huss called for a Neighborhood Schools Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 13th to continue the discussion on Mr. Hylton's proposed renovations.

## LIST OF BILLS

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

## CONSENT

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the January 21, 2010 approval.

Professional Leaves

Dr. Lindley reviewed the professional leave as presented to be placed on the January 21, 2010 for approval.

Field Trips

Dr. Lindley reviewed the field trips as presented to be place on the January 21, 2010 for approval.

Contracts

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Annual maintenance contract for the Middle School temperature control system with Advanced Power Control, Inc., to be placed on the Board Agenda for January 21, 2010 for approval.

Dr. Lindley reviewed and presented an outline for the Virtual Learning Network contract for blended learning services with VLN Partners, LLC, to be placed on the Board Agenda for January 21, 2010 for approval.

## NON-CONSENT

Mrs. Adams reviewed the MCIU 2010-2011 Proposed Operating Budget to be placed on the Board Agenda for January 21, 2010 for board approval.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Policy 113.2: Behavior Support, 1st Reading
2. Policy 5900: Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities for Pottstown High School and Pottstown Middle School, 1st Reading
3. Policy 5910: Co-Curricular Awards and Recognition for Co-Curricular Participation, 1st Reading

## INFORMATION

1. PCTV Spotlighting Pottstown School District Program – Mr. Armato
2. Pottstown School District Virtual Academy – Dr. Lindley

## FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth stated the Federation has great interest in the elementary schools plan. She asked the board to clarify the Neighborhood Elementary Schools Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th at 7:30 pm would be held in the board room of the Administration Building.

## ROUND TABLE

Mr. White apologized for his comments if they sounded rude. He respects the board and their positions. He too is firm in his ideas.

Mr. Hylton stated the Neighborhood Schools Committee is trying to reach the goals as set forth tonight in a cost effective manner.

Mrs. Wilson had no comment.

Mrs. Pargeon had attended the service for Breanne Brothers. She had the opportunity to attend various school events during the past month and always learns something from them.

Mr. Hartman enjoyed listening to the stories written by the Barth students. It is great to see the progression of their writing skills as the move up to 5th grade. He apologized to the board if he had offended anyone. Mr. Hartman stated he believes it is good to have disagreements and to also be able to share in laughter.

Mrs. Weand enjoyed the writing program. It brought back fond memories of her thirty-five years working with the children. She is not opposed to energy efficient schools. Mrs. Weand affirmed that she will do everything she can to make things happen that are good for the children, the taxpayers and the education process.

Mr. Wausnock stated that this was the most hostile meeting he has ever attended in his eighteen years. He would like to see future meetings being conducted in a civil manner.

Dr. Sparagana shared some of the highlights of the first parent literacy meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the staff for a terrific job. The committees worked very hard to obtain donations from local businesses that were used as raffle items. Dr. Sparagana was pleased that the parents acquired the tools they needed from the teachers and had the opportunity to model what they had learned.

Dr. Lindley complimented the staff for going the extra mile to attain the incentive prizes. He announced that the Hope Foundation is likely to do a video conference between the Barth Bull Dogs and the author of "Failure Is Not An Option".

Mr. Krem wished everyone a good evening.

Mr. Huss is very excited about the Virtual Academy presented by Dr. Lindley and is a win-win situation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary