POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE, 3 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, June 3, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of the Pottstown High School. The following board members were present: Mr. Richard C. Huss, President, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Vice-President, Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. David P. Krem, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. Robert Giering, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Lisa Snyder, Mr. Stephen Rodgriguez, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

Mr. Krem welcomed everyone to honor the teachers and co-teaching teams. Each building principal announced their Teachers of the Year and Co-Teaching Teams of the Year honorees.
Mr. Huss and Mr. Krem presented each honoree with a framed award certificate.

Barth Elementary School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Ms. Jill Rinewalt and Mrs. Meghan Lynch
Teacher of the Year: Mr. Brad Mayberry

Edgewood Elementary School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Mrs.Ann Hayer, Mrs. Treena Ferguson and Mrs. Judy Friend
Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Connie Belin

Franklin Elementary School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Mrs. Karen Lawler and Mrs. Erin Wydrznski
Teacher of the Year: Ms. Joyce Cimaglia

Lincoln Elementary School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Ms. Mandy Wampole, Mr. Joshua Wagner, Ms. Pat DeWald and Mrs. Karen Lee
Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Shirley Ziegler

Rupert Elementary School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Mrs. Terry Niemann, Mr. Allen Ferster, Ms. Jorene Ivkovich and Mrs. Debbie Wilson
Teacher of the Year: Ms. Joan Smith

Pottstown Middle School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Mr. Stanley Walerski and Mr. Jason Bergey
Teacher of the Year: Mr. Stephen Allen

Pottstown High School

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Ms. Helen Bowers and Mrs. Popi Protheroe
Teacher of the Year: Ms. Jaclyn Harner

Mr. Krem announced the recipient of the 2009-2010 Co-Teaching Team Award and Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Huss and Mr. Krem presented each winner with a plaque.

Co-Teaching Team of the Year: Mr. Joshua Wagner, Ms. Mandy Wampole, Ms. Pat DeWald and Mrs. Karen Lee, Lincoln Elementary

Teacher of the Year: Mr. Brad Mayberry, Barth Elementary

RECESS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECEPTION

The meeting recessed at 8:13 PM for a reception to honor the teachers and co-teaching teams.

THE MEETING RECONVENED AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:53 PM.

REPORTS

None.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 20, 2010 to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock reported that the committee did not have a meeting in May. The June 10th meeting will be cancelled. The meeting scheduled for July 8th will begin at 7:00 pm.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman reported the committee is reviewing options to sell the Chestnut Street Park. The committee recommends that the board consider updating the sound system in the 2nd Floor LGI. Troxell Communications quoted the cost of the repairs to be approximately $4,500. Reynolds Energy Services conducted a lighting audit to include the elementary schools at no additional cost to the school district. Mr. Hartman reviewed other topics discussed at the May meeting including 1) determining a location for the old auditorium sign, 2) replacing equipment in the Building & Trades department and 3) seeking board approval to use the funds from the Stadium Project Bond to pay for some stadium projects that need to be completed in the stadium. He reported that the North Fields project would begin as soon as the grant contract is received.

Montgomery County Legislative Representative / PSBA Representative

Mrs. Pargeon was unable to attend the May meeting of the Montgomery County Legislative Meeting due to the community superintendent forum. She reported on the effects of HB-704 and HB-2205 and a resolution that was recently passed to conduct a one-year study on how education is being funded. Mrs. Pargeon stated that she would present to the Finance Committee the information she received while attending the PSBA Construction Conference. She attended the Bucks-Mont Regional meeting and provided the members with a report of various programs taking place in the Pottstown School District. Mrs. Pargeon encouraged the board members to take advantage of the various instructional services available through PSBA.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

Mr. Hartman provided information on the topics and reports discussed at the May 26th meeting. The Special Education Department specialist noted that 17% of special education students have some degree of autism. Mr. Hartman reported on the agreements and contracts that were approved by the Intermediate Unit including a language partnership to provide the Chinese language at a cost of $600 per student. He reported on updates to several legislative items.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon presented recent news articles depicting various school district events. Her report included the committee's 2nd year of a partnership program with the Tennis Farm valued at $30,000. This program provides basic tennis skills and workshops related to nutrition, healthy lifestyles, citizenship and academic development. Mrs. Pargeon reviewed the features shown in the Spot Lighting Pottstown School District Program. She provided information on future events including: 1) the Back-To-School event scheduled for September 11th, 2) live video coverage of the graduation ceremony, 3) a partnership with The Mercury featuring student comments, pictures and art on the Mercury website, 4) a rock-n-roll concert at the Hill School and 5) the Gallery on High Street reception for the Pottstown High School Art Students culminating with a $10,000 scholarship award. Mrs. Pargeon presented a publication displaying pictures taken by students.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

Mr. Hartman provided information on the topics discussed at the May meeting. He reported that the committee reviewed the Co-Curricular Policies 122 and 122.1 and will present them to the Finance Committee for their review. Mr. Hartman described to the board the implementation of a Signage Policy. He pointed out the need to establish standardization guidelines including provisions to utilize revenue from the signage fees to support Co-Curricular activities. He stated that the committee would be looking into starting a unified booster club.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson reported on the Core Reading Program and a partnership with the Montgomery County Community College regarding the 10th grade Graduate Program. Mrs. Wilson explained the revised health & wellness course outlines to incorporate all aspects of Driver/Passenger Safety instructions at all grade levels. Ms. Harris commented on various grade level topics and changes that could benefit the students. Dr. Lindley asked Ms. Harris to submit her suggestions to him, so they could be included in the revised health and wellness planned course outlines.

Policy Committee

Mr. White reported that the committee did not meet in May. He stated that the July meeting would be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee scheduled for July 8th at 7:30 pm.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Harris stated that the Non-Discrimination Policies 103 & 104 were discussed and will be submitted to the Policy Committee for their review. The committee is continuing to look at the district's recruiting practices of minorities for administrative positions She stated that the Personnel Committee is working to develop a relationship with two universities regarding diversity recruiting for teacher replacement positions within the district The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 13th.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Zahora presented the list of bills to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Professional Leaves

Dr. Lindley reviewed the professional leave as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Contracts – Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Bid Awards

Mrs. Adams reviewed the bid awards as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

2010-2011 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Mrs. Adams reviewed the school lunch and breakfast prices for the 2010-2011 school year be approved as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Revised 2010-2011 Calendar

Mrs. Adams reviewed the revised 2010-2011 calendar as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval. Mrs. Adams advised the board that the administration will meet with the Federation prior to the June 17th meeting to discuss the changes.

2010 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mrs. Adams reviewed the 2010 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau Resolution

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau Resolution as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Resolution authorizing transfers within the 2009-2010 budget as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Investment Of Funds Resolution

Mrs. Adams reviewed the resolution authorizing the Secretary and Treasurer to invest funds for the various school district accounts during the next fiscal year as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

Adoption Of Budget 2010-2011: Final

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Adoption of the 2010-2011 Budget Resolution as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval.

Motion to Approve The Revised Health & Wellness Planned Course Outlines

The Technology Curriculum Committee, having reviewed the revised health and wellness planned course outlines (revised to include content and activities that address driver and passenger safety), as presented to be placed on the June 17, 2010 board agenda for approval

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. PCTV Spotlighting Show

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Yoder stated that the Federation "strongly objects" to the revisions proposed in the 2010-2011 Calendar. She stated the changes do not reflect what was agreed upon for conference times. Mrs. Yoder expressed the Federation's concern for the serious loss of educators. She congratulated the teachers that were recognized at tonight's meeting.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White – no comment.

Mr. Hylton stated his intention to make a motion at the June 17th Board Meeting to close 10 of the 23 modulars located at the elementary schools. He explained his reasons for making this motion including their unattractive physical appearance, statistics that indicate a decline in enrollment, uncertainty in the amount of state funding, rising energy costs and current indications of an economic

crisis. Mr. Hylton expressed his opinion that closing 10 modulars would be an important step for the school district to take.

Mrs. Wilson congratulated the teachers and co-teaching teams. She was impressed with the Jazz Band and Middle School Band performances at the recent musical festival.

Ms. Harris commended all the teachers who won the awards and the students for making it possible. She was pleased to hear about the development of the various community partnerships. Ms. Harris expressed her support for the motion to go forward with the implementation of driver/passenger safety into the health curriculum. She asked the community to continue to support the efforts of the board, the district and their children.

Mrs. Pargeon voiced her appreciation for the dedication shown by the teachers and co-teaching teams. She thanked the teachers and staff for a great year. She commented on the success of the ESL event, Lincoln's Art & Music night and the Family Literacy night and encouraged the board to attend the various events scheduled through out the school district during the next few weeks. Mrs. Pargeon voiced her concerns on the effects of closing 10 of the 23 modulars. She stressed the importance of providing the best education for the students when considering making cuts to save energy.

Mr. Hartman agreed with all the positive comments describing the teachers. Mr. Hartman voiced his concern about the closing of modulars. The Facilities Committee was not given an opportunity to discuss the potential closing of any modulars. He expressed his belief that it is the responsibility of the Task Force to look at all the facilities and make their recommendations. Mr. Hartman suggested that the board should not rush into something that the district would regret academically.

Mrs. Weand congratulated all the teachers. She stated that it is the duty of the Task Force to determine and recommend the outcome of the modulars.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Dr. Sparagana congratulated the recipients of the Co-Teaching Team and Teacher of the Year Awards and all the candidates. He reported on the success of the parent literacy nights and recognized the hard work of the teachers who organized the events. Dr. Sparagana provided information on the upcoming Peak Annual meeting to celebrate their accomplishments and invited all board members to attend.

Dr. Lindley provided a follow up on the meeting held today regarding the fall Back To School event. He reported that the committee would summarize the ideas to bring back to the board and staff. A theme that seems to be emerging would be to provide information, inspiration and a kick-off to the community engagement activities. Dr. Lindley is looking forward to engaging a close working relationship between the school district, the Federation and the community.

Mr. Krem – no comment.

Mr. Huss encouraged Board Members to attend the graduation ceremony and the Middle School Awards night. Mr. Huss expressed his disappointed in the proposed motion made by Mr. Hylton to close 10 of the 23 modulars. He stated that Mr. Hylton "has not really tried the help the students of the district." Mr. Huss stated that the purpose of his Task Force "is to let the people of this community

decide what they want with their education buildings". He asked Mr. Hylton to "settle down and try to help out and work together with the rest of the board".

Mr. Huss announced that there would be an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and possible litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 P.M.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary