POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 18, 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 Hartman, Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent was Ms. Valerie Harris. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. A. Kyle Berman; Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

Ms. Valerie Harris entered the meeting at 7:39 P.M.

AWARDS

The Principal, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo presented a music video prepared by Mary Powell, capturing various activities at Franklin Elementary School. Ms. Jane Hospador presented the Franklin Writing Award Winners:

5th Grade - Christian Brown
4th Grade - Nathanael Parson
3rd Grade - Logan Hartman
2nd Grade - Brooklyn Colegrove
1st Grade - Tiana Boekhoudt
K5 - Elizabeth Eames

Mr. Krem stated that the Pottstown School received notification from the Division of Federal Programs that Lincoln Elementary is one of the three schools to receive the Distinguished Student Award for Title I Academic Achievement. The student will be selected by teachers and representatives of the Federal Programs to speak at the conference to be held on March 22nd in Hershey. The content of his or her Essay must reflect how his/her family, teachers and programs helped him or her increase their academic achievements.

Dr. Lindley thanked the board on behalf of Mrs. Cooper for their permission to attend and speak at the Hope Foundation Conference in Arizona. He and Mrs. Cooper were able to share the things that are happening in the Pottstown School District with other school districts across the nation. Dr. Lindley provided an outline of five data points on indicators leading Pottstown to becoming a high performance school district.

Mr. Krem congratulated Ms. Lampe and her team for securing a $150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Northfields Project. This project should begin with the fields in the spring and continue with the tennis courts in the fall.

REPORTS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Frederick provided a power point presentation on the Eagle Eye Mobile and the benefits to the students and parents in our school district. This is the second year the Eagle Eye Mobile has serviced our school district.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Krem provided an interesting account of a recent phone call his office received from an airline company regarding a lost 1966 Pottstown High School graduation ring. The high school ring was traced to a Pottstown graduate now residing in Hawaii who was very glad to hear her ring was found.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. White that the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on January 21, 2010 be approved as presented.

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

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr.Hartman and seconded by Mr. White that the list of bills, as presented by the substitute Treasurer, Mrs. Linda Adams, for the period of January 14, 2010 to February 10, 2010 from the Athletic Fund totaling $19,198.12 ; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $183,177.47; the Elementary Activity Fund totaling $2,345.53; the General Fund totaling $1,287,153.73 and the Capital Construction Project Fund totaling $19,198.12 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-055.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr.Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Treasurer's Report be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-056.

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

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Stephanie Carmody presented the board with a signed copy of her comments, which have been included as addendum #2009-2010-057. In summary, she asked the board not to vote on the window replacement RFP this evening and urged the board to seek a comprehensive plan and consider the ultimate costs for a 'rush job'. She finds it hard to believe the price tag will be affordable for the savings proposed and will yield little to no improvement to our children's education. The most important role of the board is to strike a balance between education and maintaining the school district buildings while not over-burdening the taxpayers.

Mr. PhilipThees is pleased with the magnification of the new microphone system. He wants the board to make a more careful examination of the refurbishing project in lieu of the current economic conditions.

Mr. Jeff Leflar stated that Pottstown no longer has a Neighborhood Schools concept. There is more busing taking place within the school district for various reasons. He is concerned with school board members taking money out of their personal pocket to fund a project. This action has an appearance of impropriety. Mr. Leflar voiced his objection to another school member's ability to make ethical decisions on the window replacement project when their employer is a very strong proponent of Neighborhood Schools and the historic restoration of Rupert. He recommended that the school board abolish the Neighborhood Schools Committee since there is no true Neighborhood School concept in Pottstown and to refer any upgrades of the buildings to the Facilities Committee.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock 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:

Professional

Robin Wagar, Special Education Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School, termination due to medical need of employee effective January 4, 2010, employed since January 17, 2008.

Classified

Mary Davidheiser, Payroll Coordinator, Administration Building, resignation effective February 19, 2010, employed since August 5, 2004.

Loretta Garlington, Cafeteria Substitute, termination effective January 29, 2010, employed since August 31, 2009.

Substitute Teachers

Michelle White, Substitute Teacher, termination effective January 26, 2010, employed since April 27, 2009.

Leaves

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

Classified

Barbara Bainbridge, Part-time Housekeeper, Franklin Elementary School, request for medical leave of absence covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective January 14, 2010, end date TBD.

Changes in Position and/or Salary

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following changes in position and/or salary:

Ann Marie Gruenling RN, from part-time School Nurse-2 days per week, to part-time School Nurse-3 days per week, Rupert Elementary School, $21.61/hour, effective date upon return of Marguerite Grim from FMLA. Ms. Gruenling is currently the Substitute School Nurse at Pottstown Middle School for Ms. Grim as previously board approved on November 19, 2009.

Dawn Hankins LPN, from Substitute School Nurse to part-time School Nurse-2 days per week, Rupert Elementary School, $16.95/hour, effective February 3, 2010, replaces Ann Marie Gruenling.

Elections

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following elections:

Classified

Melissa Lopez, Intervention Assistant paid through EAP funds, Franklin Elementary School, $13.65/hour, 18 hours per week, effective February 2, 2010. She will also assume the following roles: Per-Diem Substitute Teacher, effective February 2, 2010 in accordance with Board Policy 3920, Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective February 2, 2010.

Dana Peden, Intervention Assistant paid through EAP funds, Lincoln Elementary School, $13.65/hour, 18 hours per week, effective date TBD. She will also assume the following roles: Per-Diem Substitute Teacher, effective date TBD in accordance with Board Policy 3920, Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective date TBD.

Diane Posner, Kindergarten Assistant paid through Accountability Block Grant funds, Edgewood Elementary School, $13.65/hr, 8.5 hours per week, effective date TBD.

Exempt

Edith McElroy, Human Resources Generalist, Administration Building, $65,000/year, effective February 5, 2010. This position replaces both the Supervisor of Human Resources and the Human Resources Clerk positions.

Act 93

Patrick Connors, Director of Co-Curricular Activities, Pottstown High School, $75,000/year, effective date TBD, replaces Jeffrey White.

Substitute

Debra Bishop, Extended Per-Diem Substitute Guidance Counselor, Lincoln Elementary School, effective February 8, 2010, $115/day, coverage for Lorraine Donnelly.

Homebound Instruction, $29/hour

LeeAnn McCullough Pottstown High School, from February 1, 2010 through March 1, 2010, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Addition to the Mentor List for 09-10

Andrew Bachman, mentor for Lisa Cassidy Lawler, effective February 4, 2010, $1047.00.

CORRECTION: Tuition Reimbursement

Professional

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	SCHOOL	FROM:	TO: CORRECT AMOUNT
Bridget	McGuigan	Pottstown High School	$1,110.00	$2,220.00
Jamie	Fazekas	Rupert Elementary	$0.00	$2,592.00

Horizontal Salary Movement:

First Name	Last Name	Building	From	Old Salary	To	Step	New Salary
Rebecca	Wyatt	Rupert Elementary	B+15	$46,169	M	6.38	$47,808
Paul	Castanzo	PHS	M	$82,549	M+15	20.00	$85,184
Jill	Rinewalt	Barth Elementary	B+15	$44,955	M	4.00	$46,608
Laura	Luzeski	PHS	M	$47,601	M+15	6.00	$49,689
Jill	Bolonski	Lincoln Elementary	M	$52,314	M+15	10.71	$54,057
Andrea	Barlow	PMS	B+15	$44,421	M	2.63	$46,040
Rebecca	Carey	PMS	B	$43,609	B+15	2.00	$44,209
Justine	Donnelly	PHS	B+15	$48,611	M	9.57	$50,681

Employee Disciplinary Action

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

Pottstown High School employee, one (1) day unpaid suspension, effective February 8, 2010.

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	Matt	Moyer	2010 Promising	Harrisburg, PA	3/9/10 –	Approx. $1500. paid
	Deb	Gratzinger	Practices –		3/10/10	by 21st Century Grant
Middle	Robert	Stevens	Afterschool Programs			
High	Jolie	Martinez	in a Time of Change			
Admin	Sue	Yocom	Conference			

FIELD TRIP – Dr. Lindley

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following field trip:

# of students and/or group	Name of conference or activity	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to student	Cost to district-substitutes	Chaperone(s)
4	2010 Key Club Leadership Conference	Hershey, PA	3/5/10 - 3/7/10	$250.00	$100.00	Maggie Munz & Gene Huston
7	2010 FCCLA State Leadership Competition/Conference	Seven Springs, PA	3/17/10 -3/19/10		$1579.00 Lodging/ Meals/Transportation $600.00 Substitutes	Mary Jo Kuhwald & Dave Woodley

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve Policy 113.2: Behavior Support and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-058.

BID AWARDS

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded to the companies as listed, the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-059:

1. Custodial Supplies
2. General Supplies

PSBA STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND CODE OF CONDUCT RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution adopting the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards and a copy be filed in the secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-060.

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

NON-CONSENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. PCTV Televising Board Meetings
2. Policy 5900: Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities for Pottstown High School and Pottstown Middle School

3. Policy 5910: Co-Curricular Awards and Recognition for Co-Curricular Participation
4. Committee of the Whole meeting minutes held on February 4, 2010

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hylton indicated that the conditional offer of a $20,000 donation he made at the Special Board Meeting held February 8, 2010 was subject to review by Mr. Kalis. After further conversation with Mr. Kalis it was determined that a conflict of interest would be created. As a result of this determination, Mr. Hylton is withdrawing his conditional contribution of $20,000 to the Pottstown School District. It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. White to rescind Mr. Hylton's conditional contribution and the awarding of the contract for architectural services for window replacement at the Edgewood and Rupert Elementary Schools.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to rescinding the conditional contribution and contract for architectural services for window replacement)

Mr. PhilipThees asked clarification of the motion. Mr. Hylton explained that the original motion was to award the architectural service contract to Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates to design the window replacement at Rupert and Edgewood Elementary Schools subject to his conditional offer to the school district. As a result, Mr. Hylton is rescinding his original offer.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Pargeon: nay, Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: aye, Mrs. Wilson: aye, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: abstain. Ayes: Seven. Nays: One. Abstention: One. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Mr. Hylton presented a check in the amount of $10,000 to the Pottstown School District as an unconditional contribution. He presented a letter to Mrs. Adams and a copy to be filed in the secretary's office as addendum # 2009-2010-061.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. White that the board approve a resolution to award the architectural services contract for replacing the windows at Rupert and Edgewood Elementary Schools to Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2009-2010-062.

Mrs. Weand asked Mr. Hylton where the school district would find the remaining $10,000 for the architectural services.

Mr. Hylton responded that the funds could come from: 1) the savings realized by merging three Human Resource positions into two positions, or, 2) from the capital reserve fund.

Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Adams if the windows were a comprehensive project would the architectural services cost $20,000? Mrs. Adams responded that an overall project would have the architectural services built in based on a percentage of the project. Mr. Hartman voiced his concerns on spending money on the window replacement project that is not a necessity when there are more important things to be done. Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Adams to clarify the terms of the stimulus bonds/loans. Mrs. Adams stated that the current stimulus bonds being awarded at 0% interest to minimal interest are for a period of 14 to 16 years.

Mrs. Weand stated her concerns that the board still has not decided on how to pay for replacing the windows. Why waste $10,000 on architectural services if there is no money for replacing the windows. The $10,000 could be spent on more important needs. She asked Mr. Hylton where does he see the school district getting the rest of the money for the replacement windows.

Mr. Hylton stated that the window replacement project is a capital project. The funds can be secured by a bond and paid back over several years. The school district has an opportunity to apply by April 1st for a stimulus bond at 0% interest. The Neighborhood Schools Committee will be looking at the district wide needs in the next few weeks. The reason for the time push on the window replacement project is that this could begin over the summer.

Mrs. Pargeon does not see the need to hire architects to design the window replacements. Why not hire a company with the experience to install windows. Spending money on architectural services is not as important as spending money on education. What about getting rid of the modular classrooms? In total they amount to about one school, are you intending to build another school in order to get rid of the modulars? She is not in favor on frivolous spending.

Mr. White stated that the school district spends approximately $18,000 per student on education. The Neighborhood Schools Committee is trying to extend the life of the school building for 20 years. The voters voted certain board members in on their promise to keep the Neighborhood Schools.

Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Pargeon disagreed with Mr. White's view on the cost of educating a student at $18,000 per student. Simple division of a $54,000,000 budget divided by the number of students does not determine the cost of educating a student. Other expenses and special education requirements must be considered. Mr. Hartman asked the board to not repeat past mistakes by previous boards.

Mrs. Wilson wished the board could spend the same amount of time and passion on discussing educational needs as they have on this window replacement project. In response to Mr. White's comment on the board members who were voted in on their promise to keep the Neighborhood Schools, that was in a different economy and when we were not in favor of spending the money on the mega campus. These same taxpayers keep voicing their concerns saying they do not want to spend money on unnecessary projects. Educational needs are more important than replacing windows.

Ms. Harris called the question. Mr. Wausnock seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: nay, Mr. White: aye, Mrs. Wilson: nay, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Hartman: nay, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Pargeon: nay. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the resolution to award Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates the architectural services contract)

Mrs. Stephanie Carmody stated several reasons why this project should be stopped and pay more attention to our kids future: 1) The reason Pottstown is eligible for the Qualified Construction Bond Project is because we are on the poverty list not because we are a growing school district; 2) As of 2007-2008, the school district spent $11,571 educating one student which is slightly higher that the states average of

$10,013 per student. This is due to providing the required educational needs for all of our Special Need students; 3) whether the windows are a maintenance project or a capital project, what is the need for this project? With the current economic downturn, finances will be cut resulting in larger class sizes, cut backs in programs, supplies and maintenance projects. Spending capital reserve on the window replacement project will limit the amount of funds that may be needed to make up for these cut backs. Our kids futures are at stake – where is the money coming from?

Mr. Philip Thees feels this motion should be denied because it appears we are offering this money to the board to support something. The money should be graciously returned. The public was previously told that this project was a maintenance project now it is a capital project. This should be going through the Facilities Committee. He recommended the board listen to Mr. Hartman. He speaks from experience. Mr. Thees stated the cost of this project will get bigger. He made some suggestions to the board to take a look at what cuts could be made to pay for this project. Mr. Thees asked what the tax bill will be for this project.

Mr. Bruce Madara stated that he learned that no one gives money without an ulterior motive. He is concerned with Mr. White's figure of $18,000 per student. He says "no" to approving the motion to award the architectural services contract. He is forced to pay his taxes and wants to see his tax dollars spent on quality education. Mr. Madara was moved by the writings of the students.

Mr. Jody Rhoads indicated he has attended the last several meetings and believes the window replacement project is turning out to be a real farce. Mr. Rhoads's feel this project should be dropped and the board move on with business.

Mr. Jerry Stick addressed the board with his concerns that they are following the same path as the borough. The borough's past decisions to take money from various funds to pay for things has resulted in exhausting funds to draw from in difficult economic times. Mr. Stick asked what the cost is to send out of districts students.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the resolution awarding Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates for architectural services for replacing windows at Rupert and Edgewood Elementary Schools was recorded as follows: Mrs. Weand: nay, Mr. White: aye, Mrs. Wilson: nay, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Hartman: nay, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Pargeon: nay Mr. Wausnock: aye. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Mrs. Weand asked the board to allow the public to speak at all meetings. Mr. Hylton recommended this be looked at by the Policy Committee. The board agreed.

INFORMATION

1. 2nd Marking Period Honor Roll
2. Monthly Meeting Schedule: March 2010
3. Website Report: January 2010

Mrs. Adams reminded the board of the Technology/Curriculum Committee meeting that will take place on Thursday, February 25th beginning at 7:00 PM. A joint Personnel and Finance Committee meeting will follow the Technology/Curriculum Committee meeting.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Ms. Lindi Vollmuth, as a Franklin teacher, was proud of the staff and students writing awards presentation tonight. She encouraged the board to visit the schools and see first hand what education is really about. Ms. Vollmuth, as an educator, urged the board not to enter into this window replacement project without a plan. She encouraged the board to consider how this will impact not only the students but the teachers. She asked the board not to vote on a motion for this project until they had a plan for what is expected of the teachers to prepare their classrooms for the window replacements and to address what happens when the buildings are not ready for the start of school.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Pargeon - no comment.

Mr. Hartman greatly enjoyed the student writings. Ms. Vollmuth's comments were well stated. It is the board's responsibility to have a plan. He thanked the Grounds Crew and Custodians for their terrific job on the snow removal.

Mrs. Weand has spoken to many taxpayers. She hopes that this project is not for Preservation Pottstown. This project should be for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Wausnock congratulated Mrs. DiPaolo for her recycling project.

Mr. White thanked the Franklin students and staff. He was very impressed with the students' writings.

Mr. Hylton stated that he has not had a relationship with Preservation Pottstown for the last five years.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the students are the reason why she is a school board member. Mrs. Powell did a great job with the Franklin presentation. She really appreciates the opportunity to read to the students.

Ms. Harris extended her condolences to the families of Springford. She would like to see driver education incorporated into the health education program at little to no cost for the school district. Ms. Harris stated there are a lot of positive things taking place in the schools. She looks forward to serving the community as a school board member. Ms. Harris stated that she has received calls from the public in support of the window replacement project. She is actively talking to people because she wants to make the right decision. Her employer does not influence her vote. She agreed with Mrs. Vollmuth and will be working in the direction to provide a plan as she requested.

Dr. Sparagana presented to each board member a DVD representing the case study recognized by the Department of Education for Peak Early Childhood Leaders.

Dr. Lindley - no comment.

Mr. Krem thanked the grounds crew for a fabulous job removing the 24" of snow.

Mr. Huss thanked Mrs. DiPaolo and her students for a great job. He thanked Mr. Berman of Fox Rothschild for attending the meeting.

Mr. Huss announced there will be an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel immediately following tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary