POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, September 16, 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 H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent was Ms. Harris. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

THE BOARD RECESSED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:34 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE LITIGATION.

MS. HARRIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:39 PM.

THE BOARD RE-CONVENED AT 7:53 PM.

AWARDS

None.

REPORTS

Dr. Lindley provided an update on the MOU/Economic Development partnership, reporting that the third meeting of PAID was cancelled pending the completion of the organizational agreements. He presented a Power-Point demonstration providing an overview of events happening in the district that have economic connections. Dr. Lindley's presentation focused on steps the school district is taking to move forward:

- 2010/2011 Reduction in Staff and Teaching positions
- Marginal class size increases
- Added a Cyber Charter School
- Created 7 Outreach Teams for Partnership Development
- Entrepreneurships - MCCC, Borough, PAID, Community Religious & Non-Profit Organizations
- Potential projects involving our Career and Technology Program

Ms. Harris voiced her agreement with Dr. Lindley and indicated the same topics were many of the concerns she encountered while campaigning.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the minutes of the Regular meeting held on August 19, 2010, be approved as presented.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 2, 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 Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the list of bills for the period ending September 8, 2010 from the for the Athletic Fund totaling $62,379.64; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $93,788.26 and the General Fund totaling $396,384.40 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-016.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Treasurer's Report for July 2010 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-017.

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

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOL

Mrs. Zahora congratulated the District and Community on a beautiful job with the Open Doors Event on Saturday, September 11, 2010. She appreciated Dr. Lindley's partnering with the Borough, indicating that a year ago ULI was paid to come in and make recommendations for making this a better place to live. Committing to low income senior housing along the river goes against what the First Suburb Organization recommends along with our consultants. So what did that money pay for? Non-Rental property that provides a vibrant use of the river front property was recommended. There is no quick success. Although senior housing is needed, it is not a good use of our riverfront resources.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 1120, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

New Positions and/or Changed Positions

Classified

Part-Time Elementary Housekeeper, Rupert Elementary, increase hours from four (4) to five (5) per day and eliminate one position, effective August 30, 2010.

Part-Time Lunch Aide, Lincoln Elementary, increase hours from two (2) hours and forty (40) minutes to three (3) hours, effective August 30, 2010.

Resignations/Terminations

Administrative

Lisa Snyder, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education, resignation effective August 26, 2010, employed since May 19, 2008.

Exempt

Thomas Leinhauser, Virtual Academy Facilitator, Pottstown High School, resignation effective August 20, 2010, employed since April 23, 2008.

Substitute Teacher

Elizabeth Rega, Building Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective August 22, 2010, employed since October 5, 2009.

Classified

Thomas Cherry, Wellness Coordinator and Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation effective August 20, 2010, employed since August 21, 2008.

Thomas Collins, Part-Time Elementary Housekeeper, Lincoln Elementary, resignation effective August 27, 2010, employed since August 21, 2008.

Tricia Fisher, Intervention Assistant, Barth Elementary, resignation effective August 19, 2010, employed since January 1, 2010.

Cindy Hueber, Playground Aide, Edgewood Elementary, resignation effective August 19, 2010, employed since November 14, 2001.

Darlene Wade, Lunch Program Aide and Substitute Breakfast Aide, Lincoln Elementary, resignation effective August 23, 2010, employed since December 13, 2000.

Elizabeth Weller, Substitute Custodian/Housekeeper, resignation effective August 14, 2010, employed since October 22, 2007.

Dana Peden, Part-Time Intervention Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, resignation effective August 13, 2010, employed since January 30, 2010.

Susan Childers, Administrative Clerk – Business Office, Administration Building, effective August 27, 2010, employed since August 9, 2010, $15.07/hr.

Nicole LaForest, Classroom Assistant, Edgewood Elementary, effective August 27, 2010, employed since October 19, 2009.

Change in Position and/or Salary

Substitute Teacher

Ian Lawrence, from VLN Classroom Assistant to Building Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective August 24, 2010, payment according to professional contract.

Jamie DeStefano, from Per-Diem Substitute Teacher to Building Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary School, effective August 24, 2010, payment according to professional contract.

Professional

Evelyne Blair-Miller, from Building Substitute, Franklin Elementary School, to Grade 4 Teacher, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary School, effective August 24, 2010, Bachelor's, Step B, $43,335, payment according to professional contract.

Dennis Arms, Business Education Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective August 30, 2010, Bachelor's, Step A, $43,335, payment according to professional contract, replacing contract of Amy Williams.

Leaves

Classified

Stacey Oldham, Classroom Assistant, Franklin Elementary, request for extension of childrearing leave of absence from July 1, 2010 through April 1, 2011.

Elections

Professional

Julie Boettcher, Special Education Teacher/Autistic Support, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary School, effective August 26, 2010, Master's, Step A, $45,885, payment according to professional contract.

Correction to previous 2009-2010 Game Workers list approved on August 19, 2010, to read 2010-2011 Game Workers, $10/hour.

2010-2011 Game Workers, $10/hour

Tim Mutter	John Armato	John Martin	Justine Donnelly
Cindy Dixon	Mike Yonas	Stanley Walerski	Christine Kane
Miles Feather	James Martinez	Steph George	Terry Phillips
Maggie Munz	Kevin Pascal	Jason Bergey	Laura Christie
Mary Ann Lightcap	Ryan Regensburg	Rob Keeley	Jane Thompson
Jim Schaaf	Steve Burdan	Dennis Kuleski	Jennifer Milkovits
Abbey Yeager	Ginger Angelo	Scott Braunsberg	Karen Fricke
Diane Martz	Mike Zipay	Ryan Oxenford	Vanessa Barnaik
Dave Pihanich	Ben Eckroth	Nick Yonas	Marlon Randall
Marianne Brownie	Michael Anthony	Gary Mock	Ryan McGavin
Kathy Eagle			

Addition to the 2010-2011 Game Workers List, $10/hour

Matthew Oblosser

Addition to the 2010-2011 Mentor Assignments

Bldg	Mentor	Inductee	Stipend
Franklin	Matthew Cohen	Julie Boettcher	698.00
Franklin	Lindi Vollmuth	Julie Boettcher	349.00
Lincoln	Patricia Dewald	Maria Carroll	1047.00

Additions/Corrections to 2010-2011 Co-curricular Assignments

Bldg	Professional Agreement Category	Employee	Level	Stipend
HS	B - Wrestling - Head Coach	Jamie Gill	1	4,523.00
MS	C - Baseball - Asst. Coach (correction from Head Coach)	Carl Sundstrum	5	2,165.00
MS	G - Music - Band Front	Felicia Weinfurter	1	1,090.00
MS	J - Stage Manager, replacing Thomas Marsden	Nicholas Yashinsky	1	870.00
HS	Q - Strength & Conditioning (1/2)	Matt Boyer	No Level	1,047.50
HS	Q - Strength & Conditioning (1/2)	Steve Burdan	No Level	1,047.50

Substitute Teachers

Jillian Gondal, Special Substitute Teacher, effective September 1, 2010, $100/day. She will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective September 1, 2010.

Exempt

Jaime Gill, VLN Facilitator, Pottstown High School, $50,000/year, effective August 27, 2010.

Classified

Regina Astheimer, Classroom Assistant – Virtual Academy, Pottstown High School, $13.65/hour, effective August 27, 2010.

Patricia Charlton, in addition to her current positions as Substitute Van Assistant and Substitute Van Driver, will also assume the role of Substitute Secretary, $15.07/hour, effective August 9, 2010.

Kelly DeBlase, in addition to her current positions as Substitute Secretary, Substitute Breakfast Aide and Substitute Playground Aide, will also assume the role of Cafeteria Substitute, $10.41/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Brooke Niemann, in addition to her current position as Tutoring Assistant, will also assume the role of Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, $13.65/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Jennifer Fichthorn, Cafeteria Substitute, $10.41/hour, Substitute Breakfast Aide $12.63/hour and Substitute Secretary $15.07/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Sheria Somerset, Administrative Clerk – Business Office, Administration Building, effective date August 31, 2010, $15.07/hr.

Annette Lacey, in addition to her current positions as PT Elementary Housekeeper, Barth Elementary, and Substitute Playground Aide, will also assume the role of Substitute Breakfast Aide, $12.63/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Erin Williams, Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, $13.65/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Payment of Accumulated Sick Leave

Karen Kozak, In accordance with the Full-Time Support guidelines, $400.00. This is for 10 additional accumulated sick days at $40 per day.

Tuition Reimbursement

Administrative

Name	Building	Amount
Stephen Rodriguez	Pottstown High School	$1500.00

Support Staff

Name	Building	Amount
Norma Jean Weatherly	Administrative Annex	$1500.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following professional leaves:

Building	**Name**	**Conference Title /Location**		**Dates to Attend**	**Cost**
Franklin	Karen Neitz	DIBELS Next Train the Trainer	Harrisburg, PA	10/4/10 – 10/7/10	Approx. cost $480.00 funded by the Title I grant.
High School	Kevin Pascal	Cooperative Education Conference	State College, PA	10/20/10 – 10/21/10	Approx. cost $685.00 funded by the Perkins grant.
Admin.	Denise Leshak	LETRS Train the Trainers Series	Harrisburg, PA	9/14/10 – 9/17/10 12/14/10 – 12/17/10 3/7/11 – 3/10/11 5/3/11 – 5/6/11 6/6/11 – 6/9/11 8/9/11 – 8/12/11 9/12/11 – 9/15/11 11/8/11 – 1/11/11	Approx. cost $573.00 per each session funded by the Title I grant.

FIELD TRIPS

None.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts and copies be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum 2010-2011-018.

1. Memorandum of Understanding: Pottstown Family Center
2. Foundation: Lifeworks Alternative School
3. Wordsworth
4. Memorandum of Understanding: Creative Health Services Inc.
5. Kids Peace National Centers Inc.
6. MOU: POD High School /Montgomery County Health Dept.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS OF ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS

The Superintendent recommends the resolution approving appointments and certifications for the purpose of rating professional staff members for the 2010-2011 school year be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-019.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the School Resource Officer agreement and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-020.

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

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

All the Non-Consent Items were reviewed as follows:

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Personnel items for Board for approval.

Mr. Kalis explained the issuance of the bonds. He introduced Mr. Gordon Walker, Managing Director of Public Financial Management, Inc. Mr. Gordon Walker presented the "Final Financing Report for the Pottstown School District". He reviewed the results of the bid bond auction for the issuance of the Series A of 2010 and Series B of 2010 Bonds. Mr. Walker was pleased with the 3.08% interest rate. He stated this interest rate results in a greater savings than originally anticipated. Mr. Walker recommended the Board approve the Resolution to approve the School District's General Obligation Bonds. Mr. Kalis thanked Mr. Walker for putting this together and he thanked Mrs. Adams for her significant role in compiling all the information.

MS. HARRIS LEFT THE MEETING AT 8:10 AND RETURNED AT 8:13.

Mrs. Adams recommended the board approve Administration to pursue the bidding process to support the Energy Savings Project being funded through the bond refinancing and issuance.

Mr. Kalis reviewed the motion to approve two Special Education Settlement Agreements for Board approval.

Hearings From Patrons Of The School (limited to Non-Consent Items)

None.

PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following Personnel items for board approval:

Resignations/Terminations

Classified

Allen McBee, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, effective August 19, 2010, employed since August 25, 2009.

Change of Position and/or Salary

Classified

Scot Christy, from Substitute Teacher to Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to the Alternative Education Classroom Pottstown Middle School, $13.65/hour, effective September 20, 2010.

Elections

Substitute Teacher

Ryan Michaels, Special Substitute Teacher, effective September 8, 2010, $100/day. He will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective September 8, 2010.

Ashley Fisher, Teacher Per-Diem Substitute Teacher, effective September 10, 2010, in accordance with Board Policy 3920. She will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $13.65/hr, effective September 10, 2010.

Homebound Instruction, $29/hour

Amy Gazzillo, Pottstown Middle School, from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, as needed for student throughout the entire 2010-2011 school year.

Addition to the 2010-2011 Mentor Assignments

Bldg	Mentor	Inductee	Stipend
PHS	Cal Benfield	Dennis Arms	1047.00

Addition to the 2010-2011 Game Workers List, $10/hour

Bill Beyer

Additions to the 2010-2011 21st Century Tutoring List:
All Teacher-Certified staff members are approved on an "as needed" basis as 21st Century Tutors, rate of $29.00/hour, and as 21st Century Classroom Assistants, rate of $13.65/hour.

Classified:

Marion Elaine Moore, Cafeteria Substitute, $10.41/hour, effective August 30, 2010.

Bozena Kull, in addition to her current position as Van Assistant, will also assume the role of Substitute Van Driver, $14.05/hour, effective September 17, 2010.

Alyse Woodman, Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, $13.65/hour, effective September 14, 2010.

Lynette Andrews, in addition to her current positions as Playground Aide, Substitute Student Proctor, Substitute Classroom Assistant and Special Substitute Teacher, will also assume the role of Substitute Breakfast Aide, $12.63/hour, effective September 16, 2010.

Melissa Scaltrito, Part-Time Nurse, Rupert Elementary, $21.51/hour, effective September 20, 2010.

Tuition Reimbursement

Administrative

Name	Building	Amount
Lisa Schade	Administration Building	$1170.00

It was moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Personnel items as presented.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES A OF 2010 AND SERIES B OF 2010

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution to Approve the Issuance of the School District's General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2010 and Series B of 2010 and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-021.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Resolution to Approve the Issuance of the School District's General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2010 and Series B of 2010.

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

BIDS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

The Administration requests approval to pursue the bidding process as required to support the Energy Savings project as outlined in the Reynolds Energy Audit of August 5, 2010.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board approve the bidding process as required to support the Energy Savings project.

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

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. Kalis, the District Solicitor, asked for a motion to approve Special Education award settlement involving student 1, pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the Special Education award settlement agreement involving student 1.

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

Mr. Kalis, the District Solicitor, asked for a motion to approve Special Education award settlement involving student 2, pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board approve the Special Education award settlement agreement involving student 2.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Wilson: aye, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Pargeon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: abstain, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Abstention: one. Motion carried.

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

Dr. Sparagana encouraged everyone to review the PEAK Update report for September 2010 including PEAK's many achievements as highlighted on page 3 of the report.

Mrs. Adams presented the October Monthly Meeting Notice.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth offered the Federation's congratulations to the School District and all members who made the Open Doors Event a success. She expressed the Federation's continued concerns about the large class sizes. She acknowledged Dr. Lindley's perception of the increase as marginal and hopes the Board is willing to accept "marginal progress toward's meeting AYP." "After all, it is only marginal to those classes and buildings that don't make it."

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White thanked Mr. Armato and everyone who participated in the Open Doors Event.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Open Doors Event was a "great day in Pottstown." She especially enjoyed the amazing activities held at the Library.

Ms. Harris was unable to attend the Open Doors Event. She looks forward to a continuation of similar events. Ms. Harris congratulated Dr. Lindley for his efforts in pursuing a continued partnership with the Borough.

Mrs. Pargeon enjoyed the opening ceremonies at the Open Doors Event and the "happy, upbeat spirit" of everyone she met. She thanked Mr. Armato and all who made this event so great.

Mr. Hartman agreed with all the comments regarding the Open Doors Event. The large crowds reminded him of "the way downtown use to look." He thanked Dr. Lindley, Ms. Santiago, Mr. Bobst, and all the Board Members who were able to participate in this event.

Mrs. Weand stated that the Open Doors Event was a remarkable day. She thanked Dr. Lindley for continuing the School District's partnership with the Borough. Mrs. Weand stated that "the partnership is not just for here and now, but for our future" and sees "the beginning of a new Pottstown of tomorrow."

Dr. Sparagana stated it was a privilege to be part of the Open Doors Event. The unity that was demonstrated by this event is relative to the economic development of the Pottstown community. Dr. Sparagana thanked the Pottstown Rotary Club for their continued support. This is the 3rd year they donated dictionaries to the fourth grade students. He provided flyers regarding the 2010-2011 Parent Literacy Nights which begin October 5, 2010.

Dr. Lindley expressed his appreciation to Dr. Sparagana, Mr. Armato, the Staff and Teachers for their help in making the Open Doors Event a success. He reported that he is aware of a number of ideas that the Borough is pursuing to improve the tax base. Dr. Lindley clarified that he realizes that the teachers and students in the larger classrooms do not feel that the class size increase is marginal. This is not the situation in every class room. In most classrooms the increase was 3 here or 3 there. He reminded everyone of an Equity Summit Meeting on September 25th at Blue Bell, Senator Piccola's visit on September 21st regarding HB704 and the first Superintendent's Forum meeting on September 21st at Invictus Ministries.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss was not able to attend the Open Doors Event. He thanked everyone involved in making the event a success and looks forward to future events to get people excited about Pottstown.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourns. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary