POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
November 4, 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, November 4, 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, 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, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs.Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Ms. Terri Lampe, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Dr. Angela Tuck, Dr. Robert Stevens, Mrs. Lori Hoch, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Ms. Pamela Bateson, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

None.

REPORTS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 21, 2010 to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Francis asked that the Board and the Co-Curricular Activities Committee consider adding a Middle School Girl's Softball Fast Pitch team. Twenty-six girls have expressed interest in forming a team along with a volunteer coach and assistant coach.

Mrs. Zahora asked for an update on 1) the outcome of the ULI meetings and 2) the status of the teachers contract. Mr. Kalis stated that negotiations for the teachers contract are on-going. The teachers contract expired on August 31, 2010. Representatives of the Board and Teachers Union are still discussing and trying to come to terms. Mr. Kalis stated that one of the outcomes of the ULI study was the need for the taxing bodies to get together. Two meetings have taken place and discussions are on-going. The PAID Bylaws are being reviewed by the members. The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of December and a group meeting is being planned for sometime in January

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock stated that the November committee meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting will be on December 9, 2010. Dr. Lindley presented an update on the 2011-2012 Budget and a copy of his report will be posted on the school district's website. He outlined the administration's recommendation to prepare budget reductions of $.5 to $1.6 million. Dr. Lindley stated that the administration has identified $ .5 million of potential cuts; additional cuts beyond the $.5 million would be impacting educational programs. He welcomes ideas from staff, individual Board members and the community. The next Superintendent's Forum will be held on November 16, 2010 at St. John's Church, 11 S. Price Street.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman reported that the October committee meeting focused on the Community Health Center Proposal. He stated that the committee's recommendation was not to support the proposal. The next Facility Committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 8, 2010.

Montgomery County Legislative Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported on several topics discussed at the October Montgomery County Legislative meeting:

- Legislative Platform items
- Omnibus Education Bill
- Policy on administering EpiPen Injections
- Policy on food allergies
- Chapter 11 Wellness Committee and the elimination of the minimum time for physical activity
- Charter Schools and costs to the districts

PSBA Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported that the PSBA website log-in will change effective November 15, 2010. She asked the Board for approval to represent the school district in an upcoming Uniform Policy Poll. Mrs. Pargeon will research who can participate in the poll. PSBA reported a strong correlation between absenteeism of students K-3 and the number of students who drop out when older.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

None.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon provided highlight's of Spotlighting on PCTV. She reported on various donations:

- Iron Mountain donated school supplies to Lincoln Elementary 4K.
- Pfizer's donated additional office supplies valued at $18,000.
- Mishok Physical Therapy donation of $200 to benefit uniforms for needy students at Edgewood.
- Women in Nuclear will be conducting a drive for school supplies.
- Priority Fitness is donating used physical fitness equipment valued at $6,000.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

Mr. Hartman stated that the committee did not have an October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2010. He will take Mrs. Francis request for a Middle School Girls Fast Pitch Softball team to the committee.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson reported that the committee received a lot of information at their October meeting. Mrs. Wolfe provided information on the Parent Talk Workshops going on in the district. Mr. Rodriguez presented a very good overview of the Keystone Exams. Mrs. Wilson provided information on topics to be discussed at the In-Service day on Friday, November 5th. The next committee meeting will be held on December 9, 2010.

Policy Committee

Mr.White presented a committee report from the Policy Committee meeting held on October 12, 2010. He asked that the Board discuss revisions to Policy 006 under New Business.

Personnel Committee

Dr. Sparagana reported that the committee provided an update on the recruiting process and discussed potential changes in job responsibilities and budget cuts.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Zahora presented the list of bills to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board Agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board Agenda for approval.

Professional Leaves

None.

Field Trips

None.

Contracts

None.

Policies

Dr. Sparagana review Policy 212: Reporting Student Progress and Policy 213: Assessment of Student Progress to be place on the November 18, 2010 Board Agenda for approval.

State Audit Corrective Action Plan

Mrs. Adams reviewed the State Audit Corrective Action Plan of the State Audit for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, 2007, 2006, and 2005 to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

SUBSTITUTE TAX COLLECTOR APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION-

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Substitute Tax Collector Appointment Resolution to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board agenda for approval.

EARNED INCOME TAX COLLECTOR RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Earned Income Tax Collector Resolution to be placed on the November 18, 2010 Board agenda for approval. The early adoption of this resolution will reduce the rated paid for collections

NON-CONSENT

None.

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

Dr. Lindley reported that progress is being made to resolve these policies.

3. Policy 3603: Retirement Benefits, 2nd Reading

Dr. Spargana reviewed this policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hylton reviewed the recommended revisions to Policy 006 Section 5c: Reports. He outlined the thinking behind submitting written committee reports prior to a Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Written reports tend to be more concise, precise.
- The process helps to think more logically.
- Written reports can be reviewed under optimal circumstances.
- Written reports can be shared via email.
- Written reports memorialize information for future reference.
- Written reports promote more professional and expeditious meetings.

Mrs. Pargeon voiced her concerns regarding how concise and quick the Board would like the meetings to be and the difficulty to reduce various reports she pulls from to two pages. She suggested that written reports would stifle discussion. Mrs. Pargeon requested that this policy be placed under Non-Consent at the applicable voting meeting.

INFORMATION

1. High School Parent Conference Summary

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth asked the Board to consider the impact on student performance when contemplating reductions in Personnel. She expressed the need to come up with creative ideas on how to meet the budget without affecting the students.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mrs. Wilson provided results of a recent energy conversation report for Rupert Elementary. She reported a significant reduction in kilowatt usage. Mrs. Wilson expressed interest in reports from all the schools within the district.

Mrs. Pargeon reminded the Board of upcoming events in the district.

Mr. Hartman talked about budget issues being the same in other districts. He suggested a merger with Pottsgrove School District should be explored. Mr. Hartman express his concern with cutting teaching staff and possible program cuts.

Mrs. Weand thanked Maureen Rieger and Mark Agnew for taking the opportunity to educate their students on voting and how the polling works.

Dr. Sparagana spoke about American Education Week and presented a flyer for a Parent Workshop on Early Childhood Literacy.

Dr. Lindley provided an update on PAID. He focused on the key points including the transition process of developing a legally functioning Board and Executive Committee. He outlined the overall economic development strategies and projects that represent the initial priorities for the community. Dr. Lindley asked the Board President to coordinate a joint meeting of the School Board and the Borough.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss asked each Board Member to email their available dates to him to coordinate a meeting with the Borough as asked by Dr. Lindley concerning economic development. He acknowledged that this budget year will be a tough year. Mr. Huss encouraged all members to email their suggestions and ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourns. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary