MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

November 13, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 7:34 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President, Mr. Richard Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent was Mr. Robert Hartman. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Assistant Business Manager, Mrs. Penny O'Donnell; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Decker, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mr. Aram Ecker, Mr. Philip Thees, a member of the press and interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on October 16, 2008 be approved as presented.

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

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 30, 2008 be approved as presented.

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

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the list of bills be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-2009-30.

October 10, 2008 to October 23, 2008

- Athletic Activities Fund totaling $39,521.97
- General Fund totaling $476,848.47

October 24, 2008 to November 13, 2008

- Athletic Activities Fund totaling $74,236.37
- Data Processing Fund totaling $20,101.70

- Elementary Activities Fund totaling $1,972.10

- General Fund totaling $1,140,084.37

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Financial Report for the General Fund, including reports of receipts and expenditures for the month of October 2008, and the Tax Collector's Report for the month of October 2008 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-2009-31.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

AWARDS

None.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Thees addressed the Board regarding their decision on four schools. He asked the same question he had earlier this year, which was "Are we going to have an increase or decrease in operating expenses and an increase or decrease in staff?" He asked, since the Board decided to rule out five schools, is four schools better or worse, or is three schools the better way to go? He asked the Board to consider the hard economic times ahead and do what is right for the community. He hopes and prays the Board is focused on these financial questions.

Mr. Ecker stated he was a representative for concerned taxpayers and shared his dismay at the lack of attendance by the community. He expressed his concern over the seriousness of the economic situation. He stated many people who live in Pottstown are on fixed incomes and people are scared. He asked the Board to wait at least a year to see what happens. He feels it does not make sense to renovate at this point but to maintain the facilities. The Board will not be at fault if it decides to back off until next school year.

SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL

Two (2) Special Education One-on-One Classroom Assistants, initial locations to be determined, $13.19/hr.

Resignations

Professional

Steven Palladino, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective October 15, 2008, employed since January 29, 2007.

Paula Koren, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective June 10, 2008, employed since September 14, 2004.

Leah Mast, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective November 11, 2008, employed since February 22, 2008.

Co-curricular

Stefanie George, Pottstown Middle School, resignation as Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach, effective October 16, 2008.

Administration

Kurt D. Adam, Director of Career and Technology Education, Pottstown High School, resignation received November 13, 2008, effective date to be determined, employed since November 12, 2007.

Changes in Position and/or Salary

Michael Novia, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, effective September 29, 2008, $190/day, coverage for Mindy Bodolus.

David Woodley, from Special Substitute Teacher to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown High School, effective November 3, 2008, $190/day, coverage for Frank Dakota.

Leaves

Professional

Hannah Koch, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective October 20, 2008, end date to be determined.

Desiree Schwoyer, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective January 1, 2009, to approximately March 30, 2009.

Exempt

Jamie Vigliotta, Occupational Therapist, Administration Annex, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective April 1, 2009 through June 1, 2009.

Classified

Rosemarion Bolognese, request for intermittent leave of absence, the first 12 weeks covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective January 19, 2009 through January 19, 2010.

Christina Willett, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence, effective October 27, 2008 through January 5, 2009.

Change in Job Title and Classification

Laurie Kolka, from Curriculum Integration Specialist, Exempt job classification, to Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, Act 93 job classification, effective November 14, 2008, no change in salary.

Elections

Professional

Karen L. Maxfield, Special Substitute Teacher, effective date to be determined, $100/day.

Classified

Amy Nagle, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective October 20, 2008, $12.20/hr. This is in addition to her position as a Student Proctor, Pottstown Middle School.

Annette Braunsberg, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective October 7, 2008, $12.20/hr. This is in addition to her position as a Substitute Food Service Worker.

Vanessa Cronin, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective September 29, 2008, $12.20/hr. This is in addition to her position as a Substitute Food Service Worker.

Norma Diane Wise, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective October 7, 2008, $12.20/hr. This is in addition to her position as a Substitute Food Service Worker.

Doris Ziolkowski, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective October 7, 2008, $12.20/hr. This is in addition to her position as a Substitute Food Service Worker.

Doris Ziolkowski, Lunch Program Aide, Barth Elementary School, effective October 24, 2008, replacing Patricia Ambler. This is in addition to her position as Substitute Breakfast Aide and a Substitute Food Service Worker. Hourly rate is based upon hours worked, as per the Part-time Food Service Employee Guidelines.

Charles Glackin, Substitute Van Assistant, effective October 20, 2008. This is in addition to his position as a Substitute Van Driver, $11.52/hour.

Charles Charlton, Substitute Van Assistant, effective October 20, 2008. This is in addition to his position as a Substitute Van Driver, $11.52/hour.

Duke Kinckiner, Substitute Van Assistant, effective October 20, 2008. This is in addition to his position as a Substitute Van Driver, $11.52/hour.

Thomas Orlando, Substitute Van Assistant, effective October 20, 2008. This is in addition to his position as a Substitute Van Driver, $11.52/hour.

Philip Thees, Substitute Van Assistant, effective October 20, 2008. This is in addition to his position as a Substitute Van Driver, $11.52/hour.

Holly E. Newman, Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective November 17, 2008, $13.19/hour, replacing James Murray.

Exempt

Sue A. Yocum, Grant Administrator/Resource Specialist, Administration Building, effective November 10, 2008. Funded through the Pottstown Mental Health Linkage Grant until October 15, 2009, $56,250/yr. New Position, includes responsibilities of previous Resource Development Specialist.

Homebound Instruction

Theresa Dundon, Pottstown High School, effective October 8, 2008 through November 12, 2008, not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Pottstown Elementary After School Tutoring
All salaries paid through EAP and 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Terica	Andrews	Security	Substitute	$15/hr.

Pottstown High School After School Tutoring
All salaries paid through 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Lisa	Levengood	Tutor	Pottstown High School	$29/hr.

Peak Professional Development Program
All salaries paid through United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania Grant, not to exceed $5,000 and Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Grant, not to exceed $10,000. Professional development program for teachers asked to participate, effective through the 2008-2009 school year, $29.00/hour.

Change in Co-curricular List for 2008-2009 School Year

Bill Beyer, change Middle School Assistant Football Coach co-curricular responsibilities and stipend from half to full, $2,248.00

Additions to the Co-curricular List for 08-09

BLDG	CATEGORY	08-09 RECOMMENDATION	LEVEL	SALARY
HS	Head Girls Basketball Coach – Freshman Team	Lanin Martin-Brandon	1	$2,655.00
HS	Head Boys Basketball Coach – Freshman Team	Lavert Hughes	3	$3,760.00

2008-2009 District Music Accompanists

Christopher Sperat
Robin Ward

Horizontal Salary Movements
* denotes salaries including the $400 Special Education stipend

fname	lname	bldg	from	step	old salary	to	step	new salary
Marie	Anders	Edgewood Elementary School	B	4.11	43,097	B+15	4.11	43,788
Nicola	Alutius	Barth Elementary School	M+15	14	67,127	M+30	14	74,284
Andrea	Barlow	Pottstown Middle School	B	1.63	42,212	B+15	1.63	42,821
Stacey	Bauman	Rupert Elementary School	B+15	5	44,264	M	5	45,838
Jason	Bergey	Pottstown Middle School	B	6	44,454*	B+15	6	45,205*
Stephanie	Blanchard	Pottstown Middle School	B+15	6.35	45,022*	M	6.35	47,001*
Jill	Bolonski	Lincoln Elementary School	B+15	9.71	48,163	M	9.71	50,326
Scott	Braunsberg	Pottstown High School	M	12	53,750	M+15	12	56,733
Rita	Burkhimer	Pottstown Middle School	M+15	15	74,348	M+30	15	79,298
Regina	Collins	Pottstown Middle School	B+15	5	44,264	M	5	45,838
Denice	DeAntonio	Pottstown High School	B+15	9	47,332	M	9	49,296

Jeffrey	Delaney	Pottstown High School	M	10	50,746	M+15	10	52,471
Brooke	Dunlap-Martin	Barth Elementary School	B	5	29,595	B+15	5	30,100
Bernard	Gallagher	Pottstown High School	B+15	12	50,783	M	12	53,750
Stefanie	George	Pottstown Middle School	B+15	5	44,264	M	5	45,838
Jane	Hospador	Franklin Elementary School	B+15	10	48,503	M	10	50,746
Andrea	Hunsberger	Barth Elementary School	M+15	20.7	83,629	M+30	20.7	85,799
Michael	Koman	Lincoln Elementary School	B+15	5	44,264	M	5	45,838
Denise	Kuleski	Pottstown Middle School	B+15	8	46,079	M	8	48,032
Heather	Kurtz	Lincoln Elementary School	B+15	15.22	66,800	M	15.22	73,745
Mary Ellen	Lammey	Barth Elementary School	M	6	46,332	M+15	6	48,352
Laura	Luzeski	Pottstown High School	B+15	5	44,264	M	5	45,838
Danielle	McCoy	Pottstown High School	M	8	48,032	M+15	8	49,490
Sara	Miller	Pottstown High School	B+15	7.91	46,020	M	7.91	47,948
Hayley	Mutter	Barth Elementary School	B	3	43,039*	B+15	3	43,707*
Jill	Pinder	Barth Elementary School	B	3	42,369	B+15	3	43,307
Jayne	Pollock	Franklin Elementary School	M	19.58	81,042	M+15	19.58	83,629
Karen	Seeman	Lincoln Elementary School	M	18.34	81,442*	M+15	18.34	84,029*
Erica	Testa	Pottstown Middle School	B+15	6	44,805	M	6	46,332
Stacey	VanDruff	Lincoln Elementary School	B+15	8	46,079	M	8	48,032

Approval of JROTC Salaries

50% funded by USAF, 50% funded by District. Salaries determined by ROTC program.

Major Joseph Fitz-Patrick, JROTC Instructor, effective January 1, 2008, $80,373.12.

Mst. Sgt. Donald MacNeil, JROTC Asst. Instructor, effective January 1, 2008, $64,193.16

Employee Disciplinary Action

Pottstown High School employee, five (5) days of unpaid leave, effective October 31, 2008 to November 6, 2008.

403 (b) PLAN

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 430(b) plan as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-2009-32.

1. 403(b) Plan Resolution
2. 403(b) Plan Adoption Agreement
3. 403(b) Plan
4. 403(b) Plan Consulting Service Agreement

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Middle Admin. High	Ginger Laurie Scott Ed	Angelo Kolka Braunsberg Ott	PSTA Annual Conference	Hershey, PA	12/4/08-12/5/08	Approx. $2435.00 Paid for by Project 720 Grant

FIELD TRIPS

# of students and/or group	Name of conference or activity	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to student	Cost to district-substitutes	Chaperone(s)
12 Sr. High	Syracuse Univ. & Niagara Univ.	Syracuse NY & Niagara, NY	11/15/08 – 11/18/08	$225.00	$180.00	Greg Troutman & Mrs. Buck (parent)
6 – 12 Sr. High	PA FCCLA State Leadership Conference	Lancaster, PA	3/18/08 – 3/20/08	$250.00 - $275.00	$540.00	Larry Fortunato & Jackie Wilder
100 Sr. High	Walt Disney World Parade Performance	Orlando, FL	4/4/08 – 4/7/08	$869.00	None	Mike Vought, Terence Anderson, Band Parents: Debi Schiery, Debbie Baldwin, Andrea Coccie, Denise Kemmerer, Pete Kemmerer, Sue Kennedy, Paul Kolbmann, Rita Limbert, Todd Limbert
12-18 Sr. High	High School Science Field Trip	Grand Canyon, Colorado River, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, & Hoover Dam.	3/2/09 – 3/9/09	$1700.00	$1080.00	Scott Braunsberg, Sara Miller

SUBSTITUTE TAX COLLECTOR APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Substitute Tax Collector Appointment Resolution as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-2009-33.

COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATES LLC CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Communication Associates LLC Contract as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-2009-34.

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

NON-CONSENT

None.

POLICIES

1. Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy (1st reading)

   Mrs. O'Donnell asked the Board to review the 1st reading of the Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy with a 2nd reading to be presented at the December Committee of the Whole Meeting.

2. Public Records Policy (1st reading)

   Mrs. O'Donnell asked the Board to review the 1st reading of the Public Records Policy with a 2nd reading to be presented at the December Committee of the Whole Meeting.

3. Pottstown Middle School Student Uniform Dress Policy

   Due to apparel worn by students in the colder weather, Mrs. Francis stated the need to clarify the uniform dress policy for all middle school students.

INFORMATION

1. Pottstown High School Parent Conference Summary – Mr. Krem
2. WPAZ Educational Forum – Mr. Armato
3. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers – Dr. Lindley
4. American Education Week Letter – Mr. Armato
5. PEAK Update: November 2008 – Mrs. Reick
6. PCTV Spotlighting Pottstown School District Program – Mrs. Armato
7. IT Department Update: August/September 2008 – Mrs. Wolfe
8. 2009 School Board Meeting Dates – Mrs. Adams
9. Conditional Use Application (Community Day Care Center) – Mrs. Adams

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Independence Blue Cross Contract

   Mrs. O'Donnell stated that the district is still waiting for a contract and said a memo from the MCIU was sent to IBC with further questions and they are waiting for their response.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE.

THE MEETING RECONVENED AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:34 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

2. Elementary Building Construction Discussion

At the request of the Board, Mr. Hal Hart from Crabtree Rohrbaugh Architects, presented the latest numbers on the cost of doing bare minimum code upgrades to all five of the elementary schools. He presented handouts to the Board, which showed a Scope of Work for each building and the bottom line cost. The figures did not show a significant savings between renovating four schools and updating the mechanicals at all five elementary buildings. This revelation prompted discussion between Board members to decide what was in the best interest of our students and our taxpayers.

After extensive discussion concerning the costs associated with the various options presented, the Board decided to move forward.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board proceed in taking the steps necessary to convert Edgewood Elementary School to an Early Childhood Learning Center and that Lincoln and Franklin Elementary Schools be renovated to accommodate the remaining grades one through five.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Huss: aye; Pargeon: aye; Wausnock: nay; White: nay; Wilson: aye; Zahora: aye. Ayes: six. Nays: two. Absent: one. Motion carried.

Mr. Kalis reminded the Board that it now has two conflicting resolutions regarding the school district's elementary schools configuration and that one of the options should be rescinded by formal Board action.

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that Board rescind its decision on pursuing the four-school option as adopted at the Board's October 16, 2008 Board Meeting.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Huss: aye; Pargeon: aye; Wausnock: nay; White: nay; Wilson: aye; Zahora: aye. Ayes: six. Nays: two. Absent: one. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board combine the administration staff, the annex staff and the alternative education classes in one building utilizing either Rupert or Barth Elementary Schools.

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

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker stated what a wonderful discussion he witnessed this evening. He is thrilled and excited as the Board moves forward to make the Pottstown School District nationally recognized. He thanked the Board for investing their time and mental energies towards the decision made tonight.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. White asked for the Board's input for PSBA's legislative objectives and asked that suggestions be emailed to him.

Mr. Huss thanked Mr. Hart.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 PM.

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Penny O'Donnell, Substitute School Board Secretary