POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Tuesday, March 18, 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, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michelle Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent: Mrs. Amy Francis and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley, Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams, Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Administrators and staff; Mr. John Armato, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Connie Belin, Mrs. Karen Brown, Mrs. Martha Coulter, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mrs. Treena Ferguson, Mrs. Diana Hofmanner, Mrs. Kathy Marcheck, Mrs. Aileen Rohe, Mrs. Denise Schleicher, members of the community and a member of the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on February 21, 2008 be approved.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Board of School Directors and Borough Council held on February 28, 2008 be approved.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: none. Absent: two. 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 March 6, 2008 be approved.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Edwards: aye; Mr. Hartman: aye; Mr. Huss: aye; Mrs. Pargeon: aye; Mr. Wausnock: aye; Mr. White: aye; Mrs. Wilson: Abstain.
Ayes: six. Nays: none. Abstain: one. Absent: two. Motion carried.

MRS. FRANCIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:38 PM.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Hartman presented the list of bills from February 15, 2008 to February 28, 2008 for the Athletic Fund totaling $3,385.73 and the General Fund totaling $971,964.49 and the list of bills from February 29, 2008 to March 13, 2008 for the Athletic Fund totaling $11,932.75, the Cafeteria Fund totaling $167,049.39, the Data Processing Fund totaling $50, 072.85, the Elementary Activities Fund totaling $1,200.69, the General Fund totaling $501,873.12 and recommended the board approve the bills as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-073.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the list of bills for February 15, 2008 to February 28, 2008 be approved as presented.

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

Mr. Hartman presented the amended list of bills from February 1, 2008 to February 14, 2008 for the General Fund only, totaling $350,329.39 and recommended the board approve as amended and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-074.

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Huss that the list of bills for February 1, 2008 to February, 2008 be approved as amended.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hartman presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2008 showing a balance in the General Fund of $13,797,051.30 and a balance in all funds of $15,275,138.24, the List of Bills paid from the various funds for February, and the Tax Collector's Report for February 2008 and recommended the board approve the reports as presented and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-075.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the February reports be approved as presented.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Krem read aloud the letter presented to the board from Mr. Doug Slick regarding the impending school uniform policy.

AWARDS

Dr. Angela Tuck, principal of Edgewood Elementary School, presented the following students who received writing awards:

Kindergarten – Keith Surman
First Grade – Jordan White
Second Grade – Steven Hewitt
Third Grade – Sara Levengood
Fourth Grade – Korin Baldwin
Fifth Grade – Kordaya Brown

Mrs. Kathy Marcheck, a First Grade Teacher, had each student come to the microphone and read their award-winning writings. Mr. Richard Huss, School Board President, presented each winner with a medal.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

THE BOARD DID NOT CONVEIN FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MRS. ZAHORA ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8:07 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Hartman voiced his concern for the unnecessary need to have committee reports as they were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier in the month. Mrs. Francis and Mr. White agreed with Mr. Hartman.

Mrs. Pargeon asked to use this opportunity to voice her opinion on revisiting Committee of the Whole meetings all together. She feels the meetings are counter productive and inhibit business moving forward. Mr. Edwards agreed with Mrs. Pargeon. Mr. Huss called for a straw vote to not have committee reports at the Regular Voting meetings and to continue having Committee of the Whole meetings.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Edwards: nay; Mr. Hartman: aye; Mr. Huss: aye; Mrs. Pargeon: nay; Mr. Wausnock: aye; Mr. White: aye; Mrs. Wilson: aye; Mrs. Zahora: aye.

Ayes: seven. Nays: two. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Professional

Harry P. Freeman, Floater Substitute Teacher, resignation effective February 25, 2008, employed since January 9, 2008.

Elizabeth Brewer, Special Substitute Teacher, resignation effective March 10, 2008, employed since August 22, 2007.

Laura Goldstein, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, termination effective March 14, 2008, employed since February 1, 2008.

Co-Curricular

Anita M. Scaltrito, resignation as Student Council Co-Advisor, Pottstown Middle School, effective the beginning of the 07-08 school year.

Classified

Kristi Witzel, Title I Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary School, resignation effective March 19, 2008, employed since May 29, 2005.

N. Diane Wise, Breakfast Aide and Playground Aide, Barth Elementary School, resignation effective March 28, 2008, employed since August 25, 1997.

Donna Pifer, Special Education Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation effective March 10, 2008, employed since March 3, 2008

LEAVES

Professional

Kari Kindig, Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, request for an extension of childrearing leave of absence, effective through March 28, 2008.

Evelyn Dudonis, Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for professional development sabbatical, effective the first semester of the 2008–2009 school year.

Maureen Russell, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for medical leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 10, 2008 through April 21, 2008.

Jennifer Eidle, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for intermittent family and medical leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 26, 2008.

Elisabeth Yoder, Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, request for medical leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 25, 2008 through April 1, 2008.

Jamie Harle, Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School, request to extend childrearing leave of absence to April 1, 2008.

Classified

Art Heist, Custodian, Pottstown Middle School, request for medical leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 1, 2008, end date to be determined.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Leah A. Mast, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective February 22, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Tanisha N. Wilcox, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective March 4, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Joseph G. Bussman, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective March 4, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Stuart R. Schwarzer, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective March 4, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Classified

Philip A. Thees, Substitute Custodian, effective January 23, 2008, $11.13/hour.

Patricia A. Boyer, Title I Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 3, 2008, 12.74/hour, replacing Katherine Moyer.

CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Program:
All salaries paid through Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation

William Parks	Coordinator and Instructor	$29/hour
Hayley Mutter	Instructor	$29/hour
Jaime Stringer	Instructor	$29/hour
Jane Thompson	Instructor	$29/hour
Joshua Pierce	Instructor	$29/hour
James Martinez	Instructor	$29/hour
Tom Medvetz	Instructor	$29/hour
Anne Frederick	Nutrition Educator	$29/hour
Karen Dilliplane	Nutrition Educator	$29/hour

Donna S. Pifer, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective March 3, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Kathrin Evans.

Jorene G. Ivkovich, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary School, effective February 25, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Allen Alexander.

Mary J. Wilkes, Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective March 3, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Richard Havyer.

Susan K. Mickletz, Breakfast Aide, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary School, effective March 3, 2008, $11.79/hour, replacing Tracy Groff-Camacho.

21st Century Middle School after School Tutoring Program
All salaries paid through 21st Century Grant

Matthew Blute, Tutor, $29/hour

Homebound Instruction

Jennifer Mitchell-Winterbottom, Pottstown Middle School, effective February 25, 2008 through April 18, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Continuation of Homebound Instruction

Frank Dakota, Pottstown High School, effective March 17, 2008 through April 25, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour

21st Century and EAP Community Learning Centers
All salaries paid through 21st Century and EAP Community Learning Center Grants

Evelyn Blair-Miller, Tutor, $29/hour
Jamie Fazekas, Tutor, $29/hour

Co-Curricular

Ann McDonnell, Mentor for Kimberley Valentine, Barth Elementary School, effective January 14, 2008, $258.15 (98 days).

Kelley Eroh, Mentor for Vanessa Unger, Edgewood Elementary School, effective February 25, 2008, $189.66 (72 days).

Denise Schleicher, Mentor for Meghan Walsh, Edgewood Elementary School, effective January 10, 2008, $263.42 (100 days).

Amelia Spatz, Mentor for Leon Kanopka, Franklin Elementary School, effective February 1, 2008, $223.91 (85 days).

BLDG	CATEGORY	EMPLOYEE	LEVEL	SALARY
PHS	Baseball - Head Coach	Todd Williams	3	4,493.00
PHS	Lacrosse - Asst. Coach	Brandy McPherson	3	3,139.00
PHS	Lacrosse - Head Coach	Andy Bachman	4	4,718.00
PHS	Softball - Asst. Coach	Randy Blackwell	1	2,271.00
PHS	Softball - Head Coach	Adam Neil	3	4,493.00
PHS	Track - Asst. Coach	Ryan Oxenford	3	3,139.00
PHS	Track - Asst. Coach	Mark Agnew	3	3,139.00
PHS	Track/Boys - Head Coach	MaryAnn Hill	5	4,942.00
PHS	Track/Girls - Head Coach	Elaine Ellison	5	4,942.00
PMS	Baseball - Head Coach	Carl Sundstrum	4	2,900.00

PMS	Lacrosse - Asst. Coach	Natalie Wright	1	1,363.00
PMS	Lacrosse - Head Coach	Isetta Hewlett	4	2,900.00

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

Eileen Undorfer	Coordinator and Instructor	$29/hour
Vincent Burke	Instructor	$29/hour
Jolie Martinez	Instructor	$29/hour
Jennifer Wiand	Instructor	$29/hour
Laura Luzeski	Instructor	$29/hour
Rebecca Carey	Instructor	$29/hour
Robert Decker	Instructor	$29/hour

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Support Staff

Britney Haring, Rupert Elementary School, $860.00.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Lisa Schade, from Coordinator of Integrated Technology Projects to Transportation Supervisor/Communications Coordinator, effective March 10, 2008, replaces Kathy Rhoads, $52,000/yr.

Sally Jenkins, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher to Floater Substitute Teacher, effective March 10, 2008, compensation to remain the same.

Melissa Griffaton, from Title I Classroom Assistant to Per Diem Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 10, 2008. Coverage for Maureen Russell, minimum of 6 wks, not to exceed the end of the 07-08 school year, $110/day.

Lisa Levengood, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Floater Substitute Teacher, effective March 17, 2008, replaces Harry Freeman, $186/day.

Kathleen Perry, from School Nurse to Full-time Early Childhood Health Specialist, Administration, effective date to be determined, replacing Sandra Leh, $60,000/year.

Act 93/Exempt Salary Corrections

Krista Trainer, Psychologist, salary was incorrectly listed and approved at the February 21, 2008 School Board Meeting. Her salary should be $64,370.16.

Jeffrey White, Director of Co-curricular Activities, salary was incorrectly listed and approved at the February 21, 2008 School Board Meeting. His salary should be $75,930.00.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Admin.	Jessica	Heffner	PASPA Conference	Harrisburg, PA	2/27/08 – 2/29/08	Approx. $592.00 paid by district
High School	Kurt	Adams	Chapter 339 Review Team	Carlisle, PA	3/11/08 – 3/13/08	All costs paid by PDE
Admin.	Denise Jeanne	Coleman Wentzel	52nd Educational Office Professionals Conference	State College, PA	4/16/08 – 4/18/08	Approx. $1062.00 paid by district
Edgewood	Angela	Tuck	PASA Women's Caucus "Leading Through Change"	Hershey, PA	4/30/08 – 5/2/08	Approx. $787.00 paid by district
Annex	Pamela	Bateson	Pa. Assoc. of Pupil Services Admin.	Lancaster	4/16/08 – 4/18/08	Approx. $861.00 paid by district
Barth Franklin Admin.	Robert Karen Karen	Giering Neitz Shaner	PAFPC Annual Conference	Hershey, PA	4/13/08 – 4/16/08	Approx. $2185.00 paid by district (Title I budget)

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)
10 High School students	HOSA State Leadership Conference	Lancaster, PA	4/9/08 – 4/12/08	$250.00 (fundraising)	$270.00	Denice DeAntonio & Major Fitz-Patrick
1 High School student	Skills USA State Competition	Hershey, PA	4/2/08 – 4/4/08		$1221.68 $270.00	Miles Feather & Mrs. Child
2 High School students	DECA National Competition	Atlanta, GA	4/25/08 – 4/30/08		$3823.45 $360.00	Kevin Pascal & Mrs. Kenline
1 High School student	DECA National Competition	Atlanta, GA	4/25/08 – 4/30/08	$1131.69		Kevin Pascal & Mrs. Kenline

Resolution: Senate Bill 777 (Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Law)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a Resolution in support of Senate Bill 777, which will allow the district to choose their delinquent tax collector as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-076.

Arbitration Settlement Agreement

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the arbitration settlement agreement involving the Federation of Pottstown Teachers on behalf of a Middle School employee and to recommend the board approve as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-077.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that consent items A to E be approved as presented by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

NON-CONSENT

MCIU Board of Directors Nomination

The Superintendent recommends the Board nominate and elect a representative to serve on the MCIU Board of Directors for three years beginning the first day of July following such an election. The representative's term shall run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

Mrs. Zahora made a motion to nominate Mr. Hartman as the representative and it was seconded by Mr. Edwards. Mr. Huss asked for another nomination and when none was offered, the nominations were closed.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Edwards: aye; Mrs. Francis: aye; Mr. Hartman: Abstain; Mr. Huss: aye; Mrs. Pargeon: aye; Mr. Wausnock: aye; Mr. White: aye; Mrs. Wilson: aye; Mrs. Zahora: aye.

Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Abstain: one. Motioned carried.

Graduation Competency Assessments Resolution

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a Resolution in support of the PSBA position on graduation competency assessments, as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-078.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the board approve the agreement as presented.

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

School Uniforms

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the recommendation of the Uniform Committee to make mandatory the previously implemented voluntary school uniform guidelines to be effective for all kindergarten through grade eight students for the 2008-2009 school year.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the board approve making the school uniform guidelines mandatory for kindergarten through eigth grade in the 2008-2009 school year.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Pargeon: aye; Mr. Wausnock: aye; Mr. White: aye; Mrs. Wilson: aye; Mrs. Zahora: nay; Mr. Edwards: aye; Mrs. Francis: aye; Mr. Hartman: nay; Mr. Huss: nay.

Ayes: six. Nays: three. Motioned carried.

Contract Agreements

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contract agreements as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-079.

1. Opportunities School Tuition Contract
2. Pottsgrove School District Transportation Contract
3. CMD Services, Inc. Transportation Contract
4. Pediatric Services of America Provider Contract

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the board approve the agreements as presented.

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

INFORMATION

1. PSBA Conferences for Board Members
2. PEAK Update
3. Conference for Administrators, Supervisors and Teachers
4. Graduation Competency Assessments from the Secretary of Education
5. Spotlighting Pottstown School District
6. Ricketts Center 13th Annual Heritage Program

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Zahora stated she was not happy to see the Curriculum/Instruction Focus for 2008-2009 listed as unfinished business since the committee had made their request known after Dr. Lindley's presentation at the Committee of the Whole's straw vote and expected it to be brought to a vote tonight. Mr. Huss felt more clarification was necessary before voting. Dr. Lindley re-stated the information for implementation of the Step by Step program.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Step by Step concept be approved as a long term program.

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

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Marcheck thanked the school board for bringing back the presentation of writing awards to the meetings and for re-arranging the meeting to accommodate the spring break and the availability of teachers and parents.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Hartman congratulated the Edgewood students and staff to have them read in front of the board. He reminded the members to contact Nicole at the high school office for their dinner choice for next Thursday's Career & Technology dinner which will begin at 6:00 PM. He thanked all for coming out this evening.

Mrs. Zahora wanted to know if we were going to do something for Dale Mahle when she specifically requested that nothing be done.

Mr. Edwards wished everyone a safe and Happy Easter.

Mrs. Pargeon stated that two of the schools listed on the recommendation list that Dr. Lindley shared were two charter schools. After reading an article in Sound Off, she felt compelled to respond. Home schooling is not the answer, not to provide lunches or breakfast is not the right approach as there are students who would not eat if those meals were not provided and these same children do not have computers at home. She then wished everyone a Happy Easter, to drive carefully and she is looking forward to the 12th.

Mrs. Wilson shared that having the kids here tonight is the reason why we are here. The difficult discussions tonight were necessary and it would have been an injustice not to give all students what is needed to succeed.

Mr. Krem wished everyone a Happy Easter Break and thanked the board for their continued support.

Dr. Sparagana congratulated the board for trusting the teachers to address 100% of the students while giving them the tools necessary to address the 44% not meeting reading standards. He thanks them for their courageous decision.

Mr. Huss thanked the Federation for their hard work. He enjoyed listening to the children and was pleased to see the parents and grandparents smiling faces and the sense of pride they must feel. He asked the board if they were interested in recognizing birthdays and having cake at the end of each meeting and it was decided that meetings run too late to have cake at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the board adjourn. All members present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

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Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary