POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 – 7:30 PM

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, September 4, 2008, at 7:39 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Julia Wilson, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent was Mr. Nat White. Also present were Superintendent of Schools, David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solictor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Jeffrey White, Mr. Robert Decker, a member of the press and interested citizens.

AWARDS
No awards.

MINUTES
Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of August 21, 2008 to be approved at the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting. No changes or comments were suggested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Personnel Committee
Mr. Wausnock stated the committee will not meet next Tuesday, September 9, 2008, and there is no report at this time.

Finance Committee
Mrs. Zahora stated the committee will not meet next Thursday, September 11, 2008, and there is no report at this time.

Mrs. Zahora stated she would like to have an Executive Session after the meeting to address Personnel matters.

Facilities Committee
Mr. Hartman stated the committee will not meet next Monday, September 8, 2008. He reported that the High School Basement is being used for storage at this time due to radon testing. The storage building has not begun but the Waste Water Management Plan has been submitted. The concession stand has been pushed back due to the modular classrooms.

He shared that Mrs. Adams is looking to update the use of facilities and their rental fees. Mrs. Adams would like to have each committee prepare capital expenditures by September 30, 2008, to prepare next year's budget. One of the capital expenditures being considered is the middle school and high school's phone systems. They need to be updated and compatible with the elementary school's phone system. Mrs. Wolfe is looking into this.

Mr. Hartman informed the Board with the current status of the modular classrooms. The modular classrooms located at Barth have electric and will be inspected tomorrow. Handicap signs for Barth's modular classrooms will be picked up and in place before tomorrow's inspection. The other locations should be inspected within the next two weeks.

We are working with ASG Security to bring our school buildings security project to completion. The new modular classrooms extended the completion date.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee
No report.

PSBA Representative
No report.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
Mr. Hartman indicated he was unable to attend the meeting and has no report.

Community Relations Committee
Mrs. Wilson indicated that a meeting was held this evening prior to the Board meeting. She asked Mr. Armato to highlight the committee's progress. Mr. Armato reported the following:

- We are partnering with Vanguard for the following initiatives:
    1. Vanguard will prove 30 volunteers on Saturday, September 13, 2008, at Barth elementary to paint and landscape the modular classrooms
    2. 10th Grade Economics Class literacy partnering with Vanguard to promote economic literacy
    3. College access programming for the high school partnering with Vanguard
- Athletic Facilities Grant is being worked on with Mr. Steve Parks
- The Doo-Wop Concert sponsored by Mr. Tom Coyle with proceeds going to the PIPPS Foundation
- Pottstown Girls Field Hockey Team had two consecutive wins at the Oxford tournament making them the champions
- Alumni Troy Nixon, an independent film maker, received the highest award possible in the field of independent films

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project
Mrs. Pargeon reported that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2008, was cancelled and there is no report.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported the committee met last week and some members were unable to attend. He shared Varsity fall sports have started. There are 18 girls and 20 boys on the soccer team which eliminates the initial fear of not having enough students interested for separate teams. The Boys Middle School team has just gotten their coaches and the season is moving.

Mr. Hartman stated that a medical practice in Douglassville offers physicals at a cost of $25.00 per student for the year. Mrs. Zahora questioned if physicals were being offered at the schools as in years past. Mr. White clarified that Dr. Cooper, who charges $10 per physical, was at the schools in June and July and yesterday for make-up physicals. The medical practice being utilized in Douglassville is only a back-up for students failing to attend on the days Dr. Cooper was present.

Mr. Hartman stated that Mr. White is working on a five-year equipment replacement plan. Mr. White is in the process of getting a batting cage for the gymnasium which will have the ability to be hoisted out of the way during off season.

Mr. Hartman gave a report on the condition of the wrestling mats. The committee recommends the Board consider spending no more than $25,000 to replace the 25 year old mat and possibly the seven year old mat and would like the matter to become a consent item at the next board meeting. Mr. Armato gave a thorough report on the safety and health reasons why the mats need immediate attention. The Athletic Department would like to see the 25 year old mat replaced before the start of this year's season. Mrs. Francis would like to see the wrestling mat replacements scheduled in the budget. Mrs. Adams said Mr. White will incorporate the second mat into his five-year equipment replacement plan.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mrs. Francis stated the committee is pleased with the results and everyone looks fantastic. The committee is very pleased with principals, administration, staff, parents and students for stepping up. Last week we saw more than 90% student participation and today's was 95.7%. Mrs. Francis also reported that the committee is working with the Cluster to provide uniforms for students in need. The Cluster receives money from donations and not taxpayers dollars. The Cluster is meeting with the Chamber and is preparing letters to area pastors. The Cluster would like to see two sets of uniforms provided to students in the need to be used for the spring and fall. Schuylkill Valley Sporting Goods was the first donor. They have offered generous discounts and have agreed to store the uniforms. The high school uniform committee now consists of 58 students and they will be meeting some time in September.

The committee has prepared three letters to clarify uniform issues:

1. Letter to Parents/Guardians and students thanking them for their support of the uniforms
2. Letter to individuals attempting to comply with the new policy but explaining clear parameters
3. Letter to be emailed to District Staff for their support of the new uniform policy

Principals provided their positive comments in support of uniforms. Everyone was in agreement that the students looked great.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
No report.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
No report.

LIST OF BILLS
Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be approved at the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS
Personnel
Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting agenda for approval. Dr. Sparagana also reported that the elementary enrollment was 31 students ahead of this date last year. Mrs. Zahora would like to know the comparison for last year. Dr. Sparagana shared we started with 1606 in September of 2007 and ended with 1623 students in June 2008.

Professional Leave
Dr. Lindley asked the Board to allow him to attend the Acellus School Administrator Conference in Kansas City, MO. He explained that although we are not in the market to purchase new software, we are always looking for ways to reduce the cost of Alternative Education. This company is willing to pay for the majority of the cost including air-fare. This conference will offer great information as the District considers the possibility of housing an Alternative Educational Cyber School.

Appointments/Certifications of Administrators/Supervisors for Rating Professional Staff 2008-2009
Mr. Krem reviewed the Appointments/Certifications of Administrators/Supervisors for Rating Professional Staff for 2008-2009 to be approved at the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting.

Special Education Contracts
Mrs. Adams presented contracts for special education services for the 2008-2009 year to be approved at the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting.

School Resource Officer
Mrs. Adams reviewed the School Resource Officer Agreement to be approved at the Regular September 18, 2008 Board meeting.

NON-CONSENT
No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
No report.

REPORTS
No report.

INFORMATION
1. Technology Update: June/July 2008 – Mrs. Wolfe
2. WPAZ Educational Forum– Mr. Armato
3. Invitation to Joint School Board/Borough Council Meeting – Mrs. Adams

FEDERATION REMARKS
Mr. Decker stated his remarks would be short and sweet. It was a great start to the new school year and we are excited. He thanked the Board for looking at a new phone system again.

ROUND TABLE
Mr. Hartman thanked all for coming. He was glad that everything went well regarding the uniforms as he was originally opposed to the idea. At the time, his concerns were the cost to the parents. He stated the students look great and the committee did a great job. He was glad the state changed PSSA testing back to the same time as last year. This way we have a year to prepare. He commended Kyle Richards, a high school student who's senior project was to re-do the court yard. He far exceeded any expectations.

Mrs. Zahora thanked everyone for a wonderful start of school. She thanked the uniform committee for making it happen after sixteen years.

Mrs. Pargeon stated the children beamed with pride on the first day of school when they were told how great they looked. She enjoyed last Fridays' football game and was amazed at how the marching band was able to make it all come together. She reminded the Board that there will be a lot of Open Houses coming up at the various schools.

Dr. Sparagana echoed sentiments of the Board and the Federation regarding the uniform piece. He believes that when you look good you perform better. He offered congratulations to the staff that make it happen everyday and commended the leadership at the building levels.

Dr. Lindley was happy to see instruction coming more in focus and he said he plans to update the Board on the Strategic Plan soon.

Mr. Krem commended the Board and "hats off" for working hard and collaborating with administration, teachers, parents and principals who are the driving force. He was thankful to the teaching and support staff for their willingness to dress in a style similar to our students. He stated the faculty and staff were not directed to do so.

Mr. Huss gave praise to the maintenance and custodial crew for their hard work this summer and their efforts on preparing the modular classrooms. He is pleased and happy with everything.

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the meeting adjourn. All members present voted aye. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary