POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, December 18, 2008, at 7:35 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Judyth Zahora presiding. The following board members were present: Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent were Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis and Mr. Dennis Wausnock. 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, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Cathy Marchek, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Rita Cohen, a member of the press and interested citizens,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 13, 2008 be approved as presented. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: six. Nays: none. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the minutes of the committee of the whole meeting held on December 4, 2008 be approved as presented. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: six. Nays: none. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the list of bills as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-037. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: six. Nays: none. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Huss that the Treasurer's Report for the month of November be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-038. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: six. Nays: none. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Krem read a letter to be sent to parents regarding the recent incident at the High School. Mr. Krem shared a letter from Shirley Schultz, a Barth parent, praising the call system.

AWARDS

Mr. Krem presented Mr. Hartman an award from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for his eight years of dedicated service.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Herman Sims stated he has only recently moved to the Pottstown area. He asked the Board to look into a program or curriculum to teach students the fundamentals of becoming quality human beings.

Mrs. Cynthia Wallace is concerned about the Boys and Girls Club taking over the Ricketts Center. She asked what the School Board has to do with Olivet. She also asked if the closing of Barth is for the whole school or is a partial closing.

Mr. Newstell Marable is also concerned with the closing of Barth Elementary. This will be a hardship on low-income families and would like to know the Board's reasons for closing Barth. He is also concerned with Olivet coming to Pottstown. He is under the impression that the Board has been working with Olivet for a long time. He feels the School Board is supposed to represent the entire community and feels the Board should not be acting as an advisor to Olivet. Mr. Krem stated that no district dollars are used to fund any Olivet program. The district only partners with Olivet through the 21st Century program at Bethel AMC and Empire Hook and Ladder for after school programs.

MRS. FRANCIS ENTERED AT 7:57 PM

SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approved the following items in accordance with 1120 and as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

NEW POSITIONS

Professional position

Special Education Teacher, this position will be a floating, co-teaching position, initial assignment to Barth and Rupert Elementary Schools, compensation in accordance with the Professional Agreement.

Exempt position

Student Services Case Manager, initial assignment to be Administration Annex building, salary range - $42, 040 to $44,165.

Classified position

Special Education One-on-One Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Pottstown Middle School, $13.19/hr.

Administrative position

Director of Development and Executive Director of PIPPS, Administration Building, contracted position (three-year term). Salary range $82,000 to $85,000, to be self-funded.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Exempt

Georgia A. Soley, School Psychologist, Rupert Elementary School, resignation effective December 5, 2008, employed since August 10, 2007.

Substitute Teacher

Erin M. Killinger, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective November 20, 2008, employed since September 12, 2008.

Lindsey N. Bullick, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective November 10, 2008, employed since August 22, 2007.

Professional

Joseph Snyder, Elementary Music Teacher, resignation accepted November 24, 2008, end date to be determined, employed since August 27, 2001.

Edward T. Ott, Science Teacher, Pottstown High School resignation effective date December 8, 2008, employed since August 27, 2001.

Classified

Denise Coleman, Executive Secretary to the Business Manager, Administration Building, resignation effective December 5, 2008, employed since August 27, 2007.

Gus Romahn, Custodian I, Pottstown High School, resignation effective December 5, 2008, employed since June 9, 2008.

Bianca Rhoades, Summer Clerical Intern, termination effective June 30, 3008, employed since June 13, 2007.

Dawn L. Choiniere, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School resignation effective December 8, 2008, employed since August 27, 2001.

Co-curricular

Ryan Oxenford, resignation as Assistant Track Coach, Pottstown High School, effective December 15, 2008.

LEAVES

Kristin Lafferty, Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective May 9, 2009 through the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Lorraine Donnelly, Guidance Counselor, Lincoln Elementary School, request for intermittent leave of absence, the first 12 weeks covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective November 3, 2008 through the end of the 08-09 school year.

Desiree Schwoyer, Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, change effective date of leave of absence to January 31, 2009.

Karen Dilliplane, Nurse, Barth Elementary School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective December 1, 2008, end date to be determined.

David Pihanich, Master Maintenance Mechanic, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective January 6, 2009, end date to be determined, approximately eight weeks.

CHANGES IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Doris R. Ziolkowski, Lunch Program Aide, Barth Elementary School, from 2.67 hour work day to 3 hour work day, effective October 24, 2008. Hourly rate is based upon hours worked, as per the Part-Time Food Service Employee Guidelines.

Sue Yocum, Grant Administrator/Resource Specialist, change effective date from November 10, 2008 to November 7, 2008.

Geoffrey Thomas, from Classroom Assistant to Long Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary School, effective approximately January 12, 2009, $190/day, coverage for Jennifer Swenk.

ELECTIONS

Substitute Teachers

Sheila M.Ammons, Special Substitute Teacher, effective November 19, 2008, $100/day.

Earle H. Tyler, Special Substitute Teacher, effective November 19, 2008, $100/day.

Amanda E. Lock, Special Substitute Teacher, effective November 14, 2008, $100/day.

Gerald D. Courtney, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective November 18, 2008, in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Elizabeth Allen, Special Substitute Teacher, effective December 11, 2008, $100/day.

Kenneth Bonser, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective December 11, 2008, in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Classified Elections

Toni N. Belsky, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary School, effective December 2, 2008, $13.19/hr., new position.

Stacy A. Oldham, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary School, effective December 2, 2008, $13.19/hr., replacing Jacy Garlington.

Thomas S. Cherry, Wellness Coordinator, grant funded through the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation ending June 30, 2009, not to exceed 12 hours per week. This is in addition to his position as a Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, $29/hr., new position.

Judith c. Harrocks, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Barth Elementary School, effective December 15, 2008, $13.19/hr, new position.

Jill Fox, Breakfast Program Aide, initial assignment to be Barth Elementary School, effective December 9, 2008, $12.20/hr., replacing Diane Wise.

Professional Election

David P. Todd, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown High School, effective December 18, 2008, $190/day, coverage for Rachel Szmodis.

Exempt Election

Sabrina R. Abate, School Psychologist, 200 day position, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary School, effective January 5, 2008, $57,228/yr., replacing Georgia Soley.

Additions to the Co-Curricular List for 08-09

BLDG	CATEGORY	08-09 RECOMMENDATION	LEVEL	SALARY
MS	Girls Basketball - Head Coach	Jennifer Milkovitz	1	2,655
MS	Girls Basketball-Asst. Coach	Stanley Walerski	1	1,854
MS	Boys Basketball - Asst.Coach	Jason Bergey	2	2,209
MS	Drama Club (1/2)	Kimberly Adamski	1	424.50

Homebound Instruction

Joseph Perrone, Pottstown High School, effective November 10, 2008 through December 19, 2008, not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

James Martinez, Pottstown High School, effective December 10, 2008 through January 20, 2009, not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Project 720 High School Academic Mentors
High School teachers assigned to a maximum of ten freshman students to meet once a month to assist with academic and career planning, effective for the 2008-09 school year, $29/hr.

Danielle McCoy
Joseph Perrone
Marianne Croft
Kelly Smale
Denise DeAntonio
Kellie McGavin
Sarah Miller
Scott Braunsberg
Jeffrey Delaney
Cal Benfield

First Presbyterian After-School Club
All salaries paid through the First Presbyterian Church Grant

Elisabeth Yoder	Art Club Director	$29/hour
Lori Hoshaw	Music Club Director	$29/hour

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

Pamela Pascal	Nutrition Educator	$29/hour

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

Toni	Belsky	Classroom Assistant	Rupert	$13.19/hr.
Toni	Belsky	Tutor	Empire & Bethel	$29/hr.
Evelyne	Blair-Miller	Classroom Assistant	Franklin	$13.19/hr.
Meghan	Walsh	Tutor	Edgewood	$29/hr.
Britney	Haring	Tutor, Substitute	Empire & Bethel	$29/hr.

Peak Professional Development

Colleen Blute	Barth
Treena Ferguson	Edgewood
Elizabeth Walleigh	Edgewood
Robin Anderson	Lincoln
Debra Mann	Lincoln
Kari Kindig	Lincoln
Jacinda Bartolucci	Rupert
Laureen Gresko	Rupert

Co-teaching Book Study
$29.00/hour, paid through the LRE Grant

Ann Marie McDonnell	Barth
Brad Mayberry	Barth
Ann Hayer	Edgewood
Treena Ferguson	Edgewood
Matt Cohen	Franklin
Lindi Vollmuth	Franklin
Cathleen Emrick	Lincoln
Jill Bolonski	Lincoln
Terry Niemann	Rupert
Deb Wilson	Rupert
Vanessa Barnaik	Middle School
Ginger Angelo	Middle School
Patrick Coulter	Middle School
Desiree Schwoyer	Middle School
Jennifer Heller	Middle School
Lois Sanders	Middle School

Jason Bergey	Middle School
Storm Wilson	Middle School
Diane Earnshaw	High School
Rosemary Phillips	High School
Eileen Undorfer	High School
Kelly Smale	High School
Cal Benfield	High School
Popi Protheroe	High School
Helen Bowers	High School
Kim Budner	High School
Mark Agnew	High School
Karen Kemmerer	High School
Jeff Delaney	High School
Jim Dunleavy	High School
Paul Castanzo	High School

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Support Staff

Kathy Perry	Pottstown High School	$895.00
Emily Baddeley	Administration	$1,071.00

Administrative

Jessica Heffner	Administration	$1,315.00

Tuition Reimbursement for LETRS Foundation Conference

Administrative

Loretta Hoch	Lincoln	$550.00

Professional

Elizabeth Walleigh	Edgewood	$550.00
Lori Freese	Franklin	$550.00
Natalie Pileggi	Rupert	$550.00
Denise Leschak	Lincoln	$550.00

CURTAILMENT OF PROGRAM

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following curtailment of program:

Drafting Program, Pottstown High School, effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

RECOMMENDATION OF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following replacement program:

Criminal Justice/Protective Services Program, Pottstown High School, effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

EMPLOYEE DISCPILINARY ACTION

Pottstown High School employee, three (3) days paid suspension, pending completion of investigation, effective December 3 to December 5, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Admin. Edgewood Franklin Lincoln Rupert Middle Sr. High	Taffy Diane Robert Dan Laurie Elizabeth Aaron Leschak Dawn Anita Robert Donna	Wolfe Meck Spencer Wilchek Kolka Walleigh Torrence Leschak Rosenberry Scaltrito Decker Carpenter	PA Education Technology Expo & Conference	Hershey, PA	2/8/09 – 2/11/09	Approx. $7,524. Paid for by district + Sub cost $1350.
Admin.	Carol	Miller	A/CAPA Spring Conference	Hershey, PA	3/18/09 – 3/20/09	Approx. $746. Paid for by district

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)
9 Sr. High	Winter Survival Camping Trip	Pine Grove Furnace State Park	1/16/09 – 1/18/09	$30.00	N/A	Major FitzPatrick SFC Dave Weller, Sgt Tiffany Gonzalez
20 Sr. High	Educational Trip	Paris, Florence, & Rome	3/1/09 – 3/15/09	$2,042.00	$900.00	Dave Caldwell, Greg Troutman, Kellie McGavin

BID SCHEDULE

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize the Secretary to advertise bids for the following:

1. Athletic Supplies & Equipment
2. Cafeteria Supplies
3. Custodial Supplies
4. First Aid Supplies
5. General Supplies
6. Physical Education Supplies & Equipment

OPEN RECORDS OFFICER RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Open Records Resolution, as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-039.

CONTRACTS/MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts/memorandums of understanding and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-040.

Staffing Plus, Inc. Contract
Fellowship Farm Contract
MCIU Memorandum of Understanding
Family Services of Montgomery County Memorandum of Understanding

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-041.

1. Bullying Policy
2. Public Records
3. Addendum to Policy 6182 (School Attire and School Uniforms)

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

NON-CONSENT

RESIGNATION OF TREASURER

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board accept the resignation of Mr. Robert Hartman as Board Treasurer.

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

ELECTION OF TREASURER

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board must elect a Treasurer to serve out the remaining term vacated by the former Treasurer. The Treasurer's term shall run from December 4, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

The floor was opened for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Hartman nominated Mr. Huss. Mrs. Wilson seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations for Treasurer, the nominations were declared closed.

The vote for Mr. Huss as Treasurer was recorded as follows: Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Huss: aye; Pargeon: aye; White: aye; Wilson: aye; Zahora: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: none. Absent: two. Motion carried.

REVISION TO THE 2008-09 SCHOOL CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the revision to the 2008-09 school calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2008-09-042.

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

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Board will review the job description of the Director of Development and Executive Director of PIPPS. This item will be placed on the January 22, 2009 board agenda for approval.

POLICIES

A copy of an addendum to policy 6182 – School Attire and School Uniforms applicable to high school students was provided for the Board's initial review. Mrs. Francis indicated she had surveyed students and parents regarding the use of clear or mesh backpacks and book bags. Mr. Krem stated it is the recommendation of the administration that the Board consider this change to the policy. This item will be placed on the January 22, 2009 board agenda for approval.

INFORMATION

1. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers – Dr. Lindley
2. Spotlighting Pottstown School District – Mr. Armato
3. WPAZ Educational Forum – Mr. Armato
4. PEAK Update – Mrs. Reick
5. Board Committee Appointments – Mrs. Zahora

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Independence Blue Cross Contract – Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams advised the Board that the contract for Prescription Drug coverage is on hold while the intermediate unit reviews the document.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Marchek wished everyone Happy Holidays and stated it is a bittersweet time for Edgewood Elementary.

Mr. Hartman stated the intermediate unit held a special meeting on December 17, 2008 to ratify the teacher's contract. It was a unanimous. He also stated that twelve month training will be available.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. White wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Francis wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Wilson wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Pargeon stated she attended the PEAK mid-year program and it was incredible to see so many advocates of early education. She had a wonderful time at the math fair, the girls and boys basketball games and attended the choral and band concerts. The talented musicians and singers should be commended. Mr. Marsden and Mrs. House did a wonderful job. She will be attending the ESL dinner tomorrow evening at Edgewood.

Mr. Huss wished everyone Happy Holidays and extended his congratulations to Mrs. Zahora.

Mr. Hartman wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Mr. Huss for taking over as treasurer. He feels every board member should serve as treasurer for one year.

Dr. Sparagana wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Dr. Lindley wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Mr. Krem wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Mrs. Zahora wished everyone Happy Holidays. She is proud of the way the student handled the recent media circus. She was pleased that thirteen DECA students will participate in states.

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING TO FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the board adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

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Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary