MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:44 PM in the Auditorium of the Pottstown High School with President, Mr. Richard Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Robert Hartman, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. David P. Krem, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley, Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Lori Hoch, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Cathy Marchek, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Dr. Robert Stephens, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Jeffrey White, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

Mrs. Gail Cooper introduced Mrs. Pettine, Language Arts Department Head who presented the writing award winners from the Pottstown Middle School.

Sixth Grade Winners	**Seventh Grade Winners**	**Eighth Grade Winners**
Amy Jannotti	Megan Schmidt	Misty Antonio
Brandon Beck	Michael Magyar	Megan Thomas
Emily Griffin		

Mr. Huss congratulated the students and thanked all of the families for attending. The awards continue to be a wonderful part of the meeting.

Mr. Huss asked Mr. Krem to announce the Montgomery County High School Teacher of the Year Voices of Inspiration Award. Mr. Krem stated that Mrs. Toni Rapp was chosen from 700 teachers throughout the county, including all public, private and parochial schools. Students, parents and community members made the nomination. Mrs. Rapp received $500.00 for her nomination and $1500.00 for being the chosen nominee. Mrs. Rapp stated her true voices of inspiration are her students.

Mr. Krem asked each building principal to announce the 2008 Pottstown School District's Teacher of the Year for his or her building. Before the principals shared the name of the winner, they offered wonderful speeches depicting the nominee's contributions to the field of education and the Pottstown School District.

The 2008 Teachers of the Year for each building are as follows:

Pottstown High School	**Pottstown Middle School**
Mr. Lawrence Fortunato	Mrs. Shannon Curry
Culinary Arts Teacher	Mathematics Teacher

Barth Elementary School
Mrs. Laura Lee Kunka
Title I Teacher

Lincoln Elementary School
Mrs. Francis Hylton
Second Grade Teacher

Edgewood Elementary School
Mrs. Treena Ferguson
Kindergarten

Rupert Elementary School
Mrs. Ruth Kuhn
Special Education Teacher

Franklin Elementary School
Mrs. Angie Tellis
First Grade Teacher

Mr. Krem thanked all of the teachers for their outstanding service to the district and explained the difficulty in choosing one teacher for the esteemed title of Pottstown School District's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Krem explained the challenges ahead for the winner and the responsibilities that go along with the title. The Executive Team found the challenge of selecting one teacher for this honorable title very difficult, and after thoughtful consideration, Mrs. Treena Ferguson was named as the Pottstown School District's Teacher of the Year.

MRS. JUDYTH ZAHORA ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECEPTION

After the announcement of the Teacher of the Year was made, pictures of the selected teachers were taken and the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM for a thirty-minute reception to honor those chosen as Teacher of the Year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Huss stated that immediately following the reception, the board would enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues prior to reconvening.

THE MEETING RECONVENED AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:32 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2008-2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mrs. Adams shared a power point presentation reviewing the 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget. She highlighted the re-establishment of freshman athletics and stated the majority of the budget, 67%, is for salaries and benefits.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 17, 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 Mrs. Zahora that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 1, 2008 be approved.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the list of bills dated April 11, 2008 to April 24, 2008 for the General Fund totaling $575,937.38; the Athletic Fund totaling $125,764.06; the Elementary Activity Fund totaling $147.00 and the list of bills dated April 25, 2008 to May 8, 2008 for the General Fund totaling $897,337.15; the Elementary Activity Fund totaling $105.00 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-090.

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 Mrs. Zahora that the Financial Report for the General Fund, including reports of receipts and expenditures for the month of April 2008 and the Tax Collector's Report for the month of April 2008 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-091.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Ms. Penny Griffin made a request concerning school busing. She asked if it were possible to obtain notification regarding who offers transportation. She expressed concern when she learned from her children that bus fares had increased. She feels communication between the busing company and information to parents needs to be improved. Mrs. Adams stated that she would be meeting soon with the owner of CMD and she would present her concerns at the meeting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Co-Curricular

John J. Cherneskie, resignation as Girls Basketball Head Coach, Pottstown High School, effective immediately.

Classified

Erica Weekly, Special Education Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation effective June 9, 2008, employed since January 2, 2008.

Donald Dorkoskie, Maintenance Mechanic, request to rescind resignation for the purpose of retirement effective the end of the 07-08 school year.

Arthur G. Heist, Custodian, Pottstown Middle School, termination effective April 30, 2008, employed since December 4, 2000.

ADOPTION OF JOB DESCRIPTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the new job description Access/Special Education Clerk and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-092.

CHANGES IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Elizabeth Bauer, from Special Education Classroom Assistant to Secretary the Supervisor of Transportation/Communications Coordinator and/or Buildings and Grounds, initial assignment to be Administration Building, effective April 30, 2008, $17.01/hour, new position.

Margaret Lenk, from Substitute Classroom Assistant to Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective April 21, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Donna Pifer.

Aimee Mutter, from Access Clerk to Access/Special Education Clerk, Administration Annex Building, effective May 1, 2008, no change in compensation. Position is Access grant funded.

ELECTIONS

Classified

Susan B. Mock, Substitute Van Driver, effective April 24, 2008, $13.11/hour.

James J. Mullen, Substitute Van Driver, effective April 24, 2008, $13.11/hour.

Andrea D. Erb, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary School, effective May 5, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Elizabeth Bauer.

Jennifer Kelly Thomas, Special Education Classroom Assistant, initial assignment to be Barth Elementary School, effective May 5, 2008, $12.74/hour, replacing Rebecca Villegas.

Co-Curricular
Effective the 2007-2008 school year

BLDG	CATEGORY	EMPLOYEE	LEVEL	SALARY
HS	Dramatics - All School Play	Joseph Perrone	3	1,660.00
HS	Troiad Business Advisor	Leslye Blackwell	1	1,175.00
MS	Wrestling - Asst. Coach	* Frank Stehman	3	2,513.00

* Frank Stehman was approved as the Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach at the incorrect level on January 24, 2008.

Instruction in the Home

Robin Wagar, Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 6, 2008 through June 9, 2008, not to exceed five (5) hours per week. This was incorrectly approved not to exceed two (2) hours per week at the April 17, 2008 board meeting, $29/hour.

Continuation of Homebound Instruction

Jennifer Winterbottom, Pottstown Middle School, effective April 21, 2008 through June 9, 2008, not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Project 720

All salaries paid through the Project 720 Grant, total funding $58,582, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, $29/hour.

Kellie McGavin, Pottstown High School, an additional 100 hours as Coordinator, $29/hour.

Summer Food Service Program

Diane	Martz	Summer Food Service Substitute	$11.08	6/16/2008
Carrie	Holden	Summer Food Service Substitute	$11.08	6/16/2008
Linda	Chubb	Summer Food Service Substitute	$11.08	6/16/2008
Stacey	Rodden	Summer Food Service Manager	$14.30	6/16/2008
Maryann	Lightcap	Summer Food Service Manager	$14.30	6/16/2008
Bud	Heller	Summer Food Service Manager	$14.30	6/16/2008
Karen	Kozak	Summer Food Service Manager	$14.30	6/16/2008

District Pupil Services Summer Staffing
Summer Hours – Elementary Special Education

Extended School Year – Franklin Elementary School
Teachers, $29/hour
Leon Kanopka, not to exceed 130 hours
Erin O'Donnell, not to exceed 130 hours
Karen Lawler, not to exceed 80 hours

Classroom Assistants, $12.74/hour
Robin Debnam, not to exceed 120 hours
Andrea Erb, not to exceed 120 hours
Kelly Thomas, not to exceed 120 hours

Summer School – Edgewood Elementary School – 1:1 assistants
1:1 Classroom Assistant, $12.74/hour
Janice Bobst, not to exceed 120 hours

Tutoring
Teachers, $29/hour
Meghan Walsh, not to exceed 18 hours
Brenda DiDonato, not to exceed 18 hours

IEP Writing
Teachers, $29/hour
Brenda DiDonato, not to exceed 20 hours
Karen Fricke, not to exceed 20 hours
Jamie Harle, not to exceed 10 hours
Terry Niemann, not to exceed 10 hours

Employee Disciplinary Action

Pottstown High School employee, 5 days unpaid leave, effective April 21, 2008 to April 25, 2008.

Leaves

Melissa Schubert, Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for medical leave of absence, effective April 23, 2008 through June 9, 2008.

Tuition Reimbursement

Support Staff

Karen	Dilliplane	Barth Elementary School	$975.00
Sarah	Detar	Rupert Elementary School	$1,224.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Middle	Dereth	Hicks	21st Century Community Learning Conference	Dallas, TX	7/14/08-7/17/08	Approx. $1100 Paid by 21st Century Grant
Annex	Rosalie Mindy	Hunter MacRone-Wojton	Balance Auditory Vision Exercises for Brain & Brain-body Integration	Long Island, NY	7/11/08-7/13/08	Approx. $1255 Paid by the 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)
Sr. High 7 students	AFJROTC Summer Leadership School	Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV	6/15/08 – 6/21/08	$125.00	None	Major Paul Fitz-Patrick
Sr. High 50% of seniors	Walt Disney World	Orlando, FL	4/4/09 – 4/7/09	$839.00	$360.00	Jeff Delaney & Sara Miller
Sr. High 1 student	National HOSA Competition	Dallas, TX	6/17/08 – 6/22/08	N/A	Approx. $3450.00	Denice DeAntonio
Sr. High 1student	FCCLA National Leadership Competition	Orlando, FL	7/13/08 – 7/17/08	N/A	Approx. $2970.00	Larry Fortunato

STEP-BY-STEP LEARNING CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a contract between Step-by-Step Learning and the Pottstown School District for professional development and consulting services, and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-093.

LINCOLN CENTER CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a contract between The Lincoln Center and the Pottstown School District for alternative education services, and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-094.

WORDSWORTH AGREEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a contract between Wordsworth and the Pottstown School District for extended school year services for students with special education needs, effective July 7, 2008 through August 15, 2008, and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-095.

BID AWARDS

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize purchase orders to the companies indicated and the award in each case is being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy of the specifications be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-096.

1. Physical Education Supplies
2. MCIU Custodial Supplies
3. MCIU Fluorescent Tube
4. MCIU Paper Supplies
5. First Aid Athletic Supplies
6. Winter Sports Supplies

NON-CONSENT

Professional Election

Sarah M. Noska, Elementary Teacher, initial assignment to be Grade 1, Rupert Elementary School, effective August 21, 2008. B+15, step B, $42,662/year, contract of Karen Winning

Professional Leaves

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Barth	Hayley	Mutter	Research & Professional Practice	California, PA	6/9/08 – 6/10/08	No cost to district
Annex	Genevieve	Bell	Linking Play to	Livingston, NJ	6/20 08 –	Approx. $423

			Function		6/21/08	Paid by the district (no hotel costs, staying with friends)
Various	7 Administrators 11 Teachers 2 Assistants		Straight Talk by the Experts	Harrisburg, PA	6/16/08 – 6/26/08	Approx. Costs Paid by the district Registration = $24,380 Hotel = $11,827 Transportation = $780
Franklin Rupert Barth	Lindi Karen Nicholas Mia Theodore Robert Brooke Krista Michael Nicola Brad	Vollmuth Frick Odagis DiPaolo Freese Giering Martin Trainer DiDonato Alutius Mayberry	Governor's Academy for Urban Educators	Allentown, PA	6/21/08 – 6/26/08	No cost to district Paid by PDE

Bid Awards - Mrs. Adams recommends the Board authorize Fall Sports purchase orders to the companies indicated, with the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

Approval of Contract – Mr. Kalis recommends the Board approve the contract between A+ Communications and the Pottstown School District.

Adoption of 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget – Mrs. Adams recommends the Board authorize the Adoption of the Budget Resolution as presented.

Application for Tax Exempt Status – Mr. Kalis recommends the Board approve the Application for Tax Exempt Status for Creative Health Services.

INFORMATION

1. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers – Dr. Lindley
2. PSBA Symposium – Mrs. Adams

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

HEARING FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Comments were limited to the previously presented non-consent items. The public had no comments.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Professional Election

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Professional Election for Sarah M. Noska, Elementary Teacher, be approved as presented.

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

Professional Leaves

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Professional Leave requests for teachers to attend various conferences be approved as presented.

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

Bid Award – Fall Sports Supplies

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board authorize purchase orders to the companies indicated; the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications, as recommended by the Business Administrator and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-097.

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

Approval of Contract

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Contract for A+ Communications be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-098.

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

Approval of 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget

Mr. White stated that he did not pretend to understand the mechanics of putting a budget together. He did make it clear that he was very concerned for the taxpayer and he feels the board should do its part in preventing increased spending by controlling those costs that we ourselves generate. He believes any provisions received from the state budget should apply to the relief of the Pottstown taxpayer unless mandated otherwise by the state.

Mrs. Zahora thanked Mrs. Adams for the budget presentation, which was clear and easy to follow. She agrees with Mr. White that there is little money available to the district, which we can control. She feels the District is doing the very best they can to save money and watch spending. Mrs. Zahora, being a member of the Finance Committee, is in agreement with the budget presented tonight.

Mr. Hartman agreed with Mrs. Zahora and stated that the state has put the District in a quandary. He feels Mrs. Adams is providing funds for a quality education at a reduced amount from the state. He reminded everyone that there is a 20-day window of opportunity for the community to view the preliminary budget and the Board is required by law to approve a preliminary budget.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget, be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-099.

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

Tax Exempt Resolution

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Application for Tax Exempt Status for Creative Health Services be approved as presented.

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

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Marchek reminded everyone that the ESL Family Night would be held on Friday, May 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The location is still to be determined and she hopes to know by Friday. She passed along a thank you to Mrs. Pargeon from Mrs. Yoder for all of her help.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. White informed those attending that House Bill 1475 regarding equitable school funding is being voted on and on Monday, June 2nd, a taxpayer association is running a rally to support the bill. He will be going to Harrisburg to attend the rally.

Mrs. Wilson shared the middle school students did an outstanding job with their award-winning writings. She felt the Teacher of the Year program was great. She felt bad for our taxpayers that savings will not be coming from the District.

Mr. Hartman congratulated the middle school students for doing a great job. He said last night at the National Honor Society event; it was great to see our honor students recognized. He announced that this was the first time in five years that he voted in favor of the preliminary budget. He was pleased to see things back in the budget that should not have been cut.

Mrs. Zahora indicated we have many wonderful teachers in Pottstown. She thanked Mr. Fortunato for the beautiful job he is doing with the culinary arts program. She said the National Honor Society Awards Ceremony last night was incredible. We have a lot of great kids going to impressive colleges and the evening was beautifully done.

Dr. Lindley thanked the Board for their support this evening.

Dr. Sparagana reminded the Board that they would be visiting Daniel Boone Primary Center on Wednesday, May 21st and Octora Primary Center on Wednesday, May 28, 2008. Those attending will meet at the Administration building parking lot each time at 5:30 PM. Dr. Sparagana is preparing site visits at PEAK Centers and will be inviting the executive team and school board to attend in June. Dates will be forthcoming in an email.

Mrs. Adams thanked the Board and Finance Committee for their patience and understanding while preparing the preliminary budget.

Mr. Krem thanked the Board for their support and he appreciates their efforts.

Mr. Huss congratulated the middle school students on a great job. He is very glad that we brought back these awards to the meetings. He thanked the executive team, especially Mrs. Adams and Denise for all they do.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM.

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Linda S. Adams, Board Secretary