POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 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, February 7, 2008, at 7:34 PM in the LGI room of the Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White, and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Also present were: Superintendent, Mr. David Krem, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley, Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams, Director of Community Relations, Mr. John Armato, Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis. Administration and staff members Mr. Kurt Adam, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mr. Robert Decker, Mrs. Jessica Heffner, Mrs. Taffy Wolfe, interested citizens and a member of the press.

AWARDS

None.

REPORTS

Global Connect – Parent Notification System
Mrs. Taffy Wolfe, Director of Technology, reported on the Global Connect which is a Parent Notification System. She explained that this system would notify parents in the event of an emergency at a call rate of 800 calls per minute. The cost of $2.00 per student includes faculty and staff. Students can be included in up to nine groups while faculty and staff can be included in up to five groups. When compared to other systems, Global Connect offered the best in speed and other features for the price. Mrs. Wolfe shared they may use the system for three months for free and expects to be able to have the system ready for testing next week.

MRS. ZAHORA ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:41 PM.

AT 7:42 PM A PICTURE OF THE BOARD WAS TAKEN FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOK.

School Board Meeting Minutes
Mrs. Adams made available the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee
No report.

Finance Committee
No report.

Facilities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported that a formal meeting has not taken place but plans were underway to get together next week. He discussed the ventilation problem in the basement of the high school. The borough was contacted to assist with the estimate of addressing the problem. A grant might be possible to cover the cost of the Feasibility Study. After much discussion, Mr. Huss asked for a straw vote to have the study funded through grants if the borough finds the ADA access acceptable.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee
No report.

PSBA Representative
Mr. White reported that he and Dr. Lindley attended a conference in Hershey regarding sessions about literacy. He shared that the speaker said that of the 35 fastest improving high schools the commonality factor was a career and technology program. He stated that children learn more through practical experience than applying critical thinking. He also reported that he visited with Tom Quigley and went over the bills that are currently in the house, which in fact means nothing meaningful is going to happen. The only bill with any real reform, bill #1275, was shot down. He reported on Resolution 430, pertaining to the costing-out study and what Pennsylvania can do about it. Mr. White explained the Graduation Competency Plan (GCA) and he would like the executive team to discuss options and make suggestions for the board and have it as a non-consent item at the next board meeting.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
Mr. Hartman reported that at the last meeting they too discussed the Graduation Competency Plan and students are upset as well. They are saying that they are more than a test score. He feels the legislators are very disillusioned and only 3 to 5% of items brought to the house actually pass. January was Board Recognition month and the MCIU welcomed six new board members. He shared information regarding the Regional Connection program, which is being paid for through a grant. It is a private network, separate from the internet but it allows classrooms to be connected worldwide. He attended the Anderson School Dedication and feels that if our board chooses to move forward with any renovations, they should consider using one general contractor.

Community Relations Committee
Mr. Armato reported that the 2nd Focus Group meeting for the Athletic Fields and Physical Education Facilities will be held on Monday, February 11th at 6:00 PM in the high school cafeteria which will be discussing how to move forward on the Feasibility Grant. The meeting will also target community leaders. The first meeting involved the faculty but all are welcome to attend. He congratulated the girls' basketball team on reaching the final four and the next is scheduled at home on February 11th at 7:00 PM. The boy's basketball team won the conference championship, District 1 AAA and their next game is scheduled for later this month. He spoke in detail on the volume of activity our website has seen from August to December. He provided a list of donations for the month of January.

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project
Mrs. Pargeon reported that the Health & Wellness Center is willing to pay for a study on safe walking and biking routes in our district. Once a final synopsis for the study is finalized, it may also be possible to receive a grant from Penn Dot to apply to the findings of the study. She would like to have the study as a non-consent item at the next board meeting.

She also reported that the Charette held at the Rupert Elementary School on Saturday, February 2nd was fantastic. Two drafting students and Mr. Feather attended the event and were actively involved with the architects. Mr. Fortunato's culinary students provided afternoon snacks. She felt the entire day was well spent and was a wonderful experience for all involved.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported that he will be touching base with Mr. White and they hope to meet by the end of the month.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mr. Edwards reported that the School Uniform survey has been distributed to parents. He stated that he, Mrs. Francis and Mr. Krem will present to the board what the public response is when they have the results. Mr. Krem reported that the students are actively involved in the

process and he is looking forward to hearing from them regarding the meetings they have been conducting. Mr. Hartman offered to obtain a copy of the Reading School District's handbook regarding their uniform policy to assist the committee in preparing our own policy. The committee and board has not officially made a decision regarding a uniform policy.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
Mrs. Zahora asked Dr. Lindley to report. Dr. Lindley stated that he would like to schedule a time to meet with Mrs. Zahora regarding curriculum.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
Mr. Wausnock reported that there was no meeting; however, he will contact the borough for find out when the next meeting will be. He did share that the borough is changing the name to the Economic Development Advisory Board from its current name.

LIST OF BILLS
Mrs. Adams provided a list of bills to vote on at the next board meeting and shared that additional bills would be added for approval.

PERSONNEL
Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the February 21, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Sr. High	Larry	Fortunato	Intl. Restaurant & Foodservice Show of New York	New York, NY	3/8/08-3/9/08	Approx. $460 paid by Tech Prep grant
Admin.	Carol	Miller	A/CAPA Spring Conference	Hershey, PA	3/12/08-3/14/08	Approx. $730 paid by district
Edgewood Middle	Angela Marge	Tuck Grim	ASCD Healthy Schools	New Orleans, LA	3/12/08-3/14/08	No cost to the district paid by ASCD
Sr. High Middle	Jeffrey Ginger	White Angelo	PA Athletic Directors Conference	Hershey, PA	3/26/08-3/28/08	Approx. $1488 paid by district
Admin.	Mary	Rieck	International Reading Assoc. Conference	Atlanta, GA	5/5/08-5/5/08	Approx. $1095 paid by PEAK grant
Middle	Brett Tom Ron Bill Levert Bill Todd Bart Bill Richie	Myers Craver Rinehart Parks Hughes Rogers Endy Knight Beyer Ashburn	Glazier Mega Clinic	Atlantic City NJ	2/29/08-3/1/08	Approx. $783 paid by athletic budget (includes cost of sub)

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)
1 High School student	District Chorus Festival	Central Bucks East High School	2/7/08-2/9/08	$75.00	$90.00	Hosted by parents of Central Bucks East School District
5 High School students	Key Club Convention	Hershey, PA	2/29/08-3/2/08	$225.00	$90.00	Margaret Munz & Gene Huston

DONATIONS
Mrs. Adams provided the board with a list of donations for their acceptance and asked for approval at the next board meeting.

TAX RESOLUTIONS/AGREEMENTS
Mrs. Adams explained that these are the yearly nuisance taxes, the occupational and privilege taxes, which are to be turned over to Berkheimer Tax Administrator. This will result in a savings since our tax office has two retired employees who will not be replaced.

PROPERTY TAX LIENS
Mrs. Adams reported that this is an annual event for delinquent properties and action needs to be taken on said properties each year. When the taxpayer has not met the tax payment date, we turn over said properties to Portnoff for collection.

RESIGNATION OF BOARD TREASURER
Mr. Huss read the letter of resignation from Mr. Thees. At the next board meeting, nominations for the treasurer will be made. Mrs. Adams is the substitute treasurer.

INFORMATION
1. Barth Banner – February 2008
2. Edgewood Chronicles - February 2008
3. Franklin Focus - February 2008
4. Lincoln Log - February 2008
5. Rupert Review - February 2008
6. Pottstown Pride: Fall 2007 – Mr. Armato
7. Pottstown High School Newsletter, Winter-Spring 2008
8. Brain Injury Association of Maryland, Inc. – Donation – Mrs. Adams
9. Performance Audit Report – Mrs. Adams
10. Diversity Training – Mrs. Heffner
    Mrs. Heffner reported on Diversity Training and recommended Hayden Resource to provide the training. She has plans to start with the maintenance department and will schedule others for training when that is completed.
11. Handouts from January 31, 2008 Board Workshop – Mrs. Adams

FEDERATION REMARKS
Mr. Decker reported that the federation was pleased to be able to meet and discuss topics with the board and administration. He mentioned that the presence of school board members in the buildings and at school activities was recognized by the teachers and was greatly appreciated. He also reported that the teachers would like to be involved in the planning of the 2008-2009 school calendar.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming and he offered his congratulations to our co-curricular students and staff and to our volunteers who offer their time, talents and dollars to help our students.

Mrs. Pargeon thanked the teachers and parents for their continued support and offered condolences to the families who suffered tragedies this week. She shared that Friendly's Restaurant was offering 10% of their profits to the Pottstown fire victims. She is also looking forward to the joint meeting this month with the borough.

Mr. Huss offered his prayers to the families who suffered tragedies this week.

Dr. Lindley stated that at the conference he and Mr. White attended, the guest speaker made numerous remarks regarding equity and excellence as key factors for competition.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hartman requested a brief PIPPS meeting to take place at the end of the current meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the meeting adjourn. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

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Linda S. Adams
School Board Secretary