POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 7:35 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, Mrs. Julia Wilson, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent: Mrs. Amy Francis. 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, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Kathy Marcheck, members of the community; Ms. Wendy David, and a member of the press. (In reviewing the minutes, it was determined the General Fund totaling $2,212,282.94 was for the wrong time period and will be amended).

THE AFJROTC PRESENTED THE COLORS FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGENCE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Pargeon indicated that her closing remarks needed a slight change in the minutes on January 24, 2008. Mrs. Adams stated the minutes would be amended as indicated.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 24, 2008 be approved as amended.

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

MRS. FRANCIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:40 PM.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 7, 2008 be approved.

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

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from January 18, 2008 to January 31, 2008 for the General Fund totaling $635,718.93 and the Athletic Fund totaling $8,798.26 to recommend the board approve the bills as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-064 and the list of bills from January 1, 2008 to February 14, 2008 for the General Fund totaling $2,212,282.94, the Elementary Activity Fund totaling $735.80 from February 1, 2008 to February 14, 2008 and the Data Processing Fund totaling $2,251.48 from February 1, 2008 to February 14, 2008 to recommend the board approve the bills as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-065.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the list of bills be approved as presented.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Adams presented the treasurer's report for January and recommended the board approve the report as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-066.

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the January treasurer's report be approved as presented.

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

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the Tax Collector's Report for January 2008, as prepared by Mrs. Linda S. Adams, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-067.

JANUARY 2008

	Previously Collected	Collected This Month	Distribution	Total Collected To Date
Real Estate	23,878,707.86	91,982.26	1,501.23	23,969,188.89
Interim Real Estate	71,594.62	22,657.85		94,252.47
Per Capita	79,914.76	1,056.00	26.00	80,944.76
Deed Transfer	273,068.58	43,096.52		316,165.10
Occupation	90,234.60	1,630.20	15.80	91,849.00
EMST	22,938.33	25.00	54.80	22,908.53
Delinquent Real Estate	706,958.93	44,983.57		751,942.50
Delinquent Per Cap & Occ	65,079.23	4,290.13		69,369.36
Earned Income Tax	1,208,672.22	268,446.22	392,007.45	1,085,110.99

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

AWARDS

None.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Major Fitz-Patrick gave a presentation on the AFJROTC Program held at the Pottstown High School. He stated that the cadets were happy to present the colors at the beginning of the meeting. The Major and cadets had prepared a packet which was distributed to board members. He shared how the students are very involved in community service. The curriculum encourages good citizenship as well as extra-curricular activities including various field trips. He explained the ALC or Advanced Leadership Course and BCO or Basic Cadet Orientation. He encouraged all board members to attend the annual Military Ball in the spring.

THE BOARD ENTERED INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:14 PM TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.

THE BOARD RECONVIENED AT 8:43 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee

No report.

Finance Committee

No report.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman is waiting for additional information before being able to properly update the board. Mrs. Adams provided an update on the modular classrooms. She stated she is working with the Borough to attempt to expedite the necessary permits for set up. She also shared that a storage building is being developed for construction by our Building Trades students to begin in March. She is also waiting on a response from the borough to see if ADA access will be required for the weight room in the High School basement.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee

Mr. White shared the details of the proposed budget offered by Governor Ed Rendell.

PSBA Representative

Mr. White reported the resolution concerning the proposed high school graduation assessments is being addressed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

MCIU Representative

Mr. Hartman stated that a meeting is scheduled for next week and he hopes to be able to have a report at the next regular board meeting.

Community Relations Committee

Mr. Armato shared that the 13th Annual Heritage Program will be held at the Ricketts Community Center on Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 2:00 PM. Mr. Ted Josey, will be the special guest speaker. Stephanie White, one of our teacher aides, will be honored for her role in saving a student's life. The High School theatre group will be presenting "Down the Rabbit Hole" on Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8 2008. Girls' basketball will play at Ridley High School at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 1st to possibly qualify for the state championship, while boys' basketball qualified for states and will play at Villanova at 8:00 PM. The Boys Wrestling team will also be competing on Saturday, March 1st at 9:00 AM for Districts at Springfield, Montgomery County. Alumni Regina Oliver, a graduate of Ohio University, who was a three time All American Lacrosse Team member, was named on the top ten list of U.S. Lacrosse players in the past decade. Ms. Oliver was one of only two women named to the list.

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project

Mrs. Pargeon reported that a new feasibility study needs to be done as the old one is outdated. She compared the plans for the elementary schools to the recent plans from Crabtree and felt they had more to offer. The committee will be looking at their options and will report back to the board. They will have a plan for all five of the elementary schools before renovations begin. She suggested to the board that they meet at a workshop to discuss where we should go with elementary education and what we want for our elementary schools. Plans were made for the board to meet on Saturday, April 12th in the high school library from 8:30 AM till 4:30 PM.

The grant for Safe Routes to Schools will be prepared in the fall to allow sufficient time for the district to do its research before involving the borough. Mr. Krem would like to have as many facts as possible before drafting a letter for the grant to allow a thorough study. When all information is collected they will request funds from the Health & Wellness Foundation.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee

No report.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms

Mrs. Francis reported the committee has the surveys back and are getting together a tally of votes and will have a report at the next meeting. On February 26th, the high school students on the committee will have a meeting at 2:45 PM in the Audion room. The committee will bring the information gathered to the board for discussion at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting and then a vote. Mrs. Francis said the survey was a huge help.

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Zahora reported the committee will hold a meeting on March 4th at 7:30 PM in the Administration Building Conference Room. She invited all board members to attend.

Economic Development Advisory Board

No report.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 1120 and as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools except for the Election of Treasurer which will be voted on separately.

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Classified

Kathy L. Kateb, One-on-One Van Assistant, termination due to job elimination effective December 21, 2007, employed since September 12, 2003.

Allen W. Alexander, Classroom Assistant, Rupert Elementary School, resignation effective January 14, 2008, employed since December 3, 2007.

Brianne C. Gates, Title I Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective February 1, 2008, employed since September 22, 2007.

Shirl A. Harp, Library Assistant, Franklin and Edgewood Elementary Schools, resignation effective February 8, 2008, employed since September 1, 1991.

Rosemarion M. Bolognese, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, request to rescind resignation for the purpose of retirement effective the end of the 07-08 school year.

Professional

Angela Owarzani, Computer Science Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective February 1, 2008, employed since August 22, 2007.

Exempt

Sandra K. Leh, Early Childhood Health Specialist, resignation effective April 1, 2008, employed since September 12, 2007.

LEAVES

Professional

Calista M. Boyer, Literacy Coach, Edgewood Elementary School, request for childrearing leave of absence, effective February 12, 2008 through approximately March 26, 2008.

Sarah N. Buruschkin, Guidance Counselor, Pottstown High School, request for childbearing/childrearing leave of absence, effective the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

Classified

Rosemarion Bolognese, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, request for intermittent family and medical leave of absence, effective January 18, 2008.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Harry P. Freeman, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective January 9, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Laura L. Goldstein, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective February 1, 2008, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Rosemary L. Phillips, Special Education Teacher, assigned to Pottstown High School, effective January 30, 2008, New Position, B+15, step A, $41,912, includes $400 Special Education stipend.

Vanessa L. Unger, Elementary ELL Teacher, assigned to Edgewood School, effective February 25, 2008, New Position, MAST+15, step 1, $44,855.

Erica L. Weekley, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective February 1, 2008. This is in addition to her position as a Classroom Assistant, $90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

Classified

Lori D. Hassinger, Substitute Clerk/Typist, effective January 25, 2008, $13.11/hour.

Jill D. Fox, Substitute Breakfast Aide, effective January 21, 2008. This is in addition to her positions as Part-Time Housekeeper and Substitute Food Service Worker, $11.79/hour.

Robin G. Debnam, Special Education One-on-One Classroom Assistant, assigned to Pottstown Middle School, effective February 14, 2008, New Position, $12.92/hour.

Amber L. Quinter, Human Resources Clerical Intern, Administration Building, effective February 19, 2008, New Position, $10.07/hour.

Betty Jowar, Substitute Breakfast Aid, effective November 11, 2007, $11.79/hour. This is in addition to her position as a Part-time Food Service Worker.

CO-CURRICULAR

Treena Ferguson, Mentor for Jonelle Uzzardi, Edgewood Elementary School, effective the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year, $500.50.

Terry A. Bechtel, Assistant Baseball Coach, Pottstown High School, Level 1, $2,271.

James Mullen, Assistant Baseball Coach, Pottstown Middle School, Level 1, $1,363.

Courtney Weand-Lopez, Cheerleading Coach, Pottstown Middle School, Level 1, $397 (half of the season)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOB READINESS PROGRAM (GRANT FUNDED)
All salaries paid for through Positive Transition into Employment Grant Program effective January 26 through May 10, 2008.

Danielle McCoy	Coordinator	$31/hour
Joseph Perrone	Instructor	$29/hour
Lois O'Dell	Instructional Assistant	$13/hour

21ST CENTURY AND EAP COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
All salaries paid through 21st Century and EAP Community Learning Center Grants

Jennifer Depew	Tutor	$29/hour
Leon Gibbs	Security	$15/hour

21ST CENTURY MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM
All salaries paid through 21st Century Grant

Chad Antonio	Tutor	$29/hour

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Danielle McCoy, Pottstown High School, effective January 29, 2008 through June 12, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Meghan Walsh, Edgewood Elementary School, effective February 2, 2008 through March 28, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Kelly Smale, Pottstown High School, effective January 29, 2008 through June 12, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Gregory Troutman, Pottstown High School, effective February 4, 2008 through June 12, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

CONTINUATION OF HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Justine Donnelly, Pottstown High School, effective January 2, 2008 through March 7, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

Frank Dakota, Pottstown High School, effective February 4, 2008 through March 14, 2008 not to exceed five (5) hours per week, $29/hour.

CHANGES IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Pamela C. Bateson, from Supervisor of Elementary Special Education to Director of Special Education and Student Services, effective February 22, 2008, New Position, $105,000/yr.

Harry P. Freeman, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher, to Floater Substitute Teacher, effective February 1, 2008, replacing Brett Myers, $186/day.

Leon S. Kanopka, from Floater Substitute Teacher to Special Education Teacher, assigned to Franklin Elementary School, effective February 1, 2008, New Position, B+15, step A, $41,912, includes $400 Special Education stipend.

Matthew Blute, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Title I Classroom Assistant, assigned to Pottstown Middle School, effective February 19, 2008, replacing Brianne Gates, $12.74/hour.

David Pihanich, from Maintenance Mechanic III to Maintenance Mechanic IV, assigned to the Pottstown High School, effective January 1, 2008, $20.70/hour.

HORIZONTAL SALARY MOVEMENT

Effective the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following horizontal salary movement:

fname	lname	bldg	from	step	old salary	to	step	new salary
Todd	Williams	Pottstown High School	B+15	5	43,264	MAST	5	44,718
Erica	Testa	Pottstown Middle School	BACH	5	42,543	B+15	5	43,264
Kathy	Perry	Pottstown High School	BACH	4.42	42,245	B+15	4.42	42,962

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following 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	Angela	Tuck	ASCD Healthy	New Orleans, LA	3/12/08-	No cost to the

Middle	Marge Anne	Grim Frederick	Schools		3/14/08	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

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following 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

APPOINTMENT OF H.A. BERKHEIMER, INC. AS COLLECTOR OF OCCUPATION, PER CAPITA, AND DELINQUENT LOCAL TAXES AND AS TAX HEARING OFFICER

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve H. A. Berkheimer, Inc., 50 North Seventh Street, Bangor, Pennsylvania, as the collector of Occupation, Per Capita, and Delinquent Local Taxes and as Tax Hearing Officer, effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, per the contracts and resolutions as submitted and a copy be kept in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-068.

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION

WHEREAS, Linda S. Adams, Substitute Tax Collector for the Pottstown School District, has submitted a list of properties liened for school taxes amounting to $1,506,317.97 plus penalties of $150,632.10, totaling $1,656,950.07 for the original 2007 Real Estate Tax Duplicate and for properties liened for school taxes amounting to $1,489,977.79 plus penalties of $148,998.14, totaling $1,638,975.93 for the original 2006 Real Estate Tax Duplicate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Substitute Tax Collector be and is hereby exonerated of and from said tax liability for the collection thereof, but no exoneration for the respected taxables is intended or affected by this action,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Substitute Tax Collector file the required reports and information with Portnoff and Associates so that the liens against these properties be properly reported. A copy of the listed properties as submitted shall be kept in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-069.

ELECTION OF TREASURER

A new treasurer shall be elected to complete the term of the recently vacated position. The newly elected Treasurer's term shall run from February 21, 2008 to June 30, 2008

Mr. Wausnock nominated Mr. Hartman. No other nominations were made and the nominations were closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Zahora to elect Mr. Hartman as Treasurer.

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; Mr. White: aye; Mrs. Wilson: aye.

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

NON-CONSENT

Special Education Service Agreement with Owen J. Roberts

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve an agreement with Owen J. Roberts School District to provide services and programs to a Pottstown School District special education student, as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-070.

It was moved by Mr. Edwards 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.

Health and Wellness Grant Request

Mrs. Pargeon asked for a general consensus from the Board for administration to pursue a health and wellness grant for defining pedestrian and bicycle routes to all school buildings, for fall submittal to the Health and Wellness Foundation. After discussions, the board agreed.

Approval of Salaries

Mr. Wausnock recommends the Board approve a one time mid-year increase for the Executive Team, Act 93, and those individuals who are transitioning from Act 93 to Exempt status, as listed, retroactive to January 1, 2008 and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-071.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the board approve the salaries as presented.

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

Resolution

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution extending the date of issuance of the bonds authorizing and directing the incurrence of non-electoral debt through issuance of general obligation bonds as listed and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-072.

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

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

INFORMATION

1. PSBA Conferences for Board Members – Mrs. Adams
2. PEAK Update – Mrs. Rieck
3. Conference for Administrators, Supervisors and Teachers – Dr. Lindley
4. Graduation Competency Assessments from the Secretary of Education – Dr. Gerald Zahorchak
5. Spotlighting Pottstown School District – Mr. Armato
6. Ricketts Center 13th Annual Heritage Program

FEDERATION REMARKS

No remarks.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming out tonight and to stay safe during the upcoming weather. He stated the AFJROTC presentation was great. He encouraged everyone to attend the Military Ball and congratulated our sports programs.

Mrs. Zahora asked if the Barth and middle school disciplinary improvements could be duplicated at the high school. She praised Mr. Giering for a job well done with discipline in his building.

Mrs. Pargeon shared that she attended the Title I Family Literacy Night. She is continually impressed with our reading teachers and Title I teachers. The activities were engaging and fun and she is very pleased with the program.

Mrs. Wilson thanked everyone for coming. She stated she felt like a kid in a candy store when attending the Title I Family Literacy Night. She shared our all city band was invited to play in Harrisburg on March 6th from Noon till 1:00 PM. She invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Krem stated he is pleased with the support the board has been giving the administrators.

Dr. Sparagana stated he was pleased that a date has been established to discuss the plans for our elementary schools and their academic needs.

Dr. Lindley explained why his beeper kept going off. He was receiving an updated emergency weather report.

Mr. Hartman suggested the board write a letter to Mr. Thees thanking him for his service as treasurer. All board members were in agreement to this suggestion. Mr. Huss stated he would write the letter and send it out.

Mr. Huss thanked everyone for coming out. He is pleased with how well the school board committees are working together.

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 9:54 PM.

_____

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary