POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 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, December 4, 2008, at 7:32 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent were Mrs. Amy Francis and Mr. Rick Huss. Also present were Superintendent of Schools, David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solictor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mr. Kurt Adam, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Penny O'Donnell, Mrs. Lisa Snyder, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Kathy Marchek, a member of the press and interested citizens.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of November 13, 2008 Regular Board meeting to be approved at the Regular December 18, 2008 Board meeting. No changes or comments were suggested.

REPORTS

Rupert Writing Awards and Board Update

Mr. Matthew Moyer, principal of Rupert Elementary School, presented the following students who received writing awards:

Kindergarten – Tyler Mort
First Grade – Brenna Prichard
Second Grade – Aubrey Miller
Third Grade – Brionna Walton
Fourth Grade – Taylor Mickletz
Fifth Grade – Ileanna Scavello

Mr. Moyer had students come to the microphone and read their award-winning writings. Mrs. Michele Pargeon, School Board Vice-President, presented each winner with a medal.

Mr. Moyer shared a video and provided an update, which highlighted various fall activities at Rupert Elementary School.

MRS. FRANCIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:55 PM.

RTI/Step-By-Step Learning

Mr. Mike Grabarits updated the Board on the continued progress of the Step-By-Step Learning Program. The company has assessed what steps the Pottstown School District will need to following in order to bring students reading abilities to grade level. He provided handouts, which included various training times throughout the year and invited the Board members to attend as often as their schedules allow.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Adjourn Sine Die

School Board Secretary, Mrs. Adams, stated at this time the Board adjourn sine die with the approval of the solicitor.

Reorganization

The Secretary then proceeded to call the roll of the Board members. The following were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent was Mr. Rick Huss. Mrs. Adams indicated the reorganization was duly advertised according to School Code.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

The Secretary opened the forum for public comment. No one came forward and the reorganization continued.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

The Secretary called for the nomination of a Temporary Chairperson. Mrs. Pargeon nominated Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Zahora seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Secretary declared the nominations for Temporary Chairperson closed. Mrs. Zahora moved to close the nominations for the Temporary Chairperson and Mrs. Francis seconded the motion.

The vote for Mr. Edward's election as Temporary Chairperson was as follows: All members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Temporary Chairperson called for nominations for President. Mr. Hartman nominated Mrs. Zahora and Mrs. Francis seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations for the Office of President, Mrs. Francis moved to close the nominations for President and Mr. Hartman seconded the motion.

The vote for Mrs. Zahora as President is recorded as follows: All members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried. Mrs. Zahora was declared the newly elected President.

Mrs. Zahora as President took charge of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. Zahora called for nominations for Vice-President. Mr. White nominated Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Francis seconded the motion.

There being no further nominations for the Office of Vice-President, Mrs. Francis moved to close the nominations for President and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion.

The vote for Mr. Hartman as Vice-President is recorded as follows: All members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried. Mr. Hartman was declared the newly elected Vice- President.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mrs. Zahora did not make any committee appointments. She will circulate the current list of committees among the Board members and ask that they indicate on which committees they wish to participate.

ADOPT TIME AND PLACES FOR THE 2009 SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Mrs. Zahora suggested the first meeting of the month remain a Committee of the Whole Meeting with the second meeting of the month a Regular Voting Board Meeting. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Krem indicated the need to allow for some voting in order to avoid late payment of bills.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board adopt the time and places for the 2009 School Board Meetings as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum#2008-2009-35.

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

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the appointment of Stephen Kalis as the district's solicitor. It was pointed out that the motion needs to include that the solicitor is also the special education solicitor. It was amended by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the appointment of Stephen Kalis as the school district and the special education solicitor.

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

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Board appoint the solicitor as parliamentarian.

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

APPROVAL OF RULES OF ORDER – POLICY 1220

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board approve Policy 1220 as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum#2008-2009-36.

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

APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board approve Roberts Rules of Order Revised for decisions involving parliamentary procedures with the understanding that rules of order as adopted supersede the Roberts Rules of Order in the event of a conflict between the two.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee
Mr. Wausnock stated the committee will meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

Finance Committee
Mrs. Zahora stated the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 25, 2008 has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday. She introduced Mrs. Penny O'Donnell, Assistant Business Manager, who presented the new format of the Treasurer's Report.

Facilities Committee
Mr. Hartman stated the meeting scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008 has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday and the committee will start fresh in January.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee & PSBA Representative
Mr. White indicated he would like any recommendations from the Board to be submitted for consideration to be pursued in the legislature by PSBA. He also indicated the Governor's support for increased educational spending would ebb the closer you get to the end of his term.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
No report.

Community Relations Committee
Mrs. Wilson stated the meeting was held earlier this evening and they worked on ideas to get community members involved in our schools. Mr. Armato highlighted the following events or achievements:

PEAK Mid-Year Meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 11:30 AM
Dr. Sparagana's appointment to the Governor's Early Childhood Council and the publication of his dissertation. Restorative Practice Program cover story featured in Scholastic Magazine United Way Partnership providing volunteers for work throughout our buildings. Pottstown School District hosting the Class of 1952 class reunion with many events planned to build a foundation between the district and alumni in hopes of alumni support. Yazid Jackson donated $4,000.00 worth of weight room equipment. The Obama Campaign donated $2,200.00 worth of office supplies, office furniture, etc. Anonymous donation of the first of six 42" flatscreen TV's to be used in the high school cafeteria to show messages to students during lunch. 128 uniform patches were sold for a total of $256.00, which will be used to purchase more patches. Shane McGarber, alumni and senior at Reider University has received the Reider Scholar Recognition Award for the 3rd year in a row. He is in the top 1% of his class and he is one of only four seniors to win this prestigious award.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman is meeting with Mr. White to determine if a meeting in December will be necessary.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mrs. Francis stated the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008 will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Administration Building. A resolution will be presented at the next voting meeting to add some small changes to the policy. The team which, includes high school students, is right on target. The key to the success of the committee has been open communication.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
Mrs. Zahora stated the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 25, 2008 has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday and the committee will meet in January.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
Mr. Edwards reported that the council discussed the economic development program, which is being cancelled, and they are considering doing away with the home ownership program just for this year.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be approved at the Regular December 18, 2008 Board Meeting.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that Mr. Hartman now holds two offices; the Office of Treasurer and the Office of Vice-President. Mr. Kalis, the solicitor, will look into the rules to see if it is appropriate for a Board member to hold two offices and will report back to the Board.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the December 18, 2008 board agenda for approval.

Professional Leave

Dr. Lindley reviewed the professional leaves and field trips to be placed on the December 18, 2008 board agenda for approval.

Open Records Officer Resolution

Mrs. Adams stated this resolution is required by law and will be placed on the December 18, 2008 board agenda for approval.

2009-2010 Bid Schedule

Mrs. Adams reviewed the items that must do out for bid yearly. The bid schedule will be placed on the December 18, 2008 board agenda for approval.

Contracts/Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Adams presented the contracts and memorandums of understanding. These items were explained in detail by Dr. Sparagana and will be placed on the December 18, 2008 board agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

None.

POLICIES

1. Bullying Policy – 2nd Reading
2. Public Records – 2nd Reading

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Independence Blue Cross Contract

Mrs. Adams stated when an agreement has been reached it will then be presented to the Board for approval.

INFORMATION

1. The Talk-It-Out Solution Article – Mr. Krem
2. First Marking Period Honor Roll Comparison – Mr. Krem
3. Response to Architect Letter – Mrs. Adams

THE BOARD WILL HAVE A BRIEF EXECUTIVE SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNELL ISSUES.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Marchek congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices. She reminded the Board that they were all invited to the Federation's

Christmas Party tomorrow evening beginning at 4:00 PM. She invited the Board to attend the Step-By-Step skills group meetings at Barth.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Edwards congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices.

Mrs. Pargeon offered her congratulations and indicated excitement about the coming year. She feels the Board will do a good job.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming and stated it was nice to be back after being out ill. He stated the Thanksgiving Day Football Game was fun even though we did not win. It was nice to see so many alumni return to this annual event. Mr. Hartman voiced his concerns over last meeting's vote on the information provided by the architect.

Mr. White congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices.

Mrs. Francis congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices.

Mrs. Wilson congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices and said she hopes her new chair feels comfortable. She said it was neat watching the Rupert kids tonight read their stories.

Mr. Wausnock stated he was looking forward to another fun year and indicated there were four board members just starting their second year.

Dr. Sparagana stated Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. White provided the big banner hanging at the high school. He shared he is looking forward to the new leadership from the Board.

Mr. Krem publicly thanked all middle school and high school staff for the commendable way everyone pitched in during the fire this past week. It was suggested by the Board that the Board Secretary send thank you notes.

Mrs. Adams congratulated Mrs. Zahora and Mr. Hartman on their new offices. She also thanked Mrs. Coleman and wished her will in her new endeavor.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board adjourn. All members present voted aye. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 10:31 PM.

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Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary