POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 1, 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, May 1, 2008, at 7:30 PM in the LGI room of the Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent: Mr. Nat White. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Assistant Business Administrator, Mrs. Penny O'Donnell; Solictor: Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Pam Bateson, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Robert Decker, a member of the press and interested citizens.

AWARDS

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

Kindergarten – Tashon Dupiche
First Grade – Ciera Harp-Nagle
Second Grade – Paige Pieper
Third Grade – Kyli McKee
Fourth Grade – Maxine Bacon
Fifth Grade – Aris Rozecki

Mr. Moyer had each student come to the microphone and read their award-winning writings. Mr. Richard Huss, School Board President, presented each winner with a medal.

MINUTES

Mrs. O'Donnell presented the minutes to be approved at the Regular May 15, 2008 Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee
No report.

Finance Committee
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the administration building board room. The reading of the preliminary budget will be presented at the meeting.

Facilities Committee
Mr. Hartman talked with Mr. Angstadt today regarding tentative dates for the next meeting. He explained the necessity for a back-up boiler at Franklin Elementary School and the savings of using an existing boiler at the administration building. It needs to be voted on this evening so work can be done before the summer which is a very busy time for buildings and grounds. Mrs. Pargeon questioned the need for this expense since the full size boiler is fairly new. Mr. Hartman explained that the back-up boiler at Franklin is on the fritz and since it may be a year before construction begins at the elementary schools, it is necessary to have a good back-up boiler especially during cold weather.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee
No report.

PSBA Representative
No report.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
Mr. Hartman was unable to attend the meeting due to a district responsibility. He plans to have a report at the next meeting.

Community Relations Committee
Mr. Armato reported that the district received a $400.00 donation from the Pottstown Hospital to support a student who qualified for nationals after attending the HOSA State Championship meet. He shared that Ryan Wallace, a Pottstown graduate of the Washington Redskins Football team hosted a free clinic to our students which taught skills and life messages. Ryan is the third alumni to perform community services this school year.

He highlighted the following events:

- A music performance by our students was recently held at the Health Style Expo at the Montgomery County Community College.
- Rupert Art & Music Night on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 6:00 PM.
- Pottstown High School Band Concert on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.
- Pottstown Middle School "Night of the Arts" on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM.
- Lincoln Elementary School on Thursday, May 8, 2008 - Nursery Rhyme program.
- Rupert Elementary School on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 10:30 AM Book Fair.
- Pottstown High School Senior Awards Program on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 PM.
- Pottstown Middle School is hosting the Montgomery County Reading Olympics on Tuesday, May 13, 2008.
- The National Honor Society Senior Banquet on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the high school cafeteria.
- Thursday, May 15, 2008 school board meeting location has been changed to the high school auditorium.
- The Trojan Wrestling Booster Club is sponsoring a golf outing at Twin Ponds Golf Course on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 1:00 PM.

He mentioned the success of the girl's lacrosse team this year which is developing young people who are enrolled in a continuing educational program or college. Former retired teacher and coach Bill Rogers, honored by the Pennsylvania State Football Association for his 50 years of coaching, has returned to the district as the Middle School Football coach.

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project
Mrs. Pargeon stated the committee has had two meetings; one on April 23, 2008, where it was decided to have an agenda and take minutes and the second on April 30, 2008, which quite a few teachers participated.

In regards to Crabtree-Rohrbaugh, the committee would like to continue to honor their contract because they are very pleased with them. They believe it would be a waste of time to interview other architectural firms.

Forms asking for anonymous input from teachers will be given to the Federation at the next meeting. Once the data from the teachers is collected, the committee hopes to have a report to present at the May 22nd meeting. Mrs. Zahora wanted to know who was developing the questions that would require the teacher's input, and asked if she could see them before they

are distributed. Mrs. Francis stated that all Board Members should have the opportunity to se the questions. Mrs. Pargeon said that she would email Mrs. Adams the questions and have her forward them to all board members for their review.

Mrs. Zahora asked who committee members were. Mrs. Pargeon shared the committee members are she, Mr. Wausnock, Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Edwards. She also stated that administrators and Federation representatives have been at all meetings. She emphasized the importance for each Board Member to comment on their position on the elementary schools configuration.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported that there was no meeting this past month. He publicly apologized to Mrs. Francis for showing up to a tentatively schedule meeting and no one was there. He will contact all committee members to confirm the date, place and time for the next meeting. He attended the basketball banquet and stated Mrs. Pargeon attended also. He thanked the players for a job well done and reported that the spring sports teams are working hard and are having a good year as well as doing well academically. He reminded everyone of the Track Classic which is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2008 at 4:30 PM. He reported he spoke to Mrs. Adams regarding the plumbing issues in the high school basement and it is being looked at for next year's budget. He encouraged those present to use the district website to view the co-curricular activities throughout the district which lists the Trojan Wrestling Booster Club's fundraiser golf outing at Twin Ponds. He encourages the use of the website to advertise committee meetings.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mrs. Francis reported that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 3:45 PM in the administration building. The information they have from the Philadelphia School District on uniforms, discipline, etc. will be reviewed.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
No report.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
Mr. Wausnock stated he does not have a report because he is waiting for a schedule from the borough. Mrs. Zahora stated she ran into Mr. Morgan who said he always received meeting information via email but he suggests that Mr. Wausnock should call to find out why he is not getting the information. Mr. Wausnock said the Mr. Lopez was to get back to him but he will call him again tomorrow. Mrs. Pargeon suggested he speak to Terri Landi.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the list of bills of the general fund, the elementary activities fund, and the athletic fund from April 11, 2008 to April 24, 2008 to be approved at the Regular May 15, 2008 Board meeting.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the Regular May 15, 2008 Board meeting agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES AND FIELD TRIPS

Dr. Lindley reviewed the following professional leaves to be placed on the May 15, 2008 board agenda for approval.

CONTRACTS

Dr. Lindley stated that the contracts for Step by Step and the Lincoln Center are ready for endorsement and will be placed on the May 15, 2008 board agenda for approval. He shared that the Lincoln Center offer a full day program for alternate education students and the district is happy with their approach and educational process.

WORDSWORTH AGREEMENT

Mrs. O'Donnell stated that the Wordsworth agreement is ready for approval and will be presented at the Regular Board meeting on May 15, 2008.

NON-CONSENT

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Procurement Card Resolution and asked for action to be taken tonight by the board.

BID AWARDS

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Boiler Replacement at Franklin Elementary School, the Physical Education Supplies, and other supplies through the MCIU Bid and asked for action to be taken tonight by the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

None.

INFORMATION

1. Third Marking Period Honor Roll Comparisons – Mr. Krem
2. Winter Pottstown Pride – Mr. Armato
3. PHS Wrestling Team Booklet – Mr. Armato
4. WPAZ Education Forum – Mr. Armato
5. PCTV Spotlighting Pottstown School District Program – Mr. Armato
6. Barth Banner, March 2008
7. Edgewood Chronicles, March 2008
8. Franklin Focus, March 2008
9. Lincoln Log, March 2008
10. Rupert Review, March 2008
11. Technology Update – March 2008 – Mrs. Wolfe
12. Strategic Planning, June 11, 2008, 7:30-9:30 PM, PMS LGI – Dr. Lindley shared that the CEO of Performance Fact, the company the board hired to do our strategic plan, will hold a collaborative meeting to help us understand and facilitate the process of having a strategic plan. The meeting will be advertised and the public will be welcome to attend. Personal invitations will be sent as well.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS (limited to Items I and J only)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Procurement Card Resolution as presented in Exhibit 5.

Mr. Hartman asked if our attorney has reviewed the resolution thoroughly. Mr. Hartman wants Mr. Kalis to review it carefully to insure that the district is covered in written word from liability of misuse of the cards.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Procurement Card Resolution be approved as presented with Mr. Kalis's review prior to signing and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-087.

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

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded to Clipper Pipe and Service, Inc., Eddystone, PA for $41,300.00, the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

a. Boiler Replacement at Franklin Elementary School – EXHIBIT 6

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Boiler Replacement Contract at Franklin Elementary School be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-088.

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

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded to the companies with the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

a. Physical Education Supplies – EXHIBIT 7
c. MCIU Custodial Supplies – EXHIBIT 7
d. MCIU Fluorescent Tube – EXHIBIT 7
e. MCIU Paper Supplies – EXHIBIT 7

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Bid Awards be approved as presented. Mrs. Zahora requested that only exceptional items be brought for approval at the Committee of the Whole, and suggested waiting until the regular Board Meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Bid Awards be tabled until the next regular school board meeting.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Edwards: aye; Mr. Hartman: aye; Mr. Huss: aye; Mrs. Pargeon: nay; Mr. Wausnock: aye; Mrs. Wilson: aye; Mrs. Zahora: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: one. Absent: one. Motion carried.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Robert Decker that the graduation presentations he observed this week were very good. Then he thanked the Neighborhood Elementary School Project Committee for allowing the federation and teachers to participate. He stated that faculty meetings are scheduled in six of the seven buildings beginning next Monday. Therefore, he needs the questions from Mrs. Pargeon as soon as possible. Mrs. Pargeon assured Mr. Decker that she will get him what he needs for the faculty meetings. Mr. Decker also shared that the elementary teachers have concerns and apprehension regarding Step by Step.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Francis said that apprehension is normal when change happens, that this is part of the growing process, and she is confident that the transition will go well.

Mrs. Wilson wished to plug the Rupert Elementary book fair again, reminding attendees that it is buy one get one free. She also shared that she was able to raise $1,000.00 from the December book fair which was given to Mr. Freese.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming this evening and wishes more would come out. He stated that the district lost a good teacher, Mr. Keim, who retired.

Mrs. Zahora shared that there was a really nice choral concert at the high school this week and the elementary and middle school bands will perform next week. She wants members to attend the events and support the music association.

Mrs. Pargeon thanked the administrators who faithfully attend the meetings as she is aware many districts have no showing of their administrators at board meetings. She was pleased to hear the Rupert students read their award winning writings. She stated that she feels it is important for members to get out into the district. She attended the Franklin Bingo Night fundraiser and the McDonald's Writing Awards Celebration on April 22, 2008.

Dr. Sparagana shared that Dr. Lindley scheduled an in-service last Friday for the elementary staff to review Step by Step. Most teachers were pleased with the outcome although he understands Mr. Decker's concerns. He stated those who run Step by Step have a data driven, proven record. Dr. Sparagana also expressed his satisfaction in the YMCA's "Fight Crime. Invest in Kids" program which recently received press and news coverage. The Mayor of Pottstown, Borough Council members, the District Attorney and police force members were publicly recognized. Thank you to Mr. Armato who arranged and facilitated this event.

Dr. Lindley stated that the one requirement for Step by Step is to attend a conference in Harrisburg from June 16th to June 20th. At this time, 14 teachers, all elementary principals and all Title 1 teachers are signed up.

Mr. Krem said thank you to all of the board members for their efforts to be involved in the district. He stated that they can't be at all of the events, but that their presence is known. He shared that Dr. Sparagana is meeting with the elementary principals on May 12th to discuss discipline regarding the uniform policy.

Mr. Huss thanked the Federation for getting involved in the elementary schools construction project. He stated how important it was for the board to hear from them. He acknowledged that this is a very busy time of year for the principal's and thanked them for all of their hard work and he thanked those who attended the meeting.

MR. HUSS ANNOUNCED THAT THE BOARD WOULD BE HAVING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES AFTER THE MEETING.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the meeting adjourn. All members present voted aye. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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Penny O'Donnell
Substitute Board Secretary