POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
April 3, 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, April 3, 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, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent: Mr. Robert Hartman. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, David Krem; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley: Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana: Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solictor: Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Pam Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Robert Decker, Ms. Gail Yoder, a member of the press and interested citizens.

AWARDS

Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, principal of Franklin Elementary School, presented the following students who received writing awards:

Kindergarten – Zelias Bray
First Grade – Ashleigh Ellingwood
Second Grade – Anthony Wiggins
Third Grade – Naim Jones
Fourth Grade – Jacob Surratt
Fifth Grade – Molly McGinnis

Mrs. Jane Hospador, the Language Arts Coordinator and a First Grade Teacher, 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. Unfortunately, the fourth grade student, Jacob Surratt, was unable to attend tonight's meeting and the award was accepted by Mrs. Hospador in his behalf.

MR. HARTMAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:45 PM.

PRESENTATION

Mr. William Schofield of PNC Bank made a presentation to the board regarding the use of procurement cards for district employees. He thoroughly explained the many benefits of participating in this program and it seemed to be a welcomed idea and investment.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes to be approved at the Regular April 17, 2008 Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee
No report.

Finance Committee
No report.

Facilities Committee
Mr. Hartman stated that a meeting has not yet taken place; however he has met with Barry Angstadt and the borough. He is looking forward to setting a meeting with the borough representatives after the April 12th workshop.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee
No report.

PSBA Representative
Mr. White informed the board that he will be attending the PSBA Annual meeting on April 15th.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
Mr. Hartman stated a meeting was held on March 26th in which the business manager gave a 15 minute presentation regarding the pros and cons of remodeling or new construction for some of their buildings. Dr. Richardson reviewed the graduation requirement resolution and the board decided not to recommend adoption of the resolution as proposed by the state. He gave an update on the networking project which has a completion date of July and is funded by a state grant. The next meeting is scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of May.

Community Relations Committee
Mr. Armato informed the board of the following donations and sponsorships:

- $2,500.00 sponsorship from Diamond Credit Union for our Reading Olympics program.
- $500.00 donation from Jerry Corn, a 1977 graduate of Pottstown School District which is to be awarded to the junior achieving the highest PSSA math score.

He highlighted the following events:

- Saturday, April 5th at 4:00 PM at the Pottstown High School – The Pottstown High School Band, Zeswitz Music and the Phoebe Sime Trust present Gordon Goodwin's Big Band Concert.
- Saturday, April 5th at 6:00 PM at the Pottstown High School – Welsh Subaru, Diamond Credit Union and Pottstown School District present the Pottstown Basketball Challenge, Philadelphia Eagles versus Pottstown All Stars. All proceed benefit the American Cancer Society.
- The Pottstown All City Elementary Band performed at the State Capitol in Harrisburg and did a great job.

He highlighted the following student achievements:

- 6th grade student Shapell Renitch won first place in the ad design contest in the Mercury.
- Melissa Cook and Stacy Turner qualified for state competition in swimming.
- Seth Eckert placed 3rd in the state wrestling meet. In his career he has earned three state medals. Fred Holly also participated in the state meet and missed earning a medal by seconds.
- Corissa Youse was named Citizen of the Year by DAR.
- 2002 graduate of Pottstown School District and 2006 graduate of Villanova University, Asia Karabee was named Rookie of the Year by her employer, Johnson & Johnson.
- The television program "Spotlight in Pottstown" was judged tops in its category at the Pennsylvania State Public Relations ?
- Tony Rapp, Pottstown teacher, is a finalist in the Voices of Inspiration and she will find out the results at a May 7th banquet.

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project
Mrs. Pargeon stated the committee is working on securing dates and times for a meeting.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported a meeting was held on March 13, 2008 at 7:30 PM. He and Mr. Jeffrey White discussed the objectives of the meeting one which was to re-establish some of the programs that were dropped like freshman football and soccer, Middle School girl's soccer, track and softball. They feel that these programs are necessary especially for good health. They feel there is a need for a board policy and procedure to ensure the sustaining of such programs in the budget. Mr. Hartman is working a creating a spreadsheet that will do a comparison through the years and he hopes to present the information at the next board meeting.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mr. Edwards reported a meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2nd with the committee members, principals and teachers. The committee asked the principals and teachers to tweak the policy for board approval and hope to have it ready for the voting meeting in May. Mr. Krem encouraged the board to approve the policy as is and make no changes to the policy when presented.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
No report.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
No report.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the list of bills of the general fund, the elementary activities fund, and the athletic fund from March 14th through March 27, 2008 to be approved at the Regular April 17, 2008 Board meeting.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the Regular April 17, 2008 Board meeting agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Dr. Lindley reviewed the following professional leaves to be placed on the April 17, 2008 board agenda for approval.

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Admin.	Mary	Rieck	PreK Counts Meeting	State College, PA	5/8/08-5/9/08	Approx. $245.00 Paid by PEAK Grant
Middle	Robert	Stevens	21st Century Community Learning Conference	Dallas, TX	7/14/08-7/17/08	Approx. $1070.00 Paid by 21st Century Grant
Rupert Middle Rupert Rupert	Matthew Vanessa Deb Laurie	Moyer Saylor Gratzinger Gresko	21st Century Community Learning Conference	Dallas, TX	7/14/08-7/18/08	Approx. $4400.00 Paid by 21st Century Grant
Middle	Vanessa	Saylor	After-School Institute	Baltimore, MD	5/7/08 – 5/9/08	Approx. $790.00 Paid by 21st Century Grant

REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2007-2008

Mrs. Adams will seek approval for the revised 2007-2008 school calendar. The official last day of school is to be Monday, June 9th with graduation to be held on Tuesday, June 3rd.

2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mrs. Adams reported that administration has met with the Federation and will seek board approval for the 2008-2009 school year's calendar.

MCIU 2008-2009 SPECIAL EDUCATION COST PLAN/CONTRACTED SERVICES

Mrs. Adams shared that the copies in the board members' packets had the name of any student removed. Once the adjusted schedules are provided by Mrs. Bateson, Director of Special Education/Student Services, the board will be asked to approve the contracted services as indicated.

BID AWARDS

Mrs. Adams stated that the bid awards ready for approval will be presented at the Regular Board meeting on April 17, 2008.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

None.

INFORMATION

1. PSBA 2008 School Design and Construction Conference
2. Follow-up from Joint Meeting with Borough of Pottstown School District
3. Student achievement
4. Barth Banner, March 2008
5. Edgewood Chronicles, March 2008
6. Franklin Focus, March 2008
7. Lincoln Log, March 2008
8. Rupert Review, March 2008

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Robert Decker shared that the procurement cards are a wonderful idea and will really help teachers to purchase the best buys. He told Mr. Hartman that the Federation has also met with Mr. White regarding co-curricular activities and does not want to duplicate efforts. He thanked the board for their approach regarding the uniform policy and making sure the administration and professional staff joined together to discuss what is in the best interest of the teachers, students, and principals. He ended by sharing that Asia Karabee has spent the last three months flying to various conferences in preparation to participate in the management training program at Johnson & Johnson.

Interested taxpayer Gail Yoder asked if she could read the statement to the board which she submitted to the press. Mr. Huss indicated public comments were not available at a Committee of the Whole meeting and said she could bring it to the next regular board meeting.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He thanked the culinary art students who have done a wonderful job in recent events that he attended and where food was prepared. He stated the program has come a long way since Mr. Fortunato has come on board. He congratulated the co-curricular students for their achievements. He attended the Military Ball and said it was very nice to see students dressed so nice and that the speaker was interesting. It was an honor to be there and he feels the JROTC Program is great and provides discipline.

Mrs. Zahora thanked Mrs. Adams for bringing Pottstown School District into the 21st century.

Mrs. Wilson said the Franklin kids were so cute and did a great job.

Mrs. Pargeon reminded board members of the March of Dimes fundraiser, Blue Jeans for Babies and encouraged all to participate. She stated PEAK was holding a community event at the YMCA on April 13th from 2 to 4 PM and an art show at the YWCA this Sunday. She, too, attended the Military Ball and had a lot of fun.

Mr. Huss said it was great to hear the kids read and that he attended the Military Ball and had a great time. He was pleased at how well the event was attended.

Dr. Lindley stated he sent out an email regarding the inclusion program on May 15th and he is looking for parent participation and wishing for more information regarding LRE (Least Restrictive Environment). People from Step by Step have met with teachers regarding the literacy program.

Mrs. Adams shared a facilities update. The final drawings for the storage shed building in the stadium, has been completed and it has gone to the borough. The trade students have also agreed to build a little storage shed for the Football Boosters so they can in turn sell items for fundraising purposes. This will be a movable structure and will not be held up as a result of permits. Mr. Frantz is working on trying to expedite the set up of our modular classrooms. The security project is moving forward and is to be completed in a two to three month period and will position the district to include our new modular classrooms.

Dr. Sparagana thanked Mrs. Pargeon for sharing the PEAK information as he was going to share that information as well and he shared that the small manila envelopes placed at their seats are compliments of Mr. Matthew Moyer on behalf of the 21st Century Program and a special evening is planned at McDonald's on April 22nd.

MR. HUSS ANNOUNCED THAT THE BOARD WOULD BE HAVING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES AFTER THE MEETING AND NO FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS WILL OCCUR.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the meeting adjourn. All members present voted aye. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

_____

Linda S. Adams
School Board Secretary