POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 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, January 10, 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. Robert Hartman, Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Also present were: 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, Mr. Kurt Adam, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Decker, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Dr. Angela Tuck and a member of the press.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee
No report.

Finance Committee
No report.

Facilities Committee
No report.

Montgomery County Legislative Committee
Mr. White reported on the "Right to Know" law and explained that the information will be more "user friendly" on the web site. He reported that there is a bill in both houses at the state for alternative means for taxation to eliminate real estate taxes.

PSBA Representative
Mr. White reported that there was a new Task Force meeting on January 5th and a School Labor Relations Task Force meeting is set for January 22nd. The group will meet throughout the spring and he will have a report in July. He shared information regarding an architectural competition to be held in Philadelphia May 8th and 9th. The State Board of Education is proposing the development of a ten subject area test for requirements for graduation. Opponents of the measure feel it is not flexible and offers no diverse learning while advocates feel it will validate the awarding of diplomas.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative
Mr. Hartman had nothing to report as the next meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

Community Relations Committee
Mr. Armato asked that the following community events be kept on the radar: Sunday, January 20th – Mt. Olive Church will be giving funds to the district to purchase digital projectors at 4:00 PM. There will be a Martin Luther King program at Second Baptist Church on Monday, January 21st at 10:00 AM. $1,000.00 was donated by Pollock Steel Company to be used for the purchase of outer wear for our elementary schools. Mark Moyer, Alumni wrestler donated $1,000.00 towards the PIPPS Wrestling Fund which brings us to the goal necessary to purchase wrestling mats at a price of $10,000.00. A Night of Doo Wop and Blue Eyed Soul featuring the Fabulous Duprees, the Magnificent Men with Class Act featuring Rita Kid Kyle and sponsored by Tom Coyle of the P.H.S. Boosters, will be held Saturday, May 10, 2008, 6:00 PM at the high school auditorium.

Mrs. Zahora asked to be a part of the Community Relations Committee to improve the bridge between the Pottstown School District, the Pottstown Borough and the Hill School.

Neighborhood Elementary Schools Project
Mrs. Pargeon reminded everyone of the AIA Charette that is to take place at the Rupert Elementary School on Saturday, February 2nd from 7:30 AM until 7:00 PM. She sent an invitation to Mr. Feather's, our Drafting teacher to have his students participate in the event and to have hands-on experience. It was also suggested that our culinary arts students might provide one of the meals during the event to accentuate the good things about the Pottstown School District.

Co-Curricular Activities Committee
Mr. Hartman reported that no meeting has been scheduled. After tonight, he will arrange for a meeting to take place within the next two weeks and plans to hold meetings at least once a month.

Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms
Mrs. Francis had no update other than the email she received stating from Mr. Rodriguez that the high school students have been getting together for ideas. Mrs. Pargeon asked the committee to consider including jumpers for all of the girls.

Technology/Curriculum Committee
Mrs. Zahora asked Dr. Lindley to report. Dr. Lindley reported that the Instructional Leadership Council will meet on January 23rd from 3:00 to 5:30 PM to discuss all subject matters. He invited the board to attend the district in-service on Tuesday, January 22nd to hear Dr. Richard Villa speak on "Building an Inclusive School". Our district was penalized by PDE due to having too many special education students not spending enough time in regular education classrooms. PDE is funding Dr. Villa to speak on behalf of this issue. Dr. Lindley will send out an email to the board to remind them of the date, location and time.

Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee
Mr. Wausnock had no report but stated that the borough did not realize the district liaison had changed when he arrived at the meeting. Mr. Huss instructed Mrs. Adams to send an official letter to the borough letting them know of the change in representation.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the January 24, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Dr. Lindley reviewed the following professional leaves to be placed on the January 24, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Admin.	Karen	Shaner	Cost Principles	Washington, DC	1/16/08-1/17/08	Approx. $1260.00 paid by district
High School	Kurt	Adam	Preparing Students for the Workforce of Tomorrow: An	Hershey, PA	2/5/08-2/6/08	Approx. $350.00 paid by Tech Prep grant

			Education & Workforce Development Symposium			
Sr. High	Robert	Decker	ASCD Annual Conference	New Orleans, LA	3/12/08-3/17/08	Approx. $1200 paid by district (includes cost of sub)
Annex	Pam Rita	Bateson Cohen	PDE Conference 2008: Indicators for Success	Hershey, PA	2/24/08-2/27/08	Approx. $1531 paid by district
Admin Annex Admin	Diane Barry Penny	Meck Angstadt O'Donnell	PASBO Annual Conference	Hershey, PA	3/4/08-3/7/08 3/5/08-3/7/08	Approx. $2531 paid by district
Admin.	Emily	Baddeley	Addressing Challenging Behavior	Clearwater Beach, FL	4/2/08-4/5/08	Approx. $1230 paid by PEAK grant

FIELD TRIPS

Dr. Lindley reviewed the following field trips to be placed on the January 24, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

# of students and/or group	Name of conference or activity	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to student	Cost to district-substitutes	Chaperone(s)
Middle School	Environmental Science Club Camping Trip	Blue Rocks Campground Lenhartsville, PA and Appalachian Trail	5/9/08 – 5/10/08	$30.00	$360.00	Christian Fowkes, Hannah Koch, Ryan Regensburg, & Kevin Downes
Sr. High	DECA State Competition	Hershey, PA	2/27/08 – 2/29/08	$250.00	$540.00	Kevin Pascal, Jen Wiand
Sr. High	FCCLA State Conference & Competition	Lancaster, PA	4/2/08-4/4/08	$270.00-300.00/ea	$540.00	Larry Fortunato, Jackie Wilder

JOB DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR AT HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the job description of the Student Services Coordinator to be placed on the January 24, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 401(a) SPECIAL PAY PLAN TERMINATION

Dr. Sparagana requested that action be taken to allow the termination of the 401(a) special pay plan, which only affected two retired administrators. The Administration has been in contact with those retirees impacted.

PCTV COSTS

Mrs. Adams reported that it would cost the district $150 per meeting to televise meetings. She told the board that their authorization was needed to enter into an agreement with PCTV. She informed the board if they chose to televise each meeting, it would cost $3,600.00 per year. Mr. Huss suggested that only the Committee of the Whole meetings be televised and to have a trial run of six months. He asked for a straw vote. The vote was recorded as follows: Ayes: five. Nays: four. Motion carried. It will be placed on the January 24, 2008 Board agenda for approval.

BOARD MEETING MICROPHONES

Mr. Hartman explained that the initial costs of the microphones would be a once and done expenditure and he feels the benefits out-way the costs. It was suggested by Mr. Huss that more research was needed and it could be reported to the board by the first February meeting. Talk amongst board members moved Mr. Huss to call for a straw vote. The vote was recorded as follows: Ayes: one. Nays: eight. Motion defeated.

MCIU 2008-09 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Mrs. Adams reminded the board that she will need their vote regarding the passing of the MCIU's 2008-2009 which was distributed at the December 20th meeting.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT: NOVEMBER 2007

Mrs. Adams stated the information was included in the copy of the agenda and if there were any questions or comments to let her know.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Mrs. Adams shared the importance of filling out and returning this form to the business office as soon as possible.

OTHER

Mrs. Adams shared information regarding the Parent Notification System and based on this past weeks events and what took place in the Antietam School District, the importance of purchasing this system. Mr. Huss asked for a straw vote to try the system on a trial basis and members presented voted aye.

INFORMATION

1. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers – Dr. Lindley
2. Closed Work Orders – Mr. Angstadt
3. New Board Orientation – Mrs. Adams
4. WPAZ Educational Forum – Mr. Armato
5. PEAK Fact Sheet – Dr. Sparagana
6. MCIU 2006-07 Services Provided to Pottstown School District – Mrs. Adams
7. State of Financial Interest Form – Mrs. Adams

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker welcomed all of the new school board members. He stated his apologies to Mrs. Zahora at her disappointment over receiving a negative response from a high school teacher regarding a conference for her child. He was pleased that the board is considering funding academic competitions for less fortunate children to participate. If passed, he believes it will give children incentive, promote better self esteem and the ability to speak in public. He feels such experiences will better prepare students for the future. While he recognizes the concerns the board has regarding all of the new hires in special education, he believes our students have many needs that requires the district to do the responsible thing. He reported that the

teachers feel the purchase of School Dude, which includes IT and Maintenance requests, is wonderful and they are thrilled with the rapid response to requests. He is looking forward to the upcoming meet and discuss meeting.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS

The patrons were told that they could only speak on the following topics:

1. Resolution Authorizing 401 (a) Special Pay Plan Termination
2. List of Bills

Hearing no response, Mrs. Adams asked for a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing 401 (a) Special Pay Plan Termination.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 401(a) SPECIAL PAY PLAN TERMINATION

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Resolution Authorizing 401 (a) Special Pay Plan Termination be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-057.

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

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Thees presented the list of bills for the General Fund totaling $1,659,422.48, the Athletics Activity Fund totaling $140,970.78 and the Phoebe Sime Trust totaling $3,163.00 to recommend the board approve the bills as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2007-2008-056.

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

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

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Mrs. Francis said like wise.

Mrs. Wilson said ditto.

Mr. Wausnock said double ditto.

Mr. Hartman said he was glad to be here since he was in an accident last week. He is doing better than the car.

Mrs. Pargeon said she attended the wrestling tournament on December 22nd. She also commended the twelve high school volunteers who donated their time to box food for the needy.

Mr. Huss thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Huss announced there would be an executive session following the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss an item of litigation and personnel.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the meeting adjourn. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 11:03 PM.

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Linda S. Adams
School Board Secretary