

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

June 21, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Calvin J. Swavely Board Room of the Administration Building with President, Mr. Barry Robertson presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Barry Robertson, Mrs. Cathy Skitko, Dr. James Smock and Mr. Philip Thees. Absent: Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Also present were: Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Gary DeRenzo, Mr. Robert Decker, Mr. Richard Huss, Ms., Pam Bateson, Mrs. Julia Wilson, Mr. Ronald Brown, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Taffy Wolfe, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mr. Dick Franz, a member of the press and interested citizens.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 7, 2007 be approved.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: abstain; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye. Ayes: seven: Nays: none. Absent: one. Abstain: one. Motion carried.

### LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Mrs. Skitko that the list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$336,283.75; the Athletic Fund totaling \$5,944.13; the Data Processing Fund totaling \$33,023.32; the Elementary Activity Fund totaling \$1,606.00; the Cafeteria Fund totaling \$168,497.84 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-106.

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Dr. Smock that the Financial Report for the General Fund, including reports of receipts and expenditures for the month of May 2007, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2006-2007-107.

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

## TAX COLLECTORS REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Dr. Smock that the Tax Collector's Report, as prepared by Mrs. Linda S. Adams, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2006-2007-108.

The 2007 Earned Income Tax showing \$444,100.13 collected to date.

The 2006 Earned Income Tax showing \$1,782,580.53 collected to date.

The Delinquent Earned Income Tax showing \$1,338.03 collected in June.

The 2006 Real Estate Interims showing a balance due of \$35,034.81.

The 2005 School Interim Tax showing a balance due of \$3,413.46.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS

None.

## AWARDS

None.

## HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Richard Huss feels it would be unwise to televise board meetings. This would incur costs to the taxpayers and may curtail discussion. Some individuals may not be comfortable talking on camera. Televising board meetings may also encourage grandstanding. If community members want to know what is going on they need to attend the meetings or read "The Mercury." Mr. Huss feels the district instituted a good dress code several years ago and uniforms are not necessary. The elementary schools embraced the dress code, however, it is not enforced at the Middle and High Schools. To mandate uniforms would be costly to families. The board should require the administration to enforce the existing dress code.

Mrs. Julia Wilson feels uniforms are a great idea. The board should think of what they are imposing when putting khaki pants on little boys who play outside. She questioned why the board chose Schuylkill Valley. They are quite pricey and would like the board to research French Toast again. She asked who will pay for uniforms for those who cannot afford them.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Montgomery County Legislative Committee

No update.

### Community Relations Committee

Mr. Armato advised the school district ran an informational table at a homeowner's workshop at Montgomery County Community College. The district will begin advertising sponsorships for the stadium project. Borough Hall, Harleysville National Bank and the Tri County Chamber of Commerce have donated \$10,000 to develop career awareness programs.

### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

No update.

### PSBA Regional Representative

No update.

MRS. ZAHORA ENTERED AT 7:29 P.M.

### Finance Committee

Dr. Smock advised the board will take action on the final 2007-2008 budget.

### Personnel Committee

Mrs. Barnhill advised the committee has held several meetings. She announced an executive session regarding Act 93 personnel and the executive team.

THE BOARD ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:30 P.M.

DAVID KREM ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8:34 P.M.

THE MEETING RESUMED AT 8:51 P.M.

### Technology/Curriculum Assessment Committee

No update.

### Washington Street Initiative Joint Committee

Dr. Smock advised this item will be addressed later in the meeting.

### Athletic Field Construction Projects Committee

Mrs. Skitko advised this will be covered under special reports.

### School Uniforms Committee

Mrs. Francis provided handouts on prices. Mr. Jerry Williams from Schuylkill Valley is in attendance to answer questions. Mrs. Zahora asked why the committee chose one vendor. She stated the committee looked at French Toast, however at the time they were not available at the Coventry Mall. They found Schuylkill Valley to be reasonable and accommodating. Schuylkill Valley will provide a Pottstown School District webpage on their site, will provide elementary on site fittings, and will house inventory. Mr. Robertson asked why only K-8. Mr. Edwards responded in talking with underclassmen at the high school, they would like to have input into what the uniform will look like. The committee chose to implement K-8 this year and complete 9-12 next year. Mrs. Francis recommended a soft launch approach to provide the district time to work through the kinks and have financial aid in place. Dr. Sparagana questioned if the soft launch would begin in the fall of 2007. Mr. Hartman stated school clothes may already be purchased for next school year. Mrs. Francis feels parents have not shopped for school clothes yet. Mr. Robertson asked if the board will be provided a policy for review. Mr. Edwards stated the committee would like permission to begin the soft launch. Samples could be provided to each school. Mrs. White asked if the logo would be required. Mrs. Francis replied yes the logo would be required. Mr. Hartman stated when the parochial schools became specific as to vendor, it became difficult for parents to shop around for the best prices. Mrs. Francis feels the district must come up with a program for those who cannot afford to purchase uniforms. Mrs. Zahora asked what shoes would be required. Mrs. Francis stated the current policy on footwear is fine the way it is. Mrs. Zahora asked how this would affect the teachers. Mrs. Francis stated teachers are adamant they do not want uniforms. Mr. Thees asked if there is a current dress code for teachers. Mrs. Francis replied yes, currently there is a dress code for all employees of the district. Mr. Robertson stated a soft start could begin tomorrow, what exactly is the committee asking? Mrs. Francis would like the board to require uniforms by 2008-2009. The first year would be a gradual, voluntary process. Mr. Thees feels the district should institute a uniform policy. Mrs. Francis stated this is difficult due to time constraints. Mrs. Zahora asked if the hard date would be for the high school as well. Mrs. Francis stated the hard date would be for K-12. She asked that the board be considerate of Schuylkill Valley and the difficulties this may cause. Mr. Jerry Williams stated there are certain difficulties with a soft launch. It makes it difficult to keep inventory in the store and how the district will communicate with parents over the summer. Mr. Hartman asked how the district would address those students who disregard the policy. Mr. Thees stated following the dress code is part of good behavior, the consequences should be students would be barred from participating in extracurricular activities. Mr. Krem stated the administration cannot enforce what is not policy. Mrs. Francis feels a soft launch will help with the implementation of a policy and would be a great way to start. Mrs. Zahora feels a soft launch would give the district a chance to advertise uniforms in each school.

### Elementary Construction

No update.

## SPECIAL REPORTS

### 1. Concession Stand Project – Mr. Frantz

Mr. Frantz provided a presentation on the concession stand project. He estimated the costs at approximately \$160,000. If the district utilized their own personnel for plumbing and electrical work and vocational education students to work on the project, these costs would be reduced. Mrs. Skitko asked if there are funds available for this project. Mrs. Adams stated there are approximately \$68,000 in stadium funds. Mr. Hartman asked the cost if the district uses students and district personnel to perform some of the work. Mr. Frantz stated it could be around \$75,000. Mrs. Zahora questioned why we are building new and ignoring renovating the existing stands. Mr. Hartman stated the existing concession stand can continue to operate and generate funds while the new are constructed.

### 2. Playing Fields Update – Mr. DeRenzo/ Mr. Angstadt

Mr. DeRenzo provided a tentative list of priority items. Mr. Steve Parks recommends a feasibility study of the athletic fields. Mr. DeRenzo stated there are no Shantz funds available. Mr. Hartman stated artificial turf is an investment which will pay for itself. Mrs. Zahora asked if there is money available to do the feasibility study or must the district bid this item. Mrs. Adams responded the district is not required to bid a service and could find the money to have the study done. Mr. Robertson asked Mr. DeRenzo to supply return on investment information. Mr. Edwards asked if the Parks study would provide information on the return of investment. Mr. DeRenzo stated it would not, however, he could research the cost benefits. Mr. Hartman feels before spending the money for the study, the board should commit to the project. Mr. DeRenzo reminded the board the Bobby Shantz dedication will be held in August. He provided a copy of the program to the board and administration.

### 3. Federal Programs Report – Mr. Giering

Mr. Giering reviewed the Federal Programs Report.

MR. KREM LEFT THE MEETING AT 9:50 P.M.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the following consent items be approved, in accordance with Policy 1120, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

### NEW POSITION

Grant Analyst to monitor, coordinate, and report activities of federal, state, and local grants, \$45,000 salary plus benefits, grant funded position.

PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATION

Lisa F. DeRenzo, Third Grade Teacher, Rupert Elementary School, resignation effective June 8, 2007, employed since August 26, 2001.

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION

Julie L. Hauck, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 8, 2007, employed since September 27, 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ELECTIONS

Erica L. Colvin, Special Education Learning Support Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, B, step 1.5, \$41,435 (includes \$400 Special Education stipend), new position, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Erin M. O'Donnell, Special Education Autistic Support Teacher, Franklin Elementary School, B, step A, \$41,290 (includes \$400 Special Education stipend), new position, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Jamie L. Stringer, Special Education Life Skills Teacher, Barth Elementary School, \$46,722 – M, step 7 (includes \$400 Special Education stipend), new position, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Amanda S. Levengood, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Grade 5, Barth Elementary School, \$186/day, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, coverage for Kelli Wolfel.

Karen D. Ciccoli, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, \$90/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective May 24, 2007, this is in addition to her position as an IST Coach.

Brett T. Myers, Floater Substitute Teacher, \$186/day, effective for the 2007-2008 school year. This is in addition to his position as Head Football Coach, Pottstown High School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER TUTORING/ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Paid through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Program runs June 18 through July 27, 2007.

Karen	Dilliplane	Nurse	6/18 to 6/29 - \$28/hr. , 7/2 to 7/27 - \$29/hr.	District Employee
Sally	Specher	Nurse	6/18 to 6/29 - \$28/hr. , 7/2 to 7/27 - \$29/hr.	New Hire

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLGY DEVELOPMENT

Includes planning, staff development, and curriculum hours to be scheduled by the Assistant Superintendent throughout the 2007 – 2008 school year, not to exceed 500 hours.

Tracy	Fleming	up to 6/29/07 - \$28/hr., as of 7/2/07 - \$29/hr.
Christian	Fowkes	up to 6/29/07 - \$28/hr., as of 7/2/07 - \$29/hr.
Mary	Powell	up to 6/29/07 - \$28/hr., as of 7/2/07 - \$29/hr.
Lisa	Rossi	up to 6/29/07 - \$28/hr., as of 7/2/07 - \$29/hr.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER GUIDANCE

30 hours each at \$28/hr. up to 6/29/07, \$29/hr as of 7/2/07

- (1) William Gumby
- (2) Kelly Leibold

CHANGES IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Diane M. Martz, from Elementary Cafeteria Manager/Head Cook to High School Cafeteria Manager/Head Cook, effective May 29, 2007, salary to remain the same, replacing Lynne Foulke.

Cindy L. Smith, from Substitute Clerk/Typist to Full-Time, Ten-Month Secretary I (217 days/year), Pottstown High School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, \$14.54/hour, replacing Jacquelyn Betts.

Maryann Lightcap, from Part-Time Food Service Worker to Elementary Cafeteria Manager/Head Cook, effective June 4, 2007, \$12.01/hour, replacing Diane Martz.

Shannon M. Wagner, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher, to Contracted Teacher, Grade 2, Rupert Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, \$40,890 - B, step B, contract of Lisa DeRenzo.

Laura J. Schneck, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher, to Contracted Teacher, Grade 1, Barth Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, \$40,890 – B, step B, contract of Gina Ellison.

Nicholas W. Odagis, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher, to Contracted Teacher, Grade 3, Franklin Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, \$41,035 – B, step 1.5, contract of Heather Ott.

Michael J. DiDonato, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher, to Contracted Teacher, Grade 5, Barth Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, \$42,990 – M, step B, new position.

Denise L. Schleicher, from Special Education Teacher to Regular Education Teacher, Grade 4, Edgewood Elementary School, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, salary to remain the same, position of Carol Gilliland.

Jonelle Uzzardi-Lee, from Title I Classroom Assistant to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Kindergarten, Edgewood Elementary School, effective the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year, \$186/day, coverage for Marie Anders.

Joshua R. Wagner, from Title I Classroom Assistant to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Grade 4, Lincoln Elementary School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, \$186/day, coverage for Rita Burkheimer.

Jamie L. Fazekas, from Title I Classroom Assistant to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Grade 3, Rupert Elementary School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, \$186/day, coverage for Calista Boyer.

Allen M. Ferster, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Grade 5, Rupert Elementary School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, \$186/day, coverage for Rebecca Wyatt.

Megan L. Meier, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Title I Classroom Assistant, location to be determined, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, compensation is in accordance with the new Support Staff Guidelines, replacing Jonelle Uzzardi.

Lauren E. Dorn, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Title I Classroom Assistant, location to be determined, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, compensation is in accordance with the new Support Staff Guidelines, replacing Jamie Fazekas.

Rebecca M. Carey, from Long-Term Substitute Teacher to Title I Classroom Assistant, location to be determined, effective the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, compensation is in accordance with the new Support Staff Guidelines, replacing Joshua Wagner.

#### BOARD POLICY CHANGE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 4500-Report of Absence-Wage Continuation and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-109.

#### CONTINUATION OF POSITIONS

Kelly Wolfel, Literacy Coach, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, salary to remain as her regular teacher salary.

Calista M. Boyer, Literacy Coach, effective for the 2007-2008 school year, salary to remain as her regular teacher salary.

EXTRACURRICULAR COMPENSATION

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Co-Advisors for the 2006-2007 school year, stipend of \$650 each, to be paid through the Perkins Grant.

Larry Fortunato, Pottstown High School  
Jackie Wilder, Pottstown High School

EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following employee disciplinary action and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-110.

Barth Elementary employee, one (1) day of unpaid leave, effective June 7, 2007.

SCHOOL START AND DISMISSAL TIMES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the school start and dismissal times for the 2007-2008 school year as listed below:

	<b>2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
	<b>SCHOOL START AND DISMISSAL TIMES</b>		
	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Staff Arrival	8:00 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
Student Arrival	8:45 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Student Dismissal	3:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:45 p.m.
Staff Dismissal	3:30 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	2:55 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Building	First Name	Last Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Edgewood	Angela	Tuck	Governor's Academy for Urban Education	Allentown, PA	6/23/07-6/28/07	No Cost to District
Admin	Mary	Rieck	Governor's Institute for Early Childhood Education	Huntingdon, PA	7/14/07 - 7/20/07	Approx. \$143. Paid by PEAK grant

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)
15 DECA Members	North Atlantic Regional DECA Conference	Boston, Massachusetts	11/16/07 – 11/18/07	\$250.00	\$172.00	Mr. Pascal & Mrs. Carpenter
40 High School Concert Choir Members	Candlelight Processional & Massed Choir Performance at Walt Disney World	Orlando, Florida	11/30/07-12/3/07	\$700.00	\$344.00	Mrs. House & Mr. Hayes

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL RESERVE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution to transfer funds from the General fund to Capital Reserve and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-111.

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

NON-CONSENTAPPROVAL OF SUPPORT STAFF SALARIES

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board approve the full-time and part-time Support Staff salaries and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-207-112.

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

APPROVAL OF CLASSIFIED SALARY

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Board approve the full-time classified salary and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-113.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: aye; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Zahora: abstain. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Abstain: one. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2007-2008 BUDGET

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora and seconded by Mrs. Skitko that the Board approve the adoption of the 2007-2008 budget resolution and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-114.

Dr. Smock reminded those present the Capital Reserve items listed are not a blanket approval.

Each project will be approved prior to being started.

Mr. Thees stated all the burden is on the taxpayers with little help from Harrisburg.

Mr. Hartman stated the district did not add any co-curricular activities, but we did not cut activities.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: nay; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Zahora: aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: one. Motion carried.

#### 2007-2008 BUDGET TRANSFERS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution authorizing transfers within the 2007-2008 budget and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum#2006-2007-115.

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

#### ELECTION OF TREASURER

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board shall annually elect a Treasurer to serve for one year beginning the first day of July following such an election. The Treasurer's term shall run from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

Mr. Robertson opened the floor for nominations for Board Treasurer.

Dr. Smock nominated Mr. Thees. Mrs. Skitko seconded the nomination. As there were no other nominations for Treasurer, the nominations were closed.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: aye; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: abstain; Zahora: aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Abstain: one. Motion carried.

Mr. Thees was declared Treasurer.

#### RESOLUTION TO AMEND FORWARD BORROWING DATES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution to amend the date of Bond Issuance for Forward Borrowing Entered into on August 19, 2004.

Dr. Smock feels the board requires additional information before considering this item. Mrs. Adams reminded the board of the time constraints.

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board table this item until the July 5, 2007 board meeting.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: nay; Robertson: aye; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Zahora: nay. Ayes: seven. Nays: two. Motion carried.

### INFORMATION

1. Technology Update – Mrs. Wolfe
2. 2007 Co-Curricular Report – Mr. DeRenzo
3. Closed Work Orders: April-June – Mr. Angstadt
4. Honor Roll Comparison: 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 – Mr. Krem
5. PEAK Update – Mrs. Rieck
6. 2007 Pennsylvania Youth Survey/Middle School – Dr. Lindley

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Televised Board Meetings with PCTV – Mr. Thees

Mr. Thees asked Mr. Armato to bring the board up to date on the progress of televising board meetings. Mr. Armato met with Mark Pollock of PCTV regarding the possibility of airing board meetings. The air time would be free of charge, the cost to have an employee record the meetings would be \$125 per night. There may be nights where an employee would be unavailable due to conflicts with other taping needs. Mrs. Zahora stated the agreement was PCTV was supposed to support the district when we renovated the high school to allow room for their studio. She is opposed to spending \$125. Mr. Armato stated the alternative would be to air a half hour studio show with key administrators and board members to summarize previous meetings and preview upcoming meetings. Mr. Thees does not want to haggle over \$125 when it is to be used to inform public. Mr. Hartman would like to have students record the meetings, this would make a good graduation project. Mrs. Zahora asked if the borough pays to air their meetings. Mr. Armato stated the borough pays \$125 per meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board proceed in gathering all information on the necessary equipment and the costs to begin televising board meetings.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: nay; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Zahora; aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: one. Motion carried.

2. Save Our Land, Save Our Towns Case Study Request – Mr. Krem

Mr. Thomas Hylton presented a list of the information he has or will need from the district to move forward with the case study. Mr. Thees asked if any information provided would be sold. Mr. Hylton responded the information would not be sold. Mr. Thees asked if Mr. Hylton would be giving public presentations on the case study. Mr. Hylton stated it was a possibility but is not anticipated. Mr. Thees asked if Mr. Hylton charged for giving public presentations. Mr.

Hylton stated Save Our Towns requires the purchase of books or DVDs but does not charge fees. Save Our Towns is a non-profit organization. Mr. Thees asked if Mr. Hylton is planning on writing a book and if such a book would be profitable to him or to Save Our Land, Save Our Towns. Mr. Hylton replied no. Mr. Thees is concerned that the district follow the letter of the law in responding to this request. He is concerned that the information gathered is not used for profit at the expense of the taxpayers. Mr. Hylton is willing to pay reasonable fees for district personnel time. Mrs. Francis asked if photos would be taken. Mr. Hylton stated the only photos to be taken would be taken from a public right away. Dr. Lindley is concerned how Save Our Towns will ascertain the quality of education. Mr. Hylton assured the board the study would include both sides, educational quality and walkable schools. Mr. Hylton stated board members could sit in on the meetings with district staff. Mr. Hartman asked if Save Our Towns has funding for the case study. Mr. Hylton replied they have two funding sources. Mr. Hartman asked if once the study is completed the district will be allowed to view before it is disseminated to the public. Mr. Hylton responded, yes, it would be made available to the board before it is published. Mrs. Francis asked if the board would be able to comment on the study prior to its publication. Mr. Hylton responded, this is Save Our Towns study and while they will take into account district comments, they are not obligated to incorporate them into the finished study. Mrs. Skitko questioned how Save Our Towns would draw individuals to the website once the study is completed and posted. Mr. Hylton responded Save Our Towns will write articles, make presentations and use other district's studies to encourage individuals to visit the site. Mrs. Skitko stated Save Our Towns original letter stated Pottstown's tax base is stagnant. It is the goal of the study to increase the tax base? Mr. Hylton stated there is a wide range of opinion on how to increase the tax base.

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Thees that the board authorize the solicitor to review the nature of the request from Save Our Land, Save Our Town; authorize the Business Administrator to devise a fee schedule per employee; and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to determine the maximum amount of time any individual employee of the district may be utilized by Save Our Land, Save Our Town.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Barnhill: aye; Edwards: aye; Francis: aye; Hartman: aye; Robertson: nay; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: nay; Zahora: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: two. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Personnel – Dr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed personnel items which will be placed on the July 5, 2007 board agenda for approval.

### 2. Professional Leaves – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed three professional leaves to be placed on the July 5, 2007 board agenda for approval.

3. Field Trips – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed the field trips to be placed on the July 5, 2007 board agenda for approval.

ZAHORA EXITED THE MEETING AT 11:25 P.M.

4. Additional New Business Items

Mr. Robertson suggested the Board write a letter of support for the Hill School Green Street Project.

Upon straw vote, it was approved for the Superintendent of Schools to write and send a letter of support to the Hill School.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker is pleased the board did not adopt the uniform policy for next year due to the time constraints. He is looking forward to the new email system and is thrilled with the approval of the 2007-2008 budget.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Thees attempted to protect the taxpayers from quicksand with his no vote on the case study.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mrs. Barnhill thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mrs. Skitko would like the board to be conscious that the perception will be that Pottstown School District endorses the study by Save Our Land, Save Our Town. The district will be unable to control how our comments are used by Save Our Land, Save Our Town.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Dr. Smock that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

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Linda S. Adams, Secretary

