

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

October 6, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday October 6, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayne A. Deegan Room of the Pottstown Middle School with President, Mr. Barry Robertson presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Richard C. Huss, Mrs. Carolyn Mauras, Mr. Robert Morgan, Mr. Barry Robertson, Dr. James Smock, Mr. Phillip Thees and Mrs. Sharon V. Thomas. Absent: Mr. Robert Hartman. Also present were: Substitute Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David P. Krem; Business Administrator, Mr. James R. Bush; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mr. Robert Stevens, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. Matt Moyer, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Ms. Pam Bateson, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mrs. Loretta Sweigart, Mr. Bruce Madara, Mrs. Andrea Hunsberger, Mrs. Judith Zahora, Ms. Renee Murphy, Ms. Jessy Snyder, Ms. L. Thompson, a member of the press and interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 15, 2005 be approved.

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

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Dr. Smock that the list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,032,672.78; the Athletic Fund totaling \$15,916.23; the Data Processing Fund totaling \$ 19,954.76 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-031.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

AWARDS

Mr. Krem announced that the High School cheerleaders competed and placed at the Philadelphia Distance Run.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Bruce Madara welcomed the new management team. He advised the Board that there is a planned bus trip on October 24, 2005 to Harrisburg to protest school taxes.

SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Mauras that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 1120, as recommended by the Substitute Superintendent of Schools:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/ASSISTANTS RESIGNATIONS

Bridget Reale, 510 N. Charlotte Street, 2nd Floor Rear, Pottstown PA 19464, Special Substitute Teacher, resignation effective September 1, 2005.

Claire Schweitzer, 413 Green Street, Green Lane PA 18054, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective September 1, 2005.

Jonathan Smith, 479 E. Cherry Road, Quakertown PA 18951, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective September 1, 2005.

Kylie Friend, 1697 Potter Drive, Pottstown PA 19464, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective September 1, 2005

EXTRACURRICULAR RESIGNATION

Lisa Schiavone, 2071 Squirrel Hill Road, Schwenksville PA 19473, Curriculum & Instruction Facilitator, resignation effective December 31, 2005.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER/ASSISTANT ELECTIONS

Sandra Johnson, 724 Walnut Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Special Substitute Teacher, effective upon receipt of emergency certification.

Matthew Blute, 1665 E. Cedarville Road, Pottstown PA 19465, Substitute Class Assistant, effective August 30, 2005.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMER WORK (All Paid through IDEA funds)

Special Education In-Service

Nicole Cieri, 172 N. Highland Avenue, Norristown PA 19403, 6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Matthew Cohen, 15022 Liberty Lane, Philadelphia PA 19116,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Brenda DeRenzo, 107 Robert Joseph Road, Pottstown PA 19465,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Ann Marie McDonnell, 506 Northridge Road, Collegeville PA 19426,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Judith Miller, 4560 Painted Sky Road, Reading PA 19606,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Karen Osley, 922 S. Hanover Street, Pottstown PA 19465,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Dina Rice, 136 Cobblestone Drive, Gilbertsville PA 19525,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Amy Sellman, 907 Hickory Grove Drive, Limerick PA 19468,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Kathleen Canning, 707 Marchman Road, Philadelphia PA 19115,6 hours @ \$28/hour.

Autism Class Preparation and Training/Tutoring/IEP Writing

Amelia Leininger, 205 Poplar Drive, Reading PA 19606,12 hours @ \$28/hour.

Karen Kemmerer, 1009 Mews Drive, Sellersville PA 18960,8.5 hours @ \$28/hour.

Michael Romasco, 250 Oak Street, Gilbertsville PA 19525,7 hours @ \$28/hour.

Sandy Zuchero, 579 Kulp Road, Perkiomenville PA 18074,17 hours @ \$28/hour.

CAFETERIA/HALL PROCTOR ELECTION

Diana Vargo, 1434 N. Adams Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Substitute Cafeteria/Hall Proctor, Pottstown Middle School, \$33.30/day , effective September 9, 2005.

EXTRACURRICULAR ELECTIONS

Donna Carpenter, 4 Country Lane, Douglassville PA 19518, Mentor, \$486, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Diane Earnshaw, 201 Antietam Drive, Douglassville PA 19518, Mentor, \$486, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Michele Boyd, 250 Prospect Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Mentor, \$465.92 ,effective for 182 days of the 2005-06 school year.

Mary Palladino, 1332 Fairview Street, Reading PA 19602, Mentor, \$486, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Jeffrey Delaney, 1904 Irene Court, Pottstown PA 19464, Strength & Conditioning Coach (.50), \$944, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Todd Williams, 216 E. Schuylkill Road, Apt. 84, Pottstown PA 19465, Strength & Conditioning Coach \$944, (.50), effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Desiree Schwoyer, 4840 Dunham Drive, Reading PA 19606, Head Coach, Middle School Cheerleading, Level 1, \$771, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

SCHOOL PHYSICIAN/CONSULTANT

Dr. John Anderson, 933 N. Charlotte Street, Pottstown PA 19464, \$9.54 - per school physical \$75/hour – consultant.

SCHOOL DENTISTS

Dr. Carl Pardini, 625 N. Charlotte Street, Pottstown PA 19464, \$4.00 - per exam.

Dr. Lois Raven, 63 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown PA 19464, \$4.00 - per exam.

Dr. Christopher Rohrbach, 562 High Street, Pottstown PA 19464, \$4.00 - per exam.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION CONSULTANT

Lisa Schiavone, 2071 Squirrel Hill Road, Schwenksville PA 19473, Curriculum & Instruction Consultant, effective January 3, 2006 \$28/hour, not to exceed 200 hours for the 2005-06 school year – this includes hours worked during the 2005-06 school year as an employee of the Pottstown School District. .

SUPPORT STAFF TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Mary McMahon, 24 Walnut Street, Pottstown PA 19464, payment of tuition reimbursement for credit received at MCCC, \$243.

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

Elizabeth Bernhard, 23 S. Madison Street, Boyertown PA 19512, Secretary I, Pottstown High School, From \$26,717 To: \$27,514.

Heather Kurtz, 709 Ridge Drive, Douglassville PA 19518, degree adjustment from B, step 11.22 to B+15, step 11.22, \$275.34, effective for the 2nd semester of the 2004-05 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Ida Detar, Deborah Gratzinger, Lisa Kolb, Katherine Moyer, and Sallie Chesbro to attend the Keystone State Reading Association Conference, Hershey PA, October 16-19, 2005, expenses paid by Title I funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Jeffrey Sparagana to attend the Early Childhood Partnership Conference, Hershey, PA, September 28-30, 2005, with expenses paid by the district.

Mr. Daniel Tracy to attend Leadership & Excellence for Administrators in PA Schools, Harrisburg, PA, October 21-22, 2005, with expenses paid by the district.

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Dr. Angela Tuck, 1524 Hilltown Pike, Hilltown, PA 18927, requests tuition reimbursement for credits received at Immaculata University, \$995.00 (balance for 2005), effective October 6, 2005.

Mr. Jeffrey Sparagana, 2503 Prospect Street, Reading, PA 19606, requests tuition reimbursement for credits received at Widener University, \$1,460 (balance for 2005), effective October 6, 2005.

FIELD TRIPS

Ten to fourteen students to attend the Rocky Grove Invitational, October 14-15, 2005, Franklin, Pennsylvania. Mr. Lawrence Harvey and Mr. Russ and Mrs. Maryann Lightcap to chaperone.

- ! No substitutes needed
- ! No cost to the district
- ! Students did fund raising to pay their expenses

Eight students to visit the Air & Space Museum (Chantilly, VA), Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam, & Korea Memorials, etc. (Washington, DC), and Ft. McHenry (Baltimore, MD). September 23-24, 2005. Major Fitz-Patrick and Miss Katie Fitz-Patrick to chaperone.

- ! No substitutes needed
- ! Cost to student \$45.00
- ! Other costs covered by AFROTC funds

AUCTION OF UNUSED FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize the sale of unused property and equipment in accordance with Section 707 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. at the Nester Warehouse Facility, Third Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

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

NON-CONSENT

STUDENT EXPULSIONS

It was moved by Mrs. Mauras and seconded by Mr. Huss that the board approve the expulsion of students and the names be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-032.

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

INFORMATION

1. Learning Center Report – Mr. Sparagana (video presentation)
2. Barth Banner, October 2005
3. Edgewood Chronicles, October 2005
4. Franklin Focus, October 2005
5. Lincoln Log, October 2005
6. Rupert Review, October 2005

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discipline Collaborative

No update on the discipline collaborative. Dr. Lindley provided a workbook on the adult diploma program to the board. Twenty four students are currently enrolled in the program, the majority of which are from Pottstown.

2. Facilities Update

Mr. Krem advised the Board that the committee has been formed to study the redistricting and consolidation of the elementary schools and he is hoping to report back to the board at the November 17, 2005 meeting..

3. Fitness Facility and Track Use Update

No update.

4. Athletic Facilities Construction – Shantz Baseball Field Concessions/Restroom – Grigg Stadium – Hartman/Huss/Lindley/Armato/Angstadt/DeRenzo

Mr. Bush advised the Board that the bids for the Bobby Shantz Field renovations will be opened on October 20, 2005. He hopes to award the field renovation bid, the baseball equipment bid and the baseball scoreboard bid at the October 20, 2005 board meeting.

5. Education Tax Credit Designation Process

Mr. Kalis advised the Board that the state is currently processing our application which should take approximately thirty days.

6. Virtual or Shared AP Classes

No update.

7. Elementary Enrollments

Mr. Krem reviewed enrollment figures from September 30, 2005. He advised that certain classes are closed and no more students will be placed in those classrooms. Mrs. Mauras feels that we need to hire an additional fifth grade teacher.

MR. HARTMAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8:15 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel

Dr. Lindley reviewed personnel items which will be placed on the October 20, 2005 board agenda for approval.

2. Administrative/Supervisory Professional Leaves

Mr. Krem reviewed two administrative/supervisory professional leave to be placed on the October 20, 2005 board agenda for approval.

3. Professional Leaves

Dr. Lindley reviewed two professional leaves and one field trip to be place on the October 20, 2005 board agenda for approval.

4. Community College Grant

No update.

5. Transportation Contracts

Mr. Bush reviewed two transportation contracts to be placed on the October 20, 2005 board agenda for approval.

6. Energy Conservation

Mr. Bush and Mr. Angstadt reviewed measures which will be taken to reduce energy costs.

7. Additional New Business Items

None.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Andrea Hunsberger states that the communication between central administration and building staff is much better than in the past.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Judith Zahora feels that we need teachers. Class sizes are not acceptable. 5th graders need space.

Mr. Huss asked for input from the Federation on hiring more teachers.

Mrs. Hunsberger asked if the teacher would be hired only for the one class. All class sizes are too high and the hiring of teachers needs to continue to the other classes as well.

ADDITIONAL 5TH GRADE TEACHER

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mrs. Mauras that the Board approve the hiring of an additional fifth grade teacher.

Mr. Morgan acknowledges that we would like smaller class sizes if money were not the issue. The administration recommended class configurations, we are still within those numbers. We need to stick to the decisions that were made at budget time.

Mrs. Thomas questioned again the PDE regulations on space per student.

Mr. Hartman reminded everyone that a budget is a plan which can be adjusted during the year.

Dr. Smock states that the hiring of a teacher may be the right answer, however, he would like more information from the administration and staff to make the best decision.

Mr. Morgan called for the previous question and it was seconded by Mr. Thees.

All members present voted aye to call for the previous question.

The vote for the motion to hire an additional fifth grade teacher is recorded as follows: Thomas: nay; Thees: nay; Smock: nay; Robertson: nay; Morgan: nay; Mauras: aye; Huss: aye; Hartman: aye; Barnhill: nay. Ayes: three. Nays: six. Absent: none. Motion defeated.

MIDDLE AND HIGH AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Thees that the board approve the funding of the after school learning centers at the middle school and high school.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows, Barnhill: aye; Hartman: aye; Huss: aye; Mauras: abstain; Morgan: aye; Robertson: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Thomas: aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Abstain: one. Motion carried.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Robertson advised that there will be an executive session immediately following the meeting to discuss litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

James R. Bush, Secretary

