

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
August 15, 2013 - 7:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President Mrs. Judyth Zahora presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Ms. Mary-Beth Bacallao, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, and Mrs. Polly Weand. Absent were Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Thomas Hylton and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Substitute Board Secretary, Mrs. Penny O'Donnell; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Ms. Pamela Bateson, Dr. Jeffrey Hartmann, Mr. Matthew Boyer, Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

MINUTES

Mrs. O'Donnell presented the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 20, 2013 and the minutes from the Regular meeting held on June 24, 2013 to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Wausnock presented the list of bills from the General Fund for the period of November 1, 2012 to November 7, 2012 and from various funds for the period of June to June 30, 2013 and from the period of July 1, 2013 to August 7, 2013 to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Wausnock presented the Treasurer's Report for July 2013 to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

No meeting.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Hartman reported the leveling of softball field is progressing with a few things remaining to be done in time for use by the softball team. This year is the 55th Thanksgiving Day Game and plans are being made to honor alumni that have recently passed away. The Co-Curricular and Facilities Committees agreed to shut down the driveway that joins the high school and middle school during co-curricular events due to safety reasons.

Mrs. Francis entered the meeting at 7:39 pm.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand thanked Mrs. Wolfe and Mrs. Kolka for presenting outstanding agendas for the August 1 Committee meeting. Topics presented and discussed included implementing a new information system, technology equipment and supplies at Barth, utilizing technology in conjunction with the new math series, continuation of the Technology Internship program, and upcoming report card revision. The Related Arts and Career Tech is being examined, looking at the needs and goals. The Strategic Plan is in Phase 3 with a completion date of November 30, 2014. Professional development in-service days are scheduled for August.

Dr. Sparagana stated the district has not yet received results for state from the Keystone Exams and PSSA tests. Results will be shared with public as soon as the state releases the results.

Mr. Rodriguez reported the PDE has delayed Annual Yearly Progress results. He stated this will not have an effect on this year's graduation.

Mr. Hylton entered the meeting at 7:41 pm.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Hartman reviewed the highlights from the August 8 Committee meeting. Copies of the Facilities Committee minutes were provided to all Board Members. The committee recommends the Barth Change Orders be placed on the August Board Agenda for approval. The Barth renovations are moving on schedule for the start of school. The committee received some information on the district roofs and anticipates more information at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Bacallao asked Mr. Hartman to clarify the asbestos abatement at Franklin and the Administration Building's future.

Mr. Hartman explained asbestos was discovered in the ceiling of the all purpose room. It was determined that the all asbestos remediation be done at the same time to keep the project moving on schedule and to avoid double mobilization. The testing area has been resealed. Mr. Hartman confirmed that the committee will begin discussion on the Administration Building's future at the next committee meeting. There are many items to look at and address options.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Wausnock reviewed the topics discussed at the August 8 Joint Finance and Personnel committee. Copies of the minutes were provided to all Board Members. Topics included purchasing a new software system with an anticipated installation date of January 2014 and preparations to begin the borrowing process for the next \$10 million dollars to fund the elementary schools project. The Finance Committee recommends the Board approve the 2013-2014 Transportation rates as presented on the Board agenda.

The Personnel Committee reviewed and recommends the Board approve the updated Workers Compensation Panel and the Superintendent's Goals and Objectives as presented on the Board agenda. Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on the status of hiring. The Personnel Committee supports the recommendations as presented under the personnel section of the agenda. Mr. Wausnock asked the Board Members to review and discuss the recommended changes to the Board meeting calendar as presented. He explained the Re-Organization meeting is currently scheduled for December 2 which is a district holiday.

Board Members agreed to move the Re-Organization Board meeting to December 5 and to combine the Committee of Whole meeting with a voting meeting on December 19.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bacallao stated that the Community Relations Committee is recommending a motion to added a Student Representative on the School Board to the August 19 Board Agenda for approval. The committee has been working on the application process and eligibility requirements including the interview process and selecting alternates.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND PSBA REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the attendance officers for the school district for the 2013-2014 to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

CONTRACTS

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the contracts to be placed on the August, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

BARTH RENOVATIONS PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Barth Renovations Project Change Orders to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

BARTH RENOVATIONS PROJECT CONSTRUCTION CHANGE DIRECTIVE

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Barth Renovations Project Construction Change Directive as presented

to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

ACKNOWLEDGE PDE APPROVAL: PLANCCON PART G-FRANKLIN/LINCOLN/RUPERT

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the PDE approval for PlanCon G for Franklin, Lincoln and Rupert Elementary Schools Project as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

TECHNOLOGY PROPOSAL: DATA WIRING DEVICES FOR FRANKLIN, LINCOLN, AND RUPERT

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the technology proposal for data wiring devices as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPROVED MEDICAL PROVIDERS

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the panel of medical providers in accordance with Pennsylvania's Worker's Compensation Act and Policy 4501 as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Personnel Committees recommendation to approve the Superintendent's Annual Goals and Objectives as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

APPOINT DISTRICT SOLICITOR FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 –

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Stephen H. Kalis and the law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP., as the district solicitor for a two year term, 2013-2104 and 2014-2015 school years as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM TICKET PRICES

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the athletic ticket prices for the 2013-2014 school year as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

SCHOOL PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST RATES

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the 2013-2014 school physician and school dentists for the fees indicated as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

2013-2014 TRANSPORTATION RATES

Mrs. O'Donnell reviewed the transportation rates for 2013-2014 as presented to be placed on the August 19, 2013 Board Agenda for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bacallao made a motion to add the Student Representative to the School Board to the August 19 Board agenda for approval.

INFORMATION

PEAK Update: August 2013

Dr. Sparagana reviewed highlights from PEAK Update report. A five week summer transition class was held for incoming Pre-K students.

Joint Borough and School District meeting: September 24, 2013

Dr. Sparagana reminded the Board the next Joint Borough and School District meeting is scheduled to take place on September 24 at Barth Elementary which will include a tour of Barth.

Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds Institute

Dr. Sparagana was pleased to report that 43 staff members attended the Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds Institute held on August 6 and 7 at The Hill School sponsored by the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation. The program focused on the benefits of aerobic activities in supporting brain development and enhancing student achievement. The district will be implementing aerobic energizing activities at Barth and Rupert Elementary and will gather data on attendance, aerobic fitness, behavior and early literacy skills. Pre and post assessments will be made to determine the impact on student achievement. Dr. Sparagana stated the district will implement energizing regiment during preparation process for standardized testing.

Greater Pottstown Area Robotics Science and Engineering Community

Dr. Sparagana was pleased to report that he and a team consisting of Mr. Armato, Dr. Hartmann, Mrs. McCoy, Dr. Forrest and Mr. Bentley from Video Ray attended a presentation from members of G-PARSEC (Greater Pottstown Area Robotics Science and Engineering Community) that developed a competitive club process at Owen J. Roberts. Dr. Sparagana stated that the district has a potential opportunity to participate through possible funding from 21st Century. He sees this as the beginning of a great relationship that will put students in the position to pursue STEM related activities and the potential to compete on a national level.

Mrs. Zahora and Mrs. Francis were impressed with the institutes presentation and expressed their support for implementation of the aerobic activities throughout the district.

Pottstown Pride

Copies were provided to all Board Members.

Monthly Meeting Notice: September 2013

Copies were provided to all Board Members.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth gave an update on the professional training during the summer including the number of teachers who attended the STEM Program completing 80 hours of training. She stated that every building has a plan to implement physical and brain energizing activities at some level. The teachers are anxiously waiting to enter the buildings in preparation for the new school year. The Federation will work with the Administration and staff to be prepared for the start of school.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Director of Human Resources.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mrs. Francis – no comment.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Ms. Bacallao - no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mr. Kefer – no comment

Mr. Hartman welcomed Dr. Hartmann, High School Principal, and Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Director of Human Resources in the roles in the district. He thanked the custodial staff for their hard work preparing for construction and getting the classrooms and buildings ready for the start of school.

Dr. Sparagana stated In-Service days are scheduled for all departments on Monday and Tuesday of next week. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rodriguez for his efforts overseeing and participating in the many interviews during the summer. Dr. Sparagana agreed with Mr. Hartman in recognizing the great job of the custodial and maintenance staff. He thanked Mr. Boyer for developing a plan for the middle school car line.

Mrs. Zahora announced there will be an executive session for the purpose of litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Zahora that the meeting adjourns. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.


Penny O'Donnell
Substitute Board Secretary