

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
August 20, 2015 - 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 20, 2015 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, Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer, and Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson entered the meeting at 7:45 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACTS**

The Board adjourned for an executive session for the purpose of contracts at 7:47 pm.

The Board re-convened at 8:00 pm.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 25, 2015 and the minutes from the Regular meeting held on June 29, 2015 to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Ms. Bacallao presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of June 2015 and July 2015 to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Bacallao presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2015 (unaudited) to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

**HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS**

Michael Peterman, 596 Wilson Street, addressed the Board asking them to consider removing the Junior ROTC program. As a veteran serving in Afghanistan, he did not feel that the JROTC program represents true military life. He does not believe that the school district should be promoting military service as a way of life.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Stilwell gave a report on the Policy Committee meeting held on August 6. The Policy Committee recommends policy 819: Suicide Prevention be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval. The committee also recommends the Board approve retiring policy 2501: Salary Calculations.

The committee agreed this policy is antiquated and is no longer appropriate. The committee continues to review the uniform policy and dress code at the high school. A draft residency policy was submitted to the committee by Mr. Hylton. The committee will continue to discuss this policy in conjunction with its review by the solicitor.

#### CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Ms. Bacallao reviewed the minutes from the August 6 Curriculum/Technology Committee. Highlights from the meeting included Technology updates: 1) IT is reviewing equipment needs in all teaching areas and providing software support to all staff using the new software programs 2) Summer workshops were conducted for the teachers who are now required to host Web pages on the district website. The committee has received updates on professional development for the STEAM adoption and Trauma Awareness. STEAM education will include a conference on August 26, Fall and Spring sessions for teachers on Steam Cohort and “In-class” support for teachers. Co-Curricular updates highlighted the official start of Fall Sports on August 17<sup>th</sup> with approximately 200 students signing up for high school Fall sport teams. The Football and Cross Country teams will each be attending one week away camps.

#### FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the August 13 Facilities Committee meeting. The committee discussed the cost to replace the #1 boiler at Edgewood versus repairing it. There is a significant difference in new versus repair costs. The committee supports repairing the boiler as presented on tonight’s agenda. A quote of \$12,000 was received to relocate a pole in the stadium which was previously used as one of the light poles and currently houses a transformer. It was determined that the pole remain as is until the lights are replaced. The committee was pleased to learn that Franklin, Lincoln, and Rupert have been awarded the Gold LEAD certifications. These certifications allow for additional reimbursement from the state through PlanCon.

#### JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the August 13 Joint Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. The committee was given a presentation by Mr. Gordon Walker and Mr. Jaime Schlesinger, Public Financial Management, on potential savings for the district through the refinancing of bonds that are callable at the end of this year and next year. All members present were in agreement to have PFM move forward with investigating the benefits of refinancing. The committee reviewed the personnel items and contracts presented. Some items on tonight’s agenda in green were not available at the time of the committee meeting. The committee supports all items as presented.

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bacallao gave a report on tonight’s Community Relations Committee meeting. Topics for discussion included a draft survey for collecting data on the uniform policy, the application and interview process for selecting junior student board representatives and school district contributions to the borough’s time capsule. Mr. Wilkerson provided an update on the Save the Lights fundraising. Total pledges from the “Cell-a-tele-thon” reached \$9,090.50. Total contributions to date are approximately \$74,000. Information on the Color Run 5K run can soon be found on the district website. Contributions will benefit the Save the Lights fundraiser.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE , PSBA REPRESENTATIVE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No Report.

#### BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

No Report.

## CONSENT ITEMS

### PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

Mr. Hylton asked that the elections for the classroom assistants be moved to Non-Consent.

### PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

### POLICIES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the policies as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

### WAIVER OF POLICY 201: ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Waiver of Policy 201: Admission of Students as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

### ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the attendance officers for the school district for the 2015-2016 to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

### CONTRACTS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

Mr. Hylton asked that the Discovery contract be moved to Non-Consent.

### BID AWARD: EDGEWOOD RE-GASKETING OF BOILER

Mrs. Adams reviewed the bid award for re-gasketing the boiler at the Edgewood building to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

### ATHLETIC PROGRAM TICKET PRICES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the athletic ticket prices for the 2015-2016 school year as presented to be placed on the August 25, 2014 Board Agenda for approval.

### SPORTS BID AWARDS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the 2015-2016 Sports bid awards as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

## POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPROVED MEDICAL PROVIDERS

Mrs. Adams 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 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

## SCHOOL PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST RATES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the 2015-2016 school physician and school dentists for the fees indicated as presented to be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

## NEW BUSINESS

### LEASE EDGEWOOD BUILDING

Mrs. Adams stated the Board has authorized the administration to pursue negotiations to lease the Edgewood building as discussed in tonight's executive session. This item will be placed on the August 24, 2015 Board Agenda for approval under Non-Consent.

Mrs. Zahora announced her resignation from the Board of Directors of the Pottstown School District to be effective September 30, 2105. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community for over 20 years. She thanked the teachers who taught her children and school board and administration for the opportunity to learn and grow.

## INFORMATION

None.

## FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth thanked the maintenance staff for a great job preparing the classrooms for the start of the school year. She invited the Board Members to attend the upcoming 'Back-to-School' nights being held next week at the elementary buildings. Mrs. Vollmuth was sad to hear of Mrs. Zahora's resignation. On behalf of the Federation, Mrs. Vollmuth extended the teachers appreciation for her support. Mrs. Zahora will be missed.

## ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rodriguez was pleased with the quality of new educators joining the Pottstown team. He thanked Mrs. Zahora for all that she has given to the Pottstown School District.

Mrs. Stilwell extended her well wishes to Mrs. Zahora and her new adventure.

Mr. Kefer thanked Mr. Peterman for his comments and looks forward to his participation in future discussions. Mr. Kefer thanked Mrs. Zahora for her services and indicated she has been a true asset to the community. She has been a great mentor and friend with great leadership skills and will truly be missed.

Mr. Wilkerson, on behalf of his peers and fellow students, expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Zahora for supporting the students and being a great role model.

Mrs. Francis thanked Mr. Peterman for his comments. She too will miss Mrs. Zahora and extended her well wishes on her new adventure.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bacallao thanked Mrs. Zahora for her contributions to the community and for everything she has done. Her absence will be a great loss to the school board and community. Ms. Bacallao thanked Mr. Peterman for his service in the military and for his comments.

Dr. Sparagana distributed copies of the PSBA School Leadership for Students brochure. He reminded the Board that last year the district sent the student board representatives for only 1 day and found that attending the full conference is more beneficial for them. Dr. Sparagana invited the Board to attend the Welcome Back assembly on August 26 at 8:00 am in the high school auditorium. He thanked Mrs. Zahora for her many years of service and support. Her insight and focus on education exemplifies her service to the community.

Mrs. Zahora was pleased that this meeting marks the first time in 15 years there are no more topics or talks about renovations. She supports the PSBA Leadership Conference for Students and the opportunities it provides for the students. She thanked Mr. Peterman for his comments. She thanked everyone for their support.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Kefer and seconded by Ms. Bacallao that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.



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Linda S. Adams  
Board Secretary