

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
September 17, 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, September 17, 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. Kimberly Stilwell, Mrs. Polly Weand, and Mr. Ron Williams. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Thomas Hylton and Mr. Andrew Kefer. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Student Board Representative, Ms. Dekera Chestnut; Mr. Matthew Boyer, Mrs. Elisabeth Yoder, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis entered the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Mr. Thomas Hylton entered the meeting at 7:33 pm.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 20, 2015 and the minutes from the Regular meeting held on August 24, 2015 to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Ms. Bacallao presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of August 2015 to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Bacallao presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2015 to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Elisabeth Yoder, President of the Federation of Pottstown Teachers, presented a check in the amount of \$4,780 to the Save the Lights Fundraiser. The donated funds were a result of the teacher's participation in "casual dress day".

Michael Peterman, 596 Wilson Street, addressed the Board to clarify his previous request to remove the JROTC program. His goal is not to remove the program but to repurpose the program, making it something more positive. He would like to see the removal of the uniforms and drum ceremony and add new text books. His vision for the program is to focus on community outreach, leadership and team building. Mr. Peterman encourages community dialogue to discuss ways to accomplish this.

Tiara Reddick, 632 Beech Street, addressed the Board about her concerns and conflicts with the removal of school buses. She voiced her concerns about the crime that happens in the community, weather conditions, students with health issues and the impact to parents' work schedules. She asked the Board to take action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

No meeting.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY /CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Ms. Bacallao gave a report on the topics discussed at the September 3 committee meeting.

Mr. Connors provide the committee with a Co-Curricular update. Football and fall sports started in August. Approximately 225 high school students are participating in sports and the marching band. Important dates for the fall season include Senior Recognition Day on October 17 and Homecoming on October 31. Mrs. Wolf reported on the district projects in progress and those completed. Projects in progress include on-line registration and PIMS; teacher web page training is completed. Mrs. Kolka updated the committee on the STEAM session held on August 26. Twenty-Five teachers volunteered to join the STEAM Team. The STEAM Team will attend programs to expand the STEAM culture and the twenty-five volunteer teachers will mentor next year's team. Mrs. Kolka also provided a Power Point presentation to the committee on PSSA test changes and preliminary data results.

Dr. Sparagana explained the governor's petition for a one year moratorium due to the insufficient notice of the PSSA testing changes.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the items discussed at the September 10 committee meeting. An update on the warranty walk through and project close out for the elementary school project was provided by Mr. Kripplebauer. There are 75 items still remaining to be resolved on the projects punch list. Other building and maintenance accomplishments achieved this summer include chimney maintenance at the middle school, preventative paving work at the middle school, high school and administration building. The masonry project is completed. A lot of preparation work was done at the Edgewood building in anticipation of leasing the building. Various mechanicals were serviced including the removal of playground equipment which had outlived its lifecycle.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the items discussed at the September 10 committee meeting. Mr. Walker, from PFM, provided the committee with information on potential savings that can be realized by the district through refinancing of bonds that are callable at the end of this year and again next year. All Board Members present were in agreement to have PFM move forward with investigating the benefits of refinancing. An executive session was held for the purpose of negotiations. Mrs. Adams reviewed consent items (contracts, 2015-2016 transportation rates, settlement of 2014 per capita/occupation tax duplicate, school resource officer resolution) to be placed on the September 21 Board Agenda for approval. All personnel items were discussed and appear on tonight's agenda under consent and non-consent to be placed on the September 21 Board Agenda for approval. Mrs. Adams reviewed the request to elect Mr. Williams as the district's voting delegate to the PSBA Conference and the Board's requirement to vote on the PSBA election of officers as listed on tonight's agenda. The committee held an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bacallao gave a report on the August 24 committee meeting. The committee discussed various types of items to contribute to the borough's time capsule. The deadline for contributions is October 30. The committee reviewed the process of selecting a junior board representative. The appointment process has started. The Save the Lights fundraiser is now at approximately \$76,000 in donations. Mrs. Weand is working on obtaining a grant to secure matching funds.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Chestnut stated the first day of school was a successful start for a non-uniform dress code at the high school. The high school welcomed Dr. Park, the new Director of Career & Technology and Mr. Ollivier, 9th grade history teacher. On the second day of the new school year, Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Delaney and Dr. Park welcomed the students back at the yearly class meeting. Thanks to the coordination efforts of Mr. Delaney, Mr. Woodley and Emanuel Wilkerson students will have the opportunity to show school pride and school spirit on designated days of the week. Last week was blue and white day; next week is a white out and a school wide scavenger hunt with free tickets to the football game as prizes.

Mr. Wilkerson was pleased to announce the high school culinary arts students won 1st place at the Pottstown Carousel of Flavors held at Borough Hall on September 13.

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

Mr. Williams noted the state budget is moving slow with a possible stopgap measure. The advocacy trip planned for a Day on the Hill may need to be rescheduled.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Williams reported the Pottstown Carousel of Flavors event was greatly attended. The opening of the time capsule was an interesting segment. The capsule had deteriorated some, showing signs of rust. The majority of items were salvageable. A second capsule was buried and has not yet been located. Other borough updates included new business coming to Pottstown including plans for a brewery on high street.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

FIELD TRPS

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the field trips as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

DISTRICT SPONSORED CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the district sponsored co-curricular activities as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

CONTRACTS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

TRANSPORTATION RATES 2015-2016

Mrs. Adams reviewed the transportation rates for the 2015-2016 school year as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

SETTLEMENT OF 2014 PER CAPITA /OCCUPATION TAX DUPLICATE

Mrs. Adams reviewed the settlement of 2014 per capita/occupation tax duplicate resolution as presented to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams reviewed the school resource officer resolution to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

PSBA 2015 VOTING DELEGATE

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Personnel Committee's recommendation to appoint Mr. Williams as the district's voting delegate to the PSBA 2015 Delegate Assembly to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the non-consent personnel items to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda for approval.

PSBA ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the PSBA Election of Officers voting procedures, endorsing the candidates of choice to be placed on the September 21, 2015 Board Agenda

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. MCIU Board Highlights
2. PEAK Update

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato looks forward to serving as Vice-President of the Federation for Pottstown Teachers and working with the School Board and teachers. The Federation will be distributing books from the First

Book Program, at various events throughout the upcoming months. The Federation is working on setting up a meeting with local legislators to support passing the state budget. “We will continue fighting for fair funding and the best education for our students. “

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Golden Sage Program participants for their dedication. Total participant hours from last year reached 5,400 hours.

Mrs. Stilwell thanked Mr. DiDonato for his awe-inspiring remarks.

Mr. Williams looks forward to the district’s contributions to the new borough time capsule. He recognized several well known individuals, Supreme Court Justice, Stephen Breyer, Rube Goldberg and Carol Channing, all graduates of public schools.

Mrs. Weand thanked the Federation for their generous donation to Save the Lights. She thanked Mrs. Stilwell, Mr. Wilkerson and the administration staff, Penny O’Donnell and Diane Nash for their help. Mrs. Weand enjoyed the Carousel of Flavors and hopes to see the excitement continue.

Mrs. Francis thanked the Federation for supporting the Save the Lights fundraiser. She thanked Mrs. Weand for her efforts.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.


Ms. Bacallao thanked the residents for their public comments. She thanked the buildings and grounds staff for all they do to maintain the buildings.

Dr. Sparagana was pleased with the first parent literacy night for the 2015-2016 school year. This year the district would like to recognize staff who contributes to Save the Lights through participating in the casual dress days. Names will post on the district website. Dr. Sparagana was pleased with the excellent openings of all the schools this school year. He congratulated the borough on the success of the Carousel of Flavors event.

Mrs. Zahora was excited to be talking about education now that all the buildings are done. She announced an executive session will be held at the close of the meeting for the purpose of negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Ms. Bacallao that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary