

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 3, 2015**

The Re-Organization Meeting for the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 7:30 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with Vice-President Mr. Andrew Kefer presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Ms. Mary-Beth Bacallao, Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Ron Williams. Absent was Ms. Katina Bearden. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Representatives, Kera Chestnut; Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mr. Kevin Downes, Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

The Board entered into an executive session for the purpose of personnel at 7:34 pm.

Ms. Bearden entered the executive session at 7:39 pm.

The Board re-convened at 7:58 pm.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on October 19, 2015 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Ms. Bacallao that the minutes be approved as presented.

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: Vacancy.
Motion carried.

Non-Consent

District Superintendent Annual Assessment of Performance

Motion to accept the District Superintendent's Annual Assessment of Performance and post on the district website including the contractual salary increase of \$827.00 for an annual salary of \$166,141.00.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board approve the motion to accept the District Superintendent's Annual Assessment of Performance as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-032**.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (General and Non-Consent)

General: Mr. Kurt Heidel, 954 Queen Street, introduced himself to the Board and spoke of his role as a resident, parent and elected board member. He has come to understand the challenges the district faces and is prepared to call out anyone who speaks negative of the students, board, administration and staff.

Non-Consent: None

Non-Consent Vote for District Superintendent Annual Assessment of Performance was recorded as follows:

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: Vacancy.
Motion carried.

ADJOURN SINE DIE

The Secretary adjourned the meeting sine die at 8:16 pm.

BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION

The Secretary proceeded to call roll of the hold over members. The following were present: Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell, Mr. Thomas Hylton and Mrs. Polly Weand.

Notice of the Organization Meeting

Mrs. Adams read the Notice of the Organization Meeting as advertised in the Pottstown Mercury.

Election of Temporary Chairperson

The Secretary called for the nomination of a Temporary Chairperson. Mrs. Weand nominated Mrs. Francis.

There were no further nominations for a Temporary Chairperson. It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Weand to close the nominations for Temporary Chairperson.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for Temporary Chairperson. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The vote to elect Mrs. Francis as Temporary Chairperson was recorded as follows: All members present voted aye. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Oath of Office: Board Members

Mrs. Adams reviewed the certificates of election and presented the newly elected Board Members to Judge Scott Palladino who administered the Oath of Office: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson and Mr. Ron Williams. Certificates of elections will be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-033**.

Oath of Office: Appointment of Student Board Representatives

Dr. Sparagana presented the following appointed student representatives to Judge Palladino who administered the Oath of Office: Mr. Jaylen Chestnut, Mr. Kenil Patel and Mr. Nyles Rome.

Roll Call

Mrs. Francis requested a roll call on the nine members now comprising the School Board.

Upon roll call the following members were present. Ms. Bearden, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Hylton, Mr. Heidel, Mr. Kefer, Mrs. Stilwell, Mrs. Weand, Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Williams.

Present: Nine. Absent: None. A quorum was present.

Election of President

The Temporary Chairperson called for nominations for President.

Mr. Hylton nominated Mrs. Stilwell. Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Kefer.

There were no further nominations for the Office of President. It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded by Mr. Hylton to close the nominations.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for the Office of President. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Board Members engaged in discussion about the nominations for the office of president.

Mr. Kalis explained the voting process to elect the President.

Upon roll call vote each member named the nominee of his/her choice. The vote for the Office of President was recorded as follows: Mrs. Francis: Kefer, Mr. Heidel: Stilwell, Mr. Hylton: Stilwell, Mr. Kefer: Kefer, Mrs. Stilwell: Stilwell, Mrs. Weand: Kefer, Mr. Wilkerson: Stilwell, Mr. Williams: Kefer, Ms. Bearden: Stilwell. Kefer: Four. Stilwell: Five.

Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell was declared the newly elected President.

Election of Vice-President

Mrs. Stilwell called for nominations for Vice-President.

Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Kefer.

There were no further nominations for the Office of Vice-President. It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Francis to close the nominations.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye for Mr. Kefer as Vice-President. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Andrew Kefer was declared the Vice-President.

Parliamentarian Procedures

Appointment of Parliamentarian

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and second by Mr. Williams that the Board approve the solicitor as parliamentarian.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approve Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board approve Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Signature Stamp

The Board President requests a motion to authorize the use of the existing signature stamp until a new one is prepared reflecting the Board's new officers.

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Francis to approve the motion to authorize the use of the existing signature stamp until a new is prepared reflecting the Board's new officers.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments

Standing Committees (in accordance with Board Policy 005) to be determined at the January 2016 School Board Governance Workshop.

Adopt Time And Places For The 2016 Regular Board Meetings

Mrs. Adams presented a proposed meeting calendar. Board Members discussed options for dates and times.

It was determined that a final calendar will be discussed at the Board Workshop to be held in January.

Board Member Contact Information for the Website

Mrs. Adams asked each Board Member to review their information that will be posted on the district website and provided her with any changes or corrections.

BoardDocs

Each Board Member was provided information on how to access BoardDocs.

PRESENTATION

Substitute Teacher Service: Guest Teacher Program

Mr. Godwin explained the Guest Teacher Program. He noted that teacher certifications have dropped significantly (approximately by 10,000) in the past year. The Guest Teacher Program is designed to help meet the need for substitute teachers. The Substitute Teacher Service will cover the cost for training and clearances.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth welcomed the new Board Members and looks forward to a continuation of collaboration between the Board, Administration and staff. She was pleased to report the success of the Peer Visit pilot program in spite of the difficulties presented by the shortage of substitute teachers. The distribution of books from the First Book program continues and each Board Member was presented with a book.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the newly elected Board Members. He thanked the Board for their support in increasing the substitute teacher rate and looks forward to its positive effect on increasing the available substitute teacher group.

Mrs. Francis congratulated the new Board Members and looks forward to working together.

Mr. Williams welcomed the re-appointed Board Members and new Board Members. He gave a brief update on the recent legislative action on the No Child Left Behind Act. He will notify the Board Members if/when an action date to Harrisburg is set to promote the passing of the state budget.

Mrs. Weand thanked the Class of 1950 for their contribution to the Save the Lights fundraiser. She looks forward to a possible announcement that would help the Save the Lights initiative. Mrs. Weand indicated it is the responsibility of the Board to support all the children of Pottstown, not personal agendas.

Mr. Kefer congratulated the new Board Members, Student Board Representatives and the new Board President, Mrs. Stilwell. It is his hope that the Board will function in a civil way, minimize personal attacks and do the work of the people.

Mr. Nyle looks forward to serving as a Student Board Representative.

Mr. Heidel extended his congratulations to the Board officers.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden congratulated the all the elected Board Members and Student Board Representatives. She noted that the signs of a successful board are how they act when they disagree. She looks forward to working with all the Board Members.


Mr. Wilkerson congratulated Mrs. Stilwell and Mr. Kefer. He thanked everyone for their support and a special thanks to his mother.

Dr. Sparagana congratulated all the Board Members and Student Board Representatives. He congratulated the Board on their conduct during this past year and he looks forward to the same continuing in the new year.

Mrs. Stilwell is looking forward to working with all of the Board Members. She announced there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.


Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary