

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson 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 Representative, Mr. Nyles Rome and Mr. Jaylen Chestnut; Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Dulcie Rothermel, Mr. Matthew Boyer, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mr. Jeff Delaney, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:35 pm.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Dr. Sparagana recognized the School Board directors as part of School Board Recognition Month. He thanked each Board Member for their service to the Pottstown School District and community. Each Board Member was presented a certificate and a small token of appreciation. The Board was honored with a performances by the high school jazz band directed by Mr. Michael Vought and the student cast members of the Wiz directed by Mr. Chris Sperat and Mr. Robert Decker.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Dr. George, Executive Director Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, presented a proposal for the Superintendent Search. He spoke about the IU's qualifications and successes in assisting other districts. Dr. George reviewed the search process and timeline for each step. Upon receiving Board approval, recruitment can begin as early as tomorrow, followed by the selection process during the month of March and the appointment of a successful candidate by no later than May.

Questions from the Board: none

Mrs. Stilwell asked the Board for a straw vote. Mr. Hylton made a motion to accept the proposal for the superintendent search as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. None opposed. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

LERTA

Mr. Josh Gould, a Phoenixville School Board Director, spoke to the Board about the LERTA program in Phoenixville. Mr. Gould talked about the process and the lessons learned by the Phoenixville School District as they moved through the program. He explained options to consider when setting up LERTA incentives (ex: the duration of the incentives, percentages of the assessment, and selecting zoning areas). Mr. Gould encouraged the Board to have discussions with the district's solicitor when preparing a LERTA resolution and incorporate language that would allow the school district to make amendments to the resolution.

Board members engaged in discussion, expressing their concerns about the application process, designating specific areas, setting assessment amounts and applying restrictions and penalties.

The Board and Administration thanked Mr. Gould for his excellent presentation. The Board will review this information for discussion at the February Finance Committee meeting.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes from the joint Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meeting held on December 17, 2015 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Kefer that the minutes be approved as presented.

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

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of December 2015 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Kefer and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of December 2015 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-040**.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2015 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mr. Kefer that the Treasurer's Report for December 2015 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-041**.

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

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (General)

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Sparagana presented the Consent Items for Board approval.

Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Adams reviewed the Consent items as presented.

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

None.

CONSENT

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mr. Williams that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 005, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Administrative

Modify Penny O'Donnell, Assistant Business Manager, resignation for the purpose of retirement from January 29, 2016 to March 12, 2016.

Lisa Schiavone, Supervisor of Federal Programs, Reading/Language Arts and RTI, resignation effective June 10, 2016; employed since August 24, 1998.

Professional

Evelyn Dudonis, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective August 26, 2016; employed since August 26, 1996.

Classified

Ratify Tammy Condrack, Substitute Nurse, termination due to no work activity for over a year, effective December 22, 2015.

Ratify Hether Fatal, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to no work activity for over a year, effective January 5, 2016.

Ratify Amber Krause, Substitute Nurse, termination due to no work activity for over a year, effective December 22, 2015.

Ratify Patricia Schade, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to no work activity for over a year, effective December 22, 2015.

Ratify Devon Benensky, Alternative Education Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective January 15, 2016; employed since October 12, 2015.

Michael Zangrili, College Student Intern, Technology Dept., resignation effective January 22, 2016; employed since September 22, 2015.

Leaves

Professional

Ratify Lori Hoshaw, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 8, 2016, end date tbd.

Perry Augustine, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 25, 2016, end date tbd.

Classified

Alejandra Ingram, Special Education Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective date February 4, 2016, end date tbd.

Lauren Schiller, Title 1 Assistant, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be April 1, 2016, end date tbd.

Change in Position and/or Salary

Professional

Ratify Christopher Petro from Long Term Substitute Teacher (coverage for J. Thompson to Long Term Substitute Teacher (coverage for B. Gallagher, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 11, 2016, anticipated end of assignment to be Mid May or end of 2015-2016 school year, \$194/day.

Classified

Ratify Chelsea Brinkley from Student Proctor to Switchboard/Front Desk/Buildings and Grounds Clerk, effective January 14, 2015, \$14.04/hour.

Michael Hessler from Temporary Carpenter to Carpenter, Maintenance Dept., effective January 26, 2016, \$19.20/hr.

Michael Quill from Elementary School Cleaner to Custodian 1, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 26, 2016, \$15.07/hr.

Ratify Melissa Caballero from Custodian 1, Pottstown High School, to Substitute Support Staff, effective January 4, 2016. hourly rate per schedule.

Debora Huber from Substitute Support Staff to Classroom Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, effective January 26, 2016, \$13.65/hr (replace S. Foster).

Elections

Administrative

Ratify Maureen Jampo, Assistant Business Manager, effective January 14, 2016, \$76,500.00/yr (replaces P. O'Donnell)

Professional

Modify Kelly Bucca, ESL Teacher, Pottstown High School, effective date from January 12, 2016 to effective date January 11, 2016 (previously approved 11-19-2015).

Classified

Ratify Emily Griffin, Substitute Support Staff, effective December 22, 2015, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Brigitte Mundo, Substitute Support Staff, effective December 21, 2015, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Carley Mutter, Substitute Support Staff, effective December 21, 2015, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Wafaa Zein, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 12, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Rachel Smith, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 14, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Kimberley Gibson, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 14, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Robert Deckert, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 19, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Timothy Emmick, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 26, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Homebound Instruction, \$29/hr

Ratify Eileen Underfer, Pottstown High School, from December 21, 2015 through February 5, 2016, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Ratify Bradley Mayberry, Barth Elementary, intermittent instruction from January 6, 2016 through June 17, 2016, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Medical Services

Ratify all qualified Pottstown School District Nurses for after-school programs and activities including 21st Century, on an "as needed" basis, compensation to commensurate with salary rate.

2015-2016 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports

BLDG	PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT CATEGORY	EMPLOYEE	LEVEL	STIPEND
HS	Baseball Head Coach	Jeff Evans	4	\$4,982.00
HS	Baseball Asst. Coach	TBD		
HS	Baseball Asst. Coach	Geoff Thomas	3	\$3,315.00
HS	Softball Head Coach	Dorothy McCrone	3	\$4,744.00
HS	Softball Asst. Coach	Elisabeth Yoder	3	\$3,315.00
HS	Lacrosse Head Coach	TBD		
HS	Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Brandy Scherer	3	\$3,315.00
HS	Track Head Coach-Boys	Mary Ann Hill	5	\$5,219.00
HS	Track Head Coach-Girls	TBD		
HS	Track Asst. Coach	Mark Agnew	4	\$3,481.00
HS	Track Asst. Coach	Devin Barr	2	\$2,918.00
HS	Tennis Head Coach-Boys	Ricardo Saad	3	\$3,504.00
HS	Strength Training - 2nd half of year	Gary Allan	No Level	\$1,058.00
MS	Baseball Head Coach	Dave Mabry	3	\$2,918.00
MS	Baseball Asst. Coach	Chris Petrp	2	1713
MS	Lacrosse Head Coach	Isetta Hewlett	5	\$3,208.00
MS	Lacrosse Asst. Coach	TBD		
MS	Track Head Coach-Boys and Girls	TBD		
MS	Track Asst. Coach	Jason Bergey	2	\$1,713.00

2015-2016 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports - not a Professional Agreement Category

MS/HS	Event/Game Manager	Matt Blute	----	\$1,000.00
MS/HS	Event/Game Manager	Steve Anspach	-----	\$1,000.00

2016-2017 Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports

BLDG	PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT CATEGORY	EMPLOYEE	LEVEL	STIPEND
HS	Football - Head Coach	Gary Rhodenbaugh	3	\$ 7,296.00

Horizontal Movement: (note: SPE Column denotes salaries that receive the \$400 Special Education Stipend in addition to their base salary):

Horizontal Salary Movement , January 20 deadline											
Last	First	Bldg	From	Step	Salary	SPE	to	Step	NewSalary	SPE	Salary incldg SPE
Allen	Stephen	PMS	M+15	16	\$87,765.00		M+30	16	\$90,044.00		\$90,044.00
McCrone	Dorothy	PHS	M	5	\$47,563.00	\$400	M+15	5	\$49,650.00	\$400	\$50,050.00
Schleicher	Denise	Lincoln	M+15	11	\$55,100.00		M+30	11	\$63,431.00		\$63,431.00
High	Amanda	PMS	B	1	\$43,768.00		B+15	1	\$44,397.00		\$44,397.00
Dierolf	Sarah	PMS	M+15	3	\$48,687.00		M+30	3	\$50,358.00		\$50,358.00
Mitchell- Winterbottom	Jennifer	PMS	B+15	9	\$48,350.00		M	9	\$50,428.00		\$50,428.00

Ratify Addition to Horizontal Salary Movement, October 15 deadline, retro pay

Last	First	Bldg	From	Step	Salary	SPE	to	Step	NewSalary	SPE	Salary incldg SPE
McDonnell	Ann Marie	Barth	M	10	\$51,760.00		M+15	10	\$53,367.00		\$53,367.00

Tuition Reimbursement

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following tuition reimbursement:

A. Administrative

<u>Name</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Laurie Kolka	Admin.	\$ 2,790.00

B. Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Deadline: 12/31/15</u>
Jennifer Mitchell-Winterbottom	MS	\$ 3,000.00
Corina Miler	Rupert	\$ 1,488.00
Amanda High	MS	\$ 2,976.00
Diane Shoffstall	HS	\$ 1,665.00
LeeAnn McCullough	HS	\$ 2,100.00
Ian Lawrence	MS	\$ 1,410.00
Nicole Ewing	Franklin	\$ 2,758.00

David Roberts	MS	\$	1,379.00
Thomas Simpson	MS	\$	3,000.00
Jacquelyn Mathias	HS	\$	1,665.00

C. Exempt

<u>Name</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Amount</u>
David Genova	Admin	\$ 450.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Admin	Jeffrey Sparagana Mary Rieck Jane Bennett Laurie Kolka Karen Kile	View Social/Emotional K-12 Program Austin Unified SD	Austin, TX	2/8/to 2/11/16	\$1,546.78 each to be paid from W.Kellogg Grant
Barth	Ryan Oxenford				
PHS	Elisabeth Yoder	Unite States Summit on Teacher Leadership	Washington DC	2/4 to 2/6/16	0.00 pd by grant
Admin	Laurie Kolka Mary Rieck Jeff Sparagana Karen Kile	Early Childhood Educ. District Leadership	Chicago, IL	3/23 to 3/24/16	\$441.26 pd by W.Kellogg Grant

FIELD TRIPS

<u># of students and/or group</u>	<u>Conference name/activity</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date of trip</u>	<u>Cost to student</u>	<u>Cost to district-substitutes</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
15	Eisenhower Conference	Gettysburg, PA	03/16/2016 - 03/18/2016	\$400.00	\$95.00- \$115.00	
14	DECA	Hershey, PA	03/01/2016 - 03/03/2016	\$376.00	\$190.00- \$230.00	Kevin Pascal Anita Santangelo
30-50	Relay for Life Pottstown Pottsgrove High School	Pottstown, PA	06/04/2016 - 06/05/2016	\$10.00	\$0.00	Rebecca Heiser Jolie Martinez Jackie Mathias Wendy Watters David Woodley
27	Wrestling Team	New Oxford, PA	01/29/2016 - 01/30/2016	\$0.00	\$285.00- \$345.00	Brad Bechtel John Armato Steve Anspach Nick Wade

REVISED 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the revised 2015-2016 School Calendars as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-042**.

2016 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2016 School Board Meeting dates as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-043**.

2016 SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2016 School Board Committee schedule as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-044**.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-045**:

1. The Devereux Foundation
2. Invo Healthcare Assoc.
3. Opportunities School
4. Wordsworth Academy
5. MOU: Higher Ground International (Rupert parking area)

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board adopted the real estate tax exoneration resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-046**.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye for the above mentioned consent items.
Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the Non-Consent Personnel items as presented.

Personnel

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following non-consent Personnel items:

Elections

Professional

Ratify Corey Trego, Special Education Elementary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown Middle School, effective January 4, 2016, \$44,618/yr, Step1-Bach (contract of M. Donnelly).

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board approve the above non-consent personnel items.

The roll call vote to approve the above non-consent personnel items was recorded as follows:
Mr. Williams: aye, Mr. Wilkerson: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mrs. Stilwell: aye, Mr. Kefer: aye,
Mr. Hylton: nay, Mr. Heidel: aye, Mrs. Francis: aye, Ms. Bearden: aye. Ayes: Eight. Nays: One.
Absent: None. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. PEAK Update - Dr. Sparagana
2. Monthly Meeting Notice - Mrs. Adams
3. Pottstown Pride Fall 2015 - Mr. Armato

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato enjoyed the performances by the jazz band and student cast members of the Wiz. He thanked the Board Members for all they do and for their support. He thanked the buildings and grounds crew for their fantastic snow removal job. It was a massive undertaking. He thanked Dr. Sparagana for the early notifications regarding school closings and delays. Mr. DiDonato congratulated Mrs. Yoder on her appointment to attend the US Summit on Teacher Leadership.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rodriguez continues to be proud of the students and their awesome job representing the district.

Mr. Heidel thanked the band and Wiz cast members for a great performance. He thanked Mr. Gould for coming out and speaking to the Board.

Mrs. Weand was awed by the talent of the students in the district.

Mr. Williams was pleased to share news from the governor's office on a bill to eliminate the Keystone graduation requirement. He recognized several journalist and authors (Garrison Keillor, Stone Phillips, and Carl Bernstein) all public school graduates including Pottstown graduates David Detter, West Point Military Academy football recruit, former board member and president of Pottstown Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kefer thanked the students for their performances. These performances are a reminder of the importance of the arts and the experience of education. He thanked Mr. Gould and Dr. George for their presentations. Mr. Kefer looks forward to the superintendent search.

Student Board Representatives, Nyles Rome and Jaylen Chestnut, thanked the administration for being included in the school board recognition awards.

Mrs. Francis was proud of the musicians and amazed at their talents. She shared with the Board a compliment expressed by a former Barth parent reflecting on how much the Barth staff showed care for her son and felt very comfortable knowing the staff always had his best interest at heart.

Mr. Hylton noted the agenda included an executive session for the purpose of negotiations. He thought the Board had expressed at various board meetings a general consensus to conduct open discussions for public participation. He is looking forward to hearing from the public about their concerns, etc. as the Board and Administration look to address the financial challenges of the district.

Mrs. Francis agreed with Mr. Hylton's comment. She remembers having the discussion six months ago and believes the Board lost sight of implementing open discussions with the community. The Board values community input.

Ms. Bearden would like to see community involvement and their engagement at the Board meetings to help make the district stronger. She thanked Mr. Gould for sharing their LERTA experiences with the Board. Ms. Bearden asked that the Board and Administration to remain focused on a positive direction for the students and community.


Mr. Wilkerson stated that as a student he thanks the Board for their dedication to education and he looks forward to someday being on Mr. William's Trojans Legacy list of successful graduates of Pottstown. On behalf of his fellow cast members and students, he thanked everyone present for their support. As a Board Member, he thanked the Board Members and Dr. Sparagana for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Dr. Sparagana thanked Mr. Gould for sharing the Phoenixville LERTA experiences. Their experiences are helpful to the Pottstown School District as we continue our discussions. He thanked Mr. Vought, Mr. Decker, Mr. Sperat and the students for their commitment and dedication. Dr. Sparagana thanked the collaborative efforts of the district, borough and Hill School to clear the snow for the students walking to school.

Mrs. Stilwell reminded the Board there will be an executive session for the purpose of negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.


Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary