

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 17, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were: Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Substitute Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representatives, Mr. Nyles Rome and Mr. Ken Patel; Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Elisabeth Yoder, Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, teachers and interested citizens.

Mr. Williams entered the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Mr. Hylton entered the meeting at 7:04pm.

Mr. Kefer entered the meeting at 7:10 pm.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes of the combined Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 18, 2016 and Regular Board meeting held on February 22, 2016 to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of February 2016 to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2016 to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Maureen Reiger, 31 King Street, addressed the Board as a teacher and property owner. She spoke about low teacher moral and salaries. Mrs. Reiger spoke about the difficulties of being a property owner on a teacher's salary. She believes the teachers should be compensated and she does not foresee any positive boost in morale as a result of the administrative restructuring.

Mrs. Kristin Lafferty, 941 N. Evans Street, addressed the Board as a teacher and lifelong resident of Pottstown. She expressed her concerns about the Step program and frozen salaries. She believes salary increases and compensation should be more evenly distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Williams reviewed the minutes from the March 10 Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting. The athletes from the winter sports teams have been invited to attend Monday's Board meeting to be recognized by the Board for the honors they received at the Pioneer Athletic Conference All League. Mr. Connors explained to the committee the need to have a middle school football coach for the 9th graders who participate at the high school level. The committee reviewed the coach and assistant coach positions as outlined in the professional agreement along with the safety conditions for the 9th grade players. The committee was in agreement to support the flexibility of utilizing a middle school coach for the 9th graders at the high school level.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bearden reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on March 10th. Highlights from the meeting included a discussion about creating a community outreach contact list. The committee is working on putting together a list from various sources that would enable the district to communicate and share information about district events throughout the year. The committee also is working on gathering more information regarding a Junior Fireman program.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Rome congratulated the cast of The Wiz for a great job. The district prom will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel on May 6th. Trojan Heroes were selected to participate in the Trojan Heroes Leadership program. He was happy to be one of the selected athletes.

Mr. Patel advised the Board that the Youth and Law Enforcement forum took place yesterday with 20 students attending. He noted that course selection for the 2016-2017 school year has started this week.

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand reviewed the minutes from the March 10th Curriculum and Technology Committee. Highlights from the Technology report are: 1) laptops will be made available to support the kindergarten registration event, 2) the implementation of new software that would enable the district to record training sessions for teachers and staff to access at their convenience and 3) a transition plan to mentor the new Technology Director in preparation for Mrs. Wolfe's retirement in June. Mrs. McCoy explained to the committee's what steps are taken to provide the students with the necessary tools to graduate. She also reviewed with the committee course selections for next year and an update on block scheduling. Mrs. Kolka gave a Power Point presentation on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and a proposed pilot program to begin next school year. The committee supports the pilot program.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Heidel gave a report of the items discussed at the Facilities Committee held on March 3rd Facilities. Mr. Kripplebauer provided the committee with the bid results for the Administration Building's flat roof replacement. The committee supports the bid award as presented on tonight's agenda. The committee received an update on the district-wide masonry repair bid with anticipation that the work will begin at the end of this school year and completion by mid-August. The committee was in agreement to move forward with the Mosaic Community Garden plans as previously discussed in February and can be found as a Consent item on tonight's agenda.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the March 3rd Joint Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Rodriguez provided the committee with a description of the PEAK Pre-K Counts Part-time coach position. The need for this part-time position is a direct result of an increase in student numbers and grant funding. He also provided the committee with information on the district's unemployment costs and savings realized by the district over the past three years (approximately \$175,000). The committee discussed possible changes in the structure of central administrators and it was the general consensus of the members present to wait for input from the new superintendent.

BOROUGH LIAISON/ MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE , PSBA REPRESENTATIVE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Mr. Williams gave a report on various topics discussed at the last Borough Council meeting. Topics discussed included fire department training and installation of LED lamps. Mr. Williams advised the Board that a pre-K counts and Head Start program is now utilizing the old Montgomery County Intermediate building. He noted the House and Senate has passed a supplemental bill that would grant the schools a level of flat based funding. The 2015-2016 state budget is still being blocked by legislatures. He advised the Board of a possible date in April to petition Harrisburg.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

FIELD TRIPS

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the field trips as presented to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval

REVISED 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the revised 2015-2015 school calendar as presented to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

MOSAIC COMMUNITY GARDEN: BARTH ELEMENTARY

Dr. Sparagana advised the Board of the Facilities recommendation to move forward with the Mosaic Community Garden to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

CONTRACTS

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

BID AWARD: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FLAT ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the Administration Building Flat Roof Replacement bid award to be placed on the March 21, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Non-Consent Personnel item to be placed on the March 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LERTA RESOLUTION

Dr. Sparagana advised the Board the LERTA Resolution is pending future discussion. Mrs. Weand gave a brief update on the Ad Hoc LERTA committee meeting. The committee members, Councilor Dennis and Sheryl Miller: School Board Director. Ron Williams and herself, discussed contents to add to the program that would produce the best results for the community and encourage economic growth.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

None.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato thanked the Board for giving the Federation an opportunity to participate in the superintendent interview process. He thanked the teachers and staff for their leadership and participation in 16th Annual Reading Olympics and Diamond Credit union for their financial support of this program. Mr. DiDonato advised the Board of a new act recently passed by the federal government "Every Student Succeeds". It is the Federation's hope that this act will be the beginning of relief from the stress of PSSA testing. He thanked the teachers for offering their personal comments. Mr. DiDonato, on behalf of the Federation of Pottstown Teachers, thanked Mr. Decker for all his work and dedication as producer of The Wiz.

Mr. Decker thanked the Board and Administration for their support and for bringing musicals back to the district. He noted this experience was the most difficult yet most rewarding experience in his career. He thanked the students, teachers, and community for their contributions and countless hours of preparation. He looks forward to next year's production "The Little Shop of Horrors".

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel thanked those teachers who will be participating in the SEL pilot program. He had the opportunity to attend a meeting hosted by the boys and girls club, "Let's Talk". The topic was "Bullying". Mr. Heidel stated that he supports programs that address social and emotional learning.

Mrs. Weand enjoyed the musical. She thought The Wiz was phenomenal.

Mr. Williams believes The Wiz was a great opportunity to open doors for students. He thanked Mr. Decker for doing an extraordinary job of producing. Mr. Williams noted as a supporter of "Ask me why my school is great", he expressed his gratitude to the teaching staff. He provided copies of a memo containing comments about why my school is great for anyone to read.

Mr. Kefer thanked Mr. Decker for his comments about the musical. He appreciates the fun while the show is happening and the relief when the last show is ended.

Mr. Patel advised the Board that plans are under way for the 2016 prom. They hope to make it a good prom.

Mr. Rome advised the Board that the theme for the prom is a 1920's theme: The Great Gatsby. They will be meeting with Mrs. Yoder to begin making props.

Mrs. Francis thanked the teachers for attending tonight's meeting. She enjoyed the musical and thanked everyone making it a great show.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden thanked the student for a great performance and she thanked the community and teachers for their support. She thanked the teachers for attending tonight's meeting and addressing the Board. Ms. Bearden expressed her appreciation to the teachers for everything they do.

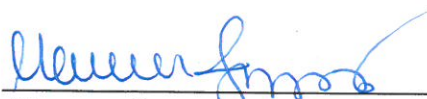
Mr. Wilkerson expressed his appreciation to the teachers as a Board Member and student. He thanked everyone for supporting him in his role as the lion and their support of whole production.

Dr. Sparagana reminded Board Members of the April 8th Legislative Breakfast at the IU. He thanked everyone for making The Wiz a fantastic show. He recognized the teachers for the magnitude of time they put into the musical in addition to their daily classroom work.

Mrs. Stilwell advised the Board there will be an executive session at the close of tonight's meeting for the purpose of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.


Maureen Jampo
Substitute Board Secretary