

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
June 23, 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, June 23, 2016, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with Vice-President Mr. Andrew Kefer presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Polly Weand, and Mr. Ron Williams. Absent were: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representative, Mr. Nyles Rome, Mr. Joseph Schroder, Mrs. Dulcie Rothermel, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens. .

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:03 pm.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 19, 2016 and the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on May 23, 2016 to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of May 2016 to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2016 to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

Mr. Heidel entered the meeting at 7:09 pm.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Francis reported on policies that were reviewed by the committee at the June 2nd Policy Committee meeting. Thirteen policies were reviewed and recommended by the committee. The policies are listed on tonight's agenda to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval. The committee discussed a residency policy and was supportive of the recommendation to run the program through the Foundation for Pottstown Education. The committee agreed to table the residency policy to allow time for the solicitor and Foundation to work out the details. The committee also discussed the dress code policy and agreed the current dress code policy at the high school remain as status quo until the committee has reviewed all the survey results and is able to determine a recommendation to the Board.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

No June meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bearden gave a report on topics discussed at the June 2 Community Relations Committee meeting. The committee continues to work on putting together a list of contacts for local businesses and community organizations to distribute a communication letter including a copy of the district calendar of events. The committee agreed to table the Annual Awards Program and the Scholarship Acknowledgments for future discussion and plan development. The Save the Light Fundraiser is at approximately \$98,000. Donations are continuing to be collected and Mrs. Weand is working with potential donors for matching funds. The committee will be doing some brainstorming ideas on how to engage the community and parents with the school district.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

No report.

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand gave a report on the items discussed at the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting held on June 2. The district's email system is scheduled for updates during the July 4th holiday. The district is moving to a new communications broker which is a cost savings to the district. Mr. Hug reviewed updates on Policy 815: Utilization of Technology. The policy language is being updated to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act and also strengthens password security and identifies incidental personal use of district systems. Mr. Boyer and Mr. Todd presented the committee with the results of the parent survey for the proposed schedule changes at the middle school. The committee supports the new hour of operation as presented on tonight's agenda. Policy 217: Graduation Requirements was reviewed by the committee. It was the consensus of all present to support the recommended change of .5 credit from a science elective to a STEAM elective. Mrs. McCoy reported to the committee several modified block classes will be added to next year's schedule and she and Mr. Delaney will continue to research block scheduling and bring their findings to the committee at a later time.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Heidel gave a report of the items discussed at the Facilities Committee held on June 16. Three future projects were discussed: 1) Marco Energy – energy efficient lighting retrofit for PHS exterior lighting, 2) Franklin Street field renovation assessment and 3) Elementary playground installations. Mr. Kripplebauer will be gathering more data for the committee to review and determine a course of action. These items were included in the Capital Reserve budget being presented as part of the 2016-2017 Final Budget. Other items presented were a presentation by Mr. Hylton on converting the Edgewood grounds bordering Beech Street to a meadow. A meadow is a more natural water management system and would also eliminate the need to cut the grass. Mr. Hylton also presented to the committee information on 323-325 King Street. He had an historical architect go through the building and it was determined to be structurally sound. A roof problem needs to be taken care of and then he believes the building could be remodeled by the high school trades.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the Joint Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on June 16. **Finance Items:** The committee reviewed finance policies to conform with new regulations for federal grant compliance, contracts for special need students, annual resolutions to close out the current fiscal year and an updated Homestead exclusion resolution. These items can be found on tonight's agenda under consent. Mr. Hylton asked the committee to support the commitment of \$100,000 from the General Fund for the residency incentive. The committee was in agreement and this item can also be found on tonight's agenda under consent. The proposed final budget was presented in the amount of \$59,553,150 with no increase in real estate millage. The committee fully supports the 2016-2017 Final Budget as

presented on tonight's agenda under non-consent. An update was provided on LERTA and the borough's timeline which requires a public hearing. The public hearing is to be held early July with council's approval to take place in August. This timeline allows for Board action on the LERTA Resolution in support of LERTA at the July meeting.

Personnel items: Dr. Sparagana provided the committee with updates on the 2016-2017 Hours of Operation and the 2016-2017 School Calendar. The middle school grades will be on the same schedule instead of a staggered schedule. Support Staff Guidelines and a recommendation to approve a waiver of admission to school for one student were reviewed by the committee including the appointment of Mr. Williams as the school district's voting delegate for the PSBA Delegate Assembly meeting in October. Personnel items on this evening's agenda were discussed and reviewed by the committee. All the items presented are supported by the committee to be placed on the June 27 Board agenda for approval. It should be noted that we do have a new Director of Special Education on the agenda for approval.

An Executive Session was held to discuss non-teaching staff compensation.

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

Mr. Williams provided some updates on several legislative bills including pension reform and charter school reform. No agreements have been reached and it does not appear any action will be taken at this time. The 2016-2017 state budget is moving forward with a bi-partisan agreement . It appears there will be increased funding for special needs but PreK will not be funded as effectively. An agreement on revenue sources needs to be reached to finalize the budget. The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Head Start program at Edgewood will be accepting 2 students as a result of the closing of the Green Lane Head Start facility. Eighteen students in total will be placed at other Head Start facilities.

BOROUGH LIAISON

Mr. Williams stated he was pleased to accept the Best Film Under 18 Award on behalf of the middle school students. He reported the Film Festival presented many awards in various categories as part of the Pottstown In Focus event. The Public Library is currently under renovations with limited access to the building. A summer reading programs will be held at Art Fusion 19464. The borough has approved two additional buildings for mixed commercial and residential use to the South Hanover St.'s Mrs. Smith's Pie Facility.

Mr. Heidel provided a report on the recent borough council meeting. The 4th of July parade is cancelled due to funding issues. The crowning of the homecoming queen will take place in conjunction with the car show. Other topics discussed include the proposed 2016-2017 PART Operating budget , a proposed 2016-2017 PART fare increase, a proposal to outsource the management of the Crossing Guard program (cost savings for the district and borough), a final proposal for South Hanover St. housing (less residential as previously proposed) and applicants for the Assistant Borough Manager position.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the professional leaves as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the 2016-2017 Hours of Operation as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

WAIVER OF POLICY 201: ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the recommendation to waive Policy 201, admission to kindergarten, for early entrance as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the OAC member list and minutes as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

POLICIES

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the policies as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

BID AWARD: CAFETERIA SUPPLIES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the bid award to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

CONTRACTS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Budget Transfer Resolution as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Investment of Funds Resolution as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

RESOLUTION TO COMMIT FUNDS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Resolution to Commit Funds for Future Expenditures as presented to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams reviewed the revised Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

PSBA VOTING DELEGATE

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Personnel Committee's recommendation to appoint Mr. Ron Williams as the district voting delegate to the 2016 PSBA Delegate Assembly at the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference.

RESIDENCY INCENTIVE BUDGET TRANSFER

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve a budget transfer to commit \$100,000 for residency incentive from the general fund balance to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

ADOPTION OF 2016-2017 FINAL BUDGET

Mrs. Adams reviewed the adoption of the 2016-2017 final budget to be placed on the June 27, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LERTA RESOLUTION

Mrs. Adams noted the LERTA Resolution would be placed on the July 28th Board Agenda for approval. She explained the Borough is required to advertise for a public meeting before the ordinance can be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Williams inquired about a policy regarding students wearing military sashes at graduation. All members were in agreement to send this inquiry to the Policy Committee for investigation.

INFORMATION

None.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato congratulated the Middle School on their film award. He thanked Mrs. McCoy and the staff for hosting graduation. It was an honor for the teachers to be invited by their students to share in the graduation event. The Federation was pleased to participate in the PAL Bike Rodeo as a collaborative effort with Strong At Heart along with other sponsors (YMCA, YWCA, The Hill School). The Federation had the opportunity to distribute the remaining books from the First Book Program. The Federation continues to participate in fair funding events to get the message to the legislatures; the importance of investing in public schools and enact new and sustainable revenues.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel was pleased with the success of the bike rodeo. Graduation was his best experience so far as a school board director.

Mrs. Weand thought graduation was wonderful and could sense the excitement. She noted how much education students can receive at Pottstown from PreK to college and never leave the community.

Mr. Williams was unable to attend graduation but did attend Baccalaureate. He thanked Dr. Sparagana for his leadership and was proud of the students, faculty and administration.

Mr. Rome thought graduation was great and looks forward to next year.

Mrs. Francis stated graduation was a great event and very well done.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden echoed all the comments and was glad to participate in graduation. She was glad to witness the event and thankful for the faculty and parents.

Dr. Sparagana noted that Baccalaureate was very special as it was conducted by the students. It was great to hear the students speak. It was tremendous to see the students march to Pomp & Circumstances for graduation. He expressed his appreciation to the teachers for staying strong to the end. Their efforts kept everyone focused. Dr. Sparagana spoke about the Pottstown trauma initiative focused on supporting the families and children in the community. Each member received a handout containing information on the Pottstown Trauma Informed Community Connection including the district's Social and Emotional Learning program.

Mr. Kefer agreed with everyone's comments about graduation. It was an amazing event and a great experience.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary