

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, July 28, 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: Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Ron Williams and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent was Ms. Katina Bearden. Also present were Acting Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Assistant Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Solicitor, Mr. Mark Fitzgerald; Dr. Steven Park, Mr. Ryan Regensburg, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a members of the press, and interested citizens.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION

The Board adjourned for an executive session for the purpose of litigation at 7:04 pm.

The Board reconvened at 7:23 pm.

Mrs. Stilwell stated that a motion to approve a special education settlement agreement will be added to agenda for approval under Consent.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 23, 2016 and the Regular Board meeting held on June 27, 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Francis 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. Jampo presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of March 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of March 2016 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-001**

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

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (General)

Ms. Colleen Blute, Barth Elementary Teacher, presented the Board with Spirit Week food vouchers to support the Pottstown 4th of July festivities through Independence Day Ltd. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

No July meeting.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Williams gave a report on the July 14 Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting. A 2015-2016 Co-Curricular Activities report indicated approximately 402 students participated in clubs and sports. Brookside Country Club has granted the district's golf team use of their golf course for practices and a majority of matches at no charge. Photos of co-curricular activities were donated by VSN Photos and will be displayed in the Athletic hallway at the high school. Other highlights from the committee meeting included an update on a Junior Fire Fighters Club presented by Borough Council President, Council President Dan Weand and Phillies Fire Company Vice President, Mr. Miles Feather. A written proposal with specific details and figures will be presented at a future meeting for review by the committee and administration.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bearden gave a report on the topics discussed at the July 14 Community Relations Committee meeting. Representatives from the Family Advisory Committee spoke to the committee members about their goals and all agreed to appoint liaisons for the respective committees for each entity. A grant is being prepared to pursue funds for the Save the Lights fundraiser. Committee members agreed to consider a communications audit as a means to determine an effective communication strategy for the district. The committee continues to work on preparing a newsletter and district calendar to distribute as part of the Community Outreach initiative.

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand reviewed the minutes from the July 14 Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting. The Technology Department has completed the student information system rollover and configuring the copier management system. A priority task currently in progress is the relocation of fiber bundles on 2 poles at Evans and Beech due to the construction at that site. The committee reviewed and supports two agenda items for board approval: 1) The deletion of two Career and Technical Education Programs and the ESSA Resolution and 2) The ESSA (Every Student Succeed Act) Resolution. Highlights on Social Emotional Learning, Trauma Initiatives and STEAM updates included an agreement with PD Dimensions for Professional Development on Social Emotional Learning. Costs will be shared by the W. K. Kellogg grant and the Curriculum's department budget. The Engineering Technology Robotics Equipment Enhancement has received an equipment upgrade made possible by a grant funding. A reading program introduced to the district by the Masons Lodge is being reviewed by the Curriculum Department. More information will follow.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Heidel gave a report of the items discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting held on July 21. Change orders for the Exterior Wall & Site Repairs project were reviewed. Structural issues were found due to deteriorating materials from the original construction of the buildings. The committee supports the change orders. An assessment proposal for the improvement of the Middles School Franklin fields was presented and discussed. It was the general consensus of the committee to wait for more information on the overall cost of the project before making any recommendations to the Board. Installation of the elementary playground equipment is scheduled to begin next week. All equipment is expected to be in place by the start of school. The committee reviewed plans to utilize space at the administration building more effectively. The committee supports using \$15,000 of budgeted funds for air-conditioning in the Ann Jones All-Purpose room.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the July 21 Joint Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. An executive session was held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Federation for Pottstown Teachers and personnel. Dr. George, MCIU Executive Director, presented an update on the Superintendent Search. The committee agreed to begin the search in October with an effective start date to be July 1, 2017. Personnel items, contracts and the final draft of the LERTA Resolution were reviewed and supported by the committee. A classroom analysis of 4th and 5th grade was reviewed by the committee. The overall analysis showed a trend of increases in 5th grade. The majority of the committee members support the addition of a 5th grade teacher which would reduce the class size from 28 to 25 students.

BOROUGH LIAISON

Mr. Heidel reviewed highlights from the July Borough Council meetings. Borough Council President addressed a newspaper article that miss-represented wages and compensation comparisons. Agenda items discussed included the Mayor's report looking to the school district for a solution to students that are brought to the police station due to not being picked up at the end of a school day. The public hearing for the LERTA Ordinance was held on July 11th. Council approved advertising to amend the Master Traffic Ordinance.

Board Members inquired about the how many times students are placed at the police station. Mr. Rodriguez explained it is extreme cases that result in students being taken to the police station and is a last resort when parents/guardians cannot be located. He will follow up with a report to the Policy Committee.

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

Mr. Williams reported on several legislative items as discussed at the committee level. He spoke about the Education Funding plan, Pennsylvania's social security deficit, Plan Con reimbursements, and requirements for data collection reduction. Mr. Williams gave an update on the pension obligation as outlined in a recent PSBA bulletin.

Mr. Wilkerson exited the meeting at 7:55 pm.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Consent Items for Board approval and Non-Consent Items for Board consideration.

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

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Professional

Dennis Arms, Elementary Librarian, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective August 26, 2016; employed since August 30, 2010.

Ratify Christine Fiorillo, Emotional Support Teacher, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective July 5, 2016; employed since June 27, 2004.

Ratify Robert Benton, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective July 12, 2016; employed since August 27, 2013.

Laura Wise, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation effective September 17, 2016 employed since January 20, 2009.

Dorothy McCrone, Secondary Special Education teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation effective September 18, 2016, employed since August 21, 2012.

Elizabeth Haring, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Lincoln Elementary, resignation effective September 23, 2016, employed since June 29, 2006.

Exempt

Robert Shoener, Occupational Therapist, resignation effective August 12, 2016; employed since August 8, 2007.

Jane Bennett, Community Engagement Coordinator, resignation effective October 7, 2016; employed since February 23, 2014.

Leaves

Professional

Ratify Lisa Rossi, Elementary Teacher, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective May 31, 2016, end date June 15, 2016.

Change in Position and/or Salary

Administrative

Ryan Regensburg, from Secondary Teacher to Assistant Principal, Pottstown Middle School, effective August 9, 2016, \$71,162/yr (replace A. Cooper).

Classified

Shanti Louallen, from Substitute Support Staff to Van Assistant, Administration Bldg., effective August 22, 2016, \$11.92/hr (replaces S. Jeter).

Kerry Kline, from Intervention Assistant to Library Assistant, Lincoln /Rupert Elementary, effective August 24, 2016, no change in hourly rate.

Elections

Administrative

Deena Cellini, Director of Human Resources, Administration Building, effective August 8, 2016, \$115,000/yr.

Professional

Erin Duffy, Secondary Special Education Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective August 23, 2016 \$44,168/yr, Step 1 -Bach (replaces L.Smoyer).

Samantha Weaver, Elementary Librarian, Franklin Elementary, effective August 23, 2016, \$43,768/yr, Step 1 -Std (replaces D.Arms).

Classified

Ratify Chase McKain, Summer Cleaner, Buildings and Grounds, effective July 12, 2016, \$11.51/hr.

Alivia Lopez, Part-time Student Intern, effective August 8, 2016, \$10.79/hr.

Claire Fetterman, Part-time Student Intern, effective August 1, 2016, \$10.79/hr.

Christina Kelly, Long Term Substitute Cafeteria Worker, Pottstown High School, effective August 24, 2016, \$11.74/hr (coverage for C. Bender)

Katie Busch, Long Term Substitute Cafeteria Worker, Pottstown High School, effective August 24, 2016, \$11.74/hr (coverage for J. Bentz).

Addition(s) to Summer Food Service Program, June 15, 2016 through August 26, 2016
Diane Martz, Summer Food Service Worker, \$12.28/hr.

Co-Curricular Assignments:

Correction to 2015/2016 Co-Curricular Assignments - District/Building

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Professional Agreement Category</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
MS	Dept. Chair - Math (1/2 stipend)	Cynthia Ziegler	-----	\$474.50
MS	Dept. Chair - Math (1/2 stipend)	Dana DiDonato	-----	\$474.50

Tuition Reimbursement

Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>06/30/16 deadline</u>
Bradley Mayberry	Barth	\$ 1,845.00
Nicole Leh	Rupert	\$ 748.00
Corina Miller	Rupert	\$ 24.00
Jacquelyn Mathias	PHS	\$ 1,335.00
Diane Shoffstall	PHS	\$ 1,335.00
Ian Lawrence	PMS	\$ 1,590.00
Mandy Wampole	Lincoln	\$ 1,590.00
Pam Pascal	PHS	\$ 399.00
Lee Ann McCullough	PHS	\$ 900.00

Support Staff/Exempt

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gerauldine Alderfer	Barth	\$ 2,000.00

Tenure/Permanent Contracts

Approval of Tenure/Permanent Contract

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Eligible Date</u>
Pamela Pascal	PHS	04/30/2015
Hilary Tutrani	PMS	08/21/2015
Beth Taylor	PMS	11/08/2015
Thomas Simpson	PMS	08/21/2015

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PMS	Jennifer Mitchell- Winterbottom	Discovery Schools	STEM Emersion Summer Program	Chicago, IL	07/14/2016 – 07/17/16	\$1,500 shared costs STEAM Grant and Dept budget
Franklin	Jennifer Swenk					
Rupert	Matthew Moyer	21st Century Summer Inst.		Phoeniz, AZ	07/18/2016 – 07/21/2016	\$1,750.000 pd from 21 st Century Grant

Admin	Richard Hug	PASBO Steel Eagle	Bedford Springs, PA	07/07/2016 – 07/08/2016	\$0.00 pd by PASBO
Admin	Linda S. Adams Maureen Jampo	2016 Bus. Mgrs. Workshop	Pocono Manor	09/28/2016- 09/30/2016	\$390 each pd by dept budget

CTE PROGRAMS FOR DELETION IN STATE REPORTING SYSTEM

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the deletion of the following Career and Technical Education Programs to remain in compliance with PDE regulations: Accounting Technology and Business Technology. These programs are marked for deletion due to chronic low enrollment.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Every Student Succeeds Act Resolution and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2016-2017-002** . The Board authorizes the administration to send copies of the adopted resolution to the appropriate state legislators and legislative departments.

LERTA RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the LERTA Resolution as presented supporting the enactment of the ordinance establishing a LERTA district by Borough Council and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2016-2017-003**.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2016-2017-004**.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. The Academy | 3. The Lincoln Center |
| 2. NHS School | 4. Progressions School |

EXTERIOR WALL & SITE REPAIR CHANGE ORDERS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following change orders as presented:
J.P.S. Construction Co. Inc. - Field House/MS/Franklin/Lincoln \$61,268.94

SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve a Special Education Settlement agreement pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2016-2017-005**. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

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

NON-CONSENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Pilot Program – donation letters to non-profit organizations in lieu of taxes. Mr. Hylton asked that the Board to consider a motion authorizing the solicitor to work out an agreement with the Borough to send one letter on behalf of the school district and borough. Currently, the borough sends a annual letter. The solicitors for both entities could work out details on distribution of the proceeds.

Mrs. Stilwell called for a straw vote. All members agreed. None opposed.

Mr. Rodriguez will communicate this motion to the solicitor.

2. Meadow at Edgewood - Mr. Hylton requested a presentation be made at the August meeting. Mr. Gary Gimbert, Natural Lands Trust, will explain why meadows are beneficial and what would need to be done.

Board Members engaged in discussion regarding charging for the use of district parking areas. Discussion focused on a previous event that took place at the Hill School resulting in some parking issues. Mrs. Stilwell directed additional discussion to take place at the committee level.

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Meeting Notice

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato congratulated the new administrators. He expressed his gratitude and that of the teachers for the Board's support of the ESSA Resolution and for supporting the addition of one 5th grade teacher. Mr. DiDonato also thanked Ms Blute for her efforts to support the community and students and he thanked the buildings and grounds staff, Mr. Kripplebauer and Mrs. Hug for their work in preparing the buildings for the new school year.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel congratulated all the new hires.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mr. Williams – no comment.

Mr. Kefer was pleased to announce that he is officially a PSD Parent. His daughters are enrolled in the Pottstown School District and he thanked Mrs. Morais for making registration a pleasant experience.

Mrs. Francis – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden noted that The Hill School has a great partnership with Pottstown. She believes they should manage the parking when hosting events.

Mr. Heidel reminded the Board of a Pottstown Let's Talk town meeting to take place on August 1st at Connections on High.


Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the new administrators. He was pleased to report the summer cleaning is going well. Some announcements for the start of the school year included a conference that Dr. White will be attending to talk about the successful cyber program and an invitation to all board members to attend the August Family Advisory Committee meeting. He thanked the Board for their support in his new position and looks forward to this new school year.

Mrs. Stilwell thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for their work on the LERTA Resolution. She reminded the Board there will be an executive at the close of the meeting for the purpose of negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Kefer and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
FEDERATION OF POTTSTOWN TEACHERS**


Maureen Jampo
Assistant Board Secretary