

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
August 18, 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, August 18, 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, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Acting Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Student Board Representatives, Mr. Nyles Rome and Mr. Jayden Chestnut, Mr. Kevin Downes, Mrs. Dulcie Rothermel, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a members of the press, and interested citizens.

PRESENTATON

Meadow at Edgewood

Mr. Gimbert, Natural Lands Trust, gave a Power Point presentation about meadows and the benefits of establishing a butterfly meadow at Edgewood. He explained the methods to prepare the area, the pollination process and maintenance of the meadow. The larger cost is in the beginning of the two to four year process to establish the meadow and then lower costs to maintain the meadow for weed control and mowing.

Ms. Dulcie Flaharty, Vice President Community Partnerships, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present information on meadows. She spoke about the educational benefits for students and the community.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Combined Committee of the Whole meeting and Regular meeting held on July 28, 2016 to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Ms. Bacallao presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of July 2016 to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Bacallao presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2016 (unaudited) and the Treasurer's Report for July 2016 to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Francis gave a report on the Policy Committee meeting held on August 4. Policy 626 attachments defining administrative responsibilities for federal programs were reviewed and supported by the committee. The dress code policy and student representative policy will be addressed at a future date.

These policies require more time to review and formulate. It was the general consensus of the committee to direct Mr. Hylton's proposed ad hoc committee to the Curriculum and Technology Committee. The procedure for students not picked up after school was discussed by the committee. The committee is comfortable with the current procedures.

Mr. Kalis stated the Foundation for Pottstown Education is interested in meeting with school board representatives regarding the proposed residency initiative. The Foundation's Executive Committee was receptive to the concept and is interested in working with the Policy Committee to clarify the parameters and participation requirements for administering the program. Mrs. Francis and Mr. Kalis will coordinate a September meeting date for the purpose of further discussion.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilkerson gave a report on the Community Relations Committee meeting held on August 4. Committee members were in favor of participating in National Night Out as part of a Community Outreach. The Pottstown Talks program provided great feedback for the committee's community outreach initiative. The committee will determine what events to include in the district calendar of events that will be distributed bi-monthly. A proposal to conduct a communications audit was reviewed by the committee and the general consensus was to discuss at the next meeting. The NFL grant for the Save the Lights fundraiser is completed. The committee continues to look at brainstorming ideas.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Rome reported on plans being made to hold a bon fire event. More details to follow.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand gave a report on the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting held on August 4. The committee reviewed Technology's updated summer task report. Information on the new teacher induction and wellness updates were also reviewed by the committee. The committee discussed Mr. Hylton's proposed ad hoc committee for de-emphasizing PSSA testing and allowing more flexibility for teaching curriculum. It was determined that the committee would begin reviewing the curriculum and test scores to determine what can be improved. No action is to be taken at this time regarding forming an ad hoc committee.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Heidel gave a report on the Facilities Committee meeting held on August 11. The committee received updates on the summer projects. All projects will be completed by the start of school with the exception of flashing associated with the masonry work. The playground equipment installation at Barth, Franklin and Rupert has started and is expected to be completed by the start of school. Lincoln's equipment is scheduled to take place next year due to additional work to make the play area ADA compliant. Engineers provided an estimated cost to renovate the Franklin Street Field at approximately \$332,280. Funding for this project would be supported by: 1) \$150,000 earmarked in the Capital Reserve budget of 2016-2017; the remaining funds could be funded through contingency money in the budget and other funding streams that are being looked into. A motion by the Board would be needed in September to start the engineering process in anticipation of having a renovated playing field for Fall of 2017.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Kefer gave a report on the August 11 Joint Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the personnel items as presented on tonight's agenda including consent items for contracts, athletic program ticket prices, school physician/dentist rates, PSD worker's compensation medical providers, school resource officer resolution, the appointment of the district solicitor for the next two years, Plan Con K documents, the district's amended 403(b) adoption agreement, district sponsored co-curricular activities and the recommended school attendance officers. All items are

recommended to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval. The committee discussed the appraisal summary for the Annex Building and determined no action should be taken at this time. The potential to sell the building could be revisited at a future dated when the real estate market has improved.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Heidel gave a report on the August 8 Borough Council meeting. Mr. Justin Keller was named the new Assistant Borough Manager. The Montgomery County's District Attorney's Office stated they will pay for the installation of 10 cameras and the associated servers to aid law enforcement. Borough Council unanimously approved the LERTA Ordinance. Effective August 16, South Roland Street became a one-way street southbound. Upcoming events include a Citizens Academy starting September 1, 2016.

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

No Report.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Cellini reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval:

Personnel

Professional Leaves

Field Trips

Attendance Officers

District Sponsored Co-Curricular Activities

Mrs. Adams reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the August 22, 2016 Board Agenda for approval:

Contracts

Amended 403(b) Adoption Agreement

Athletic Program Ticket Prices

Appointment of District Solicitor

PSD Workers' Compensation Medical Providers

School Physician and Dentist Rates

School Resource Officer Resolution

PlanCon K General Obligation Note Series 2015

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. PSBA Officer Election: September
2. Student/Parent Calendars

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato invited all Board Members to attend "Back to School" night at the schools next

week. He thanked the buildings and grounds crew for their work to get the buildings ready for the start of school. He congratulated the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation for another successful Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds Institute. The Federation is grateful for the foundation's work and the work of Mr. Genova. Mr. DiDonato thanked Mr. Rodriguez for all his work in getting things done this summer.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mr. Rome – no comment.

Mr. Chestnut – no comment.

Mrs. Francis – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mr. Wilkerson thanked Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Armato for the opportunity to meet with some new teachers as they toured the community. He expressed his support of looking at an ad hoc committee regarding curriculum and the Keystone exams for the future of the students.


Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mr. DiDonato for his kind words and acknowledging the success of Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds. Franklin Elementary received an award for their excellent work. He thanked the teachers and staff for a successful 21st Century Summer Program.

Mr. Kefer enjoyed watching the band practice tonight. He wished the Pottstown graduates luck as they start their school year furthering their education. "The start of school is an exciting time".

Mr. Kefer reminded the board there will be an executive session for the purpose of negotiations at the close of the meeting.

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 7:57 pm.


Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary