

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President Mrs. Amy B. Francis presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Polly Weand, and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, 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; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representatives, Mr. Nyles Rome and Ms. Courteney Parry; Mr. David Todd, Mrs. Dolcie Rothermel, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mr. Robert Decker, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

Mr. Hylton entered the meeting at 7:05 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rodriguez gave an update on the January 19, 2017 Board Workshop. The Board Members shared their thoughts on “who are we”, reflecting on the past and continuing the work to do great things. Board Members discussed goals they would like to achieve. Board meeting and committee meeting structure was discussed and it was determined to stay with the current board meeting structure and slight alterations to the committees including co-chairs for the more active committees.

Mr. Williams entered the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:09 pm.

PRESENTATION

School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Rodriguez 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 performances by the high school show choir, directed by Mr. Marsden and the middle school band drum line, directed by Mrs. German. Mrs. Judyth Friend spoke on behalf of the district support staff extending their appreciation and recognizing the many challenges the Board faces. A video of students from the elementary schools describing their ideas of “What is a School Board” was presented. The students thanked the Board for helping them to learn and make good decisions.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes from the Re-organization meeting held on December 5, 2016 and the combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meeting held on December 15, 2016 for Board approval.

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

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of December 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the list of bills be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-054**.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Williams that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-055**.

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

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Jodi Szczerbowicz., 15 East Second St., addressed the Board with her concerns about bullying and disciplinary measures. She stated that her children do not feel safe at school and she does not believe the staff is helping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilkerson stated the committee meet in January to discuss bullying and a student senate. The committee will continue its discussion at the February committee meeting.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – NO MEETING

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - NO MEETING

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Parry reported the DECA Club is sending 21 student to the state competition on February 23rd in Hershey, Pa. The Class of 2017 currently has 75 college acceptances.

Mr. Rome gave an update on the winter sports. The girls and boys basketball teams each had wins this month and the wrestling team won 3rd place at Kennett duals.

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – NO MEETING

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – NO MEETING

JOINT FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – NO MEETING

BOROUGH LIAISON

Mr. Heidel gave a report on the January 4 Borough Council meeting. Two police officers were honored with Life Saving Awards; one officer was promoted to rank of corporal. The Phillies Fire Company will be conducting a Citizens Fire Academy program beginning February 11. Items to be considered at the January voting meeting include a motion to draft an ordinance creating a Land Bank in the Borough, some changes to the outdoor farmer's market.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSBA/MONTGOMERY COUNTY IU REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Williams gave an overview of two legislative bills being introduced by the Senate. The introduction of a property tax relief bill brings uncertainty as to what support the Commonwealth will provide to the public schools. A Charter School legislative bill is expected to be presented next month that looks at how they run and are represented. More information will follow. The Montgomery County IU meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday.

SAVE THE LIGHTS UPDATE

Mrs. Weand gave an update on the fundraiser. The amount collected to date is approximately \$216,000 which includes a \$10,000 donation from the Pottstown German Club. Mr. Kripplebauer is reviewing the estimate with MUSCO Lighting. More information will follow.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Cellini reviewed all personnel consent items for Board approval.

Mrs. Adams reviewed consent items for Board approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS(limited to Consent Items)

None.

CONSENT:

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

Mr. Hylton asked if there is any PlanCon reimbursement for earlier bonds that would be coming in for the next budget.

Mrs. Adams stated that reimbursements from the earlier bonds from the high school and middle school are coming in and projections from the PlanCons should be available for the new budget.

Mr. Heidel recapped the projects that are included in the O & S Association 2017 Building Envelope Repairs for approval at the cost of \$619,000 which is under the \$625,000 budget.

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Administrative

Leroy Merkel, Food Service Director, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 23, 2017; employed since August 20, 2012.

Professional

Lisa Royer, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 15, 2017; employed since November 10, 1999.

Jane Thompson, Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective February 13, 2017; employed since August 25, 1997.

Vincent Burke, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 16, 2017; employed since November 13, 2006.

Exempt

Sue Ann Yocom, Grant administrator/Resource Specialist, Administration Bldg., resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 29, 2017; employed since November 7, 2008.

Classified

Deborah Brown, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective February 28, 2017; employed since August 29, 1994.

Gina Griffin, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2017; employed September 9, 1992.

Constance March, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 27, 2017; employed since August 27, 2001.

Frances Mulvhill, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2017; employed since January 29, 2007.

Barbara Gross, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2017; employed since January 26, 2009.

Ratify James Prendergast, Substitute Van Driver/ Van Assistant, resignation effective December 20, 2016; employed since December 19, 2016

Ratify Douglass Ryan, Substitute Support Staff, termination effective December 28, 2016.

Ratify Cynthia Ziegler, Middle School Lacrosse Assistant Coach, resignation effective December 23, 2016.

LEAVES

Professional

Ratify James Benfield, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 12, 2016, end date tbd.

Classified

Frances Mulvihill, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date January 17, 2017, end date tbd.

Ratify Annmarie Magyar, Classroom Assistant, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 19, 2017, end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Professional

Ratify Tricia Mitchell, from Substitute Support Staff to Elementary Special Education Teacher, initial assignment to be Rupert Elementary, effective January 12, 2017, \$48,000/yr, + \$600 Special Education Stipend (contract of T. Ericksen).

Classified

Ratify Sarah Crumling, from Classroom Assistant to Temporary Intervention Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, effective January 5, 2017, \$13.65/hr. (coverage for G. Alderfer). Upon completion of assignment, she will return to role of Classroom Assistant.

Ratify Lynette Andrews from Part-time Student Proctor to Substitute Support Staff, hourly rate per schedule.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Benjamin DiPette, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, effective January 6, 2017, \$44,000/yr. contract of R. Heiser). This is in addition to his role as 21st Century Tutor.

Classified

Ratify Brittany Stinson, Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, effective January 3, 2017, \$13.65/hr. (replacing A. Cross).

Ratify Janaya Geiger, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 9, 2017, hourly rate per schedule and Substitute Front Desk Clerk, Administration Building, effective January 9, 2017, \$14.04/hr.

Ratify Kathryn Fretz, Temporary Classroom Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, effective January 4, 2017, \$13.65/hr. (coverage for S. Crumling). Upon completion of assignment, she will assume the role of Substitute Support Staff, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Stacie Horne, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 18, 2017, hourly rate per schedule.

Karen Mazzie, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 30, 2017, \$13.65/hr; (replacing L. Sabuacek).

Homebound Instruction, \$29/hr

Ratify Kristina Corominas, Pottstown High School, from January 6, 2017 end date tbd, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs per week.

Ratify Kimberly White, Barth Elementary, from December 16, 2016, end date tbd, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs per week.

David Woodley, Pottstown High School, from January 23, 2017, intermittent instruction, end date tbd, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs per week.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$23/hr - November / December 2016

Beth Mason,	MS	5 missed planning times	\$115.00
Michaela Johnson	HS	22 missed planning times	\$506.00
Sarah Dierolf	MS	1 missed planning time	\$ 23.00
Angela Wagner	MS	1 missed planning time	\$ 23.00

Additions/Corrections - 2016-2017 Co-Curricular Assignments: Sports **Addendum #2016-2017-056.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>12/31/16 deadline</u>
Amanda High	PMS	\$1,488.00
Melissa Lopez	Franklin	\$1,410.00
Joshua Wagner	Lincoln	\$1,410.00
Ian Lawrence	PMS	\$1,449.00
Leslie Swartz	Lincoln	\$1,410.00
Diane Shoffstall	PHS	\$1,665.00
Danielle Lawrence	PMS	\$1,449.00
David Woodley	PHS	\$1,245.00
Aaron Hinnershitz	PMS	\$1,449.00

Administrative

Laurie Kolka	Admin	\$2,910.00
Matthew Moyer	Rupert	\$1,679.70

HORIZONTAL SALARY MOVEMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>SPE to</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>SPE New Salary</u>
Kevin Pascal	PHS	M	6	\$ 50,000.00	M+15	6	\$52,000.00	\$52,000.00
Amanda High	PMS	B+15	1	\$ 44,500.00	M	1	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00

ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE

Accumulate Sick Leave Payment at Retirement with 32 years of service:

Jayne Pollock	\$7,044.80
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TENURE/PERMANENT CONTRACT

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Eligible Date</u>
Ian Lawrence	PMS	8/21/2015

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Board	Amy Bathurst Francis		Center for School Improvement (CSI)	New York, NY	01/26/2017 - 01/29/2017	\$799.00ea. - pd by dept. budget
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez					
	Deena Cellini					
	Laurie Kolka					
MS	David Todd					
Admin	Karen Crable		ELO Conference	Harrisburg, PA	03/07/2017 - 03/09/2017	\$537.00 pd by 21st Century Cohort 7 Grant

FIELD TRIPS

<u># Students/ Groups</u>	<u>Conference Name/Activity</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	<u>Cost to Student</u>	<u>Cost to District</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
30	MS Environmental Science Club	Pocono Enviro. Education Ctr.	05/17/2017 - 05/19/2017	\$150.00	\$315.00 - \$345.00	Vanessa Barnaik Ginger Angelo Jeff Schloth
25	DECA	Hershey Lodge	02/22/2017 - 02/24/2017	\$325.00	\$210.00 - \$230.00	Kevin Pascal Anita Santangelo

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-057**.

1. MOU: PHMC Cohort 7
2. MOU: PDE Dashboard/Early Warning Sys. & Intervention Catalog
3. MOU: Lintons Food Serv. Mgmt.-Pre-K Counts Program (replacing Kremmer's Cafe & Catering)
4. Woods Services Inc.
5. The Devereux Foundation

PDE APPROVAL: PlanCon H PROJECT FINANCING

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge PDE approval of the following project financing as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-058**.

1. PlanCon H General Obligation Bond Series 2013 \$10,000 - Rupert, Lincoln, Franklin
2. PlanCon H General Obligation Bond Series 2011 \$10,000 - Rupert Elementary

O & S ASSOC. SERVICES FOR 2017 BUILDING ENVELOPE REPAIRS

The Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to move forward with O & S Associates services for the 2017 Building Envelope Repair Programs as presented at the December 8 Facilities Committee meeting and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-059**.

2017 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board approves the adoption of the time and place for the 2017 School Board Meetings as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-060**.

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the real estate tax exoneration resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-061**.

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

NON-CONSENT

Delinquent Tax Settlement - Mr. Kalis reviewed a proposed delinquent tax settlement agreement for three properties owned by the same taxpayer. The proposal made by the taxpayer is to accept 100% of the principal amount due plus late fees and penalties with 25% of interest charges on real estate taxes dating back to 2010.

Resolution - Mr. Wilkerson recommended the Board approve a resolution opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education of the United States.

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

None.

DELINQUENT TAX SETTLEMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board approve the delinquent tax settlement agreement as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-062**.

1. 173 N. Hanover Street
2. 175 N. Hanover Street
3. 534 High Street

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

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NOMINATION OF BETSY DEVOS AS SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

It was moved by Ms. Bearden and seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board approve the resolution opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education of the United States as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-063**.

Upon roll call vote, the vote opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education was recorded as follows: Mrs. Francis: aye, Mr. Heidel: abstain, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Lawrence: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. Wilkerson: aye, Mr. Williams: aye, Ms. Bearden: aye.

Ayes: Seven. Abstention: One. Absent: One. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilkerson made a recommendation to the Board and Finance Committee to finalize the remaining funds for Save the Lights project so the work can begin this summer.

Mr. Williams asked that the Co-Curricular Activities Committee consider adding to their agenda discussion on an ice hockey event/team/organization.

Mr. Hylton gave an update on scanning yearbooks. Ninety-one books have been scanned and are being posted to the district website. He suggested that a "Yearbook" drop down menu be added to the website with some direction on how to access the yearbooks and contact information for anyone who may want to donate any yearbooks for the missing years.

INFORMATION

Superintendent Search Update – Mr. Kalis reviewed the search process. The deadline for applications was January 20th. Sixteen applications were received. An executive session will be held at the close of tonight's meeting to discuss the applications.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker shared some good news items with the Board. As a result of Pottstown Talks meetings, the 5th grade students have an opportunity to take a field trip to the Montgomery County Community College. Teacher appreciation nights have been scheduled to take place at the boys and girls basketball games. The Federation would like to show their appreciation to the Board by providing a dinner to the Board and families prior to a February Board meeting. Teachers will show their support opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education by wearing red on Wednesday.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mr. Williams thanked the community for their support of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Winter supplies and gift cards were donated to support the building of the Water Protector facilities.

Ms. Parry expressed interest in attending the School Board Committee meetings.

Mr. Rome will be attending University of Pittsburgh. He thanked the district for giving him the educational support and enabled him to love school.

Mrs. Lawrence – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden thanked Mr. Todd and Mr. Boyer for their watchful eyes on things happening at the middle school. She encouraged the community and family to do the same.

Mr. Wilkerson extended his thanks to the Board and administrators for their dedication to the students and community.

Mr. Rodriguez reiterated comments he has heard from the community recognizing the hard work and difficult task of a School Board Director. He thanked the Board for what they do.

Mrs. Francis thanked everyone for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary