



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 23, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 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: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were: Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Polly Weand 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 Representative, Mr. Kenil Patel, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mrs. Rita Burkheimer, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

Mr. Hylton entered the meeting at 7:03 pm.

AWARDS

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Superintendent Award to Ethan Cavalero, a Pottstown elementary student, in recognition for his community service project. Ethan collaborated with Trojan Man to organize a toy drive for children in the hospital.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Rodriguez read a letter from Governor Wolf acknowledging receipt of the district's resolution opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVose as Secretary of Education.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the minutes of the combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meeting held on January 23, 2017 to be placed on the February 27, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of January 2017 to be placed on the February 27, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2017 to be placed on the February 27, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURRICULUM / TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Mrs. Lawrence

The Curriculum/Technology Committee meeting was held on February 9. The committee report was sent to all Board Members and can be viewed as an attachment to the agenda.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on February 9. The committee report was sent to all Board and can be viewed as an attachment to the agenda. Ms. Bearden noted that the Family Advisory Committee will be hosting a “Let’s Talk” series in March at the elementary school buildings.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Patel

Mr. Patel gave an update on the February 22 bomb threat that occurred at the high school. Everyone was evacuated safely and a search was conducted. The student reaction was good.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on February 16. The committee report was sent to all Board Members and can be viewed as an attachment to the agenda. Mr. Heidel noted highlights from the report which included a potential patron donation that would cover the short fall to replace the stadium lights.

Mrs. Adams gave an update on the status of the Franklin Street Fields improvement project. The district was notified on Tuesday that there will be a delay in obtaining the environmental permits. The permits could take four to eight months. The lowest bidder will honor the bid for the physical work to start next spring. It is the recommendation of the administration to move forward with the bid award. The capital expenditure for the project was secured through the bond refinancing and will not affect the balancing of the budget.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mrs. Stilwell

The Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was held on February 16. The committee report was sent to all Board Members and can be viewed as an attachment to the agenda.

Mrs. Adams gave an update on a lease for the Edgewood building. Cottage Seven Academy is licensed for grades 1 to 8. Segregation of the programs with Head Start have been addressed and are manageable should there be a need.

POLICY COMMITTEE – Mr. Wilkerson

Mr. Wilkerson gave a brief summary on the CSI Conference in New York. The goal of the conference was to create a safe and educationally sound environment within public education. Many seminars were conducted on bullying, mental health and social emotional learning. The main piece taken from the conference is building relationship with staff, administration and community.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel

Mr. Heidel gave a report on highlights from February Borough Council meetings. The Borough and Police Department have worked out a 3 year contract. Three presentations were made to council including a “Go Fourth Celebration” and creating a welcome sign using the concrete beam on the King Street bridge.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE / MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Wilkerson reported a letter from the Secretary of Education that all states should continue with the Every Student Succeeds Act”. The guidelines and implementation will continue. A bill has been introduced to remove PSBA employees from PSERS. More information to follow.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Cellini reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the February 27, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

PERSONNEL

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

FIELD TRIPS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the February 27, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND MEMBER LIST

CONTRACTS

PLANCON H: GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE SERIES 2014 (NON-CONSENT)

FRANKLIN STREET FIELD BID AWARD (NON-CONSENT)

MCIU MEMBER SERVICES BUDGET (NON-CONSENT)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. April Committee of the Whole Meeting: Mrs. Francis asked the Board to consider combining the April 20 Committee of the Whole meeting with the April 24 Regular Board meeting to accommodate STEAM Family night scheduled for April 20 in the High School. All members agreed.
2. Board Member Articles – Mr. Rodriguez noted that the handout presented is an information item for board member as a means of professional development..
3. Pottstown Pride: Fall 2016 – Handout

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato extended congratulations to Ethan Cavillaro and Kenil Patel on their achievements. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend and give their feedback as part of the superintendent interviews. He spoke about the Reading Olympics event at the Middle School and invited board members to attend. Mr. DiDonato congratulated Mr. Woodley and his Trojan Men team on their recent fundraiser and recognition they received during an interview on Fox 29. The Federation continues their effort to support fair funding. Kelly Liebel is the Federations’s political liaison and is working on organizing virtual town hall meetings. The Federation is working with the Board and administration to work towards supporting advocacy for fair funding at the state level.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Stilwell voiced her objection to Mr. Hylton’s editorial containing budget information that was only intended as information sought by the co-chairs for the Finance Committee. She was not aware that the information was shared with the committee and noted the publication was a disservice to the committee. She stressed the significance of reporting only information that is discussed at the committee level and included in a committee report.

Mr. Heidel – no report

Mr. Patel thanked everyone for their acknowledgments.

Mrs. Lawrence congratulated Mr. Patel for his acceptance to Drexel.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.


Mr. Wilkerson spoke about upcoming district events.

Mr. Rodriguez invited all board members to attend the April 7 legislative breakfast to take place at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. A community forum is scheduled to take place at the middle school on February 28th to hear from middle school parents and community members. Mr. Rodriguez will share with the Board things that the schools are doing in recognition of Black History being celebrated during the month of February.

Mrs. Francis noted there will be an executive session for the purpose of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary