



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February 27, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Monday, February 27, 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, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson via tele-com. Absent was 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: Ms. Courteney Parry and Mr. Michael Baker, Mrs. Dulcie Rothermel, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Steven Anspach, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, members of the press and interested citizens.

**PRESENTATION**

**Foundation for Pottstown Education (FPE)**

Mr. Joseph Rusiewicz, the new Executive Director, spoke about the history of the Foundation. His Power Point presentation outlined funded projects and initiatives of the Foundation. Funded projects include the Arts, STEM and Robotics. Initiatives supported by FPE are fair funding and the residency initiative. Future goals are focused on EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit), Telling Our Story, Annual Support Campaign and Pottstown Pride Society. The Foundation just received word that the Class of 1976 will be making a \$10,000 donation at the March meeting. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak tonight. A handout was given to all Board Members and Mr. Rusiewicz extended an invitation to all present to support the Foundation by distributing the business cards in the packet provided and participating in the Pottstown Pride Society.

**COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Rodriguez acknowledged a letter from United Way thanking the district for another successful campaign, with special thanks to Mr. Matthew Moyer for his leadership. Most of the funds benefit members of our own community.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Mrs. Stilwell and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the minutes from the Combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meeting held on January 23, 2017 be approved as presented.

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

## **LIST OF BILLS**

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of January 2017 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-064**.

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

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Treasurer's Reports for January 2017 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-065**.

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

## **HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Rodriguez presented the consent items for Board approval.

## **CONSENT**

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

**Mr. Williams entered the meeting via tele-communication at 7:26 pm.**

Mrs. Weand noted she was unable to attend the March 9 Finance Committee and that she supports the Cottage Seven Academy Edgewood lease. She did ask what comments transpired regarding the lease.

Mrs. Adams stated the segregation of Head Start program and Cottage Seven Academy program has been addressed and she confirmed that Cottage Seven Academy is licensed for grades 1 to 8.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

#### **Professional**

Ratify David Solliday, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 28, 2017; employed since December 7, 2016.

Ratify Gary Allan, Automotive Mechanics Teacher, Career & Technology, resignation effective February 1, 2017; employed since August 26, 2014.

Ratify Gina Davilla, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective January 30, 2017; employed since November 3, 2016.

Classified

Ratify Jeffrey Schloth, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective February 12, 2017; employed since August 6, 2013.

Ratify James Mullen, Part-time Van Driver, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective February 1, 2017; employed since April 24, 2008.

Ratify Belinda Loera, Substitute Support Staff, termination effective February 6, 2017; hire date 12/22/2016.

Ratify Substitute Support Staff terminations due to no work assignments for over one year:

Wafaa Zein	Erika Taylor	Melinda Soos
Aaron Parmley	Stacy Kratzer	Sabrina DeForrest

Co-Curricular Assignments

Ratify Ricardo Saad, HS Tennis Coach, resignation effective January 25, 2017.

Ratify Gary Rhodenbaugh, HS Head Football Coach, resignation effective January 25, 2017.

Ratify Jeffrey Schloth, MS Assistant Wrestling Coach, resignation effective January 12, 2017.

**LEAVES**

Professional

Ratify Bradley Mayberry, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 6, 2017, end date tbd.

Ratify Gina Davilla, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence effective January 4, 2017, end date January 27, 2017.

Ellen Eisele, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 14, 2017, end date tbd.

Rebecca Vega, Elementary Teacher, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be May 23, 2017, end date tbd.

Meghan Walsh, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be May 30, 2017, end date tbd.

Andrea Roberts, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for Professional Sabbatical, anticipated effective date to be August 22, 2017, end date last day of semester 1, 2017/2018 school year.

Exempt

Ratify Karen Dilliplane, Elementary School Nurse, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 18, 2017, end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Holly Yabroski, Secretary, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence effective January 30, 2017, end date tbd.

#### CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

##### Administrative

Ratify Rita Elizabeth Burkheimer, Temporary Dean of Students, Teacher on Assignment, effective February 1, 2017; end of assignment tbd. Upon completion of assignment, she will return to her role as middle school teacher.

##### Professional

Ratify Jaime Parris from Intervention Assistant to Long Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective February 1, 2017, \$194/day (coverage for G. Davilla). Upon completion of assignment, he will return to the role of Intervention Assistant.

Ratify Cynthia Ziegler, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, salary correction to include applicable credits earned prior to hire date; retroactive pay to start of 2016/2017 school year, \$44,500/yr, Step 1, B+15.

Christa Oister, from Intervention Assistant to Extended Per Diem Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective February 27, 2017, \$115/day. Upon end of assignment, she will return to her role as Intervention Assistant (coverage for E. Duffy).

##### Classified

Ratify Christina Kelly, from Long Term Substitute Cafeteria Worker to Part-Time Cafeteria Worker, Franklin Elementary, effective December 21, 2016, 5.75 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr (replaces C. Bender).

Ratify Alice Weaver, from Long Term Substitute Cafeteria Worker to Part-Time Cafeteria Worker, Pottstown High School, effective December 21, 2016, 4 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr. (replace J. Grebe).

#### ELECTIONS:

##### Professional

Laura Evans, Special Education Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, anticipated effective date to be April 24, 2017 or when released from other district, \$49,000 + \$600 Special Education Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 5 - Mast. (contract of M. Bainbridge).

##### Classified

Ratify Chelsea Brinkley, Recording Secretary, Administration Building, effective February 9, 2017, \$21.90/hr. This is in addition to her role as Switchboard/Front Desk/Buildings and Grounds Clerk.

Ratify Susan Ross, Recording Secretary, Administration Building, effective February 16, 2017, \$21.06/hr. This is in addition to her role as Part-Time Secretary.

Ratify Andrea Hillen, Temporary Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, effective February 21, 2017, end date to be end of 2016-2017 school year, \$13/65/hr. (coverage for J. Parris).

Ratify Lanita Henderson, Student Breakfast Proctor, Lincoln Elementary, effective January 23, 2017, 1 hr/day, \$13.01/hr. This is in addition to her role as Lunch Proctor.

Ratify Reon Astheimer, Substitute Student Lunch Proctor, effective February 21, 2017, 2 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr.

Ratify Laderah Reinhart, Substitute Student Lunch Proctor, effective February 21, 2017, 2 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$23/hr

Lisa Royer	HS	7 missed planning times	\$161.00 (1/19/17 to 1/27/17)
Lisa Royer	HS	7 missed planning times	\$161.00 (1/30/17 to 2/10/17)
Michaela Johnson	HS	16 missed planning times	\$368.00 (12/19/16 to 1/27/17)

Tenure/Permanent Contract

Desiree Borusiewicz PHS Eligible Date: 1/27/2017

2017 Elementary Summer Reading Program, paid through 21st Century grant funds.

Laurie Gresko, Coordinator, \$29/hr.

Co-Curricular Assignments

Additions/Corrections: 2016-2017 Co-Curricular Assignments - Sports \*Addendum #2016-2017-066.

**PAYMENT OF SICK LEAVE**

Accumulated Sick Leave Payment at time of retirement with 15 years or more of service:

Constance March, In accordance with the Full Time Support Guidelines, \$4,390.80.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVES**

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PHS	Maureen Stocker	AP Reading for College Board-AP US Government and Politics	Salt Lake City, UT	06/03/2017 - 06/09/2017	pd by College Board
Admin	Valerie Jackson	Governors Institute	Hershey, PA	04/06/2017-04/07/2017	\$123.00/pd WKKF Grant
Admin	Karen Kile	Pre-K Counts Grantee Meeting	State College, PA	04/12/2017 - 04/13/2017	\$554.00 pd by Pre-K Counts Grant
Barth	Cara McGuffin	2017 ESL Conference	Harrisburg, PA	03/27/2017 - 03/29/2017	\$ 0
Franklin	Melissa Lopez				pd by MCIU
PMS	Margaret Taraboletti				
PHS	Kelly Bucca				
PMS	Andrea Roberts	Foreign Policy Research Institute	Wheaton, IL	03/24/2017 - 03/26/2017	\$200.00 pd by dept. budget
PHS	Steven Anspach	Pa Athletic Director Assoc. Leadership Conference	Hershey, PA	03/22/2017 - 03/24/2017	\$620.00 pd by dept budget

## FIELD TRIPS

# Students/.....	Conference			Cost	Cost	
<u>.....Groups</u>	<u>Name/Activity</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	to <u>Student</u>	to <u>District</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
7	FCCLA, Culinary Arts and Childcare	Seven Springs PA	03/29/2017 - 03/31/2017	\$0.00	\$0.00	Jacquelyn Mathias Naimah Rhodes Scott Braunsberg

## OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND MINUTES

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the 2016-2017 Occupational Advisory Committee member list and meeting reports for the Career and Technical programs as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-067**.

## CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-068**.

- Opportunities School
- Opportunities School
- New Story
- SunGard K-12
- Edgewood Lease: MCIU Head Start
- Edgewood Lease: Cottage Seven Academy

Upon roll call vote, all members votes aye for the above consent items. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried

## NON-CONSENT

### PLANCON H GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2014

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the PlanCon H General Obligation Bond Series 2014 documents as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2016-2017-069**.

It was moved by Mrs. Stilwell and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the Board approve the PlanCon H General Obligation Bond Series 2014 documents as presented.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye. Aye: Nine. Nay: None. Motion carried.

### FRANKLIN STREET FIELDS BID AWARD

The Facilities Committee recommends that a purchase order or contract be awarded to the company indicated below, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

- Franklin Street Fields Bid Award: WG Land Company, LLC \$276,762.00

It was moved by Mrs. Stilwell and seconded Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the bid award as presented.

Board Members voiced their concerns about moving forward with the bid award. Mrs. Weand expressed her support and noted that the funds from the bond refinance were earmarked for the project with no impact to the budget. Ms. Bearden was concerned that change orders could be anticipated with the delayed start of the project. Mr. Hylton was not in favor of awarding the bid citing financial uncertainty with the State budget, future capital projects, future salary negotiations and tax statistics reported at the state level.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the Board decision is not an easy decision. He reminded the Board that whatever their decision, there will be ramifications. If the fields are not fixed, the sports will continue and transportation costs will be incurred.

Upon roll call vote, the vote for the Franklin Street Fields Bid Award was recorded as follows: Mrs. Stilwell: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. Wilkerson: aye, Mr. Williams: nay, Ms. Bearden: nay, Mrs. Francis: aye, Mr. Heidel: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Lawrence: aye.  
Ayes: Six. Nays: Three. Motion carried.

### **MCIU 2017-2018 MEMBER SERVICES BUDGET**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2017-2018 MCIU Member Services Budget. Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Membership Services Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year shall be as follows:

Office of Community & Government Relations (Legislative)	= \$ 3,460
Office of Professional Development	= \$ 936
Office of Technology Services	= <u>\$17,317</u>
Total	= \$21,713

This would be a decrease in the Pottstown School District's contribution over the amount contributed for the 2016-2017 school year of \$807.00 which represents 3.72% decrease.  
Budget as presented:

It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the MCIU 2017-2018 Member Service Budget as presented.

Upon roll call vote, all members presented voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Francis asked the Board to consider google docs training for Board Members on March 23 and March 30. All members were in agreement.

### **INFORMATION**

1. Monthly Meeting Notice: March 2017

### **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mr. DiDonato, in recognition of Board Appreciation Month, thanked the Board for their support. He thanked the Culinary Arts for preparing the Board Appreciation dinner on behalf of the Federation of Pottstown Teachers. Mr. DiDonato congratulated the Jazz Band on their achievements and extended the Federation's appreciation to Mr. Rusiewicz and the FPE or their support of Pottstown students.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Wilkerson reminded Board Members of community forum at the middle school. He thanked the Federation for their support.

Ms. Bearden thanked Board Members for their time and effort. The Board does not always agree but the purpose is to see all sides. She thanked the Federation for the appreciation dinner and the teachers and staff for their dedication to the Reading Olympics.

Mrs. Lawrence thanked the Federation for the appreciation dinner.

Ms. Parry thanked the Federation for including the student board representatives in the appreciation dinner. Mr. Rome and she attended a Student Board Representative workshop at Pottsgrove. It was a great opportunity to meet other student board representatives in the area and share experiences. Freshman David Hicks, won a medallion in his category at the DECA State Competition. The DECA competition was an awesome experience.

Mr. Baker thanked the Federation for the appreciation dinner. The high school had a pep rally on Friday for "Mascots for a Cure" with Trojan Man. The Trojan students went on a field trip to Temple.

The focus was on enthusiasm

Mrs. Stilwell – no comment.

Mrs. Weand is looking forward to the Little Shop of Horrors and the Reading Olympics.

Mr. Kurt Heidel thanked the Federation for the appreciation dinner. He was glad the Franklin Street Fields Bid Award was approved. He sees this investment as a positive step to promote student participation in district athletics. He is disappointed to see that there is little participation at the middle school level and looks forward to looking at ways to increase athletic participation.

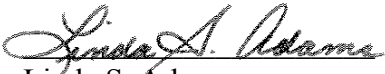
Mr. Williams – no comment.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Federation for the appreciation dinner. He agreed with Ms. Bearden's comment that it is ok to disagree and added that all are here for the same reason. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the district celebrated Black History month. The district is strong in our diversity. Students in K - 12 participated in many learning activities, getting to know where they come from so they will know where they are going.

Mrs. Francis agreed with Mr. Heidel's comments on middle school athletics. She agrees that the Reading Olympics is a great opportunity for students to have fun reading. She noted the at future board meetings the chairs will be seated next to each other for report purposes. Mrs. Francis reminded the Board there will be an executive session for the purpose of litigation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

  
Linda S. Adams  
Board Secretary