



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 16, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 16, 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. Kimberly Stilwell, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson 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, Ms. Courtney Parry, Mr. David Todd, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

PRESENTATION

What do Principals do on a snow day? – video by Mr. Matthew Moyer

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 23, 2017 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on February 27, 2017 to be placed on the March 20, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of February 2017 to be placed on the March 20, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2017 to be placed on the March 20, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

David Miller, 96 Cedar St., asked the Board for an update on the superintendent search and the status on the Save the Lights campaign in regards to the committing the funds and completion of the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURRICULUM / CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE - Mrs. Lawrence

The Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting was held on March 2. Curriculum updates included social studies adoption, coding programs at the elementary and middle school levels and a name change for "Pre-AP" to "Honors". Co-Curricular updates included recognition of the wrestling team and coach for their individual accomplishments, changes in the PIAA rules and discussion on collaboration efforts with youth programs in Pottstown to stimulate growth in athletic programs.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on March 2. The committee continued discussion on the outreach program, the staff appreciation breakfast, the father/daughter dance and a brief update on the Save the Lights fundraiser.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Parry

The Student Government Club members will be participating in a “school swap” next week with Phoenixville and Pottsgrove School Districts.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on March 9. The committee reviewed updates on eight (8) projects and the costs associated with each project. The committee also reviewed facility rate increases and options on how to fund the remaining balance for the stadium lights. It was determined that the committee would continue to support the Save the Lights fundraising efforts to complete the project.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mrs. Stilwell

The Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was held on March 9. Items reviewed by the committee and recommended to be placed on the Board Agenda for approval were the nomination of Mr. Williams to serve as the district’s representative on the MCIU Board of Directors, the revised 125 Cafeteria Plan increasing the maximum flex spending amount, the acceptance of the 2015-2016 financial audit and the resignation of Mrs. Adams as the Business Administrator for the purpose of retirement.

Mrs. Adams gave a first glance budget report for 2017-2018 as presented to the Finance Committee. She reviewed preliminary expenses including increases in salaries, PSERs, and medical premiums and the offsets in revenue looking at the preliminary state budget. This high level preliminary budget indicates a current deficit of approximately \$1,517,908. She emphasized the report is a very high level estimate and will continue to decrease as the budget process continues. A preliminary budget will be presented at the May 11 Finance Committee meeting. This is in accordance with the Act 1 timeline. The final budget will be presented at the June 8 Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Adams urged all Board Members and public to attend both meetings.

Board Members were in favor of submitting their suggestions for a zero tax increase budget to Mrs. Adams as a pro-active approach prior to the May preliminary budget. Mrs. Francis suggested scheduling a workshop.

POLICY COMMITTEE – Mr. Wilkerson

At the Policy Committee meeting held on February 23 the committee discussed student uniform & dress code policy. Principals presented information about the enforcement of the policy. It was the general consensus of the committee to discontinue the uniform policy K-12 and replace it with a dress code policy. The committee will conduct a further review before making a final recommendation to the Board. The Student Board Representative Policy is ready to send out to other committee members for review. New policies were discussed at tonight’s meeting. The next meeting schedule for April 24.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel

Mr. Heidel gave a report on highlights from March 13th Borough Council meeting. Council voted to support two initiatives: 1) the application to establish a PA State regulated medical marijuana facility located on Queen Street bringing jobs and revenue to the borough; 2) the Protect Our Schools from Tax Delinquent Act that gives borough leverage to recover delinquent taxes from Section 8 landlords. Council also approved the Master Traffic Ordinance establishing bike lanes as part of safe school project. The next Borough Council meeting is April 10th

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Williams

Legislative information - A caravan campaign to Harrisburg is being organized by Pa. Children in Youth to promote discussion with legislators on educational issues that impact our students and community. Legislative bills to monitor include proposed Medicaid cuts, House Bills 57 and 958 related to ESSA, and school choice vouchers. Discussions continue on pension reform, the teacher evaluation system and SB 167: Paycheck Protection Bill. The property tax elimination legislation is now being re-evaluated due to public objections.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Cellini reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the March 20, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

PERSONNEL

FIELD TRIPS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the March 20, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

REVISED SCHOOL DISTRICT 125 CAFETERIA FLEX SPENDING PROGRAM

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE 30, 2016 FINANCIAL AUDIT

MCIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

INFORMATION

None.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. DiDonato spoke about the upcoming PSSA testing. He talked about the preparation as a stressful time for students and teachers and how the intent of the testing has changed from its original purpose. The Federation continues to fight for reform. Support Staff Appreciation Day is scheduled for April 11. He pointed out how vital the support staff is to day to day operations and recognized the Building and Grounds crew for their great snow removal efforts. He thanked the Little Shop of Horror team for an incredible event.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mrs. Lawrence spoke about the negative effects of PSSA testing and its impact on higher education.

Mr. Williams spoke about the testing mechanism and to keep aware of the spending factor.

Ms. Parry – no comment.

Mrs. Stilwell expressed her dislike of PSSAs', the cost associated with PSSAs' and the effects on the students.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden – no comment.

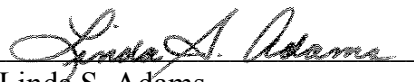
Mr. Wilkerson commended Mr. Todd and the administrative team for putting on the community forum events at the middle school. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28.

Mr. Rodriguez commented on a quote defining that the SPP correlates a student's wealth, not education. He thanked Mr. Williams for bringing attention to the negative impact Medicaid cuts would have on the students of our district. He was pleased to have attended the Comprehensive Planning session today and for the opportunity to meet with parents that also attended.

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.


Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary