



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
June 15, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, June 15, 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 and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell, 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. Michael Baker, Mr. Nyles Rome and Mr. Kenil Patel; Mrs. Maureen Jampo, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, Mr. Kevin Downes, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

**AWARDS**

**JROTC Distinguished Unit Award**

Mr. Rodriguez recognized the Pottstown School District JROTC with the Distinguished Unit Award. Mrs. Francis and Mr. Rodriguez presented the award to Lt. Col. James Porter and the JROTC Cadets.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Foundation for Pottstown Education: Early College Program**

Mr. Rusiewicz spoke about the growth of the Early College Program. The program has grown to 32 graduates to date and 28 students expected to come through the program. Graduates were recognized at a dinner prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Rusiewicz introduced two BB & T representatives and thanked BB & T for their support of the program. Each graduate was recognized and presented with a certificate. Mr. Nyles Rome spoke of his experience in the program and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the program.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Adams reviewed the minutes of the Committee of the Whole held on May 18, 2017 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on May 22, 2017 to be placed on the June 19, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of May 2017 to be placed on the June 19, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2017 to be placed on the June 19, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

**HEARING FROM PATRON OF THE SCHOOLS**

**None.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### POLICY - Mr. Wilkerson

The Policy Committee met on May 18. The committee recommends the policies as presented on tonight's agenda be placed on the June 19 Board agenda for approval. A full committee report of the May 18 meeting is attached to tonight's agenda. Mr. Wilkerson asked the Board to consider replacing the uniform policy (#6182) with a dress code policy. He reviewed options for changes to the dress code policy for discussion at the June 19 Board meeting under "New Business". A copy of the options will be sent to all Board Members. Mr. Wilkerson asked that the Board put a decision in place before the start of the new school year.

Board Members voiced concerns about having enough time to approve an option and have it implemented in time for the beginning of the school year.

### CURRICULUM / TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Mr. Rodriguez

The Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting was held on June 1. Mr. Genova provided an outline on before and after school Wellness programs for 2016/2017 school year. Dr. Park gave a presentation on Career & Technical NOCTI test results. He was pleased to report that this was the best year with 7 out of 9 programs scoring 100% proficient in advanced. Technology continues to make good progress with the Go Google migration from Microsoft exchange to Gmail. A full committee report of the June 1 meeting is attached to the Board agenda.

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on June 1. An overview of a Volunteer Dad Program was presented to the committee. The committee supports implementing the program. The committee continues to work on community outreach initiatives and member brainstorming ideas to help the schools partner with the community. A full committee report of the June 1 meeting is attached to the Board agenda.

### STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Baker

Baccalaureate was held on June 7. Graduation took place on June 8. Members of the Act Club will be attending a camp in June. The InterAct Club donated \$412 to Polaris Project, an organization that works to prevent human trafficking.

### FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on June 7. Project schedules were provided for the Masonry / Roofing work, the installation of the stadium & auxiliary field lights and the cosmetology air-conditioning replacement. It was brought to the committee's attention to clarify the grant funds for the stadium lights as presented at last month's Board meeting. The full amount of the Education Access Grant was \$250,000; \$100,000 of the grant was designated for the stadium lights. A full committee report of the June 7 meeting is attached to the Board agenda.

### JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mr. Hylton

The Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was held on June 7. The committee was given an update on the status of LERTA. The County has not yet approved the plan to date. The Borough and School District solicitors are working together to make the necessary changes. Personnel, contracts, annual budget resolutions and the final budget were reviewed as presented on tonight's agenda. The committee discussed the administrative structure at the middle school as a result of vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Boyer. It was determined that the Middle School administrative structure has always consisted of one

principal and two assistant principals even though collectively the assistant principal position was referred to as 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade principal. A full committee report is attached to the Board agenda. Mr. Hylton asked Mr. Rodriguez to clarify the personnel change in position for the Director of Student Service as presented to the committee.

Mr. Rodriguez explained the recommendations are cost effective measures to support the Superintendent and ensure stability in the Student Services department in lieu of hiring an Assistant to the Superintendent.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel  
No report.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE / MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE \*see report after Non-Consent items

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

None.

### **CONSENT AND NON-CONSENT ITEMS**

Dr. Cellini reviewed the following consent items as presented to be placed on the June 19, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

- PERSONNEL
- PROFESSIONAL LEAVES
- POLICIES

Mrs. Adams reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the June 19, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

#### CONSENT:

- ACT 93 AGREEMENT 2017-2021
- OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY MEMBERS AND MINUTES
- CONTRACTS
- BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION
- INVESTMENT OF FUNDS RESOLUTION
- PDE APPROVAL PLANCON H PROJECT REFINANCING
- PLANCON K GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2016
- TRANSPORTATION RATES 2017-2018

**Mr. Williams entered the meeting at 7:41pm.**

#### NON-CONSENT:

##### 2017 – 2018 FINAL BUDGET

Mrs. Adams reviewed the 2017-2018 Final Budget as presented at the June 7 Joint Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The total proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year is \$61,882,242, representing an increase of \$2,329,092 or 3.9% over the budgeted expenditures of the current year. . The proposed budget includes a \$500,000 budgetary reserve/contingencies consisting of \$139,577 to budget the balance and an additional \$150,000 from the general fund's PSERS reserve. The final budget includes no increase in real estate millage and remains at 39.2522 mills.

COMMITTEE REPORT(continuation) MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE / MCIU /PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Williams

Governor’s Budget Update - anticipating budget to be passed in July; HB 97 and HB 22 – still pending; Tax Reassessment Bill has been temporarily tabled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Kalis reviewed two settlement agreements to be placed on the June 19 Board Agenda for approval:

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT: COMMERCIAL TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL  
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

**NEW BUSINESS**

Potential Sale of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center – Mr. Hylton

Mr. Hylton voiced concerns about the potential tax exempt status and the negative impact on the district and community. He asked Mr. Kalis for guidance on the legal system.

Mr. Kalis stated that a petition is filed with the county’s Board of Assessment and exemption is determined by the county. The board has the option to attend the hearing held by the Board of Assessment.

Board Members discussed options to address the sale of the property prior to the filing of the petition. It was suggested that the school board reach out to other districts that are affected. Board Members present were in favor of directing Mr. Kalis to do the research and look at all options available to the district.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the district is most interested in advocating for the community and agrees with researching all options.

July Workshop - Mrs. Francis

Mrs. Francis asked Board Members to consider scheduling a July Board Workshop.

**INFORMATION**

PHS Wrestling 2016-2017

**FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mr. DiDonato, on behalf of the Federation, congratulated the JROTC and Early College graduates on their achievements. The teachers were honored to be included in Commencement. He thanked the Mr. Rodriguez for an enjoyable last day of school events. The Federation wants to continue to support advocacy and is willing to provide support where needed.

**ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden congratulated the staff, students and parents of the 2016/2017 school year.

Mr. Wilkerson congratulated the 2017 graduates. He thanked Mrs. Adams for her dedication to the students and district.

Mr. Heidel – no comment.


Mr. Williams looks forward to the summer community events. He supports community awareness and collaboration regarding the sale of the hospital and the impact on the whole community.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the Early College students. He thanked the teachers for a job well done. He indicated that the summer is a busy time for the administration, noting key positions need to be filled.

Mrs. Francis stated there will be an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel and litigation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Ms. Bearden and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

  
Linda S. Adams  
Board Secretary