



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
August 17, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President, Mrs. Amy Francis presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell and Mrs. Polly Weand. Absent were: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson, and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representative, Ms. Courtney Parris; Mr. Jamie Schlesinger, Public Financial Management; Mr. Robert Decker, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

PRESENTATIONS

Residency Initiative: Foundation for Pottstown Education

Mr. Rusiewicz reviewed the approval process for the residency initiative loan program. Seven packets have been sent out. One of the applicants is currently set to go to closing in September and one applicant has received funds to assist with a home purchase that took place in July. Heather Kurtz, an elementary teacher, recently purchased her parents home.

Foundation Updates: The Foundation's Board of Directors have approved a new scholarship program beginning with the Class of 2018. The Forrest Scholarship is in recognition of Dr. Forrest's service to the Foundation. The Foundation is moving forward with an annual support campaign headed by Mr. Art Green.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the minutes of the Committee of the Whole held on June 15, 2017 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on June 19, 2017 to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Stilwell presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of June 2017 (unaudited) and July 2017 to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Stilwell presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2017 (unaudited) and July 2017 to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

Ms. Bearden and Mr. Wilkerson entered the meeting at 7:11 pm.

HEARING FROM PATRON OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Lawrence

The Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting was held on August 3. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed highlights from the committee meeting. Outlines for the 2017/2018 school year for Literacy, STEAM and Wellness were presented including Data & Assessment reviewing procedures and focusing on student outcome. The Technology Department has received support from the Montgomery County Intermediate during the summer transition.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on August 3. The committee has scheduled a staff breakfast for August 22. Community initiatives were discussed including the selection process for Junior Student Board Representatives. Other events in progress include the Father/Daughter Dance and an end of year community gift from the board.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Parry

The Interact Club held a recruitment picnic on August 9 and have begun plans for the new school year. Fall sports and band practices began this week. Cross County raised funds to help teammates attend the July camp. Some new seniors will be taking the SAT on August 26.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on August 10. The committee reviewed project schedules for the masonry roof work, cosmetology a/c replacement, auxiliary field lights and the stadium lights. The committee recommends the change order for the Exterior Wall & Site Repair project for board approval. Mr. Hylton gave an update on the plans for the meadow at Edgewood. Plans will be sent to the Board for review by November. Signage will be displayed to let the community know about the meadow and be aware of the first application to kill the grass which will take place this calendar year.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mrs. Stilwell

The Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was held on August 10. The committee heard a presentation from PFM about a 2017 bond refinance. The committee was in agreement to move forward with the refinance process as outlined. The committee supports paying out the funds for the residency initiative and recommends the tax assessment appeal resolution as presented on tonight's agenda including the Pre-K Counts full day program.

POLICY - Mr. Wilkerson

The Policy Committee met on June 15. Policies reviewed and recommended by the committee were approved at the June 19 Regular Board meeting. The Policy Committee held a public meeting on July 24 for the purpose of public input on district wide uniforms and dress code policy.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel

Highlights from the Borough Council's Committee of the Whole meeting included acceptance of a \$30,000

grant to build a natural playground in Memorial Park, Rockwell Development Group's proposal to support their shirt factory conversion, and approval of Sly Fox's Biergarten at the October 7 Citadel Palooza to benefit CHOP.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE / MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE - no report

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 August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

- o PERSONNEL
- o PROFESSIONAL LEAVES
- o FIELD TRIPS
- o DISTRICT SPONSORED CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the following consent and non-consent items to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

- o ATTENDANCE OFFICERS
- o PRE-K PROGRAM TO FULL DAY
- o RESIDENCY INITIATIVE
- o NON-CONSENT: PERSONNEL

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

CONSENT:

- o CONTRACTS
- o ATHLETIC PROGRAM TICKET PRICES
- o PSD WORKER'S COMPENSATION MEDICAL PROVIDERS
- o SCHOOL PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST RATES
- o SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER RESOLUTION
- o TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL MATTERS RESOLUTION
- o TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE DELEGATE APPOINTMENT
- o PDE APPROVAL: PLANCON K PROJECT REFINANCING
- o EXTERIOR WALL & SITE REPAIR 2016 – CHANGE ORDER

Mr. Kalis reviewed the Special Education Settlement Agreement to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

Mrs. Weand asked the Board to consider tabling the non-consent personnel salary increases and send it back to the committee. It was the general consensus of the Board Members present to address the topic at Monday's Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

P.A.I.D. (Pottstown Area Industrial Development) Support

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the request made by P.A.I.D. for a increase in financial support from \$10,000 to \$20,000. He stated that a report from Ms. Lee-Clark was presented at the June Joint Borough and School Board meeting as requested by the school board. The 2017-2018 financial support is being presented for approval at the August 21, 2017 Board meeting.

Mr. Wilkerson asked that the report be emailed to all board members. Mr. Rodriguez confirmed the report will be sent out.

NEW BUSINESS

Parameters Resolution

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the Parameters Resolution as presented to be placed on the August 21, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

Mr. Schlesinger gave a summary of the resolution. The maximum principal is \$12 million, the maximum interest rate would be 5 ½% for approximately 2% savings. The resolution gives flexibility to structure the refinancing for the most savings.

INFORMATION

PSBA Election of Officers – Mrs. Jampo reviewed the selection process for the PSBA Election of Officers. The election of officers will be placed on the September 25, 2017 Board agenda for approval.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked the Board in advance for the staff breakfast on the teacher's first day of school. He noted the summer is a busy time getting ready for the start of the new school year.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Stilwell looks forward to the new school year and her remaining months to serve on the board.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden thanked the Board Members who were able to attend the unity event and the administration for their support. She looks to continue moving forward.

Mr. Wilkerson agreed with Ms. Bearden's comment and is glad to have the SEL program in the district. He welcomed the new middle school principal and would like to an entrance plan.

Mr. Heidel thanked Ms. Bearden and Mr. Wilkerson for attending the unity event. He is excited for the new school year.

Mrs. Weand thanked all the donors that helped make the stadium light's dream come true. The lights are a symbol of the spirit of the community.


Mrs. Lawrence – no comment.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mrs. Weand for her leadership in the stadium lights campaign. A return of the lights ceremony will take place at the September 8 football game. All donors are invited to line the Stadium prior to the start of the game. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the teachers for participating in the healthy Body, healthy minds conference. All board members are invited to attend the August 22 staff "Welcome Back" event.

Mrs. Francis thanked everyone who attended the unity event. She is excited for the new school year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Francis called the meeting to adjourn. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.


Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary