



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
October 19, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, October 19, 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. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell, Mrs. Polly Weand, and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were: Mr. Kurt Heidel and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Assistant Board Secretary, Mrs. Mary Ellen Urquhart; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representative, Mr. Michael Baker; Mr. Steven Anspach, Mr. Brian Hostetler, Mr. Ryan Regensburg, Mrs. Kelly Leibold, Mr. John Armato,, members of the press, and interested citizens.

MINUTES

Mrs. Urquhart reviewed the minutes of the Committee of the Whole held on September 21, 2017 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on September 25, 2017 to be placed on the October 23, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Stilwell presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of September 2017 to be placed on the October 23, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Stilwell presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2017 to be placed on the October 23, 2017 Board Agenda for approval.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT BOARD SECRETARY (action to be taken)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following resolution appointing the Assistant Business Manager as the Assistant Board Secretary

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assistant Business Manager be appointed to serve as the Assistant Board Secretary, and hereby is authorized to perform the duties of the Board Secretary in accordance with Policy 005.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Stilwell that the Board approve the resolution as presented.

HEARING FROM PATRON OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the above)

None.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye: Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

HEARING FROM PATRON OF THE SCHOOLS (General)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURRICULUM /CO-CURRICULAR/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Lawrence

The Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting was held on October 5. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed highlights from the meeting: new hires in PEAK, including a new Wellness Coordinator. The committee discussed way to generate more attendance at the Family Literacy nights and a developing a grade policy.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Ms Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on October 5. The committee finalized the flyer for the Father/Daughter Dance to be held on November 17. Donations are welcomed. The committee adjourned to an executive session to conduct student board representative interviews.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Baker

There are 64 student participating in Fall Sports. The Interact Club conducted a fundraiser to collect trick or treats donated to the Salvation Army. The homecoming and pep rally was a big success.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

No report due to the absence of Mr. Heidel.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mrs. Stilwell

The Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was held on October 12. The bank loan refinancing is moving forward. The loan is a fixed rate for 10 years with an approximated savings is \$573,591. The contracts and resolution were reviewed by the committee to be placed on the October 23 agenda for Board approval. Mr. Rodriguez is working with the Mr. Flanders to schedule the next joint meeting sometime in early 2018.

POLICY - Mr. Wilkerson

The Policy Committee met on September 21. Policy 815 was recommended by the committee and approved at the September 25 meeting.. The committee discussed a cell phone policy and uniform policy. Discussion is continuing. Policy 007 was reviewed at tonight's Policy meeting. The committee is recommending this policy for board approval.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel

No report.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE / MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Williams

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 October 23, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

- PERSONNEL
- PROFESSIONAL LEAVES
- POLICIES

Mrs. Urquhart and Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the October 23, 2017 Board Agenda for approval:

CONSENT:

- CONTRACTS
- BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATURE RESOLUTION
- AMENDMENT TO ACT 93 AGREEMENT
- HS ELEMENTARY KITCHEN FREEZER REBUILD PROPOSAL

NON-CONSENT

- RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION AGREEMENT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilkerson spoke about the recent sale of the hospital and the loss of revenue as a result of the tax exempt status. He suggested adding to future board agendas an opportunity to hear public comment on ideas for generating revenue to compensate for the loss.

All Board Members present were in favor. Mrs. Francis directed the administration to add the public comment at each voting meeting. Any ideas presented by the public will be assigned to the appropriate Committee to discuss and bring back to the full board.

INFORMATION

1. Proposed Constitutional Amendment: Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the proposed amendment regarding property taxes. The proposed amendment is not for property tax relief but simply a tax shift, allowing school districts to get funding from other sources than property taxes.
2. Residency Initiative: Mr. Rodriguez shared a picture of the recent residency initiative recipient, Na'imah Rhodes, on the successful purchase of her Pottstown home.
3. 2017 Alumni Honor Roll Biographical Sketches: Mr. Rodriguez spoke about the upcoming Alumni Honor Roll ceremony to take place tomorrow at the high school.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold announced the second annual PAL Flag Football Turkey Bowl will be held on October 28th. This Federation is proud to be a co-sponsor for the event. On behalf of the Federation, Mrs. Leibold expressed their appreciation to the Board and Administrator for supporting the SEL Program. She is pleased with the program and looks forward to the many benefits.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Weand was glad to participate in the Business Leaders, "I Pick Pottstown" event and was impressed with the technology and her first experience with a drone.

Mrs. Lawrence – no comment.

Mr. Baker recognized the Cross Country for participating in the ACA for Alexa . It was a fun event.

Mrs. Stilwell – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden is in need of donations for the Father / Daughter dance.

Mr. Wilkerson – no comment

Mr. Rodriguez announced the Junior Student Board Representatives will be sworn in by Judge Palladino at Monday's Board meeting. He spoke about the proposed legislative cuts to the FCC which will affect the E-Grants. The proposed cuts would have a significant negative impact on the district budget. The Marshall movie will be shown this weekend at the Upland Square. He encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Rodriguez recognized the principals and their good leadership as part of Nation Principals & Administrators Month. He expressed concern for the recent House of Representatives revenue bill that could have a potential to affect the budget's bottom line. On November 2, the Bethlehem Area School District will be visiting to discuss how to partner in advocacy.

Mrs. Francis announced there will be an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Francis called the meeting to adjourn. It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Stilwell. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.


Mary Ellen Urquhart
Assistant Board Secretary