



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE COMBINED
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE/REGULAR MEETING
December 21, 2017**

The Combined Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, December 21, 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: Mr. John Armato, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson and Mr. Ron Williams. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden and Mrs. Bonita Barnhill. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Representative, Ms. Courteney Parry, Mr. Brian Hostetler, Mr. Jeff Delaney, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mrs. Kelly Leibold, members of the press and interested citizens.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:02 pm.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the minutes from the Re-Organization meeting held on December 4, 2017 be approved as presented.

All members present were in favor. None opposed. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of November 2017 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-040**.

It was moved by Ms. Bearden and seconded by Mr. Williams that the List of Bills be approved as presented. All members present were in favor. None opposed. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for November 2017 to be approved as presented and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-041**.

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Williams that the List of Bills be approved as presented. All members present were in favor. None opposed. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting was held on December 7. The committee discussed current practices to help students transition from the elementary buildings to the middle school and options on how to improve the transition. The committee is in favor of changing the grading scale to a 10 point grading system. More information and discussion will follow.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee meeting was held on December 7. A major highlight of the meeting was a presentation from the Family Advisory Committee and discussion on how to continue the partnership with the FAC to promote family engagement. The committee supports the district's initiative to continue building the social media platforms and recognizes the positive effects of branding.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Parry

Ms. Parry gave an updated on various club activities and holiday fundraisers to benefit families in the community. She gave a recap on sports victories and recent college acceptance letters for four seniors including herself which she received two acceptance letters, (1) St. Joseph's and (1) Villanova.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The committee met on December 14. The committee reviewed a proposed plan from Greater Pottstown Tennis & Learning for painting blended lines on the tennis courts. The committee was not in favor of moving forward with the plan and to wait for the proposed commitments to become evident. Updates were given on moving forward with the middle school library lighting, Franklin Fields project and the bid schedule for the 2018 Building Envelope Repairs.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE –

Mrs. Francis reviewed the report from the Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting held on December 14. Finance topics were discussion on a proposed policy addressing district initiated real estate assessments and a request by Bethel Community Church for relief of interim taxes. The committee was in favor of a new position, "Certified Community Occupational Therapist Assistant", which can be found on tonight's agenda for board approval. The committee was given an overview of the Autistic Support Classroom at Franklin. Dr. Cellini explained the needs in the classroom, the anticipated additional support and the cost savings of keeping the classroom in the district.

POLICY - Mr. Wilkerson

The Policy Committee met on November 16 (report can be viewed as an attachment to the board agenda). No additional report was given.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Heidel

Borough Council passed their 2018 budget which includes a 12% tax increase. The borough will be seeking a new manager as a result of Mr. Flanders retirement.

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

Legislation was passed on the tax reduction and jobs bill. The impact to education remains to be seen. Medicare and Medicaid still a target which can impact special need students. Advocacy

is essential to address these issues. It is perceived that due to the significant advocacy initiatives, the state legislators have held back on the voucher bill.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Mrs. Jampo presented the consent items for Board approval.

Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to consent items)

None.

CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITION(S)

Exempt

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, Full Time, 10 month, \$35,000/yr * **Addendum #2017-2018-042.**

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Administrative

Lisa Schade, Supervisor of Transportation/Communications Coordinator, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 29, 2018; employed since May 16, 1988.

Professional

Krista Slemmer, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective January 1, 2018; employed since August 22, 2017.

Ratify Rebecca Winson, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective December 8, 2017; employed since August 23, 2017.

Natalie Pileggi, Intervention Specialist, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective when position filled February 2, 2018; employed since August 26, 2000.

Classified

Ratify Christina Kenny, Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, resignation effective August 21, 2017; employed since August 31, 2015.

Louise Daniels, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2018; employed since September 6, 1991.

Robert Deckert, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective January 5, 2018; employed since January 19, 2016.

Co-Curricular Assignments: 2017/2018

Ratify Michael Webber, Assistant Football Coach, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective December 4, 2017.

Ratify John Armato, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Pottstown High School, resignation effective December 4, 2017.

LEAVES

Professional

Bernard Gallagher, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 22, 2018, end date tbd.

Craig Ollivier, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be February 6, 2018, end date tbd.

Katie Minger, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be May 3, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Rebecca Wyatt, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 5, 2017, end date tbd.

Lauren Himmelreich, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for educational sabbatical, effective date to be the 2018/2019 school year.

Melinda Regensburg, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be January 14, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Karen Lawler, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 4, 2017, end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Oscar Gans, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 9, 2017, end date tbd.

Ratify William Grim, Custodian II, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective date December 2, 2017, end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Classified

Ratify Reon Astheimer, from Student Proctor to Front Desk Clerk, Pottstown Middle School, effective December 12, 2017, 4 hrs./day, \$12.50/hr (replacing A. Nagle).

ELECTIONS:

Professional

Ratify Iris Bucci, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective December 11, 2017, \$194/day (coverage for R. Vega).

Exempt

Ratify David Smith, JROTC Instructor, Pottstown High School, effective December 14, 2017, \$61,000/yr (replacing A. Kearsse).

Cheryl Wambold, FT Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Rupert Elementary, effective January 29, 2018, \$35,000/yr. (replacing PT Occupational Therapist position held by contractor).

Classified

Ratify Ellen Ranco, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, effective December 4, 2017, \$13.65/hr (replacing C. Seidel).

Ratify Maria Cain, Transportation /Communications Clerk, Administration Building, effective December 20, 2017, \$14.04/hr (replacing K. Rhoads).

Ratify Marlene Barrett, Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective December 4, 2017, \$13.65/hr (replacing C. Oister).

Ratify Carol Dugan, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Pottstown High School, effective December 5, 2017, 4 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr (replacing J. Loeper)

Whitney Williams, Temporary Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective December 21, 2017 to end of 2017/2018 school year, \$13.65/hr, (coverage for J. Swoyer).

21st Century Middle School Program, \$29/hr. (funded by 21st Century Grant)

Michael Ishler, Co-Coordinator

Richard Saylor, Co-Coordinator

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$23/hr

Michaela Johnson, PHS, 14 missed planning times , \$322.00 (11/6/17 to 12/1/17)

Co-Curricular Assignments 2017/2018

2017/2018 Winter/Spring Sports Additions/Corrections * **Addendum #2017-2018-043.**

2017/2018 Additions to Co-Curricular Volunteers: Wrestling: John Armato

2017/2018 Additions to Co-Curricular Game Workers, \$12/hr: Alivia Lopez

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following professional leaves:

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Admin	Valerie Jackson	MARC	Summit	Philadelphia, PA	12/03/2017 - 12/05/2017	\$695.00 pd by WKKF Grant
Admin	Amanda Finlaw	VidCon		Anaheim, CA	6/21/2018 - 6/23/2018	\$522.00 pd by WKKF Grant
Admin	Diane Meck	2018 Data Summit		Hershey, PA	03/26/2017 - 03/28/2017	\$720.00 pd by dept. budget

FIELD TRIPS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following field trips:

# Students/ Groups	Conference Name/Activity	Destination	Date of Trip	Cost to Student	Cost to District	Chaperone(s)
45	Environmental Club	Dingmans Ferry, PA	05/16/2018 - 05/28/2018	-\$120.00	\$525.00 - \$575.00	Ginger Angelo Tracy Pasquale Samuel DeAngeli Aaron Torrence Nicholas Mitchell
20 - 25	DECA State Competition	Hershey, PA	02/21/2018 - 02/23/2018	-\$400.00	\$210 - \$230	Kevin Pascal Lyndsay Hashem

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-044:**

1. Policy 918: Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement
2. Policy 249: Bullying/Cyberbullying

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-045:**

1. Alvernia University Affiliation Agreement
2. Scattergood Foundation / Consultation Center of Yale (funded through WKKF grant)
3. Health Federation of Philadelphia (funded through WKKF grant)
4. New Story
5. New Story

BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH: TAX EXONERATION

Motion to approve request of the Bethel Community Church of Pottstown abatement of interim taxes.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye for the above consent items. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Meeting Notice: January 2018

Mrs. Francis stated the board members will receive copies of two meeting options for the 2018 Committee and Board meetings for their consideration and discussion at the Board workshop.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold thanked Mr. Hostetler for the excellent SEL In-Service held at the middle school. She thanked the Ms. Parry for recognizing the staff for their efforts to support local families through the various fundraisers and donations.

ROUND TABLE

Ms. Parry thanked the Board for their support and the opportunity to provide a great education to the students.

Mr. Wilkerson expressed interest in posting administrative job descriptions on the district website similar to the Bethlehem School District's . He also suggested implementing a Student Affairs Committee and policy (similar to Pottsgrove School District's) as a voice to the Special Education and Pupil Service Departments.

Mr. Armato spoke about the value of being in Pottstown, the diversity and life experiences that help propel students to success.

Mr. Rose was glad to hear the success of PSD graduates. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the board and looks forward to the new year.

Ms. Bearden congratulated the seniors on their college acceptances. She expressed her appreciation of Ms. Parry's contributions to the board and community. She thanked the elementary schools, staff and PTO's for their assistance in making the Father/Daughter dance a success.

Mr. Heidel extended congratulations to the seniors on their college acceptance letters. He enjoyed the Father/Daughter dance.

Mrs. Lawrence echoed the comments on being proud of the students. She recognizes and values the aptitudes of the early college students from Pottstown that come to the community college.


Mr. Williams reflected on the 2017 year and looks forward to the new year.

Mr. Rodriguez shared the calendar options via google docs with the board members. He noted that the district's advocacy work is recognized by other districts and educational entities. It is work that is slow to show progress but definitely a significant impact for positive results. Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the upcoming meeting and workshop schedule.

Mrs. Francis extended her wishes to all for a happy holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:47:pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary