



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
March 15, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 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. John Armato, Mrs. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose, and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent was Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Student Representative Ms. Courteney Parry, Mrs. Kelly Leibold, members of the press and interested citizens.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on February 15, 2018 for board approval.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of February 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-064**.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for February 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-065**.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee met on March 1. Major points of discussion were concerns about the YMCA closure's impact on the community and the upcoming Mother/Son event.

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

The Curriculum and Co-Curricular Committee met on March 1. The committee heard presentations from the Director of Special Education and Director of Pupil Services regarding various programs in the departments. Updates were provided on the Comprehensive Plan and the upcoming Math adoption. The committee was in agreement to table Technology as a specific component of the committee and to add updates when needed.

**FACILITIES / FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities / Finance Committee met on March 8. The committee is recommending the 2018 Masonry/Roof Repairs and the Middle School Lighting Repairs as presented on tonight's agenda for board approval. A preliminary budget projection for 2018/2019 was presented to the committee detailing the projected revenues and expenditures. The current projection indicates a \$2,403,533 deficit; the adjusted deficit, which would include a proposed tax increase not to exceed the 3.5% index,

would result in an approximate deficit of \$1,000,000. The District financial audit for June 30, 2017 was reviewed and the committee recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the audit.

POLICY / PERSONNEL COMMITTEE –Mrs. Lawrence

The Policy / Personnel Committee met on March 8. The committee is recommending ten (10) policies for board approval as presented on tonight’s agenda. The committee discussed drafting a policy to address late student pick up and will be discussing the dress code policy at the next committee meeting in preparation for any recommended changes to be implemented at the start of the next school year. Discussion continues on Guidance Counselors and working on ways to meet the needs of the students.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT –Ms. Parry

Ms. Parry gave a report on various student events and co-curricular activities. Students participated in a “Walkout Vigil” to honor the 17 lives lost at the Parkland shooting. The Student Government is preparing for the student male talent show “Mr. Pottstown” and for a school swap with Boyertown Area School District.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPORT – Mr. Heidel (no report).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSBA/MCIU REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Wilkerson provided an update from the Montgomery County Legislative Committee. He noted that a federal commission will be established regarding school safety.

Mrs. Francis asked Board Members to consider serving as representatives due to the vacancy caused by Mr. Williams pending resignation.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Rodriguez presented the consent and non-consent items for Board discussion and approval.

Dr. Cellini presented personnel items for board approval.

Mrs. Jampo presented consent items for board approval.

**HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS**

Seven (7) parents/community members and eight (8) students addressed the Board about their concerns regarding student safety in the schools. Patrons and students shared their stories and suggestions on ways to deal with the issues. Some suggestions included establishing a hot line for students, more security staff and imposing stricter discipline. Parents that addressed the board: Anthony DiPietro, Kristin DiPietro, Bob Richards, Crystal Orfield, Erin Galaniba, and Emily Wojton.

**Board Comments: Consent Items**

None.

**CONSENT**

It was moved by Ms. Bearden 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**

### **RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

#### Professional

Tyler Kammerle, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective May 11, 2018; employed since October 5, 2017.

#### Classified

Ratify Heather Allan, Student Proctor, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective March 2, 2018.

Ratify Jolene Lawrence, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Pottstown Middle School, termination effective December 15, 2017, employed since August 3, 2015.

Ratify Marlene Barrett, Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective March 2, 2018; employed since December 4, 2017.

### **LEAVES**

#### Professional

Ratify Arden Moore, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 20, 2018, end date tbd.

#### Classified

Ratify Karen Carter, Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 20, 2018, end date tbd.

### **ELECTIONS**

#### Professional

Renee Walker, Part-time Health and Physical Education Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 15, 2018, 3 days/week, \$26,7000/yr, Step 1-Bach.(contract of B. Gallagher)

Kelsey Shafer, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective April 16, 2018, \$44,500/yr, Step 1- Bach (contract of D. Borusiewicz).

Ratify Kathryn Jamieson, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 5, 2018, end date to be end of 2017/2018 school year, \$194/day (coverage for M. Regensburg)

Correction to degree: Alison Moyer, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown Middle School, effective February 26, 2018, \$45,00/yr, Step 1 B+15 (contract of K. Slemmer)

#### Classified

Ratify Brandi McClincy, Substitute Nurse, effective March 5, 2018, \$22.15/hr.

Denise Byrnes, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, effective March 19, 2018, \$13.65/hr, (replacing K. Bortz)

Emily Overdorf, Social Media and Communications Specialist, Administration Building, effective March 19, 2018, \$20/hr (\* grant funded; replacing A. Finlaw).

Ratify Michael Kibler, Jr., Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 9, 2018, \$13.65/hr (replacing R. Deckert).

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, 2017/2018 school year, \$23/hr

Michaela Johnson PHS 23 missed planning times \$529.00 (12/4/17 to 2/23/18)

Homebound Instruction, \$29/hr

Ratify Lori Freese, Franklin Elementary, from March 7, 2018 to April 13, 2018, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs. per week.

Volunteers: HS Baseball - Nicholas Zippay, Michael Breidenbach

2017/2018 21st Century Tutoring, \$29/hr (funded by 21st Century grant)

Deirdre Yeager - PMS - Substitute Tutor/Teacher

Ellen Kanaley - PMS - Substitute Tutor/Teacher

2018/2019 21st Century Summer Program, (funded by 21st Century grant)

Jaime Parris - PMS - Coordinator - \$29/hr

Michale Ishler - PMS - Coordinator - \$29/hr

Laurie Gresko - PMS - Coordinator - \$29/hr

2017/2018 Salary Corrections \* **Addendum #2017-2018-066**

**CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS**

<u>2017/2018 Spring Sports:</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Professional Agreement Category</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
	MS	Baseball Assistant Coach	Richard Masciarelli	1	\$1,469.00
	HS	Skills USA	* Michael Hewitt	1	\$ 609.28
<i>*effective 11/20/17 68% of stipend</i>					

<u>2018/2019 Fall Sports</u>	HS	Football Assistant Coach	Thomas Barr	5	\$5,790.00
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**PROFESSIONAL LEAVES**

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

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PHS PMS Barth Frkln	Desiree Schmoyer Margaret Taraboletti Stephanie Roethlisberger Melissa Lopez	PDE Migrant Education Program & ESL	Harrisburg, PA	03/14/2018 - 03/16/2018	\$405 each pd by dept budget
Admin	Karen Crable	ELO Conference	Harrisburg, PA	03/20/2018 - 03/22/2018	\$460.00 pd by 21st Century Grant
Admin	Karen Kile	2018 PC Sustainability	State College, PA	05/07/2018 - 05/08/2018	\$217.00 pd by dept budget
Admin	Valerie Jackson	Strengthening Partnership Shared Leadership Early Intervention	Pocono Manor, PA	04/24/2018 - 04/25/2018	\$140.00 pd from PreK Counts Grant

## **POLICIES**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies as presented and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-067**.

Policy 005: Board Organization	Policy 617: Petty Cash
Policy 008: Administrative Organization	Policy 622: GASB Statement 34
Policy 601: Fiscal Objectives	Policy 624: Taxable Fringe Benefits
Policy 607: Tuition Income	Policy 702.2 : Crowdfunding
Policy 614: Payroll Authorization	Policy 801: Public Records

## **CONTRACTS**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-068**:

1. New Story Schools
2. MCIU Head Start Lease Amendment
3. The Devereux Foundation

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT**

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the Pottstown School District audit for the year ending June 30, 2017 as prepared by Herbein + Company, Inc.

## **BID AWARD: 2018 MASONRY/ROOF REPAIRS**

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded as indicated, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

- 2018 Masonry/Roof Repairs: Detwiler Roofing - \$683,731.50

## **MS LIBRARY LIGHTING REPAIRS/UPGRADES**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the MS Library Lighting Repairs and Upgrade Project as presented.

- MS Library Lighting Repairs Project: United Electric (Costars) \$43,590.00

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

## **NON-CONSENT:**

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the non-consent items for Board consideration.

**Board Comments:** None.

**Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to non-consent items):** None.

## **YMCA Closure Resolution**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the YMCA Closure Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-069**.

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the YMCA Closure Resolution as presented.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

### **School Board Director Resignation**

The Superintendent and Board President recommend the Board accept the resignation of Mr. William R. Williams from the Board of School Directors effective March 15, 2018.

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board accept the resignation of Mr. William R. Williams.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

Mr. Kalis explained the Board's options on how to fill a Board vacancy and the requirements to serve on the board. Vacancies can be filled by court appointment at the end of a 30 day vacancy, appointed by the school board or request letters of interest to conduct public interviews. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older and must be a resident of the borough for a period of one year prior to appointment.

Board Members were in agreement to pursue Letters of Interest and conduct interviews. Letters of Interests are due by April 4 close of the business day and interviews will be scheduled for April 10. Advertisements will be published in the local newspaper and on the district website .

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Budget Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Francis asked Board Members to review the list of names submitted along with the draft outline for the committee. The draft outline defines the purpose and parameters of the committee. Board Members discussed an option to also include business owners in the list of names.

### **INFORMATION**

1. Monthly Meeting Notice: April 2018

### **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mrs. Leibold commented on the concerns and fears expressed by the community and families. She noted that the school has put into place some things with respect to concerns from last year. The results are not immediate but are more long term. The solution to issues spoken about tonight is much bigger than the school and teachers can remedy. She stressed the importance of working together towards long term solutions. Mrs. Leibold asked the Board to be transparent to the community and teachers about potential program cuts as mentioned at last month's budget talk.

### **ROUND TABLE**

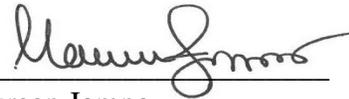
The Board President and each Board Member thanked the community members, parents and students for sharing their stories and invited all to attend the informal committee meetings to continue discussion on ways to make the schools safe. Board Members encouraged residents to get involved with community organization and groups and to consider submitting Letters of Interest to serve on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Rodriguez welcomed the parents and noted that the Board and Administrators are interested in hearing their concerns. The Board and Administrators recognize the issues and work hard together to find solutions. He encouraged everyone to get involved. The Parent Advocacy Committee is a committee of 30 individuals focused on getting much needed funding and resources to meet the needs of the students and community. The District supported the student walkout in part to demonstrate the significance of democracy and getting involved, letting their voices be heard.

Mrs. Francis shared her regrets and concerns for the community and students at the news of the YMCA closure. She stressed the need for advocacy to speak out and work towards solutions. Mrs. Francis reminded Board Members that an executive session for the purpose of litigation will take following the close of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



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Maureen Jampo  
Board Secretary