



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
April 19, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, April 19, 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. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose, and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent was Ms. Katina Bearden and a vacancy created by the resignation of 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 Representative Ms. Courteney Parry; Mrs. Elisabeth Yoder, Mrs. Kelly Leibold, Mr. Robert Decker, Mr. Christopher Sperat, Mrs. Erin Jacobs, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mr. Brian Hostetler, Mr. Kevin Downes, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, members of the press and interested citizens.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:04 pm.

PRESENTATION

Little Mermaid Musical Report – Mr. Decker and Mr. Sperat presented a Power Point on details about the show and back stage learning that took place. The musical provides many opportunities and experiences for the students that are unique to this co-curricular activity.

**The Board adjourned for an executive session for the purpose of litigation at 7:18 pm.
The Board reconvened 7:41 pm.**

MINUTES

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

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of March 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-070**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for March 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-071**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee met on April 5. The Mother/Son event on April 13th was a successful event. Topics discussed at the committee meeting included an update on the YMCA closure, upcoming advocacy events and safety concerns at the middle school. A complete report can be accessed under "committee reports" on tonight's agenda.

STUDENT BOARD REPORT – Ms. Parry

April club events included “Mr. Pottstown” coordinated by Student Government and a fundraiser by the Interact Club to raise funds for Human Trafficking Awareness. Ms. Parry gave an update on various sports events taking place this month. Upcoming events include PEAK/YMCA’s Celebration of the Young Child on April 21st, the opening of the Chestnut Street Garden and Senior Awards to be held on May 1st.

CURRICULUM / CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE – Mrs. Lawrence

The Curriculum and Co-Curricular Committee met on April 5. The committee is recommending board approval of the Math Adoption as it appears on tonight’s agenda. The committee supports the high school’s ESL reading books as presented at the meeting. Other topics discussed by the committee were community partnerships and a comprehensive transition plan for grade 4 going to grade 5. A complete report can be accessed under “committee reports” on tonight’s agenda.

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Mrs. Lawrence

The Policy/Personnel Committee met on April 12. The committee is recommending board approval of three (3) policies as presented on tonight’s agenda. Personnel items reviewed and recommended by the committee for board approval include the Act 80 Resolution, School Calendars and the 2018 Hours of Operation.

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSBA/MCIU REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Rodriguez gave an update on several current legislative bills: SB 1078 is a school safety bill that would allow security and safety issues to be discussed in executive session; HB 638 proposes removing the ability to cross-file nomination petitions; SB 1095 addresses graduation requirements, proposes not to reinstate the Keystone Exam requirement and allows students to graduate in multi ways.

FACILITIES / FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities / Finance Committee met on April 12. Facility items reviewed by the committee were the Lincoln Outdoor Learning space, the Franklin Fields Change order as presented on tonight’s agenda for board approval, and updates on the Administration Building HVAC and replacement cost for Franklin Water/Sewer Main. Invitations were sent out to the candidates for the Budget Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed an update on the 2018/2019 preliminary budget. The projected adjusted deficit is \$356,763.00 and reflects a tax increase at the index of 3.5%. The current projections do not reflect any cuts in programs or staff.

Mrs. Jampo gave a detailed overview of the 2018/2019 preliminary budget update. The projected revenues and expenses show a current deficit of \$1,785,681. A proposed tax increase of 3.5% and use of PSERs reserve in the amount of \$432,873, the adjusted deficit is projected at approximately \$356,763.00. Mrs. Jampo presented a summary of the budget revisions and recap of the 2016/2017 and current year budgets.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (specific to Budget)

Crystal Somerset , resident and nurse at Tower Health, asked the Board to support their resolution asking Tower Health to pay their fair share of the real estate taxes and restore the Pediatric Unit at the hospital.

Kris Carter, nurse at Tower Health, spoke on behalf of all the nurses who are residents of Pottstown, pledging their support to encourage Tower Health to fulfill their obligation to the Pottstown students, parents and community. She provided a copy of their proposed resolution for board review.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

Administrators reviewed the consent items as presented on the board agenda.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (general and consent items)

Aram Ecker, resident, spoke on behalf of the Alumni Honor Roll Candidates and the upcoming event recognizing the achievements of the candidates. He encouraged everyone to attend and looks forward to growing this event as a fundraising event.

Julian Weber, student, spoke on behalf of the students in the arts programs and the student body as a whole. He asked the Board to continue supporting the arts and talked about how much the programs mean to the students and the many opportunities the programs provide for them.

Board Comments: Consent Items

Mr. Wilkerson inquired about setting a graduation dated for the 2018/2019 school year.

Mr. Rodriguez explained the process for building the calendar which includes allowing for five snow days. He noted that graduation always takes place on the 180th day of school. The administration has looked at stabilizing a graduation date, taking into consideration all factors and has determined that the current process is most effective.

BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills and Treasurer's Report

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on March 15, 2018, the list of bills for the period of March 2018 and the treasurer's report for March 2018.

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

CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATION

Classified

Ratify Lena Martinez, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to non-compliance with new hire procedures, effective March 28, 2018; hire date February 2, 2018.

Ratify Randy Blackwell, Attendance Clerk, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective March 27, 2018; employed since November 1, 2001.

Ratify Rebecca Baldwin, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective April 13, 2018; employed since August 24, 2016.

Michael Fiorillo, Custodian I, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective November 27, 2018, employed since March 4, 1991.

LEAVES

Professional

Nichola Pezzino, Special Education Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be September 10, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Lori Hoshaw, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary and Lincoln Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective date April 16, 2018, end date tbd.

Classified

Samantha Duncan, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence, anticipated effective date to be May 27, 2018, end date tbd.

Kaitlynn Bortz, Intervention Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be August 21, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Paul Woodley, Head Custodian, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective April 17, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Philip Thees, Custodian, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective April 6, 2017, end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Classified

Ratify Whitney Williams, from Temporary Intervention Assistant to Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 20, 2018, \$13.65/hr (replacing M. Barrett).

Ratify Susan Marie Davis, from Substitute Nurse to Substitute Certified School Nurse, effective March 23, 2018, \$33.45/hr.

ELECTIONS:

Classified

Ratify Denise L. Williams, Temporary Intervention Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, effective March 26, 2018, \$13.65/hr (coverage for J. Schwoyer).

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

Beth Mason	MS	5 missed planning times	\$115.00 (10/26/17 - 11/7/17)
Beth Taylor	MS	8 missed planning times	\$184.00 (2/20/18 - 3/8/18)
Deborah Wilson	MS	10 missed planning times	\$230.00 (2/20/18 - 3/5/18)
Krista Smith-Corropolese	MS	9 missed planning times	\$207.00 (2/20/18 - 3/5/18)
Michaela Johnson	HS	8 missed planning times	\$184.00 (2/26/18 - 3/9/18)
Michaela Johnson	HS	14 missed planning times	\$322.00 (3/13/18 - 4/6/2018)

Co-Curricular Assignments

Ratify Pamela Pascal, Interim Athletic Trainer (as need basis), \$29/hr

Co-Curricular Assignments: 2018/2019: Winter Sports

<u>Name</u>	<u>Professional Agreement Category</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Scott Palladino	HS - Basketball: Boys Head Coach	1	\$6,837.00

Tuition Reimbursement

Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>3/31/2018 deadline</u>
Craig Ollivier	PHS	\$2,724.00
Theresa Dundon	PHS	\$ 885.00
Joshua Wagner	Lincoln	\$ 885.00
Leslie Swartz	Lincoln	\$ 885.00

Accumulative Sick Leave Payment at time of retirement

Bernard Gallagher, In accordance with Professional Agreement, \$80.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Admin Ratify	Stephen Rodriguez	Superintendent Academy	Harrisburg, PA	04/17-2018 - 04/19/2018	\$25.00 pd by dept budget

FIELD TRIPS

<u># Students /... Groups</u>	<u>Conference Name/Activity</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	<u>Cost to Student</u>	<u>Cost to District</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
2	Math & Science Students	London & Paris	09/23/2019- 09/30/2019	\$3,137	\$630.00- \$690.00	Robert Decker Jennifer Mohr

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies as presents a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-072.**

Policy 302: Employment of Superintendent (replaces #2000,2001)

Policy 907: School Visitors (update)

Policy 908.1: Late Pick Up of Students (new)

ACT 80 EXCEPTIONS RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Act 80 Exceptions Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-073.**

2017/2018 REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the revised 2017/2018 School Calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-074.**

2018/2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2018/2019 School Calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-075.**

2018/2019 HOURS OF OPERATION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2018/2019 Hours of Operation as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-076.**

2018 ALUMNI HONOR ROLL CANDIDATES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2018 Alumni Honor Roll Candidates as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-077**.

MATH RESOURCE ADOPTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Math Resource adoption as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-078**.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Special Education Plan as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-079**.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-080**.

1. Opportunities School
2. Opportunities School
3. Opportunities School
4. MCIU: Technology Services
5. Pediatric Therapeutic Servs.
6. MCIU: Transportation Support Services
7. MCIU: Medical Practitioner Review/Authorization
8. Creative Health Services Inc.
9. School Operation Services (S.O.S.)
10. ESS/Source4Teachers

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2017/2018 revised Designation of Depositories as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-081**.

FRANKLIN FIELDS PROJECT CHANGE ORDER

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Franklin Fields Project Change Order as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-082**.

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

NON-CONSENT:

MCIU BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATION

The Superintendent recommends the Board elect a representative to serve two years beginning the first day of July following such election. The representative's term shall run from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020.

Mr. Heidel nominated Mr. Wilkerson.

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Heidel to approve Mr. Wilkerson as the representative for MCIU Board of Director.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye for Mr. Wilkerson as the MCIU Board of Director representative. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve the terms and conditions of the signed Settlement Agreement and Release involving a former employee.

Mr. Kalis reviewed the motion to approve the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Heidel to approve the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-083**.

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

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Appointment of School Board Director to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Ron Williams.

Mr. Kalis reviewed the process chosen by the Board to appoint a school board director. The Board conducted interviews of the candidates who submitted Letters of Interest. The Board Member appointment is placed on tonight's agenda for discussion, nominations and board action. Board Members may name their candidate of choice. The successful candidate must have five (5) votes.

Board Comments: Mrs. Barnhill thanked the candidates and recognized all the candidates as qualified for the role of school board director.

Nominations: Mr. Wilkerson nominated Mr. Morton. Mr. Heidel nominated Mrs. Stilwell. Ms. Bearden nominated Mr. Hylton

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson to close the nominations. Mrs. Lawrence seconded the motion.

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

Appointment:

Upon roll call vote, each member named their candidate of choice: Mr. Wilkerson: Morton; Ms. Bearden: Hylton; Mr. Heidel: Stilwell; Mrs. Barnhill: Stilwell; Mrs. Francis: Stilwell; Mr. Rose: Morton; Mrs. Lawrence: Stilwell; Mr. Armato: Hylton.

Hylton: Two. Morton: Two. Stilwell: Four. Motion denied.

Ms. Bearden offered her comments on the importance of serving on the Board. She spoke about responsibilities and the ability to work collectively. She asked board members to consider Mr. Hylton as the candidate to fill the board vacancy.

Board Member Appointment:

Upon roll call vote, each member named their candidate of choice: Mr. Rose: Morton; Mrs. Lawrence: Stilwell; Mr. Heidel: Stilwell; Mrs. Francis: Stilwell; Ms. Bearden: Hylton; Mrs. Barnhill: Stilwell; Mr. Armato: Hylton; Mr. Wilkerson: Morton.

Hylton: Two. Morton: Two. Stilwell: Four. Motion denied.

Mr. Kalis explained the board's options to fill the vacancy. Options to consider include continuing discussion and board action, postpone the appointment until next board meeting, or seek additional candidates for interview process. He reminded the Board of their obligation to fill the vacancy within the required timeline.

At the suggestion of Mr. Rose, it was determined by the Board to continue with another roll call vote.

Board Member Appointment:

Upon roll call vote, each member named their candidate of choice: Mr. Armato: Hylton; Mrs. Barnhill: Stilwell; Ms. Bearden: Hylton; Mrs. Francis: Stilwell; Mr. Heidel: Stilwell; Mrs. Lawrence: Stilwell; Mr. Rose: Stilwell; Mr. Wilkerson: Stilwell.

Hylton: Two. Stilwell: Six. Mrs. Stilwell was appointed to fill the school board director vacancy.

Mr. Kalis explained Mrs. Stilwell may choose to be sworn in at the next public meeting or privately at the office of the magistrate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None.

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Meeting Notice: May 2018
2. Board Professional Development Articles

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Yoder invited everyone to attend the Fair Funding Rally, sponsored by the Federation of Pottstown Teachers, on May 3rd at the high school. She asked that the Board consider including a teacher to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee.

ROUND TABLE

Board Members thanked the candidates for their interest in serving on the board. All members welcomed Mrs. Stilwell to the board. Members encouraged the public to be active in the advocacy issues that support the growth of community and the education of the students.

Mrs. Barnhill stated the Board needs to hear from the public. The Board looks for direction from the public.

Ms. Parry, on behalf of all students, thanked the teachers, staff and board for all they do.

Mr. Wilkerson congratulated Mrs. Yoder on her recent YMCA art award.

Mr. Armato spoke about the leadership demonstrated by the school district and community. He is encouraged by the positive affect the actions have to move the community and district forward. He recognized three students for their achievements and leadership that demonstrates the quality of a good education in Pottstown.

Mr. Rose invited all to participate in the upcoming Habitat for Humanity “Rock the Block” event.

Ms. Bearden thanked all the volunteers for their support with the Mother/Son event. She looks forward to working collectively with the community to share ideas that support the students.

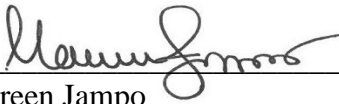
Mr. Rodriguez invited everyone to the end of year district events. He shared some of his encounters at the Superintendents Academy in Harrisburg. Mr. Rodriguez met a recent Pottstown graduate who is

working with Senator Patrick Stefano. Mr. Rodriguez was encouraged by comments from Secretary Pedro Rivera stating that “school districts have the power and voice to change things”.

Mrs. Francis thanked Ms. Bearden for the opportunity to share in the Mother / Son event. She reminded the Board of the workshop scheduled for Tuesday, April 24. The workshop is open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary