



**POTTSWANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, June 21, 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, Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell, and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were Mrs. Susan Lawrence and Mr. Raymond Rose. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mrs. Mary Ellen Urquhart, Mrs. Kelly Leibold, members of the press and interested citizens.

PRESENTATION

NAMM – Mr. Kelly, Zeswitz Music, presented the Best Communities in Music Education award to the district and music department. The award recognizes the district, teachers, students and parents that excel in music education. Accepting the award on behalf of the Pottstown School District were Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Michael Vought and Mrs. Katie German.

Foundation for Pottstown Education - Mr. Rusiewicz gave an overview of the 2017-2018 funding and events that provided support to the students of the district. Funding has increased by 23.5% during this fiscal year with one month still remaining. The Early College Program has seen a total of 45 graduates to date. All graduates have entered into secondary education or enrolled in colleges or universities. Mr. Rusiewicz introduced supporters of the program, representatives from The Ziegler Family Foundation, Exelon Energy and Montgomery County Community College. He acknowledged the 2018 Early College graduates.

COMMUNICATION(S)

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the two letters presented to the district from the Governor's office.

1. Opportunity Zones Program
2. Senate Bill 2 Resolution

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on May 17, 2018 for board approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of May 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-097**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for May 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-098**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Bearden

The Community Relations Committee met on June 7. Discussion focused on following up with staff, district and community as a whole on what is working versus not working in regards to safety for the students. Ms. Bearden noted that Mr. Rodriguez has put together options that will be shared with each committee for review/discussion. The committee reviewed proposed dates for the 2018-2019 student and staff events that were successful events last year. The committee is working on creating an information sheet about the programs and groups that are accessible to parents. The goal is to get the information to the parents at the start of the school year.

CURRICULUM / CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE – Ms. Bearden

The Curriculum and Co-Curricular Committee met on June 7. The meeting focused on looking ahead at the 2018/2019 school year. The district will be transitioning to a 10-point grading scale and electronic report cards. The Technology Department will be rolling out a new Google product “ClassLink”. The product provides single log-in to all apps and files for staff and students.

FACILITIES / FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Heidel

The Facilities / Finance Committee met on June 14. Highlights from the meeting were the final budget presentation for 2018/2019 and facility options regarding the administration building and the middle school. Contracts and resolutions presented on tonight’s agenda were also reviewed and are recommended for board approval.

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mrs. Francis

The Policy/Personnel Committee met on June 14. The meeting started with an executive session for the purpose of personnel. Three (3) policies were reviewed to be placed on tonight’s agenda for board approval. Two (2) positions to support the Beech Street Learning Studio and a job description update were also reviewed and are recommended for board approval.

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE /MCIU REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Mr. Wilkerson

Several legislative bills have been passed by the House of Representatives. Mr. Wilkerson reviewed highlights on the various bills. 1) HB 2121:General Appropriations Act 2018, 2) HB 564 Civics Education Graduation Requirements, 3) HB 85: Parents opt-out of Keystone Exams, and 4) HB 2327: School Board Executive Sessions for the purpose of school security and emergency preparedness. Details can be found in the committee report attached to tonight’s agenda. Several Board Members, staff, students and community leaders along with Mr. Rodriguez participated in a rally held in Harrisburg organized by POWER Interfaith. Mr. Rodriguez gave a powerful speech advocating for fair funding.

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Mrs. Stilwell

PSBA sponsored a day of Advocacy in May. Superintendents and school board members were invited to Harrisburg to rally for educational issues. PSBA continues to focus on legislation and pushes out information that is shared by others.

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.

Mr. Wilkerson requested that the Non-Consent Personnel item on tonight's agenda be moved to Consent as a result of Mrs. Lawrence's absence.

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

None.

Board Members Comments (consent items)

Mr. Wilkerson asked for clarification on the legislative bills in connection with the agenda item Resolution to support funding basic and special education funding laws and the legal services rate schedule for insurance matters.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the resolution is connected to House Bill 2501.

Mr. Kalis explained insurance companies pay different rates based on the individual matters. Fox Rothschild accepts whatever the insurance company offers.

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

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on May 17, 2018, the list of bills for the period of May 2018 and the treasurer's report for May 2018.

All members were in favor. Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

CONSENT

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson 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

Student Services Program Coordinator, support to VAL Academy and Beech Street Learning Studio, Student Services, effective July 1, 2018. * **Addendum #2017-2018-099**

CLASSIFIED

Learning Coach (up to 4 part-time coaches), 10 month position, Beech Street Learning Studio, Student Services, effective July 1, 2018. ***Addendum #2017-2018-100**

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Robert Kripplebauer, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 4, 2018; employed since August 1, 2013.

Steven Anspach, Director of Co-Curricular Activities, resignation effective July 27, 2018; employed since August 29, 2012.

Kevin Downes, Principal, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective August 26, 2018; employed since June 21, 2001.

PROFESSIONAL

Ratify Britney Oxenford, Elementary Teacher, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective June 15, 2018; employed since May 1, 2004.

Leon Kanopka, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective August 14, 2018; employed since October 1, 2007.

Ratify Jared Leimeister, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 15, 2018; employed since August 18, 2008.

Ratify Nicole Accor, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 15, 2018; employed since August 23, 2016.

Ratify Long Term Substitutes, termination due to end of assignments, effective June 15, 2018:
Ashley Baker (HS) Gwenanne Hartshorn (Barth Elementary) Kathryn Jamieson (MS)
Iris Bucci (MS) Danielle Moser (Barth Elementary)

EXEMPT

Ratify David Smith, JROTC Instructor, Pottstown High School, resignation effective June 8, 2018; employed since December 14, 2017.

CLASSIFIED

Ratify Reon Astheimer, Part-time Front Door Clerk, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 12, 2018; employed since February 2, 2017.

Ratify Michael Quill, Custodian I, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 6, 2018; employed since July 9, 2011.

Seth Lawrence, Library Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective June 30, 2018; employed since August 26, 2015.

Substitute Support Staff terminations due to no work activity over one year, effective June 30, 2018:

Lynette Andrews	AnnMarie Devlin	Jordon Little	Sheridan Walt
Michele DeJohn	Naseer Gibbs	DeJanee Louallen	
James Diamond	Edward Girton	Valerie Raffa	

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS

Ratify Chris Jackson, Girls Basketball Head Coach, PHS, resignation effective May 29, 2018.

Ratify Mark Agnew, Cross Country Head Coach, PHS, resignation effective May 30, 2018.

Ratify Jared Leimeister, Boys Soccer Head Coach, PMS, resignation effective June 5, 2018.

Ratify Kaitlynn Bortz, Strength Training, PHS, resignation effective June 12, 2018.

Ratify Ira Watts, Girls Tennis Head Coach, PHS, resignation effective June 12, 2018.

Ratify Elisabeth Yoder, Girls Softball Assistant Coach, PHS, resignation effective June 18, 2018.

LEAVES

PROFESSIONAL

Ratify Lauren Himmelreich, Elementary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective May 22, 2018, end date tbd.

Ratify Katherine German, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date October 22, 2018, end date tbd.

EXEMPT

Ratify Diane Meck, Data Manager, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective May 18, 2018, end date tbd.

SUPPORT

Jessica Friend, Secretary, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Act, anticipated effective date August 8, 2018, anticipated end date to be October 5, 2018.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

CLASSIFIED

Ratify Zach Davis, from Summer Cleaner to Part-time IT College Intern, effective June 8, 2018, \$12.00/hr.

Ratify James Calvario, from Student Intern, Facilities to Substitute Support Staff, effective June 8, 2018, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Rachel Smith, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Substitute Support Staff, hourly rate per schedule.

Correction in hours: Ratify David Tokarski, Part-time Van Driver, from 3 hrs. to 6 hrs., effective January 1, 2018.

ELECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Kimberly Perry-Malloy, Head Nurse, Pottstown Middle School, effective July 1, 2018, \$65,000/yr. (replacing A. Frederick).

Daniel Perez, Assistant Principal, Pottstown Middle School, effective July 1, 2018, \$82,781.00/yr. (replacing M. Dziura).

CLASSIFIED

Ratify David Robinson, Substitute Support Staff, effective June 1, 2018, hourly rate per schedule.

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS

2017/2018: Ratify Kaitlynn Bortz, Strength Training, (second half year), Level 1, \$1,068.50

2018/2019: Michael Hewitt Assistant Football Coach MS Level 2 \$2,779.00

Chris Jackson Assistant Boys Basketball Coach HS Level 5 \$5,015.00

ADDITION(S) TO SUMMER PROGRAMS

Wyatt Hessler, Summer Cleaner, \$11.51 (6/18/18 to 8/24/18)
Bianca Kelly, Classroom Asst., 21st Century, \$13.65/hr (6/18/18 to 7/26/18)

Amanda Conlon, Summer District Services, Guidance, \$29/hr (not to exceed 30 hrs)
Michael Pagano, Summer District Services, Guidance, \$29/hr (not to exceed 30 hrs)

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION, \$29/hr

Ratify Kelly Smale, Pottstown High School, from May 25, 2018 to June 12, 2018, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs/ per week.

COMPENSATION FOR MISSED PLANNING TIME, \$23/hr

Michaela Johnson, PHS, 15 missed planning times, \$345.00 (4/23/18 to 5/16/18)

ABC OF FITNESS PROGRAM, \$29/hr (2017/2018 after-school program, grant funded)

Joshua Pierce - Instructor - Barth
Matthew Cohen - Instructor - Franklin

MUSIC ACCOMPANISTS - 2017/2018: Fall and Spring

Christopher Sperat \$280.00 (rehearsals/concerts)
Frances Emrick \$280.00 (rehearsals/concerts)
Robin Ward \$510.00 (rehearsals/concerts)

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>
Admn	Karen Crable	PAFPC Conference	Hershey, PA	4/30/2018 - 5/02/2018	\$1,041.00 pd by Title 1 Grant

FIELD TRIPS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following 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>
20	Cross Country Camp	Camp Canedensis	08/23/2018 - 08/26/2018	\$50	\$0.00	Mark Agnew Mary Ann Hill Nathan Smith
22	HS Cheerleading	Pine Forest Cheer Camp	08/12/2018 - 08/15/2018	\$0	\$0.00	Megan Miller Carol Livingston

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following polices as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-101:**

- #202: Eligibility of Non-Resident Students (replacing 6010)
- #221: Student Standard of Dress (replacing 6182)
- #324: Personnel Files (replacing 3030)

2018/2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following revised 2018/2019 School Calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-102.**

RESOLUTION TO FUND BASIC AND SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING LAWS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution to fund basic and special education funding laws as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-103.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OAC MEMBERS/MINUTES

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge the Occupational Advisory Committee member list and meeting minutes as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-104.**

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-105:**

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. New Story Schools ESY | 7. New Story Schools ESY | 13. Valley Forge Edu. Serv ESY |
| 2. New Story Schools ESY | 8. New Story Schools 18-19 | 14. Valley Forge Edu. Serv. ESY |
| 3. New Story Schools ESY | 9. New Story Schools 18-19 | 15. Camphill Special School ESY |
| 4. New Story Schools ESY | 10. Progressions 18-19 | 16. Camphill Special School ESY |
| 5. New Story Schools ESY | 11. Melmark Inc 18-19 | 17. CMD Transportation Services |
| 6. New Story Schools ESY | 12. Melmark Inc 18-19 | |

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT SOLICITOR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the appointment of Stephen Kalis and the law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP, as the district solicitor for a two year term, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-106.**

BID AWARD: CAFETERIA SUPPLIES

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

- Cafeteria Supplies Bid Award: Webco Packaging Inc. \$23,368.70

BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Budget Transfer Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-107.**

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Investment of Funds Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-108.**

COMMIT FUNDS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURES RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Commit Funds Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-109.**

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES 2018/2019

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated Designation of Depositories for the 2018/2019 school year and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-110.**

HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-111**.

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

NON-CONSENT:

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the Waiver of Policy 201: Admission of Students as presented for board action. The policy states that Board approval is required for early entrance into Kindergarten. Students are evaluated by district psychologist and recommended for early entrance into Kindergarten.

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the 2018/2019 Final Budget as presented for discussion and board action. The final budget for 2018/2019 remains the same as the preliminary budget adopted at the May 17 Board meeting. The power point presentation reviewed the challenges faced by the district to balance the 2018/2019 budget. The final 2018/2019 budget is balanced at \$62,677,927 with a tax increase of 3.5% or 1.3738 mills.

Board Comments:

Mr. Wilkerson asked if all organizations have increased their contributions to P.A.I.D. as indicated as a line item in the budget presented.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that not all entities have increased their contributions. The Pottstown School District has demonstrated leadership in support of the economic growth in Pottstown and therefore others are also stepping up as a result of the district's leadership.

Mr. Armato stated he understands the challenges faced by the district to present a balanced budget. He cited the past years zero tax increases and lose revenue from the hospital that cost the district to close the copy center and eliminate the transportation department. He expressed concern that more cuts could follow in the coming years. Mr. Armato encouraged property owners to take advantage of the Homestead program as a means to reduce their school property tax and to participate in the Golden Sage program offered to senior citizens.

Mrs. Barnhill voiced her disappointment in the hospital administration's stand not to support the community through tax dollars.

Mr. Wilkerson encouraged tax payers to contact their legislators and participate in advocating for fair funding.

Ms. Bearden states she recognizes the impact a tax increase has on the community. She appreciates the efforts of the administration and community to maintain a zero tax increase for the past three years and realizes the challenges faced this year to present a balanced budget. She continues to advocate for fair funding and to continue a proactive approach in planning for future budgets.

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

None.

WAIVER OF POLICY 201: ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

It was moved by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve the Waiver of Policy 201: Admission of Students as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-112**.

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

ADOPTION OF 2018/2019 FINAL BUDGET

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Stilwell that the Board approve the adoption of the 2018/2019 final budget as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2017-2018-113**.

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

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD WORKSHOP:

It was agreed by all members present to conduct a Board Workshop on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

MERCURY BUILDING

Mr. Wilkerson presented a copy of a letter addressed to Digital Media regarding the closing of The Mercury building on Hanover Street.

Mr. Armato reviewed the letter content and asked the Board approve the letter with their individual signatures. The signed letter will be sent to the president and editor of Digital Media.

All members present were in agreement to sign the letter.

INFORMATION

1. School Board Directors Professional Development Article
2. Monthly Meeting Notice: August 2018

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Kelly Leibold thanked the administration for the opportunity to participate in the Middle School Assistant Principal interviews and welcome Mr. Perez to the district. She was impressed with the attendance and the energy demonstrated at yesterday's Power Rally in Harrisburg. Mrs. Leibold and fellow teachers thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his powerful and moving speech.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Wilkerson shared messages from staff, parents and students to Mr. Rodriguez expressing their gratitude and appreciation for his dedication to supporting education and the students of Pottstown.

Mr. Armato – no comment.

Ms. Bearden congratulated the 2018 graduates and thanked Ms. Parry for her service as a Student Board Representative. She thanked the Foundation for supporting the students, fellow Board

Members for their strong support at district events and Mr. Rodriguez for his passion and presence at community events.

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

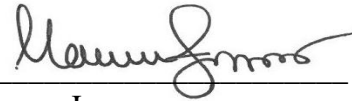
Mrs. Barnhill thanked the Board and the administration for the achievements of this school year. She noted that she is not in favor of a tax increase but understands the challenges faced by the district.

Mrs. Stilwell – no comment.

Mrs. Francis thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Board President and to officiate at her son's graduation. She reminded the Board there is an executive session at the close of the meeting for the purpose of personnel.

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 8:45p.m.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary