



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 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, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent were Ms. Katina Bearden and Mrs. Stilwell. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representatives, Ms. Johnay Cranford and Ms. Angelica Calel; members of the press and interested citizens.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS

Choral Selections

Mr. Dipette directed the high school chorus, performing two songs to commemorate School Board Recognition month.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:09 pm.

School Board Recognition

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Board for their dedication to the students and community and their willingness to lead by example. Each member was presented with a token of appreciation.

PVAAS Growth Presentation

Mr. Rodriguez presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System. PVAAS collects data that measures student academic achievement and growth. The data provides educators with valuable information to ensure the academic needs of the students is being met.

Great Growth Award

Mr. Rodriguez recognized the teachers who create the conditions for maximum instructions that foster growth for their students. Each teacher was introduced and presented with a plaque to celebrate their dedication and support for the success of their students.

True Blue Trojan Teacher Award

Mr. Rodriguez recognized the teachers who fostered the steady growth of their students' scores for more than 1 year. Each teacher was introduced and presented with a plaque to celebrate their dedication and support for the success of their students.

Mrs. Francis announced the Board would take a brief recess for pictures and a reception for the teachers, families and staff.

The Board reconvened at 7:49 pm.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on December 20, 2018.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of December 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2018-2019-047**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for December 2018 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2018-2019-048**.

ASSISTANT TREASURER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Kalis reviewed the motion on recommendation by the Board President to authorize the Vice-President of the Board to sign checks / vouchers for payment in accordance with School Code.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No January committee meetings.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Ms. Cranford gave an overview of the Keystone Exams that took place on January 8th and 9th. Students that pass the tests will be able to participate in a trip to Shady Maple. PSD Student Board Representatives attended a breakfast at Pottsgrove along with representatives from Pottsgrove, Phoenixville and Springford. The meeting focused on brain storming ideas and all were in agreement to visit their elementary buildings on a monthly basis as a way to introduce themselves to the students. Ms. Calel gave an update on the school calendar regarding finals and the start of the second semester.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPORT: no report

PSBA/MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE /MCIU REPRESENTATIVE REPORT S: no report

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)

None.

Board Members Comments (consent items)

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

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on December 20, 2018, the list of bills for the period of December 2018, the treasurer's report for December 2018 and the Assistant Treasurer appointments as presented.

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

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

It was moved by Mr. Armato 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

Child Accounting and PIMS Specialist ***Addendum #2018-2019-049**

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Megan Keeney, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective January 11, 2019; hire date February 3, 2014.

Susanne Swanson, Pre-K Counts Teacher, Barth Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2019; hire date August 23, 2006.

Administrative

Daniel Perez, Assistant Principal, Pottstown Middle School, resignation effective January 18, 2019; hire date July 1, 2018.

Ratify Erin Jacobs, Director of Special Education, resignation effective January 15, 2019; hire date August 9, 2017.

Ratify Joseph Schroeder, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education, resignation effective January 14, 2019; hire date November 2, 2015.

Exempt

James Porter, JROTC Instructor, Pottstown High School, resignation effective June 21, 2019; hire date July 19, 2010.

Classified

Ratify Roxanne Leh, Part-time Cafeteria Worker and Student Proctor, resignation effective January 3, 2019; hire date October 13, 2015.

Dalton Wieder, Custodian I, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2019; hire date July 23, 2008.

Paul L. Swanson, Part-time Food Service Driver, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective March 5, 2019; hire date November 3, 2005.

Cynthia Hussmann, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 28, 2019; hire date September 16, 1991.

Co-Curricular Assignments

Ratify Andrea Roberts, Department Chair Social Studies, MS, resignation effective December 21, 2018.
Ratify Mark Fischer, Head Football Coach, HS, resignation effective January 15, 2019.

LEAVES

Professional

Amanda Figueroa, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date June 12, 2019, end date tbd.

Nicole Valenti, Elementary Teacher, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date July 28, 2019, end date tbd.

Sara Miller, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 14, 2019, anticipated end date to be January 22, 2019.

Leeann McCullough, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective dated to be January 18, 2019, end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION AND/OR SALARY

Administrative

Michael Ishler, from Teacher on Special Assignment to Assistant Principal, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 21, 2019, \$82,781/yr (replacing D. Perez).

Exempt

Ratify Karen Kile, from Full-time to Part-time PEAK PreK-Counts Coordinator, effective December 31, 2018, \$260.27/day.

ELECTIONS:

Professional

Victoria McShea, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective January 17, 2019, \$45,000/yr, Step 1 - Bach (contract of L. Hashem).

Ratify Christina Lepkowski, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective January 14, 2019 to the end of the 2018/2019 school year, \$194/day (coverage for N. Ewing).

Ratify Heather Diodati, Elementary Teacher, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary, effective January 11, 2019, \$49,000/yr, Step 1 - Mast (contract of M. Keeney).

Jessica Lineman, Special Education Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective February 11, 2019, \$47,000 + Stipend in accordance with the Professional Agreement, Step 3 B+15 (contract of J. Harner).

Exempt

Ratify Marissa Bush, Recording Secretary, effective December 13, 2018, \$29.39/hr. This is in addition to her role as Student Services Program Coordinator.

Ratify Kelly Heidler, Pre-K Counts Teacher, effective January 14, 2019, \$43,500/yr, grant funded (replacing K. Brown)

Classified

Ratify Brian Dotterer, Head Custodian, Pottstown Middle School, effective January 14, 2019, \$18.23/hr (replacing P. Woodley).

Ratify Kristen Walker, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, effective January 2, 2019, \$13.65/hr (replacing S. Duncan).

Ratify Kyle Hamlin, Part-time Elementary Cleaner, Franklin Elementary, effective January 10, 2019, \$11.92/hr (replacing J. Fox).

Ratify Scott Fazekas, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 15, 2019, hourly rate per schedule.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$23/hr per period

Michaela Johnson, HS, 14 missed planning times, \$322.00 (11/19/18 to 12/13/18)

Andrea Roberts, MS, 4 missed planning times, \$92.00 (10/22/18 to 11/1/2018)

Co-Curricular Assignments 2018/2019 - Additions/Corrections * **Addendum 2018-2019-050**

- Non-Athletics

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>12/30/2018 deadline</u>
Michael Ishler	PMS	\$ 3,000.00
Megan Heffelfinger	PHS	\$ 455.00
Diane Fox	PHS	\$ 3,000.00
Danielle Lawrence	PMS	\$ 1,548.00
Jesse Tupper	PMS	\$ 1,548.00
Ashley Ermold	PHS	\$ 705.00
Christopher Petro	PMS	\$ 1,548.00
Susan Hallman	Franklin	\$ 430.00
Kimberly White	Barth	\$ 1,548.00
Victoria Damiano	PMS	\$ 1,548.00

Classified

Michael Kibler	PMS	\$ 864.00
Amanda Fraterman	Admin	\$ 1,500.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PMS	Nichola Pezzino	WEB Basic Training	Skytop, PA	02/25/2019-02/27/2019	\$2,687.97 pd by 21st Century grant
PMS	Aaron Torrence	WEB Basic Training	Skytop, PA	02/25/2019-02/27/2019	\$2,687.97 pd by 21st Century grant
Admin	Heather Moyer	Promising Practices-Proven Strategies	Harrisburg, PA	03/13/2019-03/15/2019	\$407.00 pd by 21st CCLC grant

2019 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following 2019 School Board meeting schedules and copies be filed in the Secretary's offices as **Addendum #2018-2019-051**.

- 2019 School Board Meeting Dates
- 2019 School Board Committee Schedule

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2018-2019-052**.

- ESS Northeast

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Real Estate Tax Exoneration Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2018-2019-053**.

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

NON-CONSENT:

The non-consent items were presented for board consideration.

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

None.

Board Comments:

None.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF 2019 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution to approve the issuance of the General Obligation Bond, Series 2019 for the purpose of refinancing the balance of the GOB Series 2014 note as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2018-2019-054**.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Board Workshop synopsis for future facilities consideration

Mr. Rodriguez gave an overview of topics presented at the January 10th Board Workshop. Board Members reviewed the meeting calendars and committee appointments and participated in several professional development exercises. The Board reviewed the administration's detailed report on facilities costs and options for the Beech Street Administration Building and the Edgewood Elementary Building. It was determined that the Beech Street building's systems and repairs can be a piecemeal option opposed to huge upgrades at one time. The Board's discussion focused on two major options to address the middle school issues: 1) take the 5th grade out of the middle school to lower the overall

student population and 2) use the Edgewood building in some way. At the conclusion of workshop, the general consensus of the Board was: 1st - having time to make a final decision; 2nd - to seek public input; 3rd - the most educationally sound and fiscally responsible option is to consider a 5th grade center at Edgewood as opposed to going back to a five elementary school model.

Mr. Rodriguez asked Board Members for their comments. He asked the Board for direction whether or not to plan several public meetings seeking community input.

Board Comments:

Mr. Hylton stated that Board understood from the workshop that no action will be taken for the 2019/2020 school year. Any decision made by the Board would start in the 2020/2021 school year.

Mrs. Francis believes that public input is needed before making a final decision. She would like to have several public meetings at Edgewood to give the community opportunities to become familiar with the situation.

Mrs. Barnhill supports multiple public meetings to insure that everyone has an opportunity to attend the meetings.

Ms. Bearden would also like to hear from the teachers and all stakeholders.

Mr. Armato thanked the administration for providing facts and information that helps the Board with the decision making process. He also noted there is more information to gather.

Mr. Heidel was in favor of investing in repairs and upgrades to the Edgewood and Administration buildings.

Mrs. Lawrence recognizes the present financial impact but also sees long term benefits that could save the district from some of the issues that are happening at the middle school.

Mr. Rodriguez relayed Mrs. Stilwell's comments. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mrs. Stilwell favor's the K- 5 model but looks forward to more information.

Mrs. Francis directed the administration to look at dates for the public meetings, including weekends.

Mr. Rodriguez agreed and noted it was the Board's direction at the workshop to hold the meetings at the Edgewood building.

All members were in agreement. Each meeting will utilize the district's social media platforms as tools to keep the community engaged.

INFORMATION

- PTICC Community Meeting
- Monthly Meeting Notice: February 2019
- Pottstown Pride: Fall 2018

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold thanked the School Board members for their hard work to support the community, staff and students. The Federation look forward to participating in the facilities discussions. She noted the fifth grade teachers are excited about the possible 5th grade option. The Federation made a \$500 donation to the Foundation for Pottstown Education in appreciation for the School Board.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

Mrs. Barnhill – no comment.

Mrs. Lawrence congratulated all the teachers. She feels strongly that the teachers are the district's strongest asset.

Ms. Cranford congratulated the teachers.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mr. Armato stated he is thankful for the opportunity to experience daily interaction with students and staff. He enjoyed seeing the students having a good time at the "winter dance" held in the high school cafeteria.

Mr. Rose – no comment.

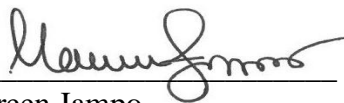
Ms. Bearden reminded Board Members of a Pottstown Transit Development Plan open house on January 22nd being held at the Pottstown Public Library. She stressed the importance of celebrating Martin Luther King's Day of Service, helping others, year round. Ms. Bearden congratulated the teachers.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced Mr. Ishler, the new Middle School Assistant Principal. He welcomed Mr. Ishler to the administration team. He congratulated the teachers and thanked the School Board for their service. Each Board Member was presented with a token of appreciation. Mr. Rodriguez commented on the many things going on in the district and reasons to be proud to be from Pottstown.

Mrs. Francis reminded the Board there will be an executive session for the purpose of negotiations and personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Rose that the meeting adjourns. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary