



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD WORKSHOP**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 25, 2019**

The Board Workshop of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Beech Street Learning Studio of the Administration Building. Present were Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell. Absent was Mr. Kurt Heidel. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis and interested citizens.

**GOOD BOARD GOVERNANCE**—Tina Viletto, MCIU Dir. of Community & Government Relations

Ms. Viletto talked about understanding the role of a board member. She reviewed a recent article regarding a board member divulging information discussed in an executive session and the result when fellow board members confronted the actions publicly. Ms. Viletto presented to the Board various scenarios of board governance. Board Members engaged in examining appropriate board interactions in each scenario. There was discussion on public meetings versus closed meetings. Ms. Viletto confirmed that closed meetings can be held as long as it is not for the purpose of deliberation. Workshops and committee meetings are public meetings. Committee meetings contain agenda items for deliberation to present to the full board for board action and do not need to include public comment.

**FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Board Members expressed their interests and concerns regarding live streaming committee meetings. Discussion centered on utilizing social media, transparency, grandstanding, inhibiting of honest dialogue and community members withdrawing from public attention. The general consensus of the board was split: Mr. Armato, Mr. Rose, Mrs. Barnhill and Mrs. Francis were in support of facebook live streaming committee meetings; Ms. Bearden, Mrs. Stilwell, Mr. Hylton and Mrs. Lawrence did not. It was determined to add this item to the August 15 Board Agenda for board action.

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

A roll call was taken of Board Members present. Present were: Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose and Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell. Absent was Mr. Kurt Heidel.

Mr. Rodriguez presented the items for Board action. Administrators reviewed the positions, personnel items and field trip.

**1. POSITIONS - ADDENDUM #2019-2020-001**

Classified: Medical ACCESS Secretary  
Enrollment Secretary

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the above classified positions.

Exempt: Board Certified Behavior Analyst

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve the above exempt position.

2. PERSONNEL

Vacation Payout: Cheryl Morett, Director of Special Education, \$5,499.00.

Administrative: Gavin Lawler, Assistant Principal, Pottstown High School, effective September 23, 2019, \$96,000/yr (replacing D. Livengood).

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the above personnel item.

3. FIELD TRIP

#students /group	Conference: Name/Activity	Location	Date of Trip	Cost to Student	Cost to District	Chaperone(s)
50	HS Football Camp	Camp Green Lane, Green Lane, PA	08/11/2019 - 08/15/2019	\$0.00	\$0.00	Jeffrey Delaney Levert Hughes Mike Santillo Madison Morton Todd Wallace Mike Hewitt Steve Irick

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Stilwell that the Board approve the above field trip.

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

**BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. Hylton inquired about the district’s hiring practices and the residency initiative. Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the hiring process and addressed the residency initiative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mr. Hylton to adjourn. All were in favor. None opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm followed by an Executive Session for Negotiations and Personnel.



Maureen Jampo  
Board Secretary