



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 20, 2020**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with Vice-President, Ms. Katina Bearden presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent was Mrs. Amy Francis. 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 Representative, Ms. Christiana Albert; Mrs. Mary Ellen Urquhart, Mrs. Mary Kramer, Mr. David Livengood, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, members of the press, and interested citizens.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Census Count Efforts**

Ms. Tricia Reedy, U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, gave an overview of the upcoming 2020 Census. The Census is mandated and consists of 9 simple questions. Responses affect funding for the community. The data collected is encrypted and is not shared with outside agencies. The data is only accessible to the Census Bureau. The total head count is the only information released; all personal data is accessible to the Census Bureau after 72 years. Residents will receive an “invitation to respond” in the mail. The second step will be to complete the questionnaire online or by phone.

**Career & Technical Education Update**

Mr. David Livengood gave an overview of the Career & Technical Education programs. He noted that seven of the thirteen CTE Instructors are Pottstown Alumni. Two Cosmetology students and two Health Tech students spoke about their programs, the instruction they receive and how they share their knowledge in the community.

**Seussical All District Musical Preview**

Mr. Decker and cast members gave a preview of the All District Musical “Seussical”.

**COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the communications listed.

- PSD You Tube Channel
- Senator Mensch CTE Equipment Grant Letter
- Operation 143 (*formerly Operation Backpack*)

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Board Workshop held on January 9, 2020 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on January 16, 2020.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of January 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2019-2020-053**.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for January 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-054**.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The committee met on February 6. The meeting started with an executive session regarding safety and security and litigation. The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Livengood on Career & Technical Education programs and an update on the progress of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Discussion continues on the Middle School as part of the MTSS and looking at options for 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Mr. Thomas Hylton

The committee met on February 13. Natural Lands Trust gave a presentation on the design and implementation of meadows/rain gardens in designated areas approved by district administrators. A letter is needed from the Board to Natural Lands Trust approving support of the meadows. Natural Lands can then proceed to seek funding. Items reviewed by the committee and recommended for approval as presented on tonight's agenda include the 2020 Building Envelope Roof Design Project, contracts, the 2020/2021 MCIU Members Services Budget and Community Health & Dental school physician rates. Discussion items focused on addressing safety issues regarding the retention basin at Franklin, funding for the Residency Program, and a snap shot of the preliminary 2020/2021 budget. It was the general consensus of the Committee/ Board Members present to support a tax increase at the index (3.8%), if necessary, in order to avert any cuts in programs and to support classified salary increases under the same time line as the current 3 year Professional Agreement (2019/2020 to 2021/2022).

### **POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** – Mrs. Bonita Barnhill

The committee met on February 6. The committee supports the administration's personnel recommendations as presented on tonight's agenda for approval. Updates to Policy 005 were made to coincide with the current committee structure and is on tonight's agenda for approval. Policy 220 and Policy 913 are being reviewed for language updates.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** – Mr. Raymond Rose

The committee met on February 13. Topics of discussion included the focus of the committee, the agenda format and suggestions for starting a middle school parent organization. It was determined by the Committee to include Advocacy as a monthly topic for discussion. The committee was in favor of tabling the proposed Charter Funding Reform for future discussion and to continue exploring resources to engage the community in advocacy.

### **BOROUGH LIAISON** – Mr. Raymond Rose

Highlights from Borough Council's February Committee of the Whole meeting were a presentation on the 2020 Census, a public launching of the Land Bank in March, the opening of the Rickett's Center under new management, and a presentation made by a local company on their plans to renovate a vacant property locate on Walnut Street into apartments. Borough Council will be lifting the 3 hour parking limit in the downtown area.

### **MCIU REPRESENTATIVE** – Mrs. Bonita Barnhill

The MCIU Board is working on forming a committee to conduct preliminary interviews for the new director

### **MCSDLC / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE** – Mrs. Laura Johnson

The Montgomery County School District Legislative Committee is working on legislative issues to address charter school funding reform and teacher shortages. PSBA will be sponsoring a Day of Advocacy on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Rodriguez presented the consent items for Board discussion and approval. Administrators reviewed the consent items presented for Board approval.

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

None.

**Board Members Comments (consent items):** None.

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

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approves the minutes from the Board Workshop held on January 9 and the Regular Board meeting held on January 16, 2020, the List of Bills and Treasurer's Report for the period of January 2020.

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

## **BOARD ACTION: CONSENT**

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

## **PERSONNEL**

### RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

#### Administrative

Matthew Miller, Director of Co-Curricular Activities, High School, resignation effective February 28, 2020; hire date July 30, 2018.

#### Professional

Ratify Rebecca Sayler, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary, termination due to end of assignment, effective January 27, 2020.

Ratify Jessica Moyer, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, termination due to end of assignment, effective January 21, 2020.

Dawn Knoebel, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective March 14, 2020; hire date August 20, 2019.

#### Classified

Ratify Sarah Golden, Student Proctor, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective January 29, 2020; hire date August 27, 2018.

Stephanie White, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 6, 2020; hire date October 2, 1992.

Judy Bermudez, Substitute Lunch Proctor, Barth Elementary, resignation effective February 28, 2020.

### LEAVES

#### Professional

Jennifer Winneberger, Kindergarten Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated start date June 10, 2020; end date tbd.

Craig Ollivier, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Act, effective April 30, 2020, end date tbd.

Cynthia Kuklinski, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by Family Medical Act, effective March 5, 2020, end date tbd.

Ratify Regina Collins, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by Family Medical Act, effective February 4, 2020, end date tbd.

Ratify Brittany Zacharias, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by Family Medical Act, effective January 14, 2020, end date tbd.

#### Classified

Ratify Raymond Cimino, Part-time Proctor, Middle School, request for leave of absence effective December 9, 2019, end date January 31, 2020.

Ratify Julie Soto, Part-time Elementary Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence effective February 18, 2020, end date tbd.

Ratify Melissa Stierly, PreK-Counts Classroom Assistant, North End Learning Center, request for leave of absence, effective date February 19, 2020, end date tbd.

#### CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

#### Classified

Ratify Denise Williams, from Part-time Cafeteria Worker to Full-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, effective February 10, 2020, no change in hourly rate.

Ratify Colleen Smith, from Substitute Support Staff to Part-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, effective January 24, 2020, \$11.74/hr (replacing R. Leh).

Ratify Michelle Christie, from Part-time Nurse to Substitute Nurse, effective February 18, 2020, hourly rate per schedule.

#### ELECTIONS

#### Administrative

Ratify Amanda Fraterman, Temporary Transition Coordinator, High School (new academy) effective January 21, 2020, \$75/day. This is in addition to her role as Secondary Special Education Supervisor.

#### Professional

Ratify Corey Huerta, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective January 28, 2020, \$49,000/yr, Step 1-Mast (contract of C. Ziegler).

Ratify Marisa Brunner, Special Education Teacher, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective February 18, 2020, \$45,000/yr + Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 1 - Bach (contract of N. Pezzino)

Ratify Lauren Canfield, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective February 18, 2020, \$47,000/yr, Step 3 -B+15 (contract of S. Turock).

Ratify Coleen Fetter, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Rupert Elementary, effective February 18, 2020, \$194/day, (coverage for J. Groff)

Exempt

Ratify Kristina Corominas, Temporary ES Teacher, High School (new academy), effective January 21, 2020, \$60/day. This is in addition to her role as Out of District Coordinator.

Justin Baker, Interim Director of Co-Curricular Activities, High School, effective February 24, 2020, \$60/day stipend. This is in addition to his role as Athletic Trainer.

Classified

Ratify Ryan Towson, Paraprofessional, Rupert Elementary, effective January 30, 2020, \$13.65/hr.

Ratify Stacey Horne, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 15, 2020, hourly rate per schedule. This is in addition to her role as Part-time Student Proctor.

Ratify Daniela Durante-Hayward, Part-time Student Services Secretary, Admin Bldg., effective February 18, 2020, \$14.04/hr (replacing J. Malauulu).

Stephanie Spargur, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, effective March 2, 2020, \$13.65/hr (replacing V.Inthaphone.)

Jennifer Arndt, Executive Secretary to Director of Human Resources, Admin Bldg., effective February 19,2020, \$24/hr (replacing S. Somerset).

Ratify Beatriz Santos, Substitute Support Staff, effective January 14, 2020, hourly rate per schedule.

Alanna Jessee, Paraprofessional, Rupert Elementary, effective March 4, 2020, \$13.65/hr.

21st Century After School Programs (grant funded)

Ratify Elysia Kisch, Classroom Assistant, MS, \$13.65/hr

21st Century After School Program, P.R.I.D.E

James Purnell, Tutor, HS, \$20/hr

Co-Curricular Assignments: 19/20 Non-Athletics \*addition

Andrew Mangabat HS Band Asst/Percussion Level 1 \$1,350.00

Horizontal Salary Movements

Last	First	Bldg	From	Step	Salary	SPE	to	Step	Salary	SPE	New Salary
Fusco	Amanda	PHS	B	4	\$46,500	\$1,000	B+15	4	\$48,000	\$1,000	\$49,000
Kurtz	Heather	Lincoln	M+15	20	\$89,500		M+30	20	\$92,500		\$92,500
Garber	Stephanie	Franklin	B	3	\$46,000	\$1,000	B+15	3	\$47,000	\$1,000	\$48,000
Bucci	Iris	PMS	M	3	\$50,000		M+15	3	\$52,000		\$52,000

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$24/period

Perry Augustine	2	\$48.00	January
Justine Donnelly	13	\$312.00	January
Michaela Johnson	11	\$264.00	January
Dawn Knoebel	5	\$120.00	January
Beth Mason	2	\$48.00	January
Tricia Mitchell	2	\$48.00	January
Tricia Mitchell	3	\$72.00	November

## TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Bldg</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
LaTanya White Springfield	Admin	1/10/2020	\$2,865.00

## PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Admin	Jen Furniss Sarah Clarke Lauren Gresko	Extra Learning Opportunities	Harrisburg, PA	03/10/2020 - 03/12/2020	\$920.00 ea.-pd by21st Century Grant
PHS PMS Frkln	Desiree Schwoyer Margaret Tarabolett Melissa Lopez	Migrant Ed Prgr & English Language Development	Harrisburg, PA	03/03/2020 - 03/05/2020	\$627.24 ea. - pd by dept budget
PMS	Andrea Roberts Jesse Tupper Aaron Torremce	WEB Training	Itasca, IL	03/08/2020 - 03/13/2020	\$11,561.00 pd by21st Century grant

## POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policy and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-055:**

- Policy 005: Local Board Organization

## CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contracts as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-056:**

- MOU: Art Fusion ( 21st Century Cohort 7) Addendum
- MOU: Public Health Mgmt Corp (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: Pottstown Dance Theater (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: GPTL (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: ArtFusion (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: Red Cloud (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: Mosaic Land Trust (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: Unfinished Athletics (21st Century Cohort 10)
- MOU: YWCA (21st Century Cohort 10)
- The Devereux Foundation (21st Century Cohort 10)
- e-Plus Technology Inc - UPS (e-rate)
- e-Plus Technology Inc. - Switches (e-rate )
- KIT Networking Cabling Inc (e-rate)
- Dauphin DataCom (e-rate)

## 2020 BUILDING ENVELOPE DESIGN PROJECT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2020 Building Envelope Roof Design Project as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-057.**

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the Pottstown School District audit for the year ending June 30, 2019 as prepared by Herbein + Company Inc.

## SCHOOL PHYSICIAN / DENTAL RATES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following school physician / dental rate as presented:

- Community Health & Dental Care Inc.: \$38/hr (6 physicals per hr.)  
\$60/bldg. (annual consultant fee per building)

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION**

The Board adjourned for the executive session at 8:02 pm.

The Board reconvened at 8:08 pm.

### **NON-CONSENT**

Mrs. Jampo and Mr. Kalis presented the Non-Consent items for discussion and approval.

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

None.

### **NON-CONSENT: MCIU 2020/2021 MEMBERS SERVICES BUDGET**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2020/2021 MCIU Members Services Budget as presented.

It was moved by and seconded by that the Board approve the MCIU 2020/2021 Members Services Budget and a copy be filed in the Secretary's offices as **Addendum #2019-2020-058**.

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

### **NON-CONSENT: SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ADDENDUM**

Motion to approve Special Education settlement agreement addendum pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential addendum. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement addendum on behalf of the Board.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the special education settlement agreement addendum as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-059**.

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

### **NEW BUISNESS**

Mr. Hylton made a motion to approve the draft letter authorizing Natural Lands to design the meadows and rain gardens in the designated areas approved by the district. Mrs. Barnhill seconded the motion. The letter acknowledges the Board's support of the initiative utilizing grant funds to implement the proposed project and incorporate the designated areas to support environmental education for students.

#### **Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to New Business item)**

None.

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

### **INFORMATION**

- Trojan Man Activity Book
- Monthly Meeting Notice: March
- Charter School Financial Data
- Joint Borough Council / School Board Meeting: Feb 27

## **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mrs. Leibold commented on the degree of education students receive at charter/cyber charter schools. She noted in her years of education, students that return to public school come back with huge deficits.

Mrs. Leibold asked that the legislatures be made aware of the poor education students receive at a charter /cyber charter school.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Armato spoke on the significance of being consistent and remaining active in advocating for fair funding reform, charter school funding reform and reform in property taxes.

Mr. Rose agreed with Mr. Armato's remarks.

Mr. Kline thanked Mrs. Jampo for the Charter School financial data.

Mrs. Barnhill appreciates the photos Mr. Armato sends out capturing "Proud to be from Pottstown".

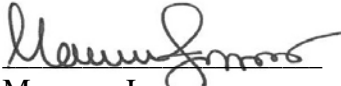
Mrs. Johnson announced Power Interfaith is planning a "Direct Action Day" to coincide with PSBA's Day of Advocacy on March 23rd in Harrisburg. There will be transportation for anyone interested in participating in the "Direct Action Day" event to Harrisburg. In preparation for the event, a training is scheduled on February 29<sup>th</sup> at Bethel AME.

Mr. Rodriguez was pleased to report he met with administrators and department chairs to exam the curriculum data and confront the facts. The district continues to fight a two front war: 1) a fight for fair funding and 2) concentrating on the work needed for all students to succeed.

Ms. Bearden spoke about celebrating Black History Month, recognizing the support in the community (children & adults) . She emphasized that the actions of the children in our families and the students in the community, demonstrate the positive influence fostered by parents and staff.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Board adjourns. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

  
Maureen Jampo  
Board Secretary