



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2020**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM via electronic communication with Vice-President, Ms. Katina Bearden presiding. Upon roll call, the following members attended via virtual communication: Mr. John Armato, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent were Mrs. Amy Francis and Mrs. Bonita Barnhill. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis. Joining the meeting was Foundation For Pottstown Education Executive Director, Mr. Joe Rusiewicz and Federation Second Vice-President, Mrs. Kelly Leibold.

Mrs. Barnhill entered the meeting at 7:09 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

Foundation for Pottstown Education

Mr. Rusiewicz introduced the Cohort 7 Class of 2020. Sixty-Eight students have completed courses and enrolled in higher education since the conception of the Early College Program. The Class of 2020 earned 255 credits, a savings to students/parents of approximately \$330,000. Mr. Rusiewicz provided an update on the Residency Program (9 loans to date), library grants of \$500 to each school buildings and the chromebook campaign (\$66,800 pledges with matching funds from PAH & WF).

State of the District

Mr. Rodriguez announced Mr. Matthew Moyer, Rupert Elementary Principal was recognized as the National Distinguished Principal by the NDP program. He shared with the Board an education update on technology distribution, summer plan, formulating a plan for next year, google classrooms and grading.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on April 23, 2020.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of April 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-069**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for April 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-070**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. BARNHILL

The Committee met on May 7. Members discussed a pending policy to address remote document review of I-9 forms. The Committee was in agreement to recommend the payment of Spring Sports Co-Curricular stipends and the school calendars for the year ending 2019-2020 and next year's 2020-2021 calendar.

CURRICULUM/CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Curriculum Committee met on May 7. The Committee heard updates on goggle classrooms, curriculum pacing for next school year and professional development. Dr. White shared information on the Ch 339 Career & Readiness Plan to be placed on the June Board agenda for approval. Dr. White also presented an overview of the Beech Street Learning Studio virtual learning program.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

The Committee met on May 14. Custodians have started the deep cleaning process; Maintenance Crew is back to full time status. The focus of Finance was on the 2020/2021 Preliminary Budget. The administration presented a preliminary budget to include a tax increase at 2.34% (= 42.95 mills; annual tax per average homestead = \$76 (\$6.30/month) and reserves from PSERS (\$491,096) and Capital (\$500,000) to balance the budget. The general consensus of the Board was to balance the budget using unassigned fund balance to avoid a tax increase in the 2020/2021 budget. It was the general consensus of the Board to balance the budget using unassigned fund balance to avoid a tax increase in the 2020/2021 budget.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met on May 14. The Committee heard a presentation from Representative Joe Ciresi on Cyber Charter School Reform. He stressed the importance for everyone to put pressure on other legislatures. The reform bill addresses savings of approximately \$300 M for the entire commonwealth and \$13 M for the Pottstown School District. The Committee was in agreement to share a post on the Advocate for Pottstown. The Committee heard a presentation on a Middle School mentorship program and a proposal to research a mascot to represent the student “Face of the District “ that would represent diversity, all cultures and portray positivity for the students.

BOROUGH LIAISON – Mr. Rose

Ms. Peggy Lee-Clark reported a new business opening in the Pottstown Terminal Market. The Borough Manager stated the Borough received several grants to support PART, Airport costs and PPE equipment for the Police Department. The Borough approved an extension for property tax discount period to the end of May.

MCIU REPRESENTATIVE - Mrs. Barnhill

The May meeting focused on the election of the new executive director and COVID-19 discussions.

MCSDL/PSBA REPRESENTATIVE - Mrs. Johnson

Committee are parallel in the focus to keep pressure on legislatures to support funding reform.

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)

Board Members Comments (consent items): None.

BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills, Treasurer’s Report

It was moved by John Armato that the Board approves the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on April 23, 2020, the List of Bills and Treasurer’s Report for the periods April 2020. Non opposed.

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

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

It was moved Mr. Hylton 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

Exempt

Anne Jordan, Student Services Program Coordinator, Administration Building, resignation effective July 31, 2020; hire date January 2, 2020.

Ratify Kristina Corominas, Out of District Coordinator, Administration Building, resignation effective May 12, 2020; hire date September 7, 2016.

Classified

Ratify Virginia Cox, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective April 21, 2020; hire date January 29, 2019.

Ratify Jayana Raison Craig, 21st Century .P.R.I.D.E. (After School Assistant), Middle School, resignation effective April 19, 2020; hire date December 3, 2019.

Shirley Schaeffer, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective at the end of the 2019/2020 school year; hire date March 20, 1996.

LEAVES

Professional

Katie Fretz, Teacher, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be November 1, 2020; end date tbd.

Lauren Canfield, Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be July 20, 2020; end date tbd.

Jessica Ferry, Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date to be September 26, 2020; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Administrative

Kimberly Brown, from Pre-K Counts Manager to Pre-K Counts Coordinator (210 days to 225 days), North End, effective July 1, 2020, no change in compensation rate (grant funded). *Exempt to Act 93 status.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Samantha L. Myers, Teacher, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective August 18, 2020, \$52,000/yr., Step 5-Mast (contract of M. Ishler).

Marisa R. Moley, Long Term Substitute Teacher, High School, effective August 18, 2020, \$194/day. (Coverage for K. Rahill for 2020-2021 school year).

Exempt

Kinsey Edgar-Nelson, School Psychologist, Middle School, anticipated effective date to be June 15, 2020, \$54,000/yr (replacing L. Dickinson).

Summer Cleaning 2020, \$11.51/hr

Aleathia Duley	Jeffrey Endy	James Calvario	Jake Fetterman
Beatriz Santos	Jennifer Fichthorn	Janice Bobst	Julia Soto
Charles Tesno	Judy Bermudez	Terry Phillips	Wyatt Hessler

21st Century Virtual Summer Program

Elementary Program - (June 15 to July 30)

Elementary Director, \$30/hr	Laurie Gresko		
Elementary Coordinator, \$30/hr	Jacinda Bartolucci		
Administrative Assistant, \$13.65/hr	Krista Benfield		
Tutors, \$30/hr	Katie Fretz	Kelsey Hultz	Stacey Bauman
	Jane Hospador	Rachel Smith	
Substitute Tutor, \$30/hr	Sarah Bennett		
Paraprofessionals, \$13.65/hr	Heather Allan	Paula Pritchard	Kim Gibson
	Tracey Camacho	Sherry Shank	
Substitute Paraprofessional, \$13.65/hr	Sarah Bennett		

Middle School Program - (Jun 22 to Jul 30)

Development Specialist, \$30/hr	Jaime Parris		
Coordinators, \$30/hr	Sarah Clark	Beth Mason	Megan McCain
Security/Secretary, \$13.65/hr	Elizabeth Angelucci		
Tutors, \$30/hr	Kimberly Petro	Jesse Tupper	Jade Yingling
	Johana Swoyer	Shannon Wagner	Jen Furniss
Substitute Tutor, \$30/hr	Renee Walker		
Paraprofessionals, \$13.65/hr	Narjiss Boudadi	Amy Nagle	
	Darlene Fegley	Tiffany White	
Substitute Paraprofessional, \$13.65/hr	Renee Walker		

High School Program - (Jun 15 to Jul 23)

Co-Coordinator, \$30/hr	Cal Benfield	Steve Irick	
Tutors, \$30/hr	Vickie McShea	Eileen Basha	Amber Schollenberger
	Kevin Pascal	Scott Braunsberg	Christie Nau
	Victoria Collins	Ian Lawrence	James Martinez

2019-2020 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports * **Addendum #2019-2020-071**

Mentor Assignments * **Addendum #2019-2020-072**

SCHOOL CALENDARS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2019/2020 Revised School Calendar and the 2020/2021 School Calendar as presented and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-073**.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-074**:

- MCIU: ACCESS Medical Practitioner Authorization
- MCIU: RWAN (Internet) Services
- MCIU: Discovery Education Streaming
- MCIU Technology Leadership/Support Staffing
- New Story-ESY 2020
- New Story-ESY 2020
- Edgewood Lease Extension: MCIU Head Start
- Edgewood Lease Non-Renewal: Cottage 7 Academy (7/31/20)

GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS AGREEMENT AWARD

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement award as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as **Addendum #2019-2020-075**.

MCIU BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATION

The Superintendent recommends the Board elect a representative to serve a three year term beginning the first day of July following such election. The representative's term shall run from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. Mrs. Bonita Barnhill consented to continue her role as the MCIU Board of Director Representative for the three year term.

PSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY – VOTING APPOINTMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve School Board Director Laura Johnson as the appointed voting delegate for the PSBA Delegate Assembly to be held on November 7, 2020.

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

NON-CONSENT

Mr. Rodriguez presented the non-consent items for Board consideration. Administrators reviewed the non-consent items presented for Board consideration.

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

None.

ELECTION OF BOARD TREASURER

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board shall annually elect a Treasurer to serve for one year beginning the first day of July following such an election. The Treasurer's term shall run from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Mr. Kline agreed to serve at the Board Treasurer for the 1 yr. term.

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve Mr. Kline as Treasurer.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye to elect Mr. Steve Kline as the Board Treasurer for the term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2020/2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mrs. Jampo gave a detailed overview of 2020/2021 Proposed budget. The total proposed budget for 2020/2021 is \$65,721,174; a shortfall of approximately \$1,691,420. It was the committee's recommendation to utilize unassigned fund balance of \$700,324.00, reserves from PSERS (\$491,096) and Capital (\$500,000) to balance the budget.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Armato that the Board adopt the 2020/2021 Proposed Preliminary Budget as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-076**.

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

INFORMATION

- Monthly Meeting Notice: June

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold assured everyone the teachers are committed to provide the best education to the students.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Johnson stressed the importance for everyone to keep the pressure on legislatures, advocating for cyber charter school funding reform.

Mrs. Lawrence congratulated the Early College student graduates.

Mr. Armato expressed his thanks to the Foundation for Pottstown Education for their support. He was glad to prevent a tax increase and acknowledged the challenges ahead for the 2021/2022 budget.

Mrs. Barnhill supports the importance to continue advocating.


Mr. Rodriguez encouraged everyone to advocate for cyber charter school reform, “use your voice”.

Ms. Bearden congratulated the seniors and thanked the Executive Team, staff, parents and community for coming together during this difficult time.

Executive Session for the Purpose of Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mr. Rose that the meeting adjourn. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.


Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary