



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, July 30, 2020**

A Special Virtual Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The following School Board members were in attendance: President, Mrs. Amy Francis; Vice- President, Ms. Katina Bearden; Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Ms. Maureen Jampo; Solicitor, Ms. Alicia Luke; Mrs. Elisabeth Yoder, Federation President; members of the press and interested citizens.

COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Francis announced the Board held an executive session on Monday, July 27, 2020 for the purpose of health, safety and security issues affecting the District.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the items presented on tonight's agenda for Board action.

2020/2021 HEALTH & SAFETY RE-OPENING PLAN FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Mr. Rodriguez presented a Power Point presentation outlining the Health & Safety Re-opening Plan describing virtual learning through Synchronous Instruction Model for the first semester of The 2020/2021 school year. The plan addresses academics, professional development, co-curricular activities plan, safety protocols, cleaning & sanitation, transportation plan, health protocols and positive case protocols.

Board Comments: Members were in agreement to keep the start date at August 24th. Members asked if there are considerations in place to address seniors to meet graduation requirements and Career & Technical Education for CTE students.

The High School Pandemic Team is working options to honor requests of students. The Administration is exploring a shorten version for CTE contingent upon staffing, availability of students, etc..

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Mr. Rodriguez explained the COVID-19 Emergency Resolution allows the district to provide various models of education for the 2020/2021 school year. The resolution must be approved by the Board and submitted to the Secretary of Education for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS

Mr. Rodriguez shared public comments via Facebook. Public comments expressed support for

virtual learning, shared disagreement going 100% virtual, asked for better communication with teachers, requesting information on chromebook distribution, technology support, childcare support agencies and concerns regarding fall sports and co-curricular activities.

BOARD ACTION

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt the COVID-19 Emergency Resolution as presented for submission to PDE Secretary of Education. A copy to be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-002**.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board adopt the resolution as presented.

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

2020/2021 HEALTH & SAFETY RE-OPENING PLAN FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Health & Safety Re-opening plan for the start of the 2020/2021 school year virtually with synchronous learning for the first semester.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the plan as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-003**.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM

Consideration of the current athletics plan: Mr. Rodriguez shared with the Board the PSD coaches desire to play sports and looking for direction from the Board to proceed.

Board Members expressed their concerns for the health and safety of the students and staff. Discussion focused on ways to provide social, emotional and physical support for students while ceasing all Fall Sports. The general consensus of the Board was that the administration bring back to the Board a recommendation/resolution for further discussion at the August 6th Curriculum/Co-Curricular Committee meeting.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Yoder thanked the Board for voting for virtual learning. She recognizes the decision is the best for safety measure for students, staff and community. The teachers will continue to work to provide an exceptional, comprehensive learning program.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Lawrence agrees with decision to move forward with virtual learning.

Mr. Rose thanked the public for their comments. The Board is listening to the community and aware of the hard times.

Mr. Kline expressed frustration making decisions without medical guidance and support. He encouraged parents to talk with their children.

Ms. Bearden supports the decision and recognizes it is the best decision for the entire district. She encourage everyone to communicate.

Mrs. Barnhill Thanked the administration, teachers, and community for their participation in the surveys. Supports the best decision for the District.

Mr. Armato commended everyone for the amount of work that went into the re re-opening plan He looks forward to a decision for athletics.

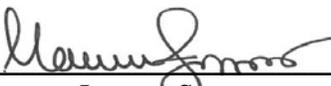
Mrs. Johnson thanked the administration, teachers, and staff. The decision to go virtual comes with more decisions.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mrs. Yoder for her comments. The administration will do their best work for everyone, recognizing mistakes are inevitable.

Mrs. Franics thanked parents, administration and federation. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for making the right decision.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson that the meeting adjourns. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.



Maureen Jampo, Secretary