



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2020**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM via virtual communication with President, Mrs. Amy Francis presiding. Upon roll call, the following members attended via virtual communication: Mr. John Armato, Ms. Katina Bearden, 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, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representative, Kishan Patel. Joining the meeting was Federation Vice-President, Mr. Robert Decker.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Rodriguez shared information on a statewide parenting series for parents and caregivers.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Board meeting held on August 20, 2020.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of August 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-016**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for August 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-017**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Discussion

Board Members discussed options about sharing committee reports at the Board Meeting. The general consensus of the Board was in support of providing summaries of the committee meeting reports.

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. FRANCIS

The Committee met virtually on September 3. Five policies and a healthcare resolution were reviewed and recommended to be placed on tonight's Board agenda for approval. Information items regarding furloughs was presented.

CURRICULUM /CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE– MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on September 3. Mr. Rodriguez gave updates on various items from the opening of school. The TSI plans were reviewed by the Committee and placed on tonight's agenda for Board approval. The Committee heard a presentation from the Wellness Director on various opportunities for staff members to participate in programs and events.

FACILITIES / FINANCE COMMITTEE - MR. HYLTON

The Committee met virtually on September 10. Highlights from the meeting focused on establishing meadows in designated areas at the elementary buildings. It was the general consensus of the Board to place the meadow expansion project on tonight's agenda for approval. The Committee received an estimated savings in transportation costs for the 1st quarter due to the virtual education program.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met virtually on September 10. The focus of discussion was on advocacy and how to reach other communities and school districts. Other items discussed were a Train the Trainer Workshop and parent engagement ideas.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Kishan Patel gave an overview of some virtual co-curricular activities that included learning marching design and clubs working on mentorships with elementary students to transition to virtual learning. He noted that for the 20/21 school year, students will not be required to do a graduation project.

BOROUGH LIAISON - MR. ROSE

Mr. Rose attended Borough Council COW meeting on September 9. Two new businesses will be opening up on High Street, the Library is offering curb side pickup and the Halloween Parade is currently still scheduled to take place. A town cleaning challenge took place last week between Pottstown and Reading . An upcoming comedy event is being planned by Parks and Recreation to take place in Memorial Park.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT - MRS. BARNHILL

The MCIU meets next Wednesday. Construction at the building is still taking place. Late Fall is the target date to get back to holding the monthly meetings in the building.

MCS DLC / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

No Montgomery County School District Legislative Committee meeting this month. PSBA Election Of Officers, recommending Daniel O'Keefe for Vice President. All other offices are only one candidate running for office.

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)

Public comments shared interest in starting sports and support regarding sharing committee report summaries at the Board meeting.

Board Discussion:

Board Members discussed the importance to provide opportunities for public comment during virtual Board meetings. All were in agreement to look into ways to have hearings from patrons via virtual communication.

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

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Armato that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on August 20, 2020, the List of Bills from the period of August 2020 and the Treasurer's Report for August 2020. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITIONS

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Ratify Evin Jarrett, Career & Technical Education Teacher, High School, resignation effective August 18, 2020; hire date October 9, 2017.

Hope Davis, Secondary Teacher, High School, resignation effective October 26, 2020; hire date August 17, 2020.

Classified

Ratify Lisa Meyer, Paraprofessional, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective September 11, 2020; hire date September 19, 1994.

Ratify Mary Ann Moyer, Cafeteria Worker, High School, resignation effective August 18, 2020; hire date January 2, 2002.

Ratify Zach Risell, Intervention Assistant, Middle School, resignation effective September 11, 2020; hire date November 25, 2019.

Ratify Marybeth Reinhart, Library Assistant, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 10, 2020; hire date November 10, 2000.

Ratify Paige Jones, Student Intern, Administration Building, resignation effective September 1, 2020; hire date July 15, 2019.

Ratify Marisa Walker, Student Intern, Administration Building, resignation effective September 1, 2020; hire date July 2, 2019.

LEAVES

Professional

Ashleigh Lichtenwalner, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date February 27, 2021; end date tbd.

Lisa Kolb, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective October 6, 2020; end date tbd.

Beth Mason, Special Education Elementary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 31, 2021, end date tbd.

Exempt

Ratify Rena Manela, Virtual & Alternative Learning Facilitator, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective August 24, 2020, end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify David Willman, Custodian, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective September 11, 2020, end date tbd.

John Zern, Custodian 1, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective September 21, 2020, end date tbd.

Narjiss Boudadi, Paraprofessional, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective date December 17, 2020, end date tbd.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Jessica Moyer, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, effective September 9,2020, \$46,000/yr, Step 1-B+15 (contract of P. Eaton).

Ratify Laura Tansits, Long-Term Substitute Guidance Counselor, High School, anticipated effective date September 18, 2020, \$194/day (coverage for A. Conlan).

Exempt

Mieke Mazur, Acting Supervisor of Special Education-High School, Administration Building, effective pending certification, \$75/day stipend until position is filled. This is in addition to her role as School Psychologist.

Classified

Anne Voynar, Intervention Assistant, Barth Elementary, effective September 21, 2020, \$13.65/hr (replacing K. White)

Workout Coaches, Stipend @ \$650 (approval pending student participation)

Gary Allan Jeff Delaney Megan Miller Manny Paez

FURLOUGHS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the furloughs as presented and a copy be file in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-018**.

HEALTHCARE RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the healthcare resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-019**.

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Boar approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-020**:

- Policy 314: Physical Examinations
- Policy 314.1: Disclosure of Covid-19 Exposure
- Policy 334: Sick Leave
- Policy 340: Responsibility of Student Welfare
- Policy 803: School Calendar

TSI SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the TSI School Improvement plans for Franklin Elementary and Rupert Elementary as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-021.**

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-022:**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Pathway School | MCIU: Zoom Licensing |
| Southwood Psychiatric Hospital | MOU: STRIVE Initiatives |
| Fairwold Academy | River Rock Academy |

MEADOWS PROJECT EXPANSION

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to proceed with the expansion of the meadows project at a cost not to exceed \$21,500.00

SCHOOL PHYSICIAN AND DENTIS RATES 2020-2021

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following school physician and dentist rates for 2020-2021 school year:

- Community Health & Dental Care Inc.: \$38/hr (6 physicals per hr.)
\$60/bldg. (annual consultant fee per building)
- Dr. John Anderson - \$11.00 per school physical; \$75 consultant
- Dr. Carl Pardini and Dr. Louis Raven - \$ 4.80 per exam

SETTLEMENT OF 2019 PER CAPITA AND 2019 OCCUPATION TAX DUPLICATE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the settlement of the 2019 Per Capita/Occupation Tax Duplicate and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-023.**

**Upon roll call vote, all members presented voted aye for the above Consent items.
Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL AND LITIGATION

The Board adjourned at 7:58 pm.
The Board reconvened at 8:15 pm.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Non-Consent items for Board discussion and Board action. Administrators and the District Solicitor reviewed each item followed by Hearings from the Patrons.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS (limited to Non-Consent Items):

None.

SUPERINTENDENT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board accept the evaluation report of the Superintendent in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Education evaluation process to be posted on the District website and an copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-024**.

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

ADJUDICATION DECISION

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board **approve the** adjudication decision regarding an employment status as presented to the Board in the executive session and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-025**.

Upon roll call vote, the vote for the non-consent adjudication decision was recorded as follows:
Rose: aye, Lawrence: nay, Kline: aye, Johnson: aye, Hylton: aye, Francis: aye, Bearden: aye, Barnhill: Aye, Armato: aye. Ayes: Eight. Nays: One. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the Special Education award settlement pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board. Addendum and a copy be file in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-026**.

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

PSBA ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Board participate in the voting procedures of PSBA Election of Officers endorsing the candidates of choice. The voting ballot to be submitted by the Board Secretary and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-027**.

President Elect:	David Hein	Sectional 2 Advisor:	Aimee Kemick
Vice President:	Daniel O'Keefe	Sectional 4 Advisor:	Brian Petula
Treasurer:	Michael Gossert	Sectional 6 Advisor:	Andrea Christoff
Western at Large:	Marsha Pleta	Trustee:	Michael Faccinetto and Marianne Neel

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

INFORMATION

- Monthly Meeting Notice: October 2020
- Pottstown Pride: Spring and Summer 2020

FEDERATON REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked the Board and Administration for their support, leadership and hard work during these difficult times. He noted that it is a challenging time for the teachers.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rose thanked all the people for Facebook comments. The Board welcomes their comments and encourages participation also at the committee level.

Mrs. Lawrence recognizes this stressful time for the teachers. She is willing to start a virtual grief support at the high school level.

Mr. Armato was very impressed with the teachers, learning new teaching techniques and the student response. He strongly agrees it is important to provide patrons the opportunity to speak at Board meetings.

Ms. Bearden, recognizing that COVID is unique, believes the District acted in the best interest of students, staff and community. The Board will continue to assess the situation as things progress in a safe manner. She asked the community to continue to support the local businesses during these difficult times.

Mr. Kline – no comment.

Mrs. Johnson noted the Board's decision to delay sports was for health and safety reasons. She is in favor of looking at reasonable, low risk options for consideration. The priority should be wellness and academics for the students, recognizing COVID has created difficult choices.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

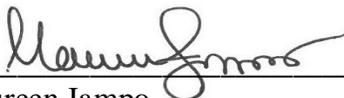
Mrs. Barnhill thanked the Board for their support and agreed with Mrs. Johnson's comments.

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Board for their service. The Board has faced tough decisions and has shown respect for the community, students and staff.

Mrs. Francis stated she is aligned with the thoughts of the Board and does not want to feel pressured in moving too quickly. She would like to get through the flu season and continue taking safe steps.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the meeting adjourns. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary