



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2020**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, November 19, 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, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent were Mr. Steve Kline and Mrs. Susan Lawrence. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Business Administrator, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis. Joining the meeting was Federation Second Vice-President, Mrs. Kelly Leibold.

PRESENTATION

Pa. Principal Association: 2020 Principal of the Year

Mr. Matthew Moyer, Principal of Rupert Elementary, was presented the National Distinguished Principal of the Year Award. Dr. Paul Healey, Executive Director, presented Mr. Moyer with the award on behalf of the Pennsylvania Principal Association. Mr. Moyer has served at Principal for 15 years and has been instrumental in implementing programs that connect home to school.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Board meeting held on October 15, 2020.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of October 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-039**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer's Reports for October 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-040**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. BARNHILL

The Committee met virtually on November 5. The committee reviewed and recommends Policy 904 Public Attendance at School Events for Board approval as presented on tonight's agenda. Two Personnel items were reviewed and presented for Board approval on tonight's agenda: 1) Long Term Substitute hires and 2) School Climate and Culture Coach.

CURRICULUM /CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE – MRS. FRANCIS

The Committee met virtually on November 5. The committee was given a mental health update from Dr. White, Director of Student Services, and a presentation from the High School English/Language Arts Department on a revised curriculum framework. The committee was in agreement to recommend the novels as presented to be placed on tonight's board agenda for approval. A technology update was also provided to the committee.

FACILITIES / FINANCE COMMITTEE - MR. HYLTON

The Committee met virtually on November 12. The committee heard facility updates regarding the air quality conditions in the district buildings, the O & S proposed 10 yr building systems physical needs assessment agreement and a recap of the Edgewood building electrical and HVAC upgrades

funded by the CARES Grant. Items recommended by the committee to be placed on tonight's agenda for board approval include the 10yr building systems needs assessment agreement, the GESA Amendment for the Edgewood upgrades, and the Act 1 Index /Budget resolution to limit property tax increase (not above the adjusted index of 4.4%).

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met virtually on November 12. The committee was given a District Pandemic update from Mr. Rodriguez in preparation for a Phased School Re-Entry Plan for January 2021. Various hybrid models were presented as options for Board consideration. Advocacy updates included a new fair funding website for Pennsylvanians and PSBA Delegate Assembly approved the Equity Amendment.

BOROUGH LIAISON - MR. ROSE

No report.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT - MRS. BARNHILL

No report

MCS DLC / PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

Legislative updates from Montco Legislative committee indicate changes in leadership and SB1216 could have a significant impact standardized testing, transportation mandates, flexibility with certifications, etc.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on October 15, 2020, the List of Bills from the period of October 2020 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2020. Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

It was moved Mrs. Johnson 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

Ratify Thomas Ellington, JROTC Instructor, High School, resignation effective November 15, 2020; hire date August 20, 2019.

Classified

Ratify Jeffrey Angstadt, Elementary Head Custodian, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective November 14, 2020; hire date November 19, 2018.

Ratify Jessica Friend, Secretary, High School, resignation effective November 6, 2020; hire date September 6, 2016

Diane Nash, Executive Secretary, Superintendent Office, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2021; hire date November 28, 1988.

Ratify Oscar Gans, Classroom Assistant, High School, resignation effective October 22, 2020; hire date May 20, 2019.

Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports 2020

Ratify David Bodolus, Assistant Football Coach, High School, resignation effective October 30, 2020.

LEAVES

Professional

David Roberts, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, request for Educational Sabbatical, effective January 19, 2021.

Ratify Lynn Childs, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 15, 2020; end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Diane Martz, Cafeteria Manager, High School, request for leave of absence, effective November 11, 2020; anticipated end date to be December 1, 2020.

Sadira Hueber, School Nurse, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective May 25, 2021; end date tbd.

Kelly Ortlip, Secretary, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 1, 2020; end date tbd.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Christina Mazur, Special Education Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective November 9, 2020, \$46,000/yr, + \$1,000 Stipend in accordance with the Professional agreement, \$3,000 Emotional Support stipend, Step 1 B+15 (contract of H. Davis)

Joshua Sebastian, Special Education Elementary Teacher, initial assignment to be Edgewood Programs, effective December 23, 2020, \$56,000/yr, + \$1,000 Stipend in accordance with the Professional agreement, \$3,000 Emotional Support stipend, Step 6 Mast+15.

Ratify Maria Zematis, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, anticipated effective date November 4, 2020, \$194/day (coverage for T. Morasco).

Ratify Ryan Yanchocik, Long Term Substitute Teacher, High School, anticipated effective date November 4, 2020, \$194/day (coverage for L. Childs).

Classified

Ratify Justin Sears, Intervention Assistant, Middle School, effective November 12, 2020, \$13.65/hr (replacing Z. Rissell).

21st Century After-School Program (funded by 21st Century grant)
Ratify Megan Mc Cain, Co-Coordinator, effective September 11, 2020, \$30/hr
Ratify Jennifer Furniss, Co-Coordinator, effective September 11, 2020, \$30/hr

Horizontal Salary Movement

Ratify William Park, HS, from B+15, Step 15, \$61,500/yr to Masters, Step 15, \$76,000/yr New Salary.

Co-Curricular Assignments 2020-2021: Non-Athletic * additions/corrections - **Addendum #2020-2021-041.**

FIELD TRIPS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the following field trip:

<u># students</u>	<u>Conference:</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	<u>Student Cost</u>	<u>District Cost</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
1	Cross Country State Championship	Hershey	11/6/2020 - 11/7/2020	0	\$304.18	John Johnson

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-042:**

- Policy 904: Public Attendance at School Events

HS: ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS NOVEL ADOPTION

The Curriculum Committee and Superintendent recommend the Board approve the High School English/Language Arts Novel adoption for the 2021-2022 school year as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-043.**

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-044:**

O & S Assoc 10 yr Assessment	New Story Schools – COVID Amendment
Reynolds GESA Amendment 1	New Story Schools – COVID Amendment
ePlus-Edgewood (switches) *grant funded	New Story Schools – COVID Amendment
ePlus-North End (ruckus) *grant funded	Malvern Academy
ePlus North End (switches) *grant funded	ePlus – North End (cabling) *grant funded
HigherAvailability Inc. –Edgewood *grant funded	

RESOLUTION TO LIMIT SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE 2021-2022

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution to limit school property increase for the 2021-2022 school year as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-045.**

SUBSTITUTE TAX COLLECTOR APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the substitute tax collector appointment resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-046.**

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

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Non-Consents item for Board discussion and Board action. Administrators reviewed each item for Board approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS (limited to Non-Consent Items): None.

PERSONNEL

School Climate and Culture Coach

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the personnel position as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-047**.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the School Climate and Culture Coach as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote for the was recorded as follows: Rose: aye, Barnhill: aye, Armato: nay, Bearden: aye, Francis: aye, Hylton: nay, Johnson: aye. Ayes: Five. Nays: Two. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

Long Term Substitute Hires

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the personnel long term substitute hires as presented. Long Term Substitute hires to serve as building subs for the remainder of the 20-21 school year. Staff will be brought on as successful candidates become available. After three (3) are hired, administration will return to the Personnel Committee to seek approval for additional hires if needed.

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board approve the personnel long term substitute hires as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote members present voted aye. Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

PHASED SCHOOL RE-ENTRY HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Phased School Re-Entry Health and Safety Plan. The proposed plan includes the option to integrate hybrid in-person learning models for all willing families, starting January 19, 2021 or after, assuming public health metrics related to Covid-19 indicate it is safe to do so.

Board Members expressed their concerns for the safety of students, families and staff, and how the challenges with hybrid models (academics, transportation, etc.) could be addressed. The general consensus of the Board was to move forward with the proposed plan to include the option to integrate hybrid in-person models as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve the Phased School Re-Entry Health & Safety Plan as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-048**.

Upon roll call vote, all members presented voted aye. Ayes: Seven. Nays: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion -Co-Curricular Health & Safety Plan

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed a Winter Sports report prepared by Ms. Morgan, Athletic Director. The County has declared a shutdown of in-person learning including sports for the next two weeks. The District will adhere to the Co-Curricular Health & Safety plan as previously approved by the Board. The report will be posted for public access.

INFORMATION

- Monthly Meeting Notice: December 2020

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold thanked the Board for their thoughtful considerations about progressing into the next phase of virtual education, recognizing the challenges and how best to serve the students, noting more discussion may need to take place again in January.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Johnson thanked Mr. Rodriguez and the Pandemic Task Force for the in-depth presentation. She is impressed with the great job the teachers are doing with virtual education and noted going hybrid will depend on everyone's individual behavior during the holidays.

Mrs. Barnhill thanked Mr. Rodriguez for the phenomenal updates. She sees that virtual education is doing the best under these difficult circumstances.

Mr. Armato recognizes the struggle to come up with the right /perfect answer. It is difficult mixing emotions with logic and the constant changing dynamics of the pandemic. He commends Mr. Rodriguez for his leadership abilities to make command decisions as the District moves forward.

Mr. Rose noted his reluctance is based on the situation and stated he is proud of the team work between the Board and Administration.

Ms. Bearden expressed her appreciation to the Lincoln and Rupert pilot teams. The Pandemic Task Force was very appreciative of all their efforts and data they provided. She encouraged everyone to do their best to minimize socialization during the holidays in expectation to get back to a safe school environment. She is grateful for the work of the veterans.

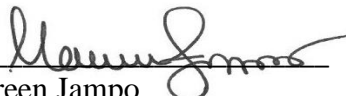
Mr. Patel was pleased to report on Co-curricular events taking place in the upcoming weeks. He recognized a fellow senior for his accomplishments in Cross Country competitions.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for the trust in the great team of administrators, teachers and staff working with him. He is thankful for the confidence shown and will do the very best for students and staff.

Mrs. Francis wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and recognized the importance to minimize socialization during the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary