



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 20, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 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, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Business Administrator, Mrs. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representatives, Kishan Patel and Jimi Chavalaporn; Joining the meeting was Federation Second Vice-President, Mrs. Kelly Leibold.

**PRESENTATIONS (virtual)**

- National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) – Mr. Kelly, Zeswitz Music congratulated the staff, students and parents for their dedication and support of music education.
- Foundation for Pottstown Education – Mr. Rusiewicz introduced the thirteen (13) students of the Class of 2021 who completed the Early College program. Since the start of the program in 2014 a total of 81 students have completed the program to date. Tuition paid for this program is more than \$453,000.
- Pottstown Area Industrial Development – Ms. Lee-Clark reviewed highlights from the P.A.I.D. Annual Report for 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PAID assisted local businesses with
  - COVID Relief & Recovery funds with Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation and helped Pottstown Borough business to secure funds from Montco Strong Grant fund. PAID received a total \$2.5 million in grants to support three projects (Sustainable Energy Plant, The Mercury Building and Y# Life Science Incubator Hub).
- Draft Plan for 2021/2022 School Year – Mr. Rodriguez gave a basic outline for next school year. The first student day is August 23 with In Person learning, a regular daily schedule, serving breakfast and lunch, transportation fully reinstated and a robust virtual learning program option. The remainder of this school year, Mr. Rodriguez recommended amending the Phased School Health and Safety Plan to include no masks required outdoors for fully vaccinated students & staff including while involved in physical activities.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on April 22, 2021.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of April 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-089**.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for April 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-090**.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. BARNHILL**

The Committee met virtually on May 6. The Committee was in agreement to place four (4) new policies on the Board agenda for approval and retire the corresponding prior format policies. Two Personnel items were discussed (contract for substitute custodial services and summer staffing incentive pay) and presented on tonight's agenda for Board approval.

### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE**

The Committee met virtually on May 6. The MS Science textbook adoption and two supplemental and resource adoptions were reviewed and recommended to place on tonight's agenda for Board approval. The Performance Fact team working with the committee and board members to build the framework for the Comprehensive Planning Portrait of a Graduate.

### **FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON**

The Committee met virtually on May 13. The Committee was given an update on issues with the chiller system at the high school. Repair/replacement costs will be presented at next month's meeting. The administration is recommending continuing service with the current landscaping contractor on a year to year basis. Items recommended for Board approval include the appointment of the Board Treasurer/Board Secretary, contracts and the adoption of the 2021/2022 Final Budget and Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion resolution.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE**

The Committee met virtually on May 13. The Family Advisory Committee gave an update on the reorganization of the FAC, their focus to strengthen the FAC network and support all family member and parents in the Pottstown community. The committee is reviewing a resolution supporting fair funding litigation for future Board action.

### **BOROUGH LIAISON – MR. ROSE**

No report.

### **STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – MR. PATEL, MR. CHAVALAPORN**

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSAB REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON**

No report.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. BARNHILL**

No report.

## **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. Armato and second by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on April 22, 2021, the List of Bills from the period of April 2021 and the Treasurer's Report for April 2021. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**BOARD ACTION: CONSENT**

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

**PERSONNEL**

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Ratify Kayla Sabata, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective May 10, 2021; hire date August 21, 2008.

Corey Huerta, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective June 4, 2021; hire date January 28, 2020.

Classified

Ratify Patricia Pollock, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective April 21, 2021; hire date August 27, 2014.

Theresa Truman, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 4, 2021; hire date September 1, 1992.

Ratify Debbie Hill, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective April 30, 2021; hire date April 6, 2021.

Robert Poston, Sr., Custodian, High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective August 13, 2021; hire date December 21, 1989.

Robert Fine, Custodian, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2021; hire date December 18, 1992.

Modify Diane Nash, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2021.

Ratify Terry Phillips, Elementary Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective May 6, 2021; hire date February 21, 2018.

Ratify Paula Corson, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to no work for over 1 year, effective May 7, 2021; hire date October 21, 2019.

Ratify Ellen Kanaley, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to no work for over 1 year, effective May 7, 2021; hire date October 28, 2016.

Ratify Elysia Kisch, Substitute Support Staff, termination due to no work for over 1 year, effective May 7, 2021; hire date November 25, 2019.

Michael Anthony, Paraprofessional, Lincoln Elementary, resignation effective May 21, 2021; hire date August 27, 2012.

Mayellen Wynne, Building Nurse, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective August 16, 2021; hire date December 13, 2013.

Andrea Spiece, Substitute Support Staff, resignation effective May 28, 2021; hire date January 14, 2021.

Roseann Cavallaro, Intervention Assistant, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective June 4, 2021; hire date October 9, 2019.

## LEAVES

### Professional

Lori Freese, Kindergarten Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective April 19, 2021, end date tbd.

Rebecca Wyatt, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, request for sabbatical leave of absence for professional development, effective August 16, 2021 to January 18, 2022.

### Classified

Carolyn Dise, Custodian, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective May 25, 2021; end date tbd.

Ratify Melanie Gniewoz, Intervention Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence effective April 26, 2020; end date June 4, 2021.

## CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

### Classified

Daniela Durante-Hayward, from Part-time Student Services Secretary to Administrative Assistant for Central Registration, Administration Building, effective June 1, 2021, \$18.23/hr. (replacing D. Gratzinger).

## ELECTIONS

### Professional

Ayannah Stanton, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective August 16, 2021, \$45,500/yr, Step 1-Bach. (contract of C. Nau)

Stephanie Rambo, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective August 15, 2021, \$50,500/yr., Step 3-Mast. (contract of K. Rahill).

Tricia Wiegert, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective August 16, 2021, \$50,000/yr, Step 8-Bach.

Jesse Haji-Sheikh, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin/Rupert Elementary, effective August 16, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for M. Fabian).

### Exempt

Nina Federman, School Psychologist, initial assignment to be Pottstown High School, effective August 9, 2021, \$60,000/yr., (Edgewood/PLLA Program).

Classified

Logan Fabian, Temporary IT Intern, Administration Building, effective April 27, 2021, \$12.00/hr; end date September 3, 2021.

Ratify Dana Barnes, Part-time Elementary Cleaner, Barth Elementary, effective May 10, 2021, \$11.92/hr.. This is in addition to her role as Paraprofessional.

Nancy Diener, Paraprofessional. Middle School, effective August 16, 2021, \$13.65/hr.

21st Century P.R.I.D.E (grant funded)

Ratify Jacinda Bartolucci, Tutor, \$30/hr

STEM Academy Stipend (funded by P.R.I.D.E After-School Program)

Kelseu Hultz \$500.00

Johanna Swoyer \$500.00

Comprehensive Plan Attendees - \$30/hr Professional/Exempt staff; hrly rate/Support staff

Athena Procsal	Holly Lee	Kim Petro	Sara Miller
Cal Benfield	Jesse Tupper	Margaret Taraboletti	Stephanie Dunn
Chelise Wilkerson	John Martin	Melissa Lopez	Ted Freese
Denise Leschak	Judy Friend	Michele Andre	Tracy Pasquale
Elizabeth Yoder	Kelly Leibold	Robert Decker	Allen Ferster
Mandy Wampole	Corina Miller	Heather Kurtz	Kelli Wolfel

**CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS**

2020-2021 Co-Curricular Assignments \* Spring Sports corrections – **ADDENDUM #2021-2021-091.**

**MENTOR ASSIGNMENT**

<b>Bldg</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>New Teacher</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
PMS	Kim Petro	Dormer, Emilie	\$408.75
PHS	Arden Moore	Lineman, Jessica	\$272.50
PMS	Catherine Knapke	Harr, Adrienne	\$272.50
Franklin	Bridget Volinskie	Lepkowski, Christina	\$272.50

**POLICIES**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-092:**

- Policy 304: Employment of District Staff (*replacing 3020,3050,4000*)
- Policy 313: Evaluation of Employees (*replacing 3200, 3220, 313.2*)
- Policy 326: Complaint Process (*replacing 2400*)
- Policy 347: Worker’s Compensation Transitional Return-to-Work (*replacing 3710*)

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Hours of Operation as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-093.**

## TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the textbook adoptions as presented:

- MS Science Resource Adoption: Science Dimension: Cost - \$106,459 (6 yr adoption)  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Grades 2-6 Core Math Fact Fluency Supplemental:  
Reflex Math: Cost: \$11,862/yr (Elem) , \$2,965.50/yr (MS)  
Publisher: Explore Learning
- Math Intervention Software Pilot: DreamBox Learning (no cost)

## CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-094:**

MCIU: Azure Cloud Backup Servs.	Cottage Seven Education LLC – 21/22	Pathway School - ESY
MCIU: Technical Leadership/Support	Cottage Seven Education LLC - 21/22	Pathway School - ESY
Precision HR Services	Cottage Seven Education LLC - 21/22	Pathway School - ESY
Cottage Seven Education LLC – 21/22	Cottage Seven Education LLC - 21/22	Overbrook School - ESY
Cottage Seven Education LLC – 21/22	Cottage Seven Educ. - ESY	New Story LLC - ESY
Cottage Seven Education LLC – 21/22	Cottage Seven Educ. - ESY	New Story LLC – ESY
Cottage Seven Education LLC – 21/22	Cottage Seven Educ. - ESY	Cottage Seven Educ. - ESY

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

## NON-CONSENT

Mr. Rodriguez presented the following non-consent items for Board consideration. Each item was reviewed for discussion and public comment

**Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to non-consent items). None.**

## NON-CONSENT: PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021 Summer Instruction Incentive pay schedule as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board approve the 2021 Summer Instruction Incentive Pay Schedule as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-095.**

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Armato: Nay, Barnhill: aye, Bearden: nay, Francis: aye, Hylton: aye, Johnson: aye, Kline: aye, Lawrence: aye, Rose: aye. Ayes: Seven. Nays: Two. Motion carried.

**NON-CONSENT: PSD ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN AMENDMENT**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the PSD Athletics/Co-Curricular Health and Safety Plan Amendment as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Board approve the PSD Athletics/Co-Curricular Health & Safety Plan Amendment as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-096**.

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

**NON-CONSENT: 2020/2021 PHASED SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the 2020-2021 Phased School Reopening Health and Safety plan as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-097**.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board approve the 2020/2021 Phased School Reopening Plan Amendment as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-098**.

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

**NON-CONSENT: ELECTION OF BOARD TREASURER**

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board shall elect a Treasurer to serve for one year beginning the first day of July following such an election. The Board was in agreement to elect Mr. Steve Kline to serve as the Treasurer for the term beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mrs. Bearden that the Board appoint Mr. Steve Kline to serve as the Board Treasurer for the term beginning July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2022.

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

**NON-CONSENT: ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY**

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board shall elect a Secretary to serve for four year term beginning the first day of July following such an election. The Board was in agreement to elect Ms. Maureen Jampo o serve as the Secretary for the term beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

It was moved by Mr. Kline and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Board appoint Mrs. Jampo to serve as the Board Secretary for the term beginning July1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

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

**NON-CONSENT: 2021/2022 FINAL BUDGET**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021/2022 Final Budget as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board adopt the 2021/2022 Final Budget as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #0202-2021-099**.

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

## **NON-CONSENT: HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-100**.

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

## **INFORMATION**

Monthly Meeting Notice: June 2021

Pottstown Pride: Winter 202/2021

## **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mrs. Leibold thanked the Board for the thoughtful and deliberate decisions they had to make during the pandemic and a thank you to Jimmy Chavalaporn for all he does for the community. The teachers are looking summertime for rejuvenation, family time and professional development.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Armato thanked Ms. Bearden and Mr. Rodriguez for their representation adding to the Governor's and governmental officials speaking on charter/cyber reform and extended congratulations to Mr. Rose and Mrs. Johnson for their dedication to advocacy. He spoke about the graduates and their experiences and growth leading to graduation day.

Mr. Kline stated that graduation is always bitter sweet. He thanked SR MJ on budget

Ms. Bearden thanked the staff, students and parents for a great job this year. Her wish for teachers is to have some time to rejuvenate. She looks forward to a strong 2021/22 school year.

Mr. Patel was grateful for his many experiences and opportunities to grow. He was thankful for the opportunity to serve on the School Board and thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his mentorship. He invited Jimmy Chavalaporn to apply for Ambassador for the Fourth Congressional Student Task Force.

Mr. Chavalaporn was thankful for the opportunity to attend the press conference and meet the School Board Members in person, as well as the Governor. He looks forward to serve as the Student Board Representative and advocating for the community.

Mrs. Johnson looks forward to a summer of relaxation and rejuvenation. Graduation is an emotional time and she expressed her gratitude to be able to witness the students' growth throughout the years. She encouraged everyone to advocate for charter reform.

Mr. Rose echoed everyone's comments. He thanked everyone who made the musicals happen.

Mrs. Barnhill thanked everyone for the hard work during this difficult year and looks forward to a better school year ahead.

Mrs. Lawrence congratulated the graduates. She looks forward to working on a solution for more mental health support for our students.



Mr. Rodriguez echoed all the sentiments shared by the Board Members. He was grateful for the honor to have the Governor's visit and

Mrs. Francis was glad for the District representation at the conference. She thanked everyone for their amazing jobs this year, a demonstration of the strengths of all. She announced there will be an Executive Session for the Purpose of Personnel following the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL**



Maureen Jampo  
Board Secretary