



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM via virtual communication with President, Mrs. Amy Francis, presiding. Upon roll call, the following members attended via virtual communication: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. John Armato, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mr. Raymond Rose, and Mrs. Susan Lawrence. Absent was Mrs. Bonita Barnhill. Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Business Administrator, Ms. Maureen Jampo; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Student Board Representative, Jimi Chavalaporn; Joining the meeting was Federation Vice President, Mr. Robert Decker

MINUTES

Ms. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on September 16, 2021 for Board approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the periods of September 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-021**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for September 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-022**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on October 7, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. Policy 006 and 913 were recommended to be placed on tonight's agenda for Board approval including a part-time cafeteria proctor supervisor position.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on October 7, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. The Committee supported an MTSS professional development agreement (grant funded) be placed on tonight's agenda for Board approval.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

The Committee met virtually on October 14, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. Mrs. Francis asked that the Simone Contract, Parking lot tree project and school counselor discussion be placed on next month's committee agenda.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met virtually on October 14, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

Report is attached to the minutes.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Jimi Chavalaporn shared updates on various events at the elementary buildings. WEB leaders continue visiting the 5th grade classes to support their transition to the middle school. Senior nights took place at the High School to recognize the athletes, band members and cheerleader for their hard work. Congratulations to the homecoming court. Twenty-seven new members will be inducted into the National Honor Society at the induction ceremony next week.

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):

Dan Weand, Borough Council President, constituents are asking will the extra money from the state provide any relief to the borough taxpayers and how much.

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

It was moved by Mr. Rose and second by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on September 16 2021, the List of Bills from the various fund for the period of September 2021 and the Treasurer's Report for September 2021. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITIONS

Classified

Part-time Cafeteria Proctor Supervisor *Job Description – **Addendum #2021-2022-023.**

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Adrienne Harr, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective when position is filled or November 9, 2021; hire date December 5, 2018.

Amanda Woods, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective when position is filled or November 8, 2021; hire date August 30, 2019.

Ratify Hannah Robinson. Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective September 13, 2021; hire date January 11, 2021.

Ratify Jessica Moyer, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective September 24, 2021; hire date September 9, 2020.

Jessica Ferry, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective when position is filled or December 3, 2021; hire date August 27, 2019.

Classified

Ratify Hayley Stultz, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation effective September 21, 2021; hire date October 21, 2019.

Ratify Brooke Dimarcello, Kindergarten Classroom Assistant, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective October 5, 2021; hire date August 23, 2016.

Margaret Lenk, Paraprofessional, High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 4, 2022; hire date January 22, 2008.

Ratify John Connor IV, Food Service Driver, High School, resignation effective October 8, 2021; hire date June 24, 2019.

Ratify Julia Soto, Student Proctor, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective October 7, 2021; hire date August 23, 2021.

Ratify Logan Fabian, IT Intern, Administration Building, termination due to end of assignment.

Karen Carter, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 2, 2022; hire date September 26, 2016.

Ratify Mary Deery, Substitute Support Staff, resignation effective October 15, 2021; hire date October 11, 2017.

Mary McMahon, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective October 22, 2021; hire date September 10, 1999.

LEAVES

Professional

Ratify Jane Hospador, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective September 29, 2021; end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Paula Pritchard, Paraprofessional, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective October 1, 2021; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Professional

Ratify Jennie Falco, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Secondary Teacher, High School, effective October 11, 2021, \$48,000/yr, Step 3, B+15 (contract of V. Collins).

Kelsey Burke, From Long Term Substitute Teacher to Elementary Special Education Teacher, Autistic Support, initial assignment Franklin Elementary, effective October 21, 2021, \$49,500/yr, + Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 1-Mast.

Ratify Justin Sears, from Intervention Assistant to Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, effective October 4, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for A. Thornton). Upon end of assignment will return to Intervention Assistant.

Ratify Karen Mazzie, from Classroom Assistant to Long Term Substitute Teacher. Middle School, effective September 27, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for K. Edbrooke).

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Kenneth Ivory, Secondary Special Education Teacher, Learning Support, initial assignment to be High School, effective October 4, 2021, \$45,500/yr + Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 1 - Bach.

Ratify Michael Zadroga, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, anticipated effective date October 4, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for C. Hall).

Ratify Jennifer Sherman, Secondary Special Education Teacher, Learning Support, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective October 6, 2021, \$49,500/yr + Stipend in accordance with the Professional Agreement, Step 1 - Mast.

Ratify Maura Clark, Health and PE Teacher, initial assignment to be Middle School, effective October 11, 2021, \$45,000/yr, Step 1 - Bach (contract of H. Tutrani).

Ratify Kimberly A. White, Elementary Teacher, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary, effective October 20, 2021, \$51,500/yr, Step 1 - Mast (contract of M. Lopez)

Exempt

Dana Gerth, MTSS Coordinator, Administration Building, anticipated effective date December 22, 2021, \$103,984/yr (grant funded).

Classified

Ratify John Deboer, Custodian, High School, effective September 27, 2021, \$15.50/hour.

Ratify Darryl Nunan, Custodian, Middle School, effective September 27, 2021, \$15.50/hour.

Ratify Terrence Shawell, Part-time Cafeteria Proctor Supervisor, Middle School, effective September 27, 2021, \$23.50/hr.

Ratify Catalina Ramirez-Campuzano, Substitute Support, effective September 30, 2021, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Kara Catarious, Secretary, Middle School, anticipated effective date October 11, 2021, \$14.25/hr (replacing H. DeCarlo).

Ratify Debra Bailey, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, effective October 11, 2021, \$14.00/hr. (replacing B.DiMarcello).

Ratify Raven Gegenheimer, Custodian, Rupert Elementary. High School, anticipated effective date October 18, 2021, \$15.50/hr.

Ratify Lynn Baker, Pre-K Classroom Assistant, North End, anticipated effective date October 18, 2021, \$13.80/hr (replacing J. Williamson).

Correction to effective date:

Niana White, Paraprofessional, Middle School, effective September 23, 2021, \$13.70/hr.

Chardea Sutton, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, effective September 16, 2021, \$13.70/hr.

Kimberly Indelicato, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Middle School, effective October 11, 2021, \$12.00/hr.

21st Century After School Program (grant funded)

Tutor: Reon Astheimer, \$30/hr

Coordinators: Laurie Gresko and Iris Bucci, each \$33/hr.

Compensation for Missed Planning time, \$24/period * **Addendum #2021-2022-024.**

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS *Addendum #2021-2022-025:

1. 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports Update
2. 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Assignments: Non-Athletics

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT * Addendum #2021-2022-026.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Name	School	9/30/21 Deadline
Ashley Bellevou	Rupert	\$2,115.00
Diane Brothers	HS	\$ 966.00
Rachel Ficca	MS	\$1,050.00
Rebecca Jones	MS	\$ 72.00
Danielle Murray (2 courses)	Franklin	\$3,000.00
Chris Petro	MS	\$1,500.00
Mieke Mazur	Admin	\$2,130.00

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Boar approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2021-2022-027:**

- Policy 006: Meetings
- Policy 916: Volunteers

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2021-2022-028:**

- **Valley Forge Educational Services**
- **MOU: YMCA PM Care**
- **Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health**
- **21st Century Cohort 10 MOUs**

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

INFORMATION

Monthly Meeting Notice: November 2021

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker shared concerns and challenges teacher and staff are facing (overcoming academic loss, challenges of social behavior, new resources /programs, etc.). He state that the faculties are stretched to a breaking point. Mr. Decker noted a solution is not easy but stated something needs to happen. He asked the Board and Administration keep an open mind and think about triage expectations. He asked if a flexible instructional day could be used to allow teachers to participate in Nov 12th event.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Johnson provided information to sign for the trip to Harrisburg supporting the fair funding litigation hearing.

Mr. Kline thanked Mr. Decker for sharing the concerns of the teachers and staff. He acknowledged that the Board is aware and looks for a solution.

Mr. Armato stated information on a mobile vaccine will be shared on all of the District's social media platforms. As the Director of Community Relations, he witnesses the positive energy from students and staff trying to move forward. A Trojan shout out to Mrs. Yoder and her Art Class for supporting the YWCA Week Without Violence.

Mr. Rose thanked Mr. Decker for sharing his concerns. He recognizes the hurdles the teacher face and appreciates all they are doing. Mr. Rose congratulated Jimi on his

Mrs. Lawrence agrees with the comments shared by the Board and Mr. Decker. She would like to see discussion at the committee level to address the situation.

Mr. Chavalaporn echoed the sentiments shared by everyone. The students support their teachers and want what is best for them. He is looking forward to attend and speak at the November 12th fair funding litigation event. Mr. Chavalaporn has been invited to be a member of Madeline Deans Student Task Force.

Ms. Bearden echoed sentiments of everyone and thanked the teachers and staff for all they are doing. She invited everyone to support the YWCAs Week Without of Violence.

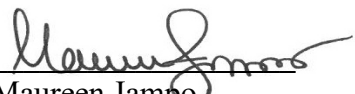
Mr. Rodriguez appreciated Mr. Weand's remarks sharing a frequent misconception of the State COVID funding. The District faces multiple stressors (COVID symptoms in the classrooms, major absenteeism, new programs, virtual classrooms at the same time with classroom instructions, etc). This year has been the hardest year of his career. He thanked the Board for their support. He was happy to announce a mobile vaccine clinic at the Middle School next Thursday (sponsored by Walmart).

Mrs. Francis reminded the Board there will be an executive session following the end of the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Kline that the meeting adjourns. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

EXECTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION.


Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary



**Pottstown School District
Personnel/Policy Committee
REPORT**

October 7, 2021

Attendees: Susan Lawrence, John Armato, Laura Johnson, Raymond Rose, Steve Kline, Matthew Boyer, Stephen Rodriguez

POLICY

- Policy 006 Meetings: updates to the Sunshine Law focused on posting agendas, agenda content and procedures for adding new agenda items.
- Policy 903 Public Participation at Meetings: updates applicable to public comment on new items for board action that are not listed on the agenda; additional language is optional to address a time period for public comment and permitting banners and placards.
- Policy 916 Volunteers: additional section on the “Senior Volunteer Tax Credit Program”.

Committee members asked for clarification (Policy 903) permitting a patron to yield their allotted 3 minutes to another speaker (6 minutes) and if groups wearing t-shirts with signage would fall into the same category as banners and placards. Members proposed adding a 60 minute maximum time period for public comment to include language authorizing the presiding officer to suspend the time period if applicable. The general consensus of the committee was to include these changes with the updated policies as presented. Copies will be shared with all Board Members for review to be placed on the October 21 Board agenda for board action.

The Committee also discussed Policy 916, specifically what type of volunteers should and are required by law to get clearances. The committee ultimately decided to keep the language pertaining to clearances without change.

PERSONNEL

- Emotional Support Classroom Teacher Stipend 2021/2022 School Year: continue stipend for the 2021/2022 school year. (*previously approved 2020/2021 school year*).
- Cafeteria Proctor Supervisor (new position): grant funded, part-time position (4 hr/day); responsibilities include supporting social, emotional behavior.

The committee members supported the personnel recommendations to be placed on the October 21 Board agenda for approval.

Informational Item:

- ESSER Grant Funding and Accounting Position: the administration is seeking a temporary person to manage the grants. More information to follow.

Next Meeting Date: November 4, 2021



Pottstown School District
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT
October 7, 2021

Attendees: Susan Lawrence, Steve Kline, Raymond Rose, Laura Johnson, Katina Bearden, Thomas Hylton, John Armato, Laurie Kolka, Stephen Rodriguez, Ryan Oxenford

CURRICULUM

Current School Counseling Supports- LaTanya White-Springfield

The Committee heard updates regarding school counseling support. Lincoln Center is providing school counselors at each elementary building. The mental health services include direct service support, resources and a breakdown of the various grants, staff and term dates.

Graduation Requirements- Danielle McCoy

Proposed changes for the 2022/2023 school year were presented to the committee for review. The administration has been working on updates to the current policy to address the declining graduation rate, special education corrective action, support for additional programs and options for students that are applicable to the Act 158 requirements. The proposed changes include lowering the number of electives, disbanding the graduation project, change the total credits from 26 to 22 (w/32 possible), and remove the STEAM requirement. Act 158 adds another layer to graduation requirements. The administration is asking for the Board to review the proposed changes and to take Board action in November, December at the latest, as the scheduling process begins in January.

Social-Emotional Learning at the Middle School- Sue Lawrence

Mrs. Lawrence supports adding school counselors. Addressing mental health issues (depression, anxiety, trauma, family issues, etc) are the root of the problem. She proposed to look at other types of curriculum to address SEL and cover the issues that the students need more effectively.

Board approval item: Professional Development Contract (MTSS)

- Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health 2021/2022

Next Meeting: November 4, 2021



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Facilities/Finance Committee
REPORT

October 14, 2021

Attendees:: Thomas Hylton- Chair; John Armato, Katina Bearden, Steve Kline, Amy Francis, Laura Johnson, Susan Lawrence, Raymond Rose, John Connor, Maureen Jampo, Stephen Rodriguez.

FACILITIES – John Connor

Facility Updates

- Franklin Elementary Water Issues: heavy rains caused issues on the first floor at Franklin; steps are being taken to determine where the water is coming in at.
- Tree Assessment Report: approximately 301 trees; report broken down by building; waiting for proposals from contractors; project would be done by piecemeal.
- Simone Contract Update – approximately 450 trees to be planted on District property at approximately \$500,000. Administration concerns (security, underground utilities, playgrounds and educational use, community relations plan and maintenance plan) were presented and discussed by the Committee and Board members. The members present liked the idea of planting trees, recognizing the environmental benefits. The general consensus was the District has other more pressing issues to address before moving forward with the project.

FINANCE - Maureen Jampo

- Basic Education Subsidy Overview: a review of the formula and factors that determine how much is distributed to each district was presented to the Committee. The variance between the proposed fully funded amount, the proposed amount and the final are subject to elements that constantly change (ex: poverty weight, English learning weight, charter weight, sparsity/size, Median Income and Local Tax Effort). These factors affect the amount distributed to the District and account for fluctuation in the “underfunded amount” each year.
- School Counselor Discussion: the administration presented estimated costs to hire additional school counselors. The estimated cost per counselor, per year is approximately \$104,000 which includes a budget impact for additional charter school costs.

Mr. Rodriguez spoke about concerns to consider when grant funds run out (cutting staff, cutting programs, raising taxes). Board Members discussed the challenges hiring school counselors with grant funds and the District’s ability to sustain the additional counselors when the grant funds end. The general consensus was to move forward with advertising for two counselors at the middle school and add a motion to the Board agenda for the positions defining funding options.

Board Approval Items

- Personnel: Missed Planning Time
- Contracts: 21st Century (Cohort 10) MOUs, Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health (Professional Development) and YMCA PM Care MOU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting: November 11, 2021



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Public Relations/Community Engagement Committee
REPORT
October 14, 2021

Attendees: Raymond Rose - Chair; Katina Bearden, Laura Johnson, Susan Lawrence, Amy Francis, Stephen Rodriguez

INFORMATION

Parent Communication: Mr. Rodriguez shared copies of various flyers that are approved and shared with parents and students via the District's social media platforms. The programs and activities vary to engage students and parents and include support opportunities for parents.

ADVOCACY

- November 12: bus to Harrisburg rally to support trial; transportation to Harrisburg sponsored by Pottstown Area Health and Wellness. Many opportunities for students, school boards and general public are available to participate in advocating during the trial period.

Next Meeting Date: November 11, 2021



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Montgomery County School District Legislative Committee
and
Pennsylvania School Board Association Liaison
REPORT
October 20th, 2021

MCS DLC-

The Montco legislative committee had a meeting last night.

We discussed:

- The lawsuit and fair funding efforts, including the Nov 12 Rally
- Legislation expanding the education tax credits and their impact on state revenues
- Charter reform efforts and the need to keep the pressure on our legislators about the need to address charter funding
- The charter regulations put forward by PDE, which are receiving push back by the legislature
- Legislation mandating school districts post all curriculum online
- The departure of PSBA from the NSBA

PSBA-

There was an all School Directors meeting on 10/19/21.

We reviewed the many pieces of education legislation in the state House and Senate including:

- The Voucher Bill, HB1254, which is defeated for now.
- The Vexatious Requestor Bill, SB552, which was passed out of the Senate.
- Charter bills, both charter expansion and charter reform
- Bills requiring the posting of curriculum online, restriction of school boards emergency powers, educational tax credits, mask opt-outs, tick bite protocols, and more.

As is often the case, some of the proposed bills are unfunded mandates, which, compiled, become significantly burdensome and expensive to school districts.

<https://www.psba.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/mandate-report-final.pdf>

We spent time discussing ESSER funding, advocacy around charter reform, and were notified about upcoming conferences and training, which I forwarded to the board.