



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, November 18, 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 Second Vice- President, Mrs. Kelly Leibold.

PRESENTATION

PSBA School Board Service Recognition

Mrs. Bonita Barnhill was recognized for her eight (8) years of service. A PSBA Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Mrs. Barnhill.

MINUTES

Ms. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on October 21, 2021 for Board approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the periods of October 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-029**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for October 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-030**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on November 4, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. Policy 217 and Policy 903 were recommended to be placed on tonight's agenda for Board approval. Personnel items recommended for board approval include nurses stipends and two middle school counselors.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on November 4, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. The Committee heard updates for Co-Curricular and the Comprehensive Plan.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

The Committee met virtually on November 11, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. Updates on the HVAC project at the high school and a review of the physical needs assessment were presented to the committee including an ESSER funding update. Items recommended to be placed on tonight's agenda for board approval are the Act 1 Budget Resolution, Substitute Tax Collector appointment and contracts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met virtually on November 11, 2021. Committee report is attached to the minutes. Information items presented to the committee focused on COVID related challenges (vaccination Requirements, mask mandates, and assurance testing). The Committee supported revisions to the 2021/2022 School Calendar as presented on tonight’s agenda.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – JIMI CHAVALAPORN

Jimi dedicated his report in memory of Ahmir Jones. Elementary buildings held fall fest events. Middle School launched a “kindness challenge”. High School DECA club inducted (5) new officers at Induction Ceremony. Winter sports begin November 19.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

Report is attached to the minutes.

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):

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

It was moved by Mr. Armato that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on October 21, 2021, the List of Bills from the various fund for the period of October 2021 and the Treasurer’s Report for October 2021. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITIONS

Professional

Emotion Support Classroom Teacher Stipend, \$3,000/yr for the 2021/2022 school year.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Administration

David Livengood, Director of Career and Technical Education, High School, resignation effective when position is filled or December 31, 2021; hire date August 20, 2018.

Professional

Correction: Adrienne Harr, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective when position is filled or November 19, 2021; hire date December 5, 2018.

Lisa Kolb, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 25, 2022; hire date January 8, 1997.

Ratify Michael Zadroga, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective October 21, 2021; hire date October 11, 2021.

Ashleigh Lichtenwalner, Special Education Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective when position is filled or December 31, 2021; hire date August 20, 2019.

Karen Fox, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective when position is filled or January 4, 2022; hire date October 1, 2009.

Classified

Ratify Pamela Foxworth, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation effective October 21, 2021; hire date October 19, 2021.

Ratify Brian Dotterer, Head Custodian, Middle School, resignation effective November 5, 2021; hire date January 14, 2019.

Ratify Kimberly Indelicato, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Middle School, resignation effective October 29, 2021; hire date October 11, 2021.

Ratify Rosalie Colon, Part-time Student Proctor, Franklin Elementary, effective November 5, 2021.

Sharon Gery, Part-time Student Proctor, Barth Elementary, resignation effective December 22, 2021.

Ratify Raven Gegenheimer, Custodian, Rupert Elementary, termination due to non-compliance with new hire procedures, effective October 27, 2021.

Barbara Pollock, Cafeteria Worker, High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement effective February 1, 2022; hire date December 7, 1978.

LEAVES

Ratify Paul Castanzo, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 9, 2021; end date tbd.

Angela Wagner, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 30, 2021; end date tbd.

Classified

Diana Fabian, Pre-K Counts Classroom Assistant, North End, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 19, 2021; end date tbd.

Cory Derer, Library Assistant, Barth/Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 9, 2019; end date tbd.

Kelly Chicarelli, Paraprofessional, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective December 1, 2021; end date tbd.

Timothy Mutter, Part-time Student Proctor, High School, request for leave of absence effective January 3, 2022; end tbd.

Justin Finucan, Head Custodian, High School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 30, 2021; end date January 7, 2022.

Ratify Kirsten Hairston, Paraprofessional, High School, request for leave of absence, covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective November 2, 2021; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Administrative

Ratify Michael Ishler, from Assistant Principal to Principal, Barth Elementary, effective November 5, 2021, \$107,960/yr (replacing R.Oxenford).

Professional

Ratify Robelyn Habekost, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Special Education Teacher, AS, initial assignment to be Franklin Elementary, effective November 5, \$45,500/yr + stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 1-Bach.

Ratify Allison Collins, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Elementary Special Education Teacher, initial assignment to be Lincoln Elementary, effective November 11, 2021, \$46,000/yr + Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 2 - Bach.

Logan Flint, from Virtual Teacher to Elementary Teacher, Middle School, effective January 25, 2022, \$46,500/yr, Step 3 - Bach (contract of L. Kolb).

Classified

Ratify Kiara Levengood, from Part-time Student Proctor to Paraprofessional, Barth Elementary, effective October 26, 2021, \$13.70/hr.

ELECTIONS

Administrative

Steve Palladino, Assistant Principal, Middle School, anticipated effective date January 18, 2022, \$92,232.65/yr (replacing M. Ishler).

Professional

Ratify Ronald Frederick, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Rupert Elementary, effective October 28, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for N. Valenti).

Ratify Valentino Alfonse, Long Term Substitute Teacher, High School, effective November 1, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for R. Decker).

Correction to salary: Ratify Maura Clark, Health and PE Teacher, initial assignment to be the Middle School, effective October 11, 2021, \$45,500/yr, Step 1 - Bach (contract of H. Tutrani).

Rebecca Keown, Special Education Teacher, LS, initial assignment to be the Middle School, effective December 13, 2021, \$45,500/yr + Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, Step 1 - Bach.

Christine Latch, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, effective November 22, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for A. Woods).

Meredith Johnston, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective January 4, 2022, \$194/day (coverage for J. Palladino).

Meghan Waibel, Special Education Teacher, LS, initial assignment to be the Middle School, effective December 6, 2021, \$73,000/yr + Stipend in accordance with the Professional Agreement, Step 12, M+30.

Classified

Cynthia Ross, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, effective November 22, 2021, \$14.00/hr (replacing D. McNamara).

Ratify Amya Wright, Paraprofessional, Admin Building, effective October 26, 2021, \$13.70/hr.

Ratify Lourdes Contento, Part-time Student Proctor, effective October 28, 2021, \$12.00/hr.

Ratify Nicole Frisco, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, anticipated effective dated October 21, 2021, \$12.00/hr.

Ratify Keith Knier, Part-time Student Proctor, Franklin Elementary, effective November 4, 2021, \$12.00/hr.

Ratify Anthony Daniels, Part-time Cleaner, High School, effective November 15, 2021, \$12.00/hr.

Compensation for IEP Writing, Evaluations and Progress Monitoring - all PSD Special Education staff @ \$30/hr. on an as need basis.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$24/period ***Addendum #2021-2022-031.**

Co-Curricular Assignments ***Addendum #2021-2022-032**

1. 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports Update
2. 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Assignments: Winter Sports
3. 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Assignments: Non-Athletics Update

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Bldg.	Name	Conference Title / Location	Dates Attend	Cost
Admin	Maureen Jampo	Steel Eagle Leadership Institute Bedford, PA	11/11/2021 - 11/12/2021	paid by PASBO
Admin	Diane Meck	PASBO Annual Conference Hershey, PA	03/09/2022 - 03/11/2022	\$899.99 pd by dept budget
HS	Kelly Leibold	PSCA Conference Hershey, PA	12/08/2021 - 12/10/2021	paid by PSCA

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Boar approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-033:**

- Policy 217: Graduation Requirements (policy was moved to non-consent)
- Policy 903: Public Participation at meetings

TEMPORARY NURSES STIPEND

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following temporary nurses' stipends:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u> (ESSER Funded)
Head Nurse	\$2,000/month
RN	\$1,500/month
LPN	\$1,200/month

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-034:**

- MOU: Strive Initiative
- MCIU: IDEA Funds Agreement
- MCIU: RWAN (Internet) Addendum

RESOLUTION TO LIMIT SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE 2022-2023

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution to limit school property tax increase for 2022-2023 as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-035**.

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 #2021-2022-036**.

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

NON-CONSENT: Hearings from Patrons of the Schools

Abdelrahman Elgendy, PSD student, asked for more information on the parking lot tree project and meadows. He was interested in the reason why these are needed.

Krystal DiPetro, resident, proposed a solution to bathroom lockdowns at the high school. She suggested each teacher have a key so students could access the bathrooms located nearest their classroom.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the bathrooms are open and were in lockdown three weeks ago.

Mark Ellison III, PSD student, addressed the Board with budgeting questions. He was interested in the budget regarding spending money on the tree project and its affect on the general budget.

Mr. Rodriguez stated he will share a budget breakdown that he shared with students when he was a teacher.

NON-CONSENT: Mr. Rodriguez, presented the following non-consent items for Board consideration. Board Members reviewed and discussed each item before taking board action.

POLICY (non-consent)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve Policy 217 Graduation Requirements and a copy be field in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-037**.

Board Members shared their concerns with the policy change that reduces the number of credits allowing students more free time. Discussion focused on how the time will allow flexibility for students to achieve credits when falling behind and provide more opportunities for early graduation where applicable.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the Board approve Policy 217 as presented.

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

PERSONNEL: POSITION (non-consent)

Motion to add two (2) Middle School Counselors as soon as possible using grant funds and hire as District staff when grant funds end.

It was moved by Mrs. Lawrence and seconded by Mr. Armato that the Board approve adding two (2) Middle School Counselors as presented.

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

CONTRACT (non-consent)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Simone Collins agreement for tree plantings on Pottstown School District properties.

Mr. Hylton proposed Save the Land pay Simone Collins for the preparation portion (construction documents for bid) of the tree planting agreement. He asked the Administration to work with Simone Collins as they prepare the construction documents. Board Members were in agreement with the proposal as presented with no obligation of District funds for the preparation of the construction documents. The Simone Collins agreement was pulled from the agenda. No Board action was taken.

REVISED 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR (non-consent)

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the revised 2021-2022 school calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-038**.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the revised 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye: Ayes: Eight. Nays: None. Absent: One. Motion Carried.

INFORMATION

Tenure Recognition of Eligible Professionals

Monthly Meeting Notice: December

FEDERATION REMARKS

The Federation thanked the Board and Administration for working together to address issues as they arise. Mrs. Leibold was thankful for all the thought and consideration given to the mental health concerns and the result of hiring two school counselors.

ROUND TABLE

Jimi Chavalaporn appreciated hearing the prospective from Board Members and being a part of the organization.

Mr. Hylton complimented Mrs. Francis on being the best board president in his years in the Pottstown community.

Mrs. Johnson thanked everyone who participated in the rally. She thanked the outgoing Board Members for their dedication to the students and community.

Mr. Armato thanked the outgoing Board Members for their service and commitment to the community. He was pleased to see student engaging in the advocacy efforts.

Ms. Bearden expressed her condolences to the families who lost family members this week. She thanked the outgoing Board Members for their service and working together as a Board.

Mrs. Lawrence thanked the outgoing Board Members for the work they have done, showing fairness and humility. She is grateful for the board action to hire two school counselors.

Mr. Kline thanked the outgoing Board Members for being role models of how Boards can work together. He thanked Mr. Hylton for coming up with a plan

Mr. Rose thanked the Board for always showing respect for each other and for the great work they have accomplished together.

Mr. Rodriguez encouraged everyone to watch the fair funding lawsuit trial. A link was shared. He announced Mark Ellison III will be the Junior Student Board Representative and alternate will be Taylor Powell. The student board representatives will take an oath of office at the December 2 Board Reorganization meeting.

Mrs. Francis stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the School Board. She thanked everyone for putting their trust in her. She reminded the Board there will be an executive session for the purpose of personnel following the close of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Bearden that the meeting adjourns. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary