



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

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, January 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: Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent were Mr. John Armato and Ms. Katina Bearden. 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.

PRESENTATION

Uniting for Action: Dr. Forrest presented to the Board a copy of the Uniting for Action letter and case study for fair funding sent to legislators in Harrisburg and district offices. The case study contained data and graphs showing discrepancies in the funding formula in Pennsylvania (spending versus racial makeup/bias and in the equities in the distribution of funds to school districts).

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Rodriguez gave a summary of the topics discussed at the January 14 Board Workshop. The agenda contained three sections consisting of a pandemic update, a review of school board governance and policies and ending with a discussion on cultural competency to be incorporated into the district's comprehensive plan.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Reorganization meeting held on December 3, 2020 and the Regular Board meeting held on December 17, 2020.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of December 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-056**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for December 2020 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-057**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No January committee meetings were held.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES - KISHAN PATEL AND JIMI CHAVALAPORN

Kishan Patel reported progress is being made on launching the Interact club initiative to elementary Students. Student Government is moving forward with plans for Mr. Pottstown. DECA competition will take place next week; HOSA is looking to register for the April state competition. Mr. Patel recognized several college acceptances for high school students.

Jimi Chavalaporn gave a schedule outline for the start of the 2nd semester. The high school librarian will be offering in-person help for students in need of assistance and the musical is being postponed to May.

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)

Laurie Conbeer, resident and parent of students of the Pottstown School District, shared her children's struggles (social and academic) with the virtual learning program. She supports and looks forward to a hybrid model that will provide both academic and social structure to the children.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Re-organization meeting held on December 3, 2020 and the Regular Board meeting held on December 17, 2020, the List of Bills from the period of December 2020 and the Treasurer's Report for December 2020. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

It was moved Mr. Kline 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

Andrea Hunsberger, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2021; hire date September 1, 1985.

Pamela Pascal, Certified School Nurse, High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective April 9, 2021; hire date November 20, 1998.

Classified

Ratify Megan McCain, Community Coordinator, PTICC, resignation effective December 9, 2020; hire date September 23, 2019.

Ratify Vicki Baldwin, Breakfast/Lunch Proctor, Middle School, resignation effective January 4, 2021; hire date November 4, 2004.

Deborah McNamara, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2021; hire date August 25, 2009.

Patricia Boyer, Intervention Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 11, 2021; hire date March 3, 2008.

LEAVES

Professional

Ratify Benjamin DiPette, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 19, 2021, end date tbd.

Megan Rogers, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective April 26, 2021; end date tbd.

Marissa Wells, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date August 24, 2021; end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Joyce Grebe, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, request for leave of absence effective January 4, 2021, end date tbd.

Ratify Collene Smith, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence effective January 4, 2021, end date tbd.

Ratify Barbara Pollock, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, request for leave of absence effective January 6, 2021, end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Classified

Ratify Andrea Kulp, from Full-Time Cafeteria Worker to Full-Time Cafeteria Manager, High School, effective January 19, 2021, \$18.10/hr (replacing D. Martz).

ELECTIONS

Professional

Anne Marie Fadden, Long Term Substitute Teacher, High School, effective date to be determined, \$194/day (coverage for K. Rahill).

Classified

Jose Knight, 1:1 Paraprofessional, Middle School, effective January 25, 2021, \$13.65/ hr. (replacing S.White).

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the tuition reimbursements as presented:

Professional:

| Name | School | 12/31/20 Deadline |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Victoria Collins | High School | \$ 900.00 |
| Emily Dormer | Middle School | \$1,485.00 |
| Amanda Fusco | High School | \$1,548.00 |
| Stephanie Garber | Franklin | \$1,548.00 |
| Lauren Gresko (course 1) | Rupert | \$1,485.00 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Laureen Gresko (course 2) | Rupert | \$1,485.00 |
| Christine Hall (course 2) | Middle School | \$ 660.00 |
| Kelsey Hultz | Rupert | \$1,950.00 |
| Steven Irick | High School | \$2,826.00 |
| Carol Livingston (course 1) | Middle School | \$2,115.00 |
| Carol Livingston (course 2) | Middle School | \$ 885.00 |
| David Mabry (course 1) | Middle School | \$ 375.00 |
| David Mabry (course 2) | Middle School | \$ 281.25 |
| Amanda Matthews | Barth | \$1,500.00 |
| Amanda McDevitt (course 1) | Barth | \$1,221.00 |
| Amanda McDevitt (course 2) | Barth | \$1,221.00 |
| Victoria McShea | High School | \$1,548.00 |
| Jessica Mull | High School | \$2,388.00 |
| William Parks | High School | \$ 940.00 |
| Sarah Rizzuto (course 1) | Lincoln | \$1,500.00 |
| Sarah Rizzuto (course 2) | Lincoln | \$1,500.00 |
| Kaylee Weldon (course 1) | Franklin | \$1,551.00 |
| Kaylee Weldon (course 2) | Franklin | \$ 900.00 |

Support Staff/Exempt:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|------------|
| Heather Dailey (2 courses) | PEAK | \$2,922.66 |
|----------------------------|------|------------|

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-058:**

- US Medical Staffing Addendum B
- Lincoln Center MHP: Bachelor's Level (grant funded)

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the real estate tax exoneration resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-059.**

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

Mr. Armato entered the meeting at 7:57 pm.

NON-CONSENT: PHASED RE-ENTRY PLAN 3RD QUARTER

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Non-Consent Phased Re-Entry Plan 3rd Quarter item for Board discussion and Board action. Reflections from the Pandemic Task Force offered three (3) options for Board consideration. Option #1: re-entry with hybrid program beginning February 1, 2021 (not supported by the task force team), Option #2: remain virtual till the end of the 3rd quarter with exception of certain in-person programming (83% support by task force team), Option #3: elementary return to hybrid (17% support by task force team).

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

NON-CONSENT: PHASED RE-ENTRY PLAN 3RD QUARTER

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Phased Re-entry Plan 3rd Quarter include virtual programming for all students with limited in-person offerings for certain groups including Pre-K, Special Education and CTE students.

It was moved by Mrs. Lawrence and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the Phased Re-entry Plan 3rd Quarter and a copy of the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan to be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-060**.

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

INFORMATION

- Monthly Meeting Notice: February 2020
- Pottstown Pride: Fall Sports

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Kelly Leibold thanked the Board for their decision to keep everyone safe, a decision that is in the best interest of everyone. She thanked Dr. Cellini for keeping the staff updated on COVID-19 vaccine availability.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Rose recognizes the Board is trying to make the best of the worst decision.

Mr. Kline expressed his concern for the students who are falling behind. He would like to see a remediation plan.

Mrs. Johnson attended the P.A.I.D. conference. There was good conversation on economic development and is encouraged to see leaders of Pottstown pulling together for the same cause.

Mrs. Lawrence agrees that re-entry is not an easy decision but must look at safety first.

Mrs. Barnhill appreciated the parent comments, recognizing the difficult decision by the Board. She looks forward to offering some remediation for students who are struggling.

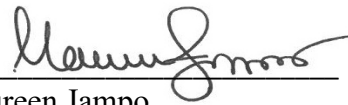
Mr. Armato shared the same sentiments made by Board Members and agrees with remediation efforts.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Board Members who were able to attend the P.A.I.D. conference. Economic growth in Pottstown is also beneficial to students (job opportunities and funding). The district will continue to pursue advocating at the federal level to secure funding. COVID relief funds continue to help with district costs due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Francis looks forward to Ms. Peggy Lee Clarks update at a future committee meeting. She reminded Board Members of an Executive Session for the Purpose of Personnel at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the meeting adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL.