



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

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

PRESENTATION: Cultural Competency Update: Black History Month

Mr. Rodriguez shared with the Board the District's tribute to Black History Month, highlighting their stories and spotlights on what some of our classrooms are doing to honor Black History month. The stories can be found on the District's website.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Board Workshop held on January 14, 2021 and the Regular Board meeting held on January 21, 2021.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of January 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-061**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for January 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-062**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. FRANCIS

The Committee met on February 4. Four policies were reviewed and placed on the Board agenda for approval. A vaccine update was provided to the committee which will enable district staff an opportunity to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, to be administered by priority groups for staff working with students. Personnel items reviewed and recommended for Board approval include Edgewood staffing needs and an additional technology technician as presented on tonight's agenda.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met on February 4. The Committee was in agreement to recommend a contract with Performance Fact Inc. as the strategic facilitator in preparation for the District's Comprehensive Plan due in March 2022 and the addition of a new course (AP Human Geography) for 2021/2022 school year. Other discussion items included a mental health update and a summer intervention program for general education students.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

The Committee met on February 11. The Committee received an overview of the June 30, 2020 Single audit reporting no deficiencies in internal controls and compliance including ample reserves for budgetary reserves. Facilities and Finance items recommended for Board approval include building repairs project for 2021, the MCIU Membership Services Budget for 2021/2022, PDE E-signature resolution and contracts as presented on tonight's agenda. Mrs. Jampo gave a first glance preliminary budget for 2021-2022 school year, proposing 0 tax increase, using ample reserves to cover the anticipated deficit.

□ 2021/2022 Preliminary Budget: first glance

Mrs. Jampo reviewed the budget timeline to date. An overview of the preliminary budget indicates a slight decrease in the tax base, significant savings in 2020/2021 virtual learning, and growth in the fund balance as determined in the June 30, 2020 audit. Budget assumptions are based on actuals resulting in flat or reduced subsidies for the 2021/2022 school year. The administration recommends using fund balance to balance the 2021/2022 budget with a zero tax increase. The Governor's 21/22 budget proposal included basic education subsidy, through the fair funding formula, resulting in \$25 million basic education revenue but was stated it will not pass.

□ Board Comments:

Mr. Armato asked what the options are if the Governor's budget were to pass.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the District is hopeful for some level of change and outlined four options: increase in personnel, instructional programs, reduce taxes and improve facilities.

Mr. Hylton recognized the four options as Mr. Rodriguez's plans. He noted that within the last six budget years, four budget years were "no tax increase". He attributed that to good fiscal management by the administrators, Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Jampo.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met on February 11. The Committee heard a presentation on Social Media Interaction Statistics. Data was shared on page visits & likes, post reach, videos and in-person Board versus Zoom and fans. Committee members were interested in looking at ways to continue engaging the public in monthly meetings at the District moves to hybrid models. Advocacy discussion and engagement continues to grow, reaching other communities to support equitable funding for all school districts. Representative Joe Ciresi will give a presentation at next month's committee meeting.

BOROUGH LIAISON – MR. ROSE

Items presented at the February Borough Council's Committee of the Whole meeting included information on a P.A.I.D. State of Economic Development meeting that focused on three core areas. P.A.I.D. is also working on a gift card program to support local businesses. The Borough has applied for two grants to assist in rebuilding the Memorial Park bridge that was destroyed by the Hurricane Isiah.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – MR. PATEL, MR. CHAVALAPORN

Updates on club activities: the Interact Initiative pilot program is running; Student Government continues to plan for a virtual "Mr. Pottstown" and a DECA student will attend national's virtually for the School Based Enterprise. Several students were recognized as recipients of scholarships. Mr. Chavalaporn had the opportunity to attend the Foundation for Free Enterprise meeting.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSAB REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Johnson

Mrs. Johnson has been appointed the Chair for the Montgomery County Legislative Committee. The focus of the committee will be on educating the public and lawmakers about the need for charter reform. PSBA the Virtual Advocacy Day is March 22nd.

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. Johnson that the Board approve the minutes from the Board Workshop held on January 14, 2021 and the Regular Board meeting held on January 21, 2021, the List of Bills from the period of January 2021 and the Treasurer's Report for January 2021. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITIONS: Long Term Substitute Hires

Professional

(3) additional Long Terms Substitute Hires as building floaters for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year(in addition to initial provision Board approved on November 17, 2020).

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Lisa Kaye Rossi, Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 10, 2021; hire date September 8, 1987.

Lauren Canfield, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective April 10, 2021; hire date February 18, 2020.

Classified

Ratify June Malocu, School Nurse, Middle School, resignation effective February 17, 2021; hire date August 17, 2020.

Devon Bonenberger, Paraprofessional, Barth Elementary, resignation effective March 1, 2021; hire date November 13, 2018.

Gary Wise, Paraprofessional, High School, resignation effective February 19, 2021; hire date October 28, 2019.

LEAVES

Professional

Christine Chase, Secondary Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date May 12, 2021; end date tbd.

Amanda Matthews, Elementary Teacher, Barth Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date August 2021; end date tbd.

Ratify Lindsay Hogan, Elementary Teacher, Rupert Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 5, 2021; end date tbd.

Rebecca Vega, Elementary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective August 16, 2021; end date tbd.

Kaylee Weldon, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective August 16, 2021; end date tbd.

Jennifer Kurian, Elementary School Nurse, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 24, 2021; end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Melanie Barkon, Pre-K Counts Assistant, North End, request for leave of absence, effective February 5, 2021; end date tbd.

Alicia Doster, Paraprofessional, High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 18, 2021; end date tbd.

Lanie Manorek, ACCESS Clerk, Administration Bldg., request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date July 25, 2021; end date tbd.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ari Felber, Long Term Substitute Teacher, Middle School, effective date February 18, 2021, \$194/day (coverage for C. Petro).

Classified

Ratify Tayla Haulcy-Clark, Paraprofessional, High School, effective date February 6, 2021, \$13.65/hr.

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS – Addendum #2020-2021-063

1. Co-Curricular Assignments 2020/2021 Fall: Sports & Non-Athletics
2. Co-Curricular Assignments 2020/2021 Winter Sports

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>SPE</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>SPE</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Samantha Duncan	Bach	3	\$46,500.00		Mast	4	\$51,000.00		\$51,000.00
Jennifer Furniss	M+15	1	\$51,500.00	1,000.00	M+30	2	\$53,000.00	1,000.00	\$54,000.00
Rebecca Jones	Bach	1	\$45,500.00		B+15	2	\$47,000.00		\$47,000.00
Carol Livingston	B+15	4	\$49,000.00		Mast	5	\$52,000.00		\$52,000.00
Beth Mason	B+15	3.83	\$48,830.00	1,000.00	Mast	4.83	\$51,830.00	1,000.00	\$52,830.00
Jaime Parris	Mast	3	\$50,500.00		M+30	4	\$55,000.00		\$55,000.00

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Boar approve the following policies and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-064:**

- Policy 200: Enrollment of Students
- Policy 201: Admission of Students
- Policy 202: Eligibility of Non-Resident Students
- Policy 622: Capital Assets/GASB 34 Statement

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY COURSE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the AP Human Geography Course as presented at the February 4, 2021 Curriculum Committee meeting.

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2019-2020-065:**

1. MCIU Psychological Services
2. ePlus/E-rate
3. New Story Schools
4. Valley Forge Educational Service

2021 BUILDING ENVELOPE REPAIRS PROJECT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021 Building Envelope Repairs project as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-066:**

- O & S Assoc. 2021 Building Envelope Repair Project: High School & Franklin Elementary Roof Repairs/Replacement

PDE E-SIGNATURE RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-067.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT 2019-2020

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the Pottstown School District audit for the year ending June 30, 2020 as prepared by Herbein + Company Inc.

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

NON-CONSENT

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Non-Consent items for Board discussion and Board action.

CONTRACT

It was moved by Mrs. Lawrence and seconded by Mrs. Bearden that the Board approve the Contract as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-068.**

- Performance Fact, Inc. (CARES grant funded)

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

MCIU MEMBERSHIP SERVICES BUDGET 2021-2022

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve MCIU Membership Services Budget 2021-2022 as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2021-2022-069:**

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

PHASED SCHOOL REOPENING HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN- February 18, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board approve the Phased School Reopening Health & Safety Plan as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-070**.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Monthly Meeting Notice: March 2021

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked the Buildings & Grounds and Custodial staff for all their work to ensure that our buildings are safe, secure and a healthy environment. Federation teachers obtained books to hand out to distribute to elementary students at the return of in-person learning.

ROUND TABLE

Ms. Bearden extended her congratulations to Kishan Patel. She expressed her appreciation to the Board Members advocating for fair funding, to Mr. Rodriguez for his consistency and for the District' tribute to Black History.

Mr. Hylton appreciates the benefits of virtual meetings and asked the Board to consider continuing the virtual format. He asked Mr. Rodriguez to bring back to the Board a report/feedback from teachers on the advantages of virtual/hybrid learning. He suggested considering incorporating a hybrid learning program versus 100% in-person learning.

Mrs. Johnson encouraged everyone to keep up the efforts to get more voices heard; contacting legislatures, advocating for fair funding. Some legislatures have stated that they are not hearing from people who care.

Mr. Armato noted that Board Members look for the virtual concert "Ice Ride" created by 7th & 8th grade band members shared via PSD social media platforms. He is encouraged by the positive attitudes demonstrated by staff throughout the district and looks to positive actions resulting in positive results.

Mr. Kline supports Mr. Hylton's comments and looks to focus on the positives and create something better pre-pandemic.

Mr. Patel shared his appreciation of the District's recognition of Black History Month.

Mr. Chavalaporm thanked the administration for adding black history to the curriculum. He appreciates the District's tributes to Black History Month.

Mrs. Lawrence congratulated Kishan Patel.


Mr. Rose emphasized that every taxpayer should contact their legislatures to support fair funding.

Mr. Rodriguez noted the District continues to prepare for hybrid learning as staff and students have the opportunity to take advantage of COVID Assurance testing and the Pottstown positivity rate continues to drop. The administration will be conducting a survey on what has worked and has not worked with virtual learning, looking ahead as to what education will look like next year and beyond.

Mrs. Francis is proud to be on the Board and part of a great team. She thanked everyone for all they do and for making Pottstown a great place. She reminded Board Members there will be an executive session following the close of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Rose seconded by Mr. Hylton. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.



Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL