



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

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 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, 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, Kelly Leibold.

Vaccine Update

Dr. Cellini was pleased to report that approximately 299 Pottstown staff members will have received a COVID vaccine by the end of next week.

PRESENTATIONS (virtual)

- Co-Curricular Winter/Spring Sports Update: Athletic Director, Ms. Morgan, gave an update on student participation in sporting events. Three COVID cases were contracted outside of PSD facilities during the winter sports and were successfully mitigated thanks to the strict protocols and dedication of students and staff. The same protocols will be in place for the spring sports starting March 26.
- Middle School Play Preview – Beauty & The Beast: preview performed by students
- High School Play Preview – Godspell: preview performed by students
- Back to School Building Safety Measures: building principals reviewed COVID safety measures in their buildings.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jampo presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on February 18, 2021.

LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Kline presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of February 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-071**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Kline presented the Treasurer's Reports for February 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-202-072**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. FRANCIS

The Committee met virtually on March 4. Four policies and personnel items were reviewed and recommended for Board approval as presented on tonight's agenda. A revised final calendar for the 2020/2021 school year was reviewed and is presented on tonight's agenda for Board approval.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

The Committee met virtually on March 4. The AP Human Geography textbook for next school year was reviewed and presented for Board approval on tonight’s agenda. The committee was given an update on Career and Technical programs for the 20/21 school year. Mr. Livengood touched on a possible change next year due to low enrollment in the MIS program, adding a new program “Logistic Materials and Supply Chain Management.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

The Committee met virtually on March 11. The committee was in agreement to table discussion on the Grigg Memorial Field Study pending a tour of the areas outlined in the study. The committee heard a presentation on green infrastructure relating to borough parking lots. A design will be presented later this year for consideration. The committee was given a preliminary budget update, indicating an estimated \$1.7 million shortfall using reserve funds to balance the budget with a zero tax increase

- 2021/2022 Preliminary Budget: 2nd look – Mrs. Jampo reviewed the preliminary budget as presented at the March committee meeting with a proposed timeline to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2021/2022 at the April 22 Board meeting and the final budget in May. An increase in local tax revenues and a decrease in the worker’s compensation premium reduces the anticipated shortfall to \$1,728,531. The proposed preliminary budget is a zero tax increase with use of fund balance to balance the budget. The ESSER III is part of the American Rescue Plan that was enacted last week. The District has not heard any official word on funds but it is anticipated to be approximately \$10m.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE

The Committee met virtually on March 11. Representative Joe Ciresi gave a presentation on legislative updates and best means of public communication to legislators. The committee was given statistic on the District’s website comparing 2019 to 2020 and information items were shared with the committee on events that would help community members engage in advocacy.

BOROUGH LIAISON – MR. ROSE

No update.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – MR. PATEL, MR. CHAVALAPORN

Student Board representatives shared updates on student events. Events included participation in an interview by a Hill School student on racial and social inequities, seminar on interview tips, an informational webinar on Questbridge Scholarships, spotlighting senior college acceptances and the upcoming Foundation for Pottstown Education’s annual showcase of the District musical “Godspell” that includes a take-out dinner prepared by the PSD Culinary students.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSAB REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Johnson

MCLC meeting was held on March 17. Legislative discussion focused on charter school reform challenges and explored ways to use social media as a tool to advocate for charter school reform. PSBA Virtual Advocacy day is scheduled for March 22nd.

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):

Naomi Parson, student, addressed the Board with various research/study data on the immune system and viruses. She questioned the three safety measures versus the benefits of outdoors activities without masks.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and second by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on February 18, 2021, the List of Bills from the period of February 2021 and the Treasurer's Report for February 2021. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

POSITIONS

Professional

- (2) Special Education Teachers, Edgewood Program
- (1) Physical Education Teacher, Part-time

Classified

- (1) Coordinator/Receptionist, Edgewood Program
- (1) Technology Technician

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Professional

Laura Tansits, Long Term Substitute Guidance Counselor, High School, resignation effective June 11, 2021; hire date September 18, 2020)

Ratify Kelsey Rahill, Secondary Teacher, High School, resignation effective March 5, 2021; hire date April 16, 2018.

Christy Nau, Secondary Teacher, High School, resignation effective April 30, 2021; hire date August 22, 2017.

Correction: Ratify Laura Canfield, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective March 26, 2021; hire date February 18, 2020 (*previously approved February 18, 2021*).

Classified

Ratify Britney Oxenford, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective March 2, 2021; hire date October 6, 2020.

Ratify Jadea Wilkerson, Receptionist, High School, resignation effective March 5, 2021; hire date September 9, 2020.

Carolyn Dise, Custodian, High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 8, 2021; hire date March 31, 2011.

Laderah Reinhart, Paraprofessional, Barth Elementary, resignation effective March 5, 2021; hire date February 21, 2017.

Ratify Jodi Finnegan, Classroom Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective March 4, 2021; hire date October 6, 2009.

Aprille Doherty, Secretary, Middle School, resignation effective March 19, 2021; hire date September 5, 2017.

LEAVES

Professional

Matthew Fabian, Elementary Teacher, Franklin/Rupert Elementary, request for Professional Sabbatical, anticipated effective date August 16, 2021; estimated end date to be August 15, 2022.

Classified

Charles Tesno, Part-time Housekeeper, Lincoln Elementary, request for leave of absence effective March 24, 2021; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Classified

Ratify Erica Scott, from Substitute Support Staff to Nurse, Middle School, effective March 8, 2021, \$17.98/hr (replacing J. Malocu).

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Martin Valle, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, effective date March 15, 2021, \$45,000/yr, Step 1-Bach (contract of L. Canfield).

Exempt

Ratify Jeanne McGee, Social Worker, Administration Bldg., effective March 15, 2021, \$50,000/yr.

Classified

Ratify Kayla Murray, Intervention Assistant, Rupert Elementary, anticipated effective date March 8, 2021, \$13.65/hr. (replacing B. Oxenford).

Ratify Mustapha El Khachani, Custodian, Middle School, anticipated effective date March 15, 2021, \$15.25/hr. (replacing N. Frazer-Watkins).

Ratify Christopher Reder, Custodian 1, High School, anticipated effective date March 11, 2021, \$15.25/hr. (replacing T. Brown).

Moriah Hopkins, Receptionist, High School, effective March 29, 2021, \$14.04/hr (replacing J. Wilkerson).

Ratify Deborah Gratzinger, Temporary Executive Secretary, Administration Building, effective March 15, 2021, \$26.48/hr; end date to be May 31, 2021. This is in addition to her role as Enrollment Secretary.

District Summer Programs (paid through 21st Century and CARES funding)

1. Teachers/Substitute Teachers: All Pottstown School District Teacher-Certified staff members are approved on an "as need" basis as Extended School Year or Summer Intervention Instructors, \$30/hr
2. Paraprofessionals/Substitute Paraprofessionals: All Pottstown School District Paraprofessionals are approved on an "as need" basis as Extended School Year or Summer Intervention Instructors, \$13.65/hr.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Monthly Meeting Notice: April 2021

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Leibold was happy to see more traffic in the high school with students and staff engaging in safety protocols including virtual students being more engaged. She looks forward to more of a return to normal.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Johnson expressed her appreciation to all educators. She encouraged everyone to advocate for charter school reform, saving the District approximately \$1million /year.

Mrs. Barnhill agreed with Mrs. Johnson's comments.

Mr. Kline echoed Mrs. Johnson's comments.

Mr. Patel looks forward to in-person education opportunities.

Mr. Chavalaporn looks forward to getting back to buildings and teachers and be safe.

Mrs. Bearden gave a big thank you to the Board and staff for everything they do.

Mr. Rose is excited about returning to in-person learning. He is looking forward to the high school musical.


Mr. Armato thanked Dr. Cellini for her hard work keeping the staff updated on vaccinations. He thinks the video presentations are a testament to the District's resilience to work past the medical challenges and to bear a resemblance what was a normal life. He was impressed with the teachers work in the classroom and student responses to the newspaper interviews on "Education in the World of COVID".

Mr. Rodriguez shared an update on the COVID rate in Pottstown, currently at 3.86% positivity, the county at 5.07%. He emphasized to stay vigilant to avoid a surge in positivity. The Governor's announcement for spring break is increasing indoor capacity to 50% for special events. The District is prepared for hybrid education beginning on Monday, following the safety protocols and offering free Antigen testing.

Mrs. Francis stressed the vaccine is not 100% coverage and reminds everyone to be cautious. She looks forward to seeing the musicals and is always impressed with the community's determination to conquer. She reminded the Board of the executive session following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Johnson. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.


Maureen Jampo
Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL