



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 22, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, April 22, 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, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Mr. Raymond Rose. Absent was Mr. Steve Kline. 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.

**PRESENTATIONS (virtual)**

- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (Pa-EBT) – informational video explaining the federal program, eligibility and distribution of the debit cards.
- May 7 to May 16: MS Musical: Beauty & the Beast – cast members gave a preview of the musical
- April 30 to May 2: HS Musical: Godspell - cast members gave a preview of the musical

**MINUTES**

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

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Jampo presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of March 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-077**.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mrs. Jampo presented the Treasurer’s Reports for March 2021 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2020-2021-078**.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MRS. BARNHILL**

The Committee met virtually on April 8. The Committee was in agreement to retire four (4) prior formatted policies. Policy content is covered in active PSBA formatted policies. The 2021-2022 School Calendar was reviewed and recommended for Board approval as presented on tonight’s agenda.

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE**

The Committee met virtually on April 8. Rupert Elementary has started an “after-school “pilot program for students identified needing learning support. Two High School Science textbooks and related resources were reviewed and recommended to be placed on tonight’s Board agenda for approval.

**FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON**

The Committee met virtually on April 15. The Edgewood Asbestos Remediation low bid of \$77,000 is presented for Board approval on tonight’s agenda. The Committee was in agreement to table discussion on the Bleacher Feasibility Study pending more information. Finance board approval items were the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget with no tax increase, contracts and agreements as presented on tonight’s agenda.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. ROSE**

The Committee met virtually on April 15. The Committee discussed new proposed legislation regarding HB 1167, “Level up for School Funding”. Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding is sponsoring a state wide art contest on May 7th encouraging students from grades 3 - 12 to share their stories on what it means to them to live in a district that is underfunded.

**BOROUGH LIAISON – MR. ROSE**

Several events that are coming back were noted on the Borough’s C.O.W. meeting of April 7 ( Pow Wow at River Front Park, Fishing Derby, Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> parades). The Go Fourth event will be on High Street. Pottstown gift cards are now available for purchasing to support local businesses.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – MR. PATEL, MR. CHAVALAPORN**

Student Board representatives shared updates on student events at the high school. Senior acceptance celebration, awards presentation, movie night and DECA fundraisers. Godspell ticket sales are limited to in-person seating due to COVID restrictions; streaming and Facebook information can be found on the District website. Many thanks to the teachers and staff who were responsible for the senior graduate yard signs.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE/PSAB REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON**

The committee reviewed several legislative updates including a brief discussion regarding PSERs declining investment returns.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. BARNHILL**

The IU presented their preliminary budget for the 2021/2022 school year. The main topic of discussion was centered on the COVID vaccinations that were provided through the IU.

**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 Mrs. Johnson and second by Mrs. Barnhill that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on March 18, 2021, the List of Bills from the period of March 2021 and the Treasurer’s Report for March 2021. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**BOARD ACTION: CONSENT**

It was moved Mrs. Barnhill 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**

Jennifer Kurian, Certified School Nurse, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective June 4, 2021; hire date November 6, 2018.

Modify Laura Tansits, Long Term Substitute Guidance Counselor, resignation effective March 26, 2021 (previously approved effective June 11,2021).

Ratify Kayla Sabata, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, resignation effective March 28, 2021 (hire date August 21, 2008).

Exempt

Ratify Rena Manela, Virtual Learning Facilitator, HS, resignation effective April 12, 2021; hire date October 3, 2017.

Shelby Iezzi, Wellness Coordinator, Administration Building, resignation effective April 30, 2012; hire date October 2, 2017.

Classified

Ratify Cory Hambrick, Custodian, High School, resignation effective March 1, 2021 (hire date November 20, 2019).

Ratify Julia Soto, Part-time Elementary Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective April 15, 2021 (hire date October 19, 2011).

Ratify Marcus Coleman, Custodian. High School, resignation effective April 14, 2021 (hire date December 9, 2019).

LEAVES

Administrative

Rachel Joyce, Middle Level Supervisor of Special Education, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date July 21, 2021; end date to be determined.

Professional

Samantha Duncan, Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date August 14, 2021; end date tbd.

Ratify Maria Zematis, Long Term Substitute Floater, request for leave of absence effective April 19, 2021; end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Sarah Clark, Part-time Classroom Assistant, Administration Building, request for leave of absence effective March 29, 2021; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Professional

Ratify Amanda Walsh, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Long Term Substitute Floater, effective April 8, 2021, \$194/day.

Ratify Maria Zematis, from Long Term Substitute Teacher to Long Term Substitute Floater, effective April 6, 2021, \$194/day.

Ratify Marissa Wells, Special Education Teacher, Franklin Elementary, from Bach Step 1 to Bach +15, Step 2, retroactive pay from initial hire date October 21, 2019.

Classified

Deborah Gratzinger, from Enrollment Secretary to Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, effective June 1, 2021, \$26.48/hr (replacing D. Nash).

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Kimberly Robinson, Certified School Nurse, initial assignment to be High School, effective April 6, 2021, \$55,000/yr, Step 7-Mast., (contract of P. Pascal).

Classified

Ratify Debbie Hill, Paraprofessional, Franklin Elementary, effective April 6, 2021, \$13.65/hr.

Ratify Deborah Cimino, Proctor, High School, effective April 6, 2021, \$11.74/hr (replacing D. Marcheskie).

Ratify Luis Hernandez, Technician 1, Administration Building, anticipated effective date April 13, 2021, \$19.20/hr.

Modify Moriah Hopkins, Receptionist, High School, effective April 6, 2021, \$14.04 (previously approved effective date March 29, 2021).

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, \$24/period

Sarah Dierolf, 1 missed planning period, \$24.00, February 2021

Sarah Dierolf, 1 missed planning period, \$24.00, March 2021

Musical Stipends Production Team: Godspell

<u>Production</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	
Choreographer - High school	Jenna Endy	\$ 1,000.00	
Lighting Director	Nick Yashinsky	\$ 1,300.00	
Producer/Stage Manager	Robert Decker	\$ 4,000.00	
Publicist/House Manager	Eileen Basham	\$ 1,000.00	
Set Construction Manager	Jennifer Mohr	\$ 800.00	
Theatrical Director	Christopher Sperat	\$ 3,500.00	
Vocal Director	Benjamin DiPette	\$ 250.00	<i>*prorated</i>
Sound Director	Albert Garcia	\$ 1,000.00	
Properties manager	Candi-Haas-Simmons	\$ 500.00	
Set Designer	Candi-Haas-Simmons	\$ 2,500.00	
Orchestra Director	Amy K Anderson	\$ 1,250.00	
Vocal Director	Amy K Anderson	\$ 2,250.00	<i>*prorated</i>
Accompanist	Amy K Anderson	\$ 1,000.00	

Summer Program: Beech Street Learning Studio (BSLSX)

Jimai Springfield, Instructor, \$30/hr

Sarah Clarke, Instructor, \$30/hr

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Professional:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Laureen Gresko	Rupert	\$ 30.00
Christine Hall (course 1)	Middle School	\$ 2,340.00
Charity Heimbach	Barth	\$ 3,000.00
Michael Hewitt	High School	\$ 2,010.00
Kelsey Hultz	Rupert	\$ 1,050.00
Rebecca Jones	Middle School	\$ 1,464.00
David Mabry (4 courses)	Middle School	\$ 1,406.25
Amanda McDevitt	Barth	\$ 558.00
Chris Petro	Middle School	\$ 1,500.00
Kaylee Weldon	Franklin	\$ 549.00

Support Staff/Exempt:

Jennifer Vena-Perry	Peak	\$ 1,548.00
Chelise Wilkerson	High School	\$ 1,650.00

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS \* **ADDENDUM #2020-2021-079**

2020/2021 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports corrections/additions  
 2020/2021 Co-Curricular Assignments: Non-Athletics corrections additions

MENTOR ASSIGNMENTS \* **ADDENDUM #2020-2021- 080**

2020/2021 Mentor Assignments,  
 2019/2021 Mentor Assignments  
 2018/2019 Mentor Assignments

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS

Professional:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Laureen Gresko	Rupert	\$ 30.00
Christine Hall (course 1)	Middle School	\$ 2,340.00
Charity Heimbach	Barth	\$ 3,000.00
Michael Hewitt	High School	\$ 2,010.00
Kelsey Hultz	Rupert	\$ 1,050.00
Rebecca Jones	Middle School	\$ 1,464.00
David Mabry (4 courses)	Middle School	\$ 1,406.25
Amanda McDevitt	Barth	\$ 558.00
Chris Petro	Middle School	\$ 1,500.00
Kaylee Weldon	Franklin	\$ 549.00

Support Staff/Exempt:

Jennifer Vena-Perry	Peak	\$ 1,548.00
Chelise Wilkerson	High School	\$ 1,650.00

## PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title / Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Rupert	Matthew Moyer	NAESP Annual Conf., Chicago, Il	7/01/21 – 7/09/21	\$1,050 – pd by dept. budget

## 2021/2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021/2022 School Calendar as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-081**.

## TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: HS SCIENCE

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the High School Science textbook adoption as presented:

- Cengage Learning – College Physics, AP, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition - \$6,212.25
- Cengage Learning – Chemistry, AP, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition - \$6,835.95

## CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-082**:

1.	The Glenn Price Group	4.	MCIU: Medical Practitioner Authorization ACCESS Program
2.	MCIU: ZOOM	5.	MCIU: Internet/RWAN
3.	MCIU: Discovery Streaming	6.	95% Group Inc. (professional development-CARES funded)

## MCIU INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STUDENT SERVICES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the MCIU Intergovernmental Agreement as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-083**.

## BID AWARD: EDGEWOOD ASBESTOS ABATEMENT & RELATED WORK

The Superintendent recommends that a purchase order/contract be awarded to the company indicated, the award in being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

- Neuber Environmental Services, Inc. - \$77,000  
110 Grosser Rd  
Gilbertsville PA 19525

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

## NON-CONSENT

Mr. Rodriguez presented the following non-consent items for Board consideration. Each item was reviewed for discussion and public comment. Mr. Rodriguez stated the Act 93 Agreement, Exempt and Support Guidelines are guidelines, not contracts, and the goal for establishing the guidelines focus on salary equity for all staff.

## Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to non-consent items).

None.

### **ADOPTION OF THE 2021/2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Mrs. Jampo presented the 2021/2022 proposed preliminary budget totaling \$66,066,587 with a budget shortfall of \$1,578,531. It is the recommendation of the administration to balance the budget using fund balance reserves with no tax increase in the real estate millage.

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board adopt the 2021/2022 Preliminary Budget as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020/2021-084**.

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

### **ACT 93 AGREEMENT – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Act 93 Agreement as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the Act 93 Agreement as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-085**.

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

### **EXEMPT GUIDELINES – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Exempt Guidelines as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the Exempt Guidelines as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-086**.

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

### **SUPPORT GUIDELINES – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Support Guidelines as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Barnhill and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the Support Guidelines as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-087**.

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

### **APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Motion to approve the employment contract with Mr. Stephen Rodriguez as Superintendent of the District based upon the terms discussed with the Board.

Mr. Kalis reviewed the terms of the employment contract effective July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2026 including compensation and benefits for each year.

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Board approve the employment contract with Mr. Rodriguez as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2020-2021-089**.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **School Board Candidate Forum – Primary Election Candidates**

Mr. Rose spoke about the event scheduled for Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Evan Brandt will be the moderator for the event. The goal of the forum is to give the community an opportunity to meet the potential candidates and get to know them. Board members were in agreement to hold the event as a virtual (Zoom) meeting in lieu of in an auditorium in-person setting.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Monthly Meeting Notice: April 2021

## **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Mr. Decker announced that commencement will take place in-person this year. He congratulated Mr. Rodriguez on his employment agreement and thanked the administration for recognizing salary equity in the guidelines.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Rose is looking forward to the musicals.

Mrs. Johnson expressed her gratitude to the administrators for the efforts to present another budget with no tax increase and provide salary equity among district staff. She thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his commitment to Pottstown and for his leadership.

Mr. Chavalaporn congratulated Mr. Rodriguez and looks forward to his continued support and working together.

Mr. Patel congratulated Mr. Rodriguez and thanked him for staying with Pottstown. Mr. Rodriguez has been an inspiration to him.

Mr. Armato is pleased the District retains the leadership of Mr. Rodriguez. He expressed caution that the COVID relief funds are specific to COVID and do not address budget issues. The District still remains underfunded. He is thankful for another year with no tax increase and looks forward to a positive impact that salary equity will bring as the District moves forward.

Ms. Bearden congratulated Mr. Rodriguez and senior, Darius Smallwood.

Mrs. Lawrence thanked the administration for a great budget job. She is disappointed the District has not been able to hire more counselors.

Mrs. Barnhill expressed her appreciation to the administrators and staff for all they do.

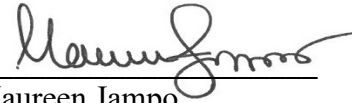
Mr. Rodriguez was pleased with the successes of the Rupert pilot after-school program. This year's District summer program will be the biggest program with in-person instruction at all the buildings. He briefly reviewed the chrome book options for the summer versus the return of the chrome books. He encouraged students to take advantage of the District's Assurance (Antigen) testing as teen COVID cases are on the rise. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Board for their confidence in him.

Mrs. Francis thanked Mrs. Jampo and Dr. Cellini for their patience working with the Board. She congratulated Mr. Rodriguez and noted that it has been a pleasure getting to know and work with him.



**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board adjourns. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.



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Maureen Jampo  
Board Secretary