



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room of the Administration Building including virtual platform with President, Ms. Katina Bearden, presiding. Upon roll call, the following members attended: Mr. John Armato, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Phoebe Kancianic, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, and Ms. Deborah Spence (virtual). Also present were Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Assistant Business Administrator, Mrs. Mary Ellen Urquhart; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Award: NAACP

Mr. Rodriguez presented the Superintendent Award to the NAACP. Representatives Paula Corson, Chelise Wilkerson and Annette Kobb accepted the award on behalf of the NAACP.

MINUTES

Mrs. Urquhart presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on February 16, 2023 for Board approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Johnson presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of February 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2022-2023-059**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2022-2023-060**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MR. KLINE

Policy/Personnel Committee met on March 2. Committee report is attached to the board minutes.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

Curriculum Committee met on March 2. Committee report is attached to the board minutes.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

Facilities/Finance Committee met on March 9. Committee report is attached to the board minutes

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MRS. JOHNSON

Public Relations/Community Engagement met on March 9. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

The committee discussed the Governor's proposed budget, various topics from the Senate Education hearing and topics for the legislative breakfast.

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. KANCIANIC

PSBA released an official statement on the Governor's proposed budget. The April 18th advocacy day will be virtual. All topics and events can be viewed on the PSBA website.

MCIU REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. LAWRENCE

Highlights from the February meeting included a presentation on advocacy, discussion on the results of annual audit, and Teacher appreciation week (May 8th to May 12th).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES – MR. ELLISON, MS. ADEDEJI, MR. BROUGHTON

The student representatives gave reports events at the middle school and high school, club activities, fundraisers and plans for a mini-thon.

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):

Mercedes Jackson, resident, asked the Board to consider recess for all children, critique the hall passes, and add assistants in more classrooms.

Board Comment:

Ms. Spence commented on the percentage of students' not on grade level and asked that the Board prioritize action to close the achievement gap. She noted that this is vital to the economic revitalization of Pottstown.

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

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board approve the minutes for the December and January meetings as presented, the List of Bills from the various fund for the period of December 2022 and January 2023 and the Treasurer's Report for December 2022 and January 2023. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

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

PERSONNEL

POSITIONS

Classified: Change in title and job description * Addendum #2022-2023-061

From Social Media and Communications Specialist to Communications Specialist

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Classified

Ratify Emily Overdorf, Social Media and Communications Specialist, Admin. Building, resignation effective February 24, 2023; hire date March 19, 2018.

Ratify Evalinn Pierce, Part-time Proctor, Rupert Elementary, resignation effective March 8, 2023; hire date January 31, 2022.

Ratify Jeanette Jones, Part-time Proctor, Barth Elementary, resignation effective March 17, 2023; hire date January 3, 2023.

Ginger Tiner, Paraprofessional, High School, resignation effective March 27, 2023; hire date August 22, 2017.

LEAVES

Professional

Ratify Evelyn Blair-Miller, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 27, 2023; end date tbd.

Ratify Michele Andre, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 27, 2023; end date tbd.

Ratify Lisa Stephenson-Horne, Elementary Teacher, Rupert Elementary, request for intermittent leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date March 1, 2023; end date tbd.

Jaime Parris, Dean of Students, High School, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date April 24, 2023; end date tbd.

Exempt

Melanie Gniewoz, Pre-K Counts Teacher, North End, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date August 23, 2023; end date tbd.

Classified

Sorana Maddaloni, Paraprofessional, Admin. Building, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, anticipated effective date April 26, 2023; end date tbd.

Ratify Patty Alderfer, Paraprofessional, Middle School, request for leave of absence covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, effective date March 6, 2023; end date tbd.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Professional

Ratify Alanna Jessee, from Intervention Assistance to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective March 15, 2023, \$251/day (coverage for N. Ewing). Upon end of assignment, will return to Intervention Assistant.

Maria HENZES, from Paraprofessional to Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Franklin Elementary, effective March 20, 2023, \$251/day (coverage for E. Faust). Upon end of assignment, will return to Paraprofessional.

Exempt

Ratify Haley Fink, from Long-Term Substitute Pre-K Teacher to Pre-K Teacher, North End, effective March 1, 2023, \$47,718/yr (replacing K. Heidler).

ELECTIONS

Classified

Ratify Rebekka Heintz, Paraprofessional 1:1, Franklin Elementary, effective February 27, 2023, \$14.50/hr.

Ratify Jillian D'Annibale, Part-time Paraprofessional, Rupert Elementary, effective March 6, 2023, \$14.50/hr.

Ratify Rebecca Spaulding, Recording Secretary, Admin. Building, effective March 2, 2023, \$28.88/hr. This is in addition to her role as Human Resource Administrative Assistant.

Ratify Herman Yeager, Part-time Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, effective March 13, 2023, \$12.65/hr.

Michelle Zipay, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator, Admin. Building, effective date tbd, \$28.00/hr; Recording Secretary, \$42.00 hr (replacing J. Rhoads).

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS * **Addendum #2022-2023-062**

- 2022/2023 Non-Athletics Update
- 2022/2023 Spring Sports

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Bldg	Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
HS	Kimberly Robinson	PA Assoc of School Nurses & Practitioners Annual Educational Conf.	Hershey, PA	3/31/23 - 4/2/23	\$775.00 – dept. budget
Admin	Maureen Jampo	IBX 2023 Health Care Forum	Atlantic City, NJ	5/31/23 – 6/2/23	\$135.00 – dept. budget

FIELD TRIPS

# attending	Destination	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to Student	Cost to District (substitute)	Chaperone(s)
1 Student 1 adult	International DECA State Career Development Conference	Orlando, FL	4/21/23- 4/26/23	\$316.00	\$420.00	Ronald Davenport
7 Students 2 adults	PA Training & Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)	Harrisburg, PA	4/18/23 - 4/19/23	\$101.72	\$280.00	Andrew Bachman Teri Baller

SCHOOL CALENDAR: 2022/2023 END OF YEAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2022/2023 School Calendar for the end of the year as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2022-2023-063**.

GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM

The Policy/Personnel Committee and Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge a girls wrestling team effective for the 2023/2024 season as discussed at the March 9, 2023 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 #2022-2023-064:**

The Meadows Psychiatric Center	New Story LLC
YMCA Summer Day Camp Program	E-Rate (Dauphin Data Com, ePlus, KIT Comm.

BID AWARD: GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

The Superintendent recommends that a purchase order be awarded to the following company indicated, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications:

Finch Services Inc. - John Deere Gator -	\$28,604.29
John Deere Utility Tractor -	\$23,893.37

2023 BUILDING ENVELOPE REPAIRS PROGRAM

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2023 Building Envelope Repairs plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2022-2023-065.**

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Spence requested the employment contract be move to non-consent as she was not present at the executive session when the contract was presented and reviewed by the Board.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye for the above consent items except the Employment Contract of Business Administrator (moved to Non-Consent): Johnson: aye, Kancianic: aye
Kline: aye, Lawrence: aye, Spence: aye, Armato: aye, Bearden: aye, Heidel: aye, Hylton: aye.
Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT

Mr. Kalis presented the non-consent settlement agreements as discussed in the executive session held prior to the start of the Board meeting.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the non-consent items): none.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve the terms negotiated involving a settlement agreement involving Student A, based upon those terms discussed with the Board. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the settlement agreement involving Student A as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2022-2023-066.**

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Heidel: aye, Hylton: aye, Kancianic: aye, Kline: aye, Armato: aye, Bearden: aye, Johnson: aye, Lawrence: aye. Spence: nay. Ayes: Eight. Nays: One. Motion carried.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve the terms negotiated involving a settlement agreement involving Student B, based upon those terms discussed with the Board. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the settlement agreement involving Student B as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2022-2023-067.**

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Kline: aye, Johnson: aye, Lawrence: aye, Armato: aye, Bearden: aye, Hylton: aye, Spence: nay, Heidel: aye, Kancianic: aye. Ayes: Eight. Nays: One. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to approve entering into the employment contract with the Business Administrator as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Kline and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the employment contract with the Business Administrator as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2022-2023-068.**

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Kline: aye, Johnson: aye, Lawrence: aye, Armato: aye, Bearden: aye, Hylton: aye, Spence: nay, Heidel: aye, Kancianic: aye. Ayes: Eight. Nays: One. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: FIELD TRIP

Mr. Boyer presented the field trip for Board discussion and consideration for Board action.

Hearings from Patrons of the Schools (limited to field trip)

Mercedes Jackson, resident, asked if the field trip is for all MS students or a grade level at MS.

FIELD TRIP

Motion to approve the following field trip:

<u># students</u>	<u>Conference:</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Date</u>	<u>Cost to Student</u>	<u>District Cost (Substitutes)</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
30	Pocono Environmental Education Center	Dingmans Ferry, PA	04/17/2023-04/19/2023	\$25.00	\$1,260.00	Sam DeAngeli Tracy Pasquale Ginger Angelo

It was moved Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the field trip as presented.

Upon roll call vote, all members voted aye: Armato; aye, Bearden: aye, Heidel: aye, Hylton: aye, Kancianic: aye, Johnson: aye, Kline: aye, Lawrence: aye, Spence: aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

- Advocacy: March 28th: PLUS Caucus Press Conference
April 18th: Advocacy Day PSBA)
- Girls Wrestling Video
- April Meeting Schedule

FEDERATION REMARKS

Ms. Hospador, on behalf of the Federation, asked the Board to consider hiring more related arts students as part of the upcoming budget. The Federation looks forward to collaborate and share ways to make this happen. Safety issues at the high school are a concern of the teachers (hoodies, masks, sunglasses that hide their identity and revealing, inappropriate attire). She asked that the Board revisit the dress policy to address these issues.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Armato looks forward to the start of the girls wrestling season.

Mrs. Lawrence looks forward to celebrating Teacher Appreciation week and thanked the staff for their dedication.

Mrs. Johnson is pleased the Board approve the Mrs. Oakley's employment contract. She enjoyed visiting a Lincoln classroom and was impressed with the "Foundations" program.

Mr. Hylton spoke about Board Members comments at the Facilities Committee meeting regarding funding the Public Library and allocating funds to support other community entities. He gave a summary of operating costs related to the Ricketts Center, transportation for all students and a swimming pool option. He asked Board Members to continue talking about a list of District priorities at the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting, not to drop the topic.

Mr. Kline thanked the administration and staff for implementing the Foundations program and is pleased with the positive feedback.

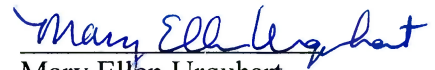
Ms. Spence extended "happy women's history month" celebrating the vital role of women in history.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the Student Board representatives for their reports. He sees the positive effects of the resources in the classrooms, and recognizes a time to reflect and know things are improving.

Ms. Bearden thanked the NAACP representatives for their work. She thanked the Federation for their donation to the Foundation for Pottstown Education on behalf of the Board and included the Foundation for all their work supporting our students.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board adjourns. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.


Mary Ellen Urquhart
Assistant Board Secretary