



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 2023**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, August 17, 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, Mrs. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Phoebe Kancianic, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence and Ms. Deborah Spence. Absent: Mr. Kurt Heidel. Also present were; Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Business Administrator, Mrs. Maureen Oakley; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION

MINUTES

Mrs. Oakley presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on June 15 and Board Workshop July 13, 2023 for Board approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Johnson presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of June and July 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-001**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Oakley commented Treasurer's Report for May, June and July 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-002**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MR. KLINE

Policy/Personnel Committee met on August 3. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE

Curriculum Committee met on August 3. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

Facilities/Finance Committee met on August 10. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MRS. JOHNSON

Public Relations/Community Engagement met on August 10. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. KANCIANIC

PSBA Delegate Assembly November 4 2023 need to vote, Mrs. Kancianic and Mr. Heidel agree to represent Pottstown. PSBA voting for open positions starting September 11 ending October 27, 2023. Stay Strong on Boarding New Director Event on September 13, 2023 at Headquarters. PSBA in December 2023 will start offering required training in-person and virtual. School Leadership conference is in October 2023 and Pottstown will be represented by a band assemble.

MCIU REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. LAWRENCE

No meeting in July. Updates from June meeting had a staff presentation, approved new terms for members, USBA delegate was chosen and finished up on yearend. First day is August 21, 2023 and Next meeting August 23, 2023.

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

PROFESSIONAL

RATIFY GEORGIA BRASCO, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, LINCOLN, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 2023; HIRE DATE DECEMBER 10, 2017.

RATIFY REBECCA SAYLER, SECONDARY TEACHER, MIDDLE SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 2023; HIRE DATE AUGUST 17, 2020.

RATIFY BETH MASON, SPECIAL ED DEPART CHAIRPERSON, MIDDLE SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 24, 2023.

RATIFY JUSTIN HEHN, SECONDARY TEACHER, MIDDLE SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 19, 2023.

RATIFY RICHARD GOODGE, SECONDARY TEACHER, HIGH SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2023; HIRE DATE DECEMBER 5, 2022.

RATIFY NANCY DIENER, SCHOOL NURSE, EDGEWOOD, RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 28, 2023; HIRE DATE AUGUST 23, 2021.

RATIFY DAVID BARNES, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, HIGH SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 03, 2023; HIRE DATE AUGUST 20, 2019.

MICHELE ANDRE, SECONDARY TEACHER, MIDDLE SCHOOL, RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 10, 2023; HIRE DATE DECEMBER 1, 1992.

LINDSAY BENULIS, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, FRANKLIN, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2023; HIRE DATE JUNE 3, 2016.

EXEMPT

RATIFY CHRISTINA COZART, RESIDENCY COORDINATOR, ADMINISTRATION, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 28, 2023; HIRE DATE AUGUST 1, 2022.

RATIFY CRYSTAL BUTLER, SOCIAL WORKER, ADMINISTRATION, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2023; HIRE DATE AUGUST 15, 2022

CLASSIFIED

RATIFY CHARDEA SUTTON, PARAPROFESSIONAL, RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2023; HIRE DATE SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

RATIFY SORANA MADDALONI, PARAPROFESSIONAL, RUPERT/EDGEWOOD, RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE JULY 18, 2023; HIRE DATE DECEMBER 5, 2022.

RATIFY ILEANA GONZALEZ, PREK ASSISTANT, NORTH END EARLY LEARNING, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2023; HIRE DATE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.

RATIFY GILLIAN COPESTICK, PREK CLASSROOM ASST., LINCOLN, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2023; HIRE DATE MARCH 31, 2022.

RATIFY HEATHER MURRAY, INTERVENTION ASSISTANT, MIDDLE SCHOOL, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2, 2023; HIRE DATE SEPTEMBER 13, 2019.

RATIFY SANDRA MYERS, INTERVENTION ASSISTANT, LINCOLN, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2023; HIRE DATE SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.

RATIFY HOLLY BRINTON, PARAPROFESSIONAL, BARTH, RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 2023.

LEAVES

Professional

Stephanie Garber, Special Education Teacher, Franklin, request for leave of absence covered by sick time, anticipated effective date December 23, 2023; end date to be TBD

Classified

Kristina Hjalte, Administrative Assistant to the CTE Director, High School, request for leave of absence covered by sick time, effective November 20, 2023; end date to be TBD.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

Professional

Ratify Sarah Dierolf, Science Department Chairperson, Middle School, effective August 15, 2023, \$1,654/yr, replacing M.Bieber.

Ratify Rebecca Keown, SE Department Chairperson, Middle School, effective August 15, 2023, \$1,654/yr., replacing B.Mason.

Ratify Lemuel Brown, Virtual Learning Coach to Emotional Support Teacher, effective August 15, 2023, \$50,236/yr., New Position.

Ratify Ann Marie Fadden, Building Substitute, North End Early Learning, effective upon completion of the LTS assignment at Lincoln covering for M.Gniewoz., \$251/day.

Exempt

Christine Seller, Residency Coordinator, Admin-Student Services, effective TBD, \$66,000/yr., replacing C.Coziert.

Classified

Ratify Bridgett Thomas, from Lunch Proctor to Paraprofessional, effective August 15, 2023, \$15.50/hr.

Ratify Denise Williams, from Food Service Worker to Paraprofessional, effective August 15, 2023, \$15.50/hr., replacing S.Maddaloni.

Giovinna Weller, Cafeteria Worker, initial assignment High School, from part-time to full-time, effective August 18, 2023.

ELECTIONS

Professional

Ratify Miranda Cesmegi, Secondary Teacher, initial assignment Edgewood, effective date August 15, 2023, \$50,236/yrly, Step3, Bach.

Ratify Maxwell Quinn, Building Substitute, High School, effective date August 15, 2023, \$251/day.

Ratify Christopher Evans, Building Substitute, High School, effective date August 15, 2023, replacing B.Pratt.

Ratify Gianna Fazio, Health & Phys.Ed. Teacher, initial assignment High School, effective date August 15, 2023, Step1, Bach., replacing R.Goodge.

Ratify Stephanie Gaal, Health & Phys.Ed. Teacher, initial assignment Middle School, effective date August 15, 2023, Step7, Mast., replacing J.Hehn.

Ratify Elaine Garczynski, Speech Language Pathologist, initial assignment Peak/High School, effective date August 15, 2023, \$54,015.00/yrly, Step2, Mast., New Position.

Ratify Isabella Salvucci, School Counselor, initial assignment Lincoln, effective date August 15, 2023, \$54,525/yr, Step3, Mast., replacing L.Livote.

Ratify Allison Steck, Long Term Substitute Elementary Teacher, initial assignment Rupert, effective August 15, 2023, \$251/daily, coverage for J.Parris.

Ratify Rachel Kellie, School Nurse(CSN), initial assignment Franklin, effective date August 15, 2023, \$61,438/yr, Step8, Mast., replacing J.Kurian.

Ratify Joseph Dougherty, Engineering Teacher, initial assignment High School, effective date August 15, 2023, \$49,724/yr replacing J.Hilburt.

Classified

Ratify Demar Barnes, Summer Cleaner, High School, effective July 10, 2023, \$13.65/hr.

Ratify Glorivee Santiago-Velez, Part-Time Summer Cleaner, Franklin Elementary, effective July 20, 2023, \$13.65/hr.

Ratify Cynthia Serrano-Genova, Cafeteria Worker, Franklin, effective TBD, \$14.25/hr.

Ratify Reilly Owens, Paraprofessional, Lincoln, effective August 15, 2023, \$15.50/hr.

Ratify Sandra Green, Classroom Assistant, North End Early Learning, effective August 15, 2023, \$16.00/hr.

Ratify Jaelynne Vasquez, Classroom Assistant, Franklin, effective August 16, 2023, \$15.50/hr., replacing P.Jones

Ashlee Rodriguez, Building Substitute, Middle School, effective October 9, 2023, \$251/day.

Edna Taylor, Student Proctor, initial assignment Franklin, effective August 21, 2023, \$14/hr., replacing D.Bailey.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Professional:

Name	School	6/30/23 Deadline
Maura Clark (2 courses)	MS	\$2,074
Seth Cohen (3 courses)	HS	\$2,920.41
Ronald Davenport	HS	\$4.00
Michael Hewitt	HS	\$2,142.00
Joseph Homan	MS	\$1,780.00
Kelsey Hultz	Rupert	\$2,106.00
Amanda Kenney	Barth	\$1,360.00
Keri Marini	Barth	\$1,864.20
Stephen Siever	HS	\$1,606.50
Amanda Walsh	Lincoln	\$2,136.00
Brittany Zacharias	Barth	\$1,710.00

Support Staff/Exempt:

Name	Building	6/30/23 Deadline
David Kurtz	HS	\$2,343.00
Heather Dailey	Admin	\$1,500.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Bldg.	Name	Conference Title / Location	Dates Attend	Cost
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA/PSBA Leadership Forum Pocono Manor, PA	10/16/2023 - 10/17/2023	\$1,042.30 - paid by dept. budget
Admin	Maureen Oakley	Four County Business Mgr. Conference, Skytop, PA	10/04/2023 - 10/06/2023	\$907.00 - paid by dept. budget
Barth	Mieke Mazur	MCIU Special Education Leadership Conference Skytop, PA	10/25/23 - 10/27/23	\$315.00 - paid by dept. budget
Admin	William Jeffreys	MCIU Special Education Leadership Conference Skytop, PA	10/25/23 - 10/27/23	\$200.00 - paid by dept. budget
HS	Theresa Baller	PACTA Summer Leadership Conference Penn Sate Hotel, PA	07/25/23 - 07/26/23	\$749.00 - paid by Grant

POLICY

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Policy 006.1 and Policy 625 as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-003**

- Policy 006.1: Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications (update)
- Policy 625 Procurement Cards (update)
- Policy 718 Naming Rights voted to be moved to Non-Consent.

TSI BARTH ELEMENTARY PLAN

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI Barth Elementary Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-004**

TSI FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY PLAN

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI Franklin Elementary Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-005**

TSI LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PLAN

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI Lincoln Elementary Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-006**

RESIDENCY ADJUDICATION DECISION

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Residency Adjudication Decision as presented.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS 2023-2024

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI Lincoln Elementary Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-007**

CONTRACTS

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-008**

- MCIU-PowerSchool(Ratify)
- MCIU-SWIS
- The Timothy School(ESY)
- The Lincoln Center(2)
- Melmark
- Elwyn-Davidson School
- Paradigm Shift Gear Up
- Family Services of Mont.Cnty.PEAK

- Access Learning
- MCIU-Title 1A
- Woods Services
- S.O.S. Extension to Agreement
- New Story(3)
- The Timothy School 23/24yr
- Soliant Physical/Occupational Therapist

FACILITY CHANGE ORDER

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the High School Domestic Hot Water & High School Retaining Wall Change Order as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-009**

BID AWARD: MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a contract awarded to the following company indicated, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-010**

- **The Lincoln Center \$83,000**

ACKNOWLEDGE CMD SERVICES TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

The Board Secretary recommends the Board acknowledge the list of CMD bus drivers for the 2023/2024 school year for the sole purpose of complying with applicable PDE guidelines and subject to adjustment by CMD Services Inc. based upon its applicable employment considerations as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-011**

SCHOOL PHYSICIANS RATES

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Physicians Rates as presented.
Dr. John Anderson: \$15.00 per school physical

WORKERS COMPENSATION MEDICAL PROVIDERS

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Workers Compensation Medical Providers as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-012**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Mrs. Oakley 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 Comment:

BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board approve the minutes from June 15, 2023 Board Meeting, and July 13, 2023 Board Workshop, the list of Bills for June and July 2023 and the Treasurer's Report for May, June and July 2023.

All were in favor. One absent – Mr. Heidel. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the following consent items #8 to #25, with Consent #14 Policies moved to Non-Consent approved in accordance with Policy 005, as recommended by the Board Treasurer:

Upon roll call vote, all present members voted aye for the above consent items: Mrs. Spence; aye, Mr. Kline; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mr. Armato; aye. Mr. Heidel; absent, Ayes: Eight. Nay: Zero. Absent: One. Motion carried.

NON- CONSENT: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NON-CONSENT: POLICY 718 NAMING RIGHTS – (amended – moved from consent to non-consent)

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS (Limited to Non-Consent)

None

BOARD ACTION: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve Special Education award settlement as presented to the Board, pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board and a copy to be filed in the Secretary office as

Addendum #2023-2024-013

It was moved by Mrs. Lawrence and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the Board approve the settlement agreement as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mrs. Spence; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mr. Kline; aye. Ayes: Eight. Nay: Zero. Absent: One. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: POLICY 718 NAMING RIGHTS – (amended – moved from consent to non-consent)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Policy 718 as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-014**

It was moved by Mr. Kline and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board approve the Policy 718 Naming Rights (amended – moved from consent to non-consent) as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mr. Kline; aye, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mrs. Spence; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye. Mrs. Lawrence; aye. Ayes: Eight. Nay: Zero. Absent: One. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT: PERSONNEL: PROFESSIONAL LEAVE – New Business

Bldg.	Name	Conference Title / Location	Dates Attend	Cost
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA Board of Governors Meeting Harrisburg, PA	09/07/2023 - 09/08/2023	\$200.00 - paid by dept. budget
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA Board of Governors Meeting Harrisburg, PA	11/08/2023 - 11/09/2023	\$200.00 - paid by dept. budget
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA Board of Governors Meeting Harrisburg, PA	01/25/2024 - 01/26/2024	\$200.00 - paid by dept. budget
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA Board of Governors Meeting Harrisburg, PA	04/11/2024 - 04/12/2024	\$200.00 - paid by dept. budget

NON-CONSENT: PERSONNEL: CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS (Limited to Non-Consent – New Business)

None

BOARD ACTION: PERSONNEL: PROFESSIONAL LEAVE – New Business

It was moved by Mr. Kline and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the Board approve the Professional Leave – New Business as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Kline; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mrs. Spence; aye, Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Heidel; absent. Ayes: Eight. Nay: Zero. Absent: One. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: PERSONNEL: CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT

Motion to approve Personnel Confidential Agreement as presented to the Board, pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential release agreement. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the confidential agreement on behalf of the Board and a copy to be filed in the Secretary office as **Addendum #2023-2024-015**.

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the settlement agreement as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Kline; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mrs. Spence; nay, Ayes: Seven. Nay: One. Absent: One. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Professional Leave – Mr. Boyer

INFORMATION

- Monthly Meeting Notice: September
- Pottstown Pride Spring-Summer 2023
- Travel Education Packet (International and National) – Mr. Rodriguez is meeting with parent September 12th & 13th to help with travel planning so more students can attend.
- Pottstown Regional Library is launching a new program with using a id cards that will allow students to be able to take out books.
- Looking to have a presentation or book signing for the book “Chicken Hill”.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Sara Miller and the Federation wanted to thank the Crew that cleaned all the buildings. They worked very hard and had things done ahead of time. Welcome to all new hires and excited to have them and looking forward to a great year.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Spence - made a public comment about newspaper article “Schools can’t bring communities out of poverty.

Mr. Armato – Excited about the first day of school approaching. He spoke with a former student who is now teaching at Pottstown and is also excited for day one.

Mrs. Kancianic – Mentioned about a play at Steel River Playhouse. The title is “A promise to Pottstown” she recommends everyone to come see the play it’s about different places in Pottstown. Ticket’s are free but must register on line to get a seat. One of our Students will be on CBS for the Jazz song he wrote and was published when he was in Middle School.

Mrs. Lawrence – Excited about the New School year.

Mr. Hylton – No

Mrs. Johnson – Spoke about how busy all schools are with activities through the summer. Also, how awesome it was to get phone calls from child’s teachers.


Mr. Kline – No

Mr. Rodriguez – Wanted to give a call out to the Technology Department for working hard and resolving problems with the new software in a timely manner.

Mrs. Bearden – Thanking the staff for having the school up and running for the new year. Agreed with Mrs. Johnson about the teachers reaching out to parents. Hope everyone is supporting Local stores for ordering.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs.Kancianic and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board adjourns. Eight: Ayes. One absent. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8.05pm.


Maureen Oakley
Board Secretary



**Pottstown School District
Personnel/Policy Committee
REPORT
August 3, 2023**

Committee Members: Steve Kline, Chair; John Armato, Susan Lawrence, Deborah Spence (absent), Katina Bearden (absent)

POLICY

- **Policy 718 – Naming Rights**

A presentation slide show of Fox Rothchild recommendations was highlighted and reviewed. Policy items under review included: Grant Naming Rights requirements, nomination process and guidelines and action on applications and termination. A note to further discuss guideline item #8 “must be of exemplary moral character...” was agreed upon.

- **Policy 006.1 – Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications**

Review of policy statement, “Board Members shall be permitted no more than two meetings remotely during a calendar school year”.

- **Policy 625 Procurement Cards**

ESSER recommendation of a new policy previously not in place to reference Policy 626.2. Business Manager to monitor, record and approve set amount purchases on Procurement Cards.

A motion to move the above Policy items forward to the meeting as whole was agreed on.

PERSONNEL

A request was made by Administration to add one Building Substitute to the PEAK/Pre-K Programs at the approved September 2023 pay rate. All in favor of moving to the Committee as a whole.

Informational Items:

Comparative Discipline Data Review – Middle School and High School

Dr. White presented data results between 2019-2020 and 2022-2023. While incidents at the Middle School decreased, numbers at the High School rose. A new heightened Administration presence at the High School, as well as an increase of Student intervention programs and outreach should see a decline in these numbers in the 2023-2024 school year.

Kalahari Pocono Pennsylvania Association of School Board Member Conference

Mr. Rodriguez spoke about the Annual PSBA/PASA School Leadership Conference happening on October 15-17 at the Kalahari Pocono. Board Members are invited and PSD musicians are scheduled to perform.

Next Meeting Date: September 7, 2023



Pottstown School District
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT
August 3, 2023

(immediately following Policy/Personnel Committee meeting)

Committee Members: Susan Lawrence - Chairperson; Steve Kline, Phoebe Kancianic, Thomas Hylton, Katina Bearden (absent)

Informational Items

TSI Presentations – Guest Speakers Principal B. Kramer (Franklin Elementary), Principal C. Boyer (Lincoln Elementary) and Principal M. Ishler (Barth) each provided slide presentations on their TSI Plan of Action for the 2023-2024 school year. Each TSI strategy plan shared similar methods meant to improve Academic and Attendance levels over the course of the next school year. Four common TSI strategies presented were: (1) Parent/Family and Community Engagement (2) Attendance Monitoring and Management (3) Academic Achievement through MTSS processes and (4) Quarterly Monitoring.

PreK Counts Update – Pre-K Counts Coordinator, D. McCoy gave a slide presentation on the North End PreK Counts Program. Highlights from 2022-2023 included Measuring Growth in Literacy/Math, NEELC Physical Space Improvements, Increasing Community Site Support and Kindergarten Readiness. Ms. McCoy also stressed the importance of Family Engagement at the Pre-K level as well as implementing a variety of resources and programs (such as the Foundations Literacy Curriculum, Creative Curriculum and Learning Without Tears) to support Benchmark Growth in Pre-K students. Goals for the 2023-2024 Pre-K Counts Program include a focus on Attendance, PBIS/MTSS, as well as Monitoring and Tracking Kindergarten Student Progress.

August In-Service Highlights

Mr. Oxenford shared a slide presentation noting that the 2022-2023 August In-Service had a 4/School Year = 3 (7 total) in comparison to the 2023-2024 August In-Service of 3/School Year = 4 (7 total). Also listed were 14 different categories of training that Pottstown School District Professional staff will take part in the upcoming school year (e.g. CPI, Study Island Benchmark Training, LinkIt Benchmark Assessment Training, Grade Level Meetings and Family Engagement phone calls etc.).

Look Ahead to Next Month

- Recommendation for a State Approved, Chapter 16 Universal Gifted Screener (R. Oxenford/W. Jeffreys)
- Vital Signs Recap – S. Rodriguez/R. Oxenford
- Co-Curricular Programs – J. Baker (Spring Recap/Fall Look Ahead)

Next Meeting: September 7, 2023



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Facilities/Finance Committee
REPORT

Thursday August 10, 2023
6:30 PM virtual

Members: Thomas Hylton- Chair; John Armato, Steve Kline, Kurt Heidel, Laura Johnson, Katina Bearden

FACILITIES – Mrs. Oakley

Facility Change Orders

- High School Domestic Hot Water - R.A.M.M. Inc. is providing us with two wafer check valves in water supply lines (one for each water heater) the change order increases the cost by \$3,684.00 changing the price from \$174,650.00 to \$178,334.00.
- High School Retaining Wall - O&S removed the Retaining Wall Repair at the High School from the 2023 Building Envelope Project. The change order decreased the price \$70,368.00 changing price from \$758,731.00 to \$688,363.00.

Karyn Warthen from O&S provided additional detail about the Removal of the High School Retaining Wall Repair. The delay in securing a subcontractor created a scheduling issue that wouldn't allow the project to be done before the building needed to be open for staff. The retaining wall is structurally sound and the wall repair project will be added to the scope next year or following year.

FINANCE – Mrs. Oakley

Board Approval Items:

- Contracts: MCIU-PowerSchool (Ratify), MCIU-SWIS, The Timothy School (ESY), The Lincoln Center (3), Access Learning, MCIU-Title 1A, Woods Services, Melmark, Elwyn-Davidson School, Paradigm Shift Gear Up, Family Services of Montgomery County PEAK, New Story (3), The Timothy School 23/24yr, Soliant Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Residency Program Update – SR
- Annual: Acknowledge CMD Services Drivers (PDE requirements), School Physician and Dentist Rates, and Worker Compensation Providers Panel for PSD.
- Bid Approval – Esser Funded Mental Health Professional:

Information

Mrs. Johnson provided an overview of the State “Local Property Tax & Rent Rebate Program” for low income renters and property owners. School Districts have created a similar local tax rebate that piggybacks off of the state's program, allowing for additional tax relief. Committee members were in support of the idea and would like to look at options for consideration.

Mr. Hylton read an article from the New York Times about how meadows are trending and the topic of having meadow signs placed at each site of our meadows. Mr. Rodriguez presented a PowerPoint of different meadows around the area showing the different colors, setup, signs and how popular they are becoming. Committee members shared their thoughts and would like to look at meadow sign options for consideration.

Next meeting: September 14, 2023



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Public Relations & Community Engagement Committee
Report
August 10, 2023

Committee Members: Laura Johnson, (Chair); Katina Bearden, Kurt Heidel, Phoebe Kancianic

Guest Presentation

Michaela Richardson, current President of the Football Booster Club, accompanied by upcoming new President Ashley McPherson, gave a slide presentation highlighting the purpose of the TouchDown Club: to support the general welfare of the Pottstown Trojan Football Team. All accomplished through fundraising, volunteer efforts and providing academic and emotional support. Fundraising included Concession, 50/50 draws and Purse Bingo, and this year the possible addition of a Magic Show and Trojan Derby. Goals include promoting the Student Section and boosting school spirit by encouraging student participation. The Athlete Banquet hosted by the Football Booster Club continues to be a huge success every year.

Presentations and Updates

PowerSchool/Parent Portal- Mr. Rodriguez confirmed PowerSchool has replaced E-School. A PowerSchool support system is in place for parents and families requiring assistance. On 'Back to School' night, IT Reps will be on hand an hour prior to parents meeting their children's teachers. IT Reps will also be available on August 23rd at the Administration Building. Parents and families were sent an email with the Parent Portal link and tutorial. The Parent Portal provides parents access to view grades, attendance, and other information for their child.

School Messenger- Mr. Rodriguez announced that School Messenger is currently not up and running. Global Connect will continue to be used until a full transition to School Messenger is confirmed.

Chromebook – Mr. Rodriguez presented the new Chromebook Responsibility Form that is available on the PSD website. Chromebooks that are purposefully destroyed fall under the PSD Handbook Policy 815, "You Break It, You Bought It". Parents and families are strongly encouraged to purchase Chromebook insurance at \$35.00 per year, with an early bird fee of \$30.00 before August 17th. Forms can be electronically signed and fees paid online.

Advocacy

Ms. Johnson presented that the State Budget signed by the Senate has elements held back affecting funding for the Level Up program. She also announced that the Hearing for Basic Education Funding Commission will be held Statewide locations including Allentown, Lancaster and Philadelphia. A September date is still to be announced. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Rodriguez traveled to Harrisburg, PA to testify at the Joint Education House Committee. He spoke on the positive effects of budget support with a raise in literacy levels (Foundations), mental health support and predicted graduation rates at the highest in 10 years. Tax relief and a return on investment to funds received draw great attention to credibility.

Next Meeting Date: September 14, 2023