



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2023**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 6:33 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. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Phoebe Kancianic, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence and Ms. Deborah Spence. Also present were; Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Assistant Business Administrator, Mrs. Maryellen Urquhart; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Kalis.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITIGATION**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Rodriguez wanted to share a video for the opening day of our School District but we couldn't get the video to have sound.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Urquhart presented the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on August 17, 2023 for Board approval.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Johnson presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of August 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-016**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Urquhart presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2023 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-017**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MR. KLINE**

Policy/Personnel Committee met on September 7. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MRS. LAWRENCE**

Curriculum Committee met on September 7. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

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

Facilities/Finance Committee met on September 14. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MRS. JOHNSON**

Public Relations/Community Engagement met on September 14. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

MONTGOMER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

Getting Back on track. Director of Government Relations moved so we need to reformat a new schedule. We will have Legislative quests who will come at a later date with updates and feedback.

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. KANCIANIC

Don't have normal stuff tonight. I want to give information on the PSBA Elections. The President: Allison Mathis, Vice President: Sabrina Backer, Treasurer: Karen Beck Pooley, Insurance Trust Trustees: Marianne Neel & Mike Faccineto, School Board Secretary Forum: Bethanne Zeigler, JaimeLynn Zimerofsky, & Jennifer Davidson. Mrs. Kancianic recommends voting for all the mentioned names. Mrs. Kancianic also explained what the four School Board Secretaries do with keeping everything up to date, School Laws, Regulations, Mandates and provide Professional Development opportunities and tools to help with their responsibilities.

MCIU REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. LAWRENCE

Had a presentation on August 23 about the trainings done at all buildings. August 21<sup>st</sup> was our first meeting discussed contracts and there were thirty-four new hires. Having a fundraiser "Monte Carlo Casino Night" in Blue Bell from 6pm-10pm. Next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup>.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – ELIZABETH ADEDEJI

Excited to be back. At the High School level back to school night was very well attended. Very productive, many groups and show cases for activity fair. Many plans and activities the High School has to offer to get the students more involved. Seems like a lot of students joining club and sports activities. A new procedure was put into place to stop students from skipping classes. Hallways are much quieter now. Teachers are making more hands-on learning which will increase student participation. Trojan Shop opened on September 13<sup>th</sup>, huge success. Homecoming spirit week is October 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. The Homecoming Dance was brought back this year, will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Musical starting auditions October 7 and will be district wide. The musical will be "Beauty and the Beast. Deca organization will be at Riverfront to clean up the park on October 14 between 8am-12pm.

PERSONNEL

NEW POSITION(S): SECONDARY TEACHER (MATH-READING/ELA SUPPORT TEACHER)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the new position as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-018**

LEAVES

Professional

Mary Beth Kramer, Elementary Principal, Franklin, request for leave of absence, Intermittent-FMLA, effective August 28, 2023; end date to be TBD. (Amended Correction on October 19 Board Meeting Should be Regina Collins)

Andrea Roberts, Secondary Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence, Non-FMLA Medical leave, effective September 18, 2023; end date to be TBD.

Danielle McCoy, PreK Coordinator, North End, request for leave of absence, FMLA Medical leave, effective September 28, 2023; end date to be TBD.

Classified

Lindsey Wright, Paraprofessional, Franklin, request for leave of absence, Non-FMLA medical leave, effective October 4, 2023; end date to be TBD.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY

PROFESSIONAL

RATIFY ALANNA JESSEE, INTERVENTION ASSISTANT TO BUILDING SUBSTITUTE, FRANKLIN, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 9, 2023, REPLACING JADE YINGLING

CLASSIFIED

RATIFY DEMAR BARNES, CUSTODIAN, PART-TIME TO FULL TIME, \$17.35/HR, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2023.

RATIFY LUCIAN BIRISU, CUSTODIAN, PART-TIME TO FULL TIME, \$17.35/HR. EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2023

RATIFY REBEKKA HEINTZ, PARAPROFESSIONAL, FULL TIME TO PART-TIME, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2023.

RATIFY CHRISTIAN COALE, CLEANER, PART-TIME TO FULL TIME, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2023.

RATIFY MONICA MOSER, SUBSTITUTE CLASSROOM ASSISTANT, LINCOLN, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.

ELECTIONS

CLASSIFIED

RATIFY JADEA WILKERSON, VIRTUAL COACH, ADMINISTRATION, \$31/DAY GRANT FUNDED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, REPLACING L.BROWN.

RATIFY SHANICE BROWN, PREK COUNT ASSISTANT, LINCOLN, \$16.50/HR., EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, REPLACING COPESTICK.

RATIFY RETRO-ACTIVE, NICHOLAS YANOS, MAINTENANCE, \$50/DAY STIPEND FOR ADDITIONAL BUILDING AND GROUNDS DUTIES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 2023 UNTIL TBD.

RATIFY RETRO-ACTIVE, ERIC ANGSTADT, MAINTENANCE, \$50/DAY STIPEND FOR ADDITIONAL BUILDING AND GROUNDS DUTIES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 2023 UNTIL TBD.

RATIFY RETRO-ACTIVE, SHAWN PALLAY, SECONDARY COORDINATOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES, \$50/DAY STIPEND FOR ADDITIONAL BUILDING AND GROUNDS DUTIES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 2023 UNTIL TBD.

21ST CENTURY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (GRANT FUNDED)

ALL PSD TEACHERS ARE APPROVED AS 21ST CENTURY TUTORS, \$35/HR. ON AN AS-NEED BASIS.

ALL PSD CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS ARE APPROVED AS 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS, \$13.95/HR. ON AN AS-NEED BASIS.

COORDINATORS: LAURIE GRESKO, REBECCA KEOWN, BETH MASON EACH \$36.05/HR.

DATA & SECURITY: ELIZABETH ANGELUCCI, \$15.75/HR.

NURSE: DAWN HANKINS, \$35/HR.

CO-CURRICULAR

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the co-curricular as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-019**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT CORRECTIONS

Ronald Davenport - \$1,544, correction to the Tuition Reimbursement presented to the Board on August 17, 2023.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVES**

Building	Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Expenses	Cost
HS	Kevin Pascal	2023 PA Cooperative Educational Conference	State College, PA	10/19/23-10/20/23	Grant Funded	\$808.28
HS	Kelly Leibold	Conference on Integrated Learning: The School to Career Connection	Penn State, PA	11/8/23-11/10/23	Dept Budget	\$175.00
MS	Tamara Gundersen	Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders	Harrisburg, PA	10/3/23-10/4/23; 11/7/23-11/9/23; 2/27/24-3/1/24; 7/8/24-7/11/24	Dept Budget	\$2,525.00
HS	Elizabeth Yoder	EF Tours Training	Lisbon, Portugal	10/5/23-10/9/23	Dept Budget	\$560.00
HS	Michaela Johnson	Integrated Learning Conference	State College, PA	11/8/23-11/10/23	Grant Funded	\$531.00
Admin	Heather Dailey	21st Century Regional Training	Harrisburg, PA	10/4/23-10/5/23	Grant Funded	\$270.00
Admin	Karen Crable	21st Century Regional Training	Harrisburg, PA	10/4/23-10/5/23	Grant Funded	\$154.36
HS	Ronald Davenport	PA Business Education Association	Hershey, PA	11/16/23-11/17/23	Grant Funded	\$520.00
MS	Katherine German	The Midwest Clinic - International Band and Orchestra Conference	Chicago, IL	12/20/23-12/22/23	Dept Budget	\$210.00

**CONTRACTS**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-020**

Cottage Seven Agreement	Southwood Psychiatric Hospital
The Lincoln Center	Add-Education, Inc.
SOS addendum Contracted Services	CHOR Youth & Family Services
The Vanguard School - Addendum C	

**SETTLEMENT OF PER CAPITA/OCCUPATION TAX (CONSENT)**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the settlement of per capita/occupation tax contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-021**

**HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN (CONSENT)**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the health & safety plan as presented with no changes at this time and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-022**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Mrs. Urquhart 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):**

In-person – No

Online – Mercedes Jackson asked if all board meetings are in-person. Expressed how the PowerSchool was an easy process if you have someone helping you and gave a shout out to Dr. D. Also thanked principals who are stepping up and helping with this smooth transition.

**BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the Board approve the minutes from August 2023 the list of Bills for August 2023 and the Treasurer’s Report for August 2023. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**BOARD ACTION: CONSENT**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the following consent items #9 to #17 be approved in accordance with Policy 005, as recommended by the Board Treasurer:

**Board Comment:**

No discussion needed.

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

**NON-CONSENT**

**BOARD ACTION-NON-CONSENT: PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

Mr. Boyer presented the non-consent items to approve/ratify for board discussion and board action.

Professional

Ratify Johnean Wheatley, Teacher, High School, termination effective August 14, 2023; hire date August 16, 2021.

Ratify Jade Yingling, Long Term Substitute, Franklin, resignation effective August 30, 2023; hire date January 10, 2023.

Ratify Stephanie Gaal, Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective August 18, 2023; hire date August 15, 2022.

Jacqueline Stein, School Psychologist, Lincoln, resignation effective October 22, 2023; hire date September 21, 2015.

Classified

Ratify Malika Conner, Paraprofessional, Franklin, termination effective August 14, 2023; hire date October 14, 2022.

Ratify Heather Quiles, Paraprofessional, Franklin, termination effective August 14, 2023; hire date August 30, 2023.

Ratify Reon Astheimer, Virtual Learning Coach, High School, resignation effective September 11, 2023; hire date November 2, 2021.

Ratify Cynthia Serrano-Genova, Cafeteria Worker, Franklin, resignation effective September 13, 2023; hire date September 11, 2023.

Ratify Elizabeth Angelucci, Paraprofessional, Middle School, resignation effective August 17, 2023; hire date February 11, 2002.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Heidel discussed his concerns with the terminations, doesn’t understand why they are leaving without any notice. He is always for the personnel that live in our district. Still don’t see a Special Education Committee that was discussed in prior meetings to start.

Mrs. Kancianic why do we have so many that are terminated where employee just left with no explanation. Maybe we should reach out to employee and staff to find out why people are doing this.

Mr. Armatio these individuals left without any kind of notice.

Mrs. Spence said there is a Special Ed Committee last time they met was May 2023, Mr. Rodriguez will check on this committee.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the Resignations/Terminations as presented.

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

#### **BOARD ACTION-NON-CONSENT: 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 #2023-2024-023**

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

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

#### **BOARD ACTION-NON-CONSENT: PSBA OFFICERS ELECTIONS**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the PSBA Officers for election as presented.

- President: Allison Mathis
- Vice-President: Sabrina Backer
- Treasurer: Karen Beck Pooley
- Seat 1: Marianne Neel
- Seat 2: Mike Faccinetto
- Forum Steering Committee: JaimeLynn Zimerofsky, Jennifer Davidson, Bethanne Zeigler, Betsy Gates (3)

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board approve the PSBA officers' elections as presented.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion with no vote:

- Retention/Recruitment Minority Personnel
- Mrs. Spence encouraged Board members to consider innovative, creative and optimistic pursuit of minority candidates reflecting teachers and paraprofessional staff that represent the demographic that we serve.
- Mrs. Bearden volunteered for the HBCU and asked if anyone else wanted to volunteer.
- Mrs. Kancianic recommends getting more Spanish speaking staff.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

## **INFORMATION**

- Monthly Meeting Notice: October

## **FEDERATION REMARKS**

Ms. Hospador can't believe we are five weeks into the new school year already and was a great start. Back to school night heard great things. Students are in full swing of clubs and sports they are showing their skills on and off the field. Awesome job with hiring support staff they're an integral part of the school. Gave a Thank You message to Mrs. Oakley for paying the AP Testing Fee for our students

## **ROUND TABLE**

Mrs. Spence - No

Mr. Armato – Congratulation to Mrs. Kancianic for her play performance at Steel River Play House. Girl Volleyball team have a good number of students out. Most importantly win or lose they are working on teamwork, communication, support for each other and overcome diversity. All of this is helping build success. Across the state has issued legislative hearing regarding fair funding and is finally going to address this. On September 28, 2023 POWER Metro is holding a hearing for all to attend at 7:00pm. Come out and Listen.

Ms. Adedeji – Happy to be back.

Mrs. Kancianic – Applaud everyone who came to Middle School Back to School Night.

Mrs. Lawrence – No

Mr. Heidel – Went to back to school night and it was a great time. Agree with Mr. Armato about the girls' volleyball team bonding.

Mrs. Johnson – School year did get started off to a great start. Thinks the meetings to help with organization of travel with students funding will help get more students to go out trips.

Mr. Hylton – No

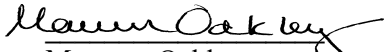
Mr. Kline – Please schedule school walk around for fields sooner than later.

Mr. Rodriguez – Has been told by staff and parents they are seeing a real difference with the tools that are available. We are doing a much better job and looking forward to a bright future.

Mrs. Bearden – Thanked the staff for all they do. Grateful for parent's patience with all changes. Feedback has been good. Students would like to have some life skills classes set up for driving tests, permit quizzes, tax preparation and interview ready discussions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board adjourn. All in favor. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8.03pm.

  
Maureen Oakley  
Board Secretary



**Pottstown School District  
Personnel/Policy Committee  
REPORT  
September 7, 2023**

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

**POLICY**

No new policies for September.

**PERSONNEL (Mr. Oxenford/Mr. Jeffreys)**

Mr. Oxenford provided a job link description and presented for Board consideration adding (2) Title I funded High School teachers (Math Support and Reading Support Teacher) as per A-TSI guidelines.

Mr. Jeffreys asked the Board to consider a Request for Change, due to the lack of BCBA's to instead hire a Behavior Specialist for the Pre-K PEAK Program (funded through the Pre-K Counts Grant).

In addition, Mr. Jeffreys also proposed a plan to hire Contractual Agencies (e.g. Add-Education, INC Contract) specializing in recruitment, as a response to the shortage of qualified Paraprofessional applicants.

**Informational Items (Mr. Jeffreys)**

Para-Education Preparation Pathway Grant (Grant/MCIU)

- Currently five (5) PSD Paraprofessionals have volunteered for this grant.
- Grant funded for a full Associate Degree in Education (2 years duration).
- Partnered with MCIU/PaTTAN.
- Possibly leading to a B.A. and Special Education Teacher certification.

Paraprofessional and 1:1 are still needed in the elementary and secondary buildings

- Reiterating the trend of County and State-wide shortage of qualified Support Staff.
- PSD is putting together an advertising campaign to recruit new applicants
- Purpose is to create a wider public interest in Paraprofessional as a career path.

**Next Meeting Date: October 5, 2023**





Pottstown School District  
**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT**  
**September 7, 2023**

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

**Informational Items:**

Mr. Baker provided a PowerPoint slide presentation that touched upon the Co-Curricular Winter Postseason, a Spring Recap and a Fall Preview Report. Highlights from the presentation were Winter Athlete League Award Recognition, Middle School Mini Camps (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades), Intramural Sessions, Spring Track Athletes (District Medalists), Spring Athlete League Award Recognitions and a Senior Athletes Award Family Event. Community events enjoyed by many included Bobby Shantz/Alumni Day and 1993 State Basketball Championship. Back to School night was also a major success with over 100 families and students in attendance and many staff advisors were on hand. Current Fall MS/HS sports events already show a good increase in numbers and student involvement (Varsity Girls teams, Middle School Cross Country club and the HS golf team was brought back). Mr. Baker stated a present staff focus is promoting student interest and involvement with Pep rallies, homecoming dance after homecoming game etc. Go Trojans!!

Mr. Oxenford gave a slide presentation on Vital Signs 2022-2023 which identified problems areas such as monitoring processes not in place, limited data sources and data analysis. With the new Comprehensive Planning and additional resources in place throughout the school year, these problem areas (e.g. attendance, office referrals) are now being discovered, monitored and improved upon.

**Informational/Action Items:**

Mr. Jeffreys provided a slide presentation that drew attention to the alarmingly low rates of students (1.28%) who are identified as gifted within our district compared to the State average (3.12%). In accordance with Chapter 16 of Comprehensive Planning (PA State law) a recommendation for a Universal Gifted Screener – CogAT trained to observe and identify students who are gifted using a universal approach (broad spectrum) versus a targeted approach (limited spectrum) with a goal that implements a sustainable process that objectively identifies students who are potentially performing at a gifted level.

A Universal Gifted Screening – CogAT cost covering approximately 500 students includes: Screening Form - \$6,050.00, Post Screener - \$380.00, Training for School Counselor and Psychologists - \$250.00, totaling: \$6,680.00.

Look Ahead: - Highlights from Special Education Department – W. Jeffreys  
- Novel Replacement Recommendations (PHS)

**Next Meeting: October 5, 2023**



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Facilities/Finance Committee**  
**REPORT**

Thursday September 14, 2023  
6:30 PM virtual

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

**FACILITIES** – Mrs. Oakley

**Facility Update**

- Athletic field study Update - Hugh Cadzow from ELA Sports updated us on the Athletic field study. The next two steps are Survey and GEOTEchnical Testing. Need to set up a work session to discuss the study.
- Sewer Line – project is finished but working with O&S seeking chargebacks to the contractor for working on the site deficiencies.
- MS Fire Alarm – Some areas of the school completely had faulty alarms. Able to make temporary repairs. Need to replace this summer working on getting estimates.
- HS Auto Shop Light Replacement – Put in High efficiency LED lights at Auto shop done by our in-house electrician. By doing this upgrade will be able to seek PECO rebate due to the project.
- HS Parking Lot Lights – half of the lights aren't working. Have an outside contractor coming in to do repairs September 15, 2023.
- NELC Playground – The Playground is going in on September 25, 2023 will take approximately two weeks to finish.
- Middle School Playground Update – before we move forward in deciding exactly the schematic of the playground. Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Oakley would like to get more feedback from Administration, Teachers, Parents making sure we are getting all the needs of every student.

**FINANCE** – Mrs. Oakley

**Board Approval Items:**

- **Contracts:** Southwood Psychiatric Hospital, The Lincoln Center, Cottage Seven Agreement, Add-Education, Inc., SOS addendum contracted services, CHOR Youth & Family Services
- **PSBA Officers Elections-** Forum Steering Committee, four candidates to choose from for a three-seat election.
- **Settlement of Per Capita/Occupation Tax Resolution** – Annual resolution for Substitute Tax Collector for the Pottstown School District, must be exonerated from the balance of uncollected Per Capita and Occupation Taxes for the 2022 Tax Duplicate.
- **Compensation for additional duties and responsibilities** – three staff members from the building and grounds department who have stepped up tremendously to receive temporary \$50 per diem stipend for additional duties.

**Information**

Mr. Rodriguez asked us to remember back to the Health and Safety plan discussions. Would like to recommend putting this on the agenda just in consideration due to the grants we are still using for the Health and Safety plan and are able to update the plan if we need to.

Next meeting: October 12, 2023



## **Public Relations & Community Engagement Committee Report October 14, 2023**

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

### **Guest Presentation: Dr. Jamie Parris**

Dr. Parris presented a PowerPoint slide with an overview of his doctoral dissertation: Exploring the Perceptions and Experiences of African American Young Males (Gr. 5-12) in Under-Resourced Public School Districts. 'Critical Race Theory' and 'Need to Belong' were used to examine if African Americans male youth feel they have the power, resources and positive relationship with their teachers to be successful. A methodology was used to capture the voice of 20 participants through interviews, focus groups and journaling. Six common themes included: sense of belonging, perception, resiliency, motivation, mirroring, and mental health. Students felt interactions with teachers were positive, treated equally with other races, and resources were available. An alarmingly high number reported the education received was not effectively preparing them for life after High School. Limitations and recommendations of the sample study were identified.

### **Discussion**

Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on transportation, busing and fare-paying bus routes. Reassignment, reformatting and the addition of a CPI trained PSD staff bus assistant proved successful. CMD is creating a permanent solution including hiring more personnel. Community churches came together to show their support to students and families by providing bus fares.

Ms. Bearden spoke on District Communications and Formatting. Efforts to accommodate special requests have been made and will remain in place. Hearing needs at major events to be considered via prompters or sign language interpreters. If students and their parents are experiencing language barriers, they should reach out to their teacher and/or building principal for proper supports and recommendations. Internally the Board modified agendas and policy reviews with special notation where needed. Submitting presentations as early as possible remains a focus..

### **Advocacy**

Mr. Rodriguez stated currently there is no change to the State Budget. Level Up not yet released. District opened with basic funding dollars. With the completion of hearings a look towards a positive direction is anticipated.

### **Information**

Mr. Rodriguez remarked on the Student Board Representative Process. Applications are out and will be collected on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A turnaround is expected in October. Judge Palladino will be present at the Board Meeting in October.

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2023