



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2024**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:33 PM in the Conference Room of the Administration Building with Vice-President, Mr. Steven Kline, presiding, in the absence of President Katina Bearden. Upon roll call, the following members attended: Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Katina Bearden (absent), Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Phoebe Kancianic, Mrs. Laura Johnson (late), Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence (absent) and Ms. Deborah Spence. Six members present. Also attending were; Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Business Administrator, Mrs. Maureen Oakley; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Kalis.

MINUTES (Item#2)

Mrs. Oakley presented the minutes from the Board meeting held on December 21, 2023 and January 11, 2024 Board Workshop w/limited Board Action for Board approval.

LIST OF BILLS (Item#3)

Mrs. Oakley presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of December 2023 and January 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-055**

TREASURER'S REPORT (Item#4)

Mrs. Oakley presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2023 and January 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-056**

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Item#5)

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MR. KLINE

Policy/Personnel Committee met on February 1st. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE –

Curriculum Committee met on February 1st. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – MR. HYLTON

Facilities/Finance Committee met on February 8th. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – MR. KLINE

Public Relations/Community Engagement met on February 8th. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

No updates

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. KANCIANIC

Advocacy Day is April 8, 2024 you can register at PSBA Portal. School Safety Summit on March 19, 2024. State Education Report came out, an interesting bullet point is 90% of School Districts report a shortage of substitutes

and Special Education Staff. PSBA offering opportunity for Board members to receive a cyber risk oversight for public education certificate for the first 200 licenses will be covered by the PSBA Trust and is valued as \$3,500. PSBA Trust also has a student leadership scholarship covers \$2500 to \$5000 that seniors can apply for. Reminder for Re-elected school Director members need to do their required trainings that can be done in person or virtual.

MCIU REPRESENTATIVE – MRS. LAWRENCE

No Update

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – MS. ADEDEJI, MS. GALLOWAY

Ms. Galloway – Gave highlights to what has been happening at the High School and Middle School. Winter Spirit week and Sports have started off to a great start. All District Musical 10th anniversary show of Beauty and the Beast will perform on March 1,2,3,8,9,10.

Ms. Adedeji – spoke about the elementary schools and the challenges for the students such as attendance, reading. They celebrated Spirit week, valentine’s day, pride of Franklin, awards for the student of the month. First FID day went well.

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS (ITEM#7)

Administration

Mary Ellen Urquhart, Assistant Business Administrator, Administration, retirement effective June 30, 2024; hire date September 25, 2017.

Professional

Correction: Miranda Cesmegi, SE Teacher, Edgewood, resignation effective December 12, 2023. (prior effective date January 5, 2024)

Abigail Halteman, SE Teacher, Rupert, resignation effective March 11,2024; hire date August 15, 2022.

Ratify Christopher Evans, Building Substitute, High School, resignation effective January 18, 2024; hire date August 15, 2023.

Joshua Sebastian, SE Teacher, High School, resignation effective April 9, 2024; hire date January 4, 2021.

Exempt

Ratify Stephanie Dunn, Behavior Support Manager (pre-k counts), North End, resignation effective February 1, 2024; hire date August 1, 2019.

Christine Chew, Occupational Therapist, Administration, resignation effective February 16, 2024; hire date October 10, 2016.

Classified

Ratify Rebekka Heintz, Paraprofessional, Franklin, resignation effective December 22, 2023; hire date February 27, 2023.

David Willman, Custodian, Administration, retirement effective June 7, 2024; hire date May 22, 2014.

Ratify Raymond Cimino, Proctor, retirement effective November 13, 2023; hire date January 4, 2010.

Judith Friend, Paraprofessional, Lincoln, retirement effective June 3, 2024; hire date March 10, 1995.

Ratify James Schlener, Custodian, Middle School, resignation effective February 8, 2024; hire date April 19, 2022.

Joyce Sutton, Proctor, Barth, resignation effective February 22, 2024; hire date September 26, 2022.

LEAVES (ITEM#8)

Administration

Kelly Reilly, Special Ed Supervisor, Administration Building, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective July 17, 2024; end date TBD.

Professional

Ratify Rachel Crews, Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective January 16, 2024; end date TBD.

Ratify Lee Jaime-Mercado, Long Term Substitute, Rupert, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective January 26, 2024; end date TBD.

Brooke Kitchen, Special Ed Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence, FMLA-Intermittent, effective September 17, 2024; end date TBD.

Exempt

Heather Trujillo, Pre-K Teacher, North End, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective April 2, 2024; end date TBD.
Lanie Manorek, Medical Access Coordinator, Administration Building, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective July 4, 2024; end date TBD.

Classified

Ratify Kelly Ortlip, Secretary, Middle School, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective January 25, 2024; end date TBD.

Ratify Janice Bobst, Paraprofessional, High School, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective January 17, 2024; end date TBD.

Ratify Darlene Fegley, Paraprofessional, Administration, request for leave of absence, FMLA, effective February 1, 2024; end date TBD.

CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY (ITEM#9)

Professional

Ratify Danielle Lawrence, Long Term Substitute Teacher to Contracted Teacher, High School, \$65,565/yr., effective January 29, 2024, Master Step10; replacing R.Decker

Ratify Allison Steck, Long Term Substitute Teacher to Contracted Teacher, Rupert, \$51,871/yr., effective January 29, 2024, Bachelor Step6; contract of Pippert

Ratify Kaitlyn Perrone, Long Term Substitute Teacher to Contracted Teacher, Middle School, \$50,236/yr., effective February 2, 2024, Bachelor Step3; replacing/contract R.O'Day

Kalena Pippert, Elementary Teacher to Special Ed Teacher, Rupert, no change in base salary +Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective March 11, 2024; replacing A.Haltman.

Alanna Jessee, Building Substitute to Long Term Substitute Autistic Support, Franklin, \$251/day, effective March 5, 2024; coverage K.Burke.

ELECTIONS (ITEM#10)

Professional

Correction Scott Mader, HE/PE Teacher, High School, \$80,909/yr, effective January 16, 2024(prior effective date January 15, 2024), Master+30/Step13; replacing J.Martinez.

Ratify Deja Kennedy, Special Ed Teacher, Middle School, \$50,236/yr. +Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective January 3, 2024; bachelors, step3.

Ratify Christian Kelly, Building Substitute, High School, \$251/day., effective January 18, 2024; replacing C.Evans

Ratify Brittany Sparrow, MTSS Coach, High School, \$69,856/yr., effective February 12, 2024, Master+30, step9; replacing Decker.

Ratify Emily Venezia, Long Term Substitute, Middle School, \$251/day., effective February 5, 2024; coverage R.Crews.

Ratify Deloris Allen, SE Teacher, Middle School, \$56,080/yr. +Stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective February 12, 2024, Master, step5; replacing L.Wilcox.

Makayla Davis, Elementary Teacher Long term Substitute, Franklin, \$251/day, effective March 4, 2024; covering N.Ewing.

Classified

Ratify Joanne Loeper, Cafeteria Worker, High School, \$14.25/hr., effective January 8, 2024.

Ratify David Bennett, Custodian, High School, \$17.35/hr., effective January 16, 2024; replacing J.Oister transfer.

Ratify Qiana Thomas, Substitute Support Staff, Administration, hourly rate per schedule, effective January 16, 2024.

Ratify Anastacia Perri Fitzgerald, Cafeteria Worker, Franklin, \$14.25/hr., effective February 5, 2024.

Ratify Katera Gillis, Paraprofessional, High School, \$15.50/hr., effective February 1, 2024.

Ratify Shannon Harp, Paraprofessional, Franklin, \$15.50/hr., effective February 5, 2024.

Ratify Stephanie Lechner, Administrator Assistant to Director of Technology, Administration Building, \$20.25/hr., effective January 18, 2024.

2024 Musical Production Team Stipends *Exhibit

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the 2024 Musical Production Team Stipends as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-057**

CO-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS UPDATE

Co-Curricular Assignment (non-athletics/not a professional agreement category)

Michelle Zipay, Student Activities Bookkeeper, effective February 16, 2024, \$5,200(prorated)

Co-Curricular Assignments updated 2023-2024 - Winter Sports						
Bldg	PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT CATEGORY	YRS	EMPLOYEE	LEVEL	SALARY	Confirmation Date
HS	Basketball: Girls-Asst. Coach	1	Antonio Moore	2	\$ 1,542.24	Pro rated due to start date
HS	Girls Wrestling: Asst. Coach	1	Shiaira Green	1	\$ 1,521.60	Pro rated due to start date

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES – (Item#11) AMENDED

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Professional Leaves as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-058**. (Amended - PACTA Workforce Developmental Symposium and moved to Non-Consent).

FIELD TRIP (Item#12)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Field Trip as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-059**.

CONTRACTS (Item#13)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-060**.

- Devereux Agreement
- MCIU-Pathways to Empowerment
- Melmark Agreement
- KidsPeace National Centers Agreement
- The Lincoln Center-FTE Behavioral Specialist
- Therapy Source, Inc-Psychology Services

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT & ASSIGNMENT OF FUND BALANCE (Item#14-CONSENT)

General Fund Assigned for Capital Projects Fund Balance increase from 2022-2023 \$2,000,000. The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the School District Financial Audit & Assignment of Fund Balance as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-061**

REAL ESTATE TAX EXONERATION RESOLUTION (Item#15-CONSENT)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Real Estate Tax Exoneration Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-062**

RESOLUTION: ACT 57 WAIVER OF ADDITIONAL CHARGES TO REAL ESTATE TAXES (Item#16 CONSENT)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Resolution: Act57 Waiver of Additional Charges to Real Estate Taxes as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as **Addendum #2023-2024-063**

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (general and consent items):

In-Person

Doug Slick two brief points. Senator Tracy Pennycuick needs to receive calls to help our bill for the budget. Concerned with close to 80% School Superintendents say that mental health is an issue and hopes we can help any way possible.

Madeline Heidel expressed her experience with transportation bussing. It is becoming a big issue and is concerned about how crowded busses are.

Virtual – No

BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills & Treasure’s Report

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the Board minutes from December 21, 2023 and Board Workshop w/limited Board Action the list of Bills for December 2023 and January 2024 and the Treasurer’s Report for December 2023 and January 2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Spence had a question about Item#15 real estate tax exoneration which is the Act57 waiver. Mrs. Oakley explained that this is for the new owner of the property who doesn't receive the real estate bill due to it being sent to the original owner of property. If the new owner shows proof within the same year of this happening the fees will get waived. Also, the professional leave Item#11 first line pointed out the date of leave. Requested to have the PACTA Workforce Developmental Symposium Item#11 first line moved to Non-Consent.

BOARD ACTION: CONSENT #7 thru #16 (amended took out the first line of Item #11 moved to Non-Consent)

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the following consent items #7 to #16 be 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: Mr. Heidel; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Kline; aye, Mrs. Spence; aye, Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; absent. Mrs. Bearden; absent. Ayes: Seven. Nay: Zero. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT: MIDDLE SCHOOL HOUSE MODEL PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL (Item#20)

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Middle School House Model Playground Proposal as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-064**

Board Discussion:

Mr. Heidel asked do we have a rough estimate on our TBD. Mrs. Oakley is waiting to see what is required as far as permits for this project.

Mrs. Spence concerned with price of project for how little area that is being covered. Mrs. Oakley spoke about the playground is for 5th and 6th grade and doesn't foresee moving 5th & 6th away from the Middle School.

NON-CONSENT: URBAN TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT – Item#21 removed - AMENDED

Removed from Agenda

NON-CONSENT: PROFESSIONAL LEAVES – Added Item#21 moved from Item#11 first line - AMENDED

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Professional Leaves as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-065**. Amended (PACTA Workforce Developmental Symposium first line of Item#16 moved from Consent).

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the non-consent items):

In-Person – None

Virtual - None

BOARD ACTION-NON-CONSENT: MIDDLE SCHOOL HOUSE MODEL PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board approve the following non-consent item#20 as presented.

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

BOARD ACTION-NON-CONSENT: PROFESSIONAL LEAVES – (Item#21 moved from Item#11 first line - AMENDED)

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board approve the Personnel Prof Leave as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS (Item#27)

Resolution: In opposition to Private School Vouchers – PRCE Chairperson Mrs. Johnson – information Mrs. Johnson would like to put on March Board Agenda for approval.

INFORMATION

- High School Musical – Mr. Rodriguez
- Monthly Meeting Notice: March

FEDERATION REMARKS – **Jane Hospador** brought a friend with her, Junior her therapy dog. Thanks to the Board Policy which allows a therapy dog in school. Wants to highlight black history month happening in all of our schools in the District. Amazing black history information on all bulletin boards throughout the district. Middle of the school year assessments are back. Very pleased to announce that the whole District wide 1st grade went up. So nice to celebrate that group. Building Coaches did a great job and was a great experience working with them. District is in real need of Reading Invention Specialist. If there's anyone out there that is qualified, we would love to have you apply.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Kancianic – Come out and support the musical. Saw a sneak peek and it looks really great.

Mr. Armato – Reasons why were proud to be from Pottstown. Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Kancianic and myself attended the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. One of our Board members Mr. Hylton received the Board of Director Award. Congratulations to Mr. Hylton for all of your time given and you give us a reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown.

Mrs. Lawrence – Absent

Mrs. Johnson – Realizes and spoke how critical it is to have fair funding in public schools.

Mrs. Spence – Happy Black history month. Gave a shout out to her Aunt for her birthday and how she is her inspiration. Created the Pottstown Commercial Corridor Association. This is to defend and protect the small business owners in the borough. Created the Wings of Victory Outreach (wingsofvictory.org) pet contest fundraiser for your pets' pictures and maybe win some treats for pet. Hoping to help prevent homelessness. Spoke of her concern about the lack of interest in academic success among urban families.

Mr. Hylton – None

Mrs. Bearden – Absent

Mr. Kline – Thanked the Entrepreneurship class for making the Board Members a plaque holder.

Mr. Heidel – Left early

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the Board adjourn. All in favor. Motion Carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL



Maureen Oakley-Board Secretary



**Pottstown School District
Personnel/Policy Committee
REPORT
February 1, 2024**

Committee Members: Steve Kline (absent), Chair; Stephen Rodriguez, Temporary Acting Chair, John Armato (absent), Susan Lawrence (absent), Deborah Spence, Katina Bearden (absent).

POLICY

Policy 707 - Use of School Facilities, #37. *No rental shall be for any funeral, memorial, celebration of life, or related activities.* Community discussion has raised a need to review the validity (i.e. effects of mental health on students) of Policy 707, #37. In addition, use of items harmful to the environment (i.e. released balloons, lanterns) are prohibited. Committee as a whole in agreement to move item to the Board Agenda.

PERSONNEL

Special Education Compliance/Testing Coordinator (new position(s), a budget neutral request). Job Description: Compliance/Testing Coordinator. provide training to new teachers, follow up with training/paperwork and assist with achievement testing.

Change Secondary Supervisor of Custodial Services to Supervisor of Custodial Services. Expanding original Secondary job duties to include authority overseeing Elementary Custodial Services.

Committee as a whole in agreement to move personnel items to the Board Agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Proposal: Recruitment and Retention of Black Educators at Pottstown School District

REPORT CARD 2024 – Draft - As of January 10, 2024, the draft report card displays statistics for minority professional and non-professional employees. Recruiting Events: MCIU Diversity Job Fair (March), YWCA Community Event, Virtual Job Fair, Information/Interview On-Demand via QR code, Recruitment Video/Programs.

Teacher Next Door ~ National Home Buying Program (Established in 2003)

The Teacher Next Door Program was designed to increase homeownership among teachers and other public servants, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination.

2023 SCHOOL CODE CHANGES

Education codes/regulations in Pennsylvania – updates and changes to address evolving educational needs, policies, and laws including Substitute Teachers, Temporary Substitutes, Substitute Teaching Permits, Class Monitor and several workforce related items.

Next Meeting Date: March 7, 2024



Pottstown School District
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT
February 1, 2024

(immediately following Policy/Personnel Committee meeting)

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

Informational Items

Technology Update - S. Lentz – Director of Technology

- VoIP Implementation (Phones) have been installed across the district. Cloud based, district owned hardware.
- Cybersecurity updates, 2-way verification and student protection upgrades.
- Chromebook Breakages ‘You Break it You Buy it’ Model shows significantly less breakages.
- PowerSchool Implementation, training supports for staff, reconfiguration and custom reports.
- IT/Maintenance Collaboration for Power Loss, site survey tests, back-up systems in place.
- Toshiba Copiers and Printers, a five-year renewal upgrade on the district's printer fleet.

Curriculum and Educational Programs Update – R. Oxenford – Director of Curriculum

Lego SPIKE- A video presentation was played depicting the Lego SPIKE educational activity to highlight elementary student’s success in practicing teamwork and learning to problem solve and utilize and practice technology skills while having fun.

FRAX Data – An add on to the Reflex Explore Learning program. Both positive feedback and usage from 24 teachers on student performance across the 4 Elementary Schools and Middle School.

Math Adoption Process Update – A new pilot project, 16 teachers volunteered to train and implement this program in their classrooms. Results will be presented in the Curriculum Committee Meeting in April with a recommendation to follow in May.

ESL Adoption Process Update – Two new ESL curriculum resources paired with a Benchmark assessment tool are currently being piloted by ESL teachers. In June 2023, ESL Specialist’s language development report is expected to be released.

Staff In-Service February 2nd Overview – focus on mid-year data review, instructional planning, parent conference preparation (February 8th) using data gathered on student learning to strategize planning for the last half of the school year. Review of Middle School Addmentum, ExactPath and Study Island. Content specific and core student progress levels will be examined with LinkIt Benchmark K-8 and Acadience Reading assessment. Indicator 13, a State performance plan for Special Education and 339 (College Readiness) assessment will be reviewed at the High School.

Next Meeting: March 7, 2024



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Facilities/Finance Committee REPORT
Thursday February 8, 2024
6:33 PM virtual

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

PRESENTATION

● Herbein + Company 2022/2023 Single Audit Review

Mr. Bieber gave an overview of the June 30, 2023 single audit. The audit concluded with no deficiencies in internal controls or on compliance within financial reporting and major federal programs. The complete report was shared with the Board and Final Audit will be posted on the District's website.

FACILITIES – Mrs. Oakley/Mr. Willauer

Facility Update

- 2024 Middle School Playground – Maureen Oakley – looking for approval to do a proposal at the estimated amount of \$210,000 for the Play equipment and flooring area. Board members spoke about some concerns and had questions about the life of the turf and maintenance, and additional flooring proposal, Maureen Oakley will research and report back to the board.
- Treevitalize Grant – Landscape Architect Bid Recommendation – A request for proposal for Landscape Architect was completed and (3) proposals were received. Currently evaluating the proposal's and will have recommendations at the Board Meeting, pending DCNR approval.
- Maureen introduced the new Supervisor of Building & Grounds Dan Willauer. He has been working hard since he started in Mid-January and he came from the Chester County Intermediate Center. Dan is excited about working here and helping with keeping everything safe and comfortable as he learns and grows.
- LED Lighting Upgrade Opportunity – Dan Willauer – PECO is offering LED lighting options with substantial discounts at time of purchase and reducing energy consumption. Dan is researching specifics of the program and will provide an update to the board.
- Facilities Updates – Dan Willauer – Publicly thanked the building and grounds crew for their dedication and hard work. Recent Project accomplishments: Middle School: fire alarm panel has been replaced. Edgewood: central Storage heating unit has been restored. Rupert: water pressure pump and controller has been replaced. High School: section of driveway at the student pickup area was dug up and replaced. NELC: interior wall that was created and built to make additional meeting space.

FINANCE – Mrs. Oakley

Board Approval Items:

- Contracts: Devereux, KidsPeace National Centers, Melmark, MCIU-Pathways to Empowerment, The Lincoln Center-PKC Behavioral Specialist, Therapy Source, Inc. -Psychology Services
- Resolution - Real Estate Tax Exoneration- Exonerate the tax collector from collecting 2023 tax balances, certification of the delinquent amounts are provided to the County and Portnoff to collect.
- Resolution - Act 57 Waiver- annually waives fees and penalties for any properties that have been acquired in the past twelve (12) months if they are able to provide proof that didn't receive a copy of their tax bill due to transition of real estate from one person to another.

Information

Act 55: School Board Director Training

Next meeting: March 14, 2024



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
**Public Relations & Community Engagement Committee
Report**

February 8, 2024

Immediately following the Facilities/Finance Committee

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

Updates

Black History Month Highlights- Mrs. Johnson shared a slideshow focusing on how Pottstown School District is celebrating Black History Month through its social media pages and the school district website. Examples were, the ‘We Dream Like Martin’ project at Franklin Elementary, Barth students participating in a music class "Sing about Martin", Lincoln Elementary students learning about young Black entrepreneurs and Madame CJ Walker. Pottstown High School students shared how Black historical figures have inspired them.

Presentations

2023 One Year of Analytics (Social Media/PSD Website) Mr. Armato and Superintendent Rodriguez presented a slideshow covering:

- Facebook (mostly parent-engaged; strong female usage). Daddy-Daughter dance scored the highest comments and likes. 43% Pottstown audience. Zoom Board Meetings 2022/2023 Virtual and In-person comparisons. Wide gaps in viewer attendance in the Fall, no clear reason established.
- Instagram & Twitter/X Recap 2023 – Instagram (student favorite) last year follower count: 1,369, current year follower count: 1,846. Twitter/X (mainly parents/adults following) last year follower count: 1,288, this year follower count: 1,280.
- All Website Users – last year 151K and currently up to 168K. Highest user count by city, Pottstown: 56,603.

Advocacy

Mrs. Johnson spoke on **Governor Shapiro’s State-Wide Budget Proposal (7-Year Plan):**

- Basic Education Funding – 1st year, \$4 Million allocated to Pottstown School District
- Adequacy Supplement – targeting school districts carrying high levels of student need and high levels of school taxes.
- State Budget – 200 M covering all PA school districts as well as additional monies to cover Special Education funding, Building Facilities, Teacher Recruitment etc.

and,

Presented a Draft Proposal on **“Resolution in Support of Constitutional Funding for Public Schools and in Opposition to Private School Vouchers”**.

Noted excerpt “WHEREAS any program that diverts public money away from public schools and into non-public schools would make the court-ordered mandate for the fair funding of public schools more difficult to achieve;..”

Committee as a whole in agreement to move Resolution Proposal to the Board.

Next Meeting Date: March 14, 2024