



## **POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 16, 2024**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:32 PM in the Conference Room of the Administration Building with President, Mrs. 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(late), Mr. Steve Kline(absent), Mrs. Susan Lawrence and Mrs. Deborah Spence(absent). Six members present. One member Late. Two members Absent. Also attending were; Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Business Administrator, Mrs. MaryEllen Urquhart; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Kalis.

### **PRESENTATION**

Early College Program and Foundation for Pottstown Education – Mr. Joe Rusiewicz

Mr. Rusiewicz recognized the Early College Program Students Class of 2024. He introduced the twenty-one graduating students with a picture or present, this class is representing the largest cohort in the ten years. Gave a brief history of the ten years for Early College Program. Gave highlights on all the activity that is going on with the Foundation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL/SPECIAL EDUCATION** a copy will be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-094**

### **MINUTES**

Mrs. Urquhart presented the minutes from the Board meeting held on April 18, 2024 for Board approval.

### **LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Johnson presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of April 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-095**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-096**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Policy/Personnel Committee met on May 2nd. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE** – MRS. LAWRENCE

Curriculum Committee met on May 2nd. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

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

Facilities/Finance Committee met on May 9th. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes

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

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

**Montgomery County Legislative** – Mrs. Johnson attended the County School District School Director Legislative Committee breakfast Mr. Rodriguez; some others spoke discussing school funding and all things at the intersection of Legislative and Education. After that press conference where our Student Representative Ms. Adedeji and Mr. Rodrigues did an awesome job speaking. Spoke about the need for basically supporting this year projects and fair funding.

**PSBA Representative** – Mrs. Kancianic PSBA has a good article about upcoming changes with the PSSA and Keystones moving to online in 2026 they will still have the paper option. May 21<sup>st</sup> RTK Law Webinar register on the portal. Starting a program PSBA Alliance Partner

webinar Series where you can learn about Financial Strategies, Mastering Facilities, Trauma and Data Driven Decision. Delegate Assembly is November 2<sup>nd</sup> my recommendation for our delegates would be myself and Laura Johnson to attend.

**MCIU Representative** – Mrs. Lawrence had a presentation this month a little bit of a review of project Advancing Wellness and resilience in education. This is a mental health type of program that helps with training and screenings for both staff and students. As well as Suicide Prevention Programs for Students. There were things that needed to be approved discussing the Perk Valley and MCIU going to be running an actual Youth Detention Center dealing with up to 48 students between 13 and 21 years old will be getting started in August. Approved an application to start an Early Head Start Program which will deal with kids under age 3 to infant. Annual Golf outing is Monday that's their fundraiser.

**Student Representative** – Ms. Adedeji gave updates on all schools. High School DECA had four students attend the nationals in California, two students qualified and will compete at Nationals in Houston Texas for HOSA. Winter sports finished Strong especially wrestling. Gave updates on graduating students what will be doing after graduation. Middle School had an activity night. Elementary schools went on field trips. Had their end of year assemblies. Graduation ceremony is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Rodriguez we are extremely busy in the Pottstown School District doing a lot of things. We are ending year one cultural proficiency training. Looking forward to year two. PowerSchool kinks are worked out and looking forward also to year two. Foundations have been very successful. I was able to witness some of our test results and the results are remarkable but still need room to grow.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

#### Professional

Matthea Miller, SE Teacher, Barth, resignation effective June 3, 2024; hire date September 10, 2012.

Brandon Pratt, Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective June 3, 2024; hire date January 9, 2023.

Ratify Lisa MacFarland, Building Substitute, resignation effective May 15, 2024; hire date March 4, 2024.

#### Classified

Ratify David Bennett, Custodian, High School, resignation effective May 3, 2024; hire date January 16, 2024.

Ratify Kristina Hjalte, Secretary, High School, resignation effective April 26, 2024; hire date March 24, 2022.

Amya Wright, Paraprofessional & Parent Liaison, Middle School, resignation effective June 3, 2024; hire date October 26, 2021.

Edna Taylor, Proctor, Franklin, resignation effective June 3, 2024; hire date August 28, 2023.

Cynthia Edmunds, Paraprofessional, Middle School, retirement effective September 6, 2024; hire date September 21, 1998.

## **PROFESSIONAL LEAVES**

### PROFESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGE/RATIFY PERRY AUGUSTINE, TEACHER, HIGH SCHOOL, REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE, COVERED BY FMLA, EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024; END DATE TBD.

MATTHEW COHEN, TEACHER, LINCOLN, REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE, COVERED BY FMLA, EFFECTIVE MAY 20, 2024; END DATE TBD.

### EXEMPT

ACKNOWLEDGE/RATIFY PATRICIA CALVARIO, ADMIN CLERK-A/P & PAYROLL, ADMIN-BUSINESS OFFICE, REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE, COVERED BY FMLA-INTERMITTENT, EFFECTIVE APRIL 29, 2024; END DATE TBD.

## **CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY**

### Professional

Acknowledge/Ratify Perry Augustine, Teacher, High School, request for leave of absence, covered by FMLA, effective March 1, 2024; end date TBD.

Matthew Cohen, Teacher, Lincoln, request for leave of absence, covered by FMLA, effective May 20, 2024; end date TBD.

### Exempt

Acknowledge/Ratify Patricia Calvario, Admin Clerk-A/P & Payroll, Admin-Business Office, request for leave of absence, covered by FMLA- Intermittent, effective April 29, 2024; end date TBD.

## **ELECTIONS**

### Administrative

Correction: Kay Sisko, Assistant Business Administrator, Admin Business Office, \$101,399/yr., previously approved on April 18, 2024 as effective April 25, 2024; new updated effective April 29, 2024, replacing M. Urquhart.

#### Professional

Brianna Moscarelli, Librarian, initial assignment Lincoln/Rupert, \$56,692/yr., step 3, Masters, effective August 12, 2024; rehire/replacing T.Freese.

#### Exempt

Correction: Kayla Diamond, Occupational Therapist, initial assignment Lincoln/Edgewood, \$70,000/yr., previously approved on April 18, 2024 as Franklin/Edgewood, effective May 9, 2024; new updated Lincoln/Edgewood, effective May 13, 2024, replacing C.Chew

Linda Nickens, School Psychologist, initial assignment Barth, \$80,924/yr., effective August 12, 2024; replacing A.Spinozzi

### **NON-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS UPDATED**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Non-Curricular as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-097**

### **MENTORS ASSIGNMENTS**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the Mentor Assignments as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-098**

### **POLICY**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Policy 202-Principles for Governance and Leadership as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-099**

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2024-2025 Hours of Operation as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-100**

### **CURRICULUM ADOPTION**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2024-2025 Curriculum Adoption as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-101**

### **CONTRACTS**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-102**

- MCIU(Technology Support&RWAN Services(7) • Grocery Outlet Pottstown Tennis Courts Proposal
- The Vanguard School Year & ESY 24/25 (2)
- Learn Well

### **BID AWARDS: FURNITURE HS LUNCH & LEARN, MS & LINCOLN (ESSER FUNDED) (CONSENT)**

Office Service Company \$307,597.63

### **HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (general and consent items) without items moved to Non-Consent:**

**In-Person** – Doug Slick specifically here to talk about the health care program here at the school. Ms. Johnson is very successful in working with the students and has an awesome outcome with students with further success. Would like to see a bigger physical space to make more rooms for students to be able to take the health course.

**Virtual** – Mercedes Jackson wanted to say she agrees with Mr. Rodriguez with how we are stronger when we all work together whether it be parents, students or staff.

**Written Public Comment - None**

### **BOARD COMMENT: None**

### **BOARD ACTION: Minutes, List of Bills & Treasure's Report**

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Armato that the Board approve the minutes from April 2024 the list of Bills for April 2024 and the Treasurer's Report for April 2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **BOARD ACTION: CONSENT #9 thru #18**

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the following consent items #8 to #19 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: Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Kline; absent, Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Spence; absent, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mr. Heidel; aye, Mr. Hylton. Ayes: Seven. Nay: Zero. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

**NON-CONSENT (30.1 through 30.7)**

Administrators presented the non-consent items for board discussion and board action. Mr. Rodriguez gave clarification on the yay or nay for Non-Consent Policy 707. Board members spoke on their opinion for the Policy 707. Mrs. Oakley presented a video reminding us about the information for the final budget for 24/25yr. Mr. Kalis clarified that there are two settlement for the Executive session that was done at the beginning of the meeting.

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

In-Person – None

Virtual – None

**NON-CONSENT: POLICY 707 – Use of School Facilities (30.1)**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Policy 707 as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the Policy 707 as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-103**.

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

**NON-CONSENT: BID AWARD HS WEIGHT ROOM EQUIPMENT FLOORING (ESSER FUNDED) (30.2)**

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

- Jottan, Inc. - \$758,731.00

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the Board approve the Bid Award HS Weight Room Equipment Flooring as presented.

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

**NON-CONSENT: CMD AGREEMENT 24/25YR (30.3)**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the CMD Agreement 24/25yr as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Lawrence and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic that the Board approve the CMD Agreement as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-104**.

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

**NON-CONSENT: HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (30.4)**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Johnson that the Board approve the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-105**.

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

**NON-CONSENT: FINAL BUDGET 2024/2025 (30.5)**

Motion to approve the 2024/2025 Final Budget as recommended by the Facilities/Finance Committee of May 9, 2024 and a copy of the waiver be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2023-2024-106**.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the board approve the 2024/2025 final budget as presented.

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

Board Comment: Mr. Rodriguez informed us that there will be one more resolution that will be presented on June Board Agenda due to it being for review with our legal team.

#### **NON-CONSENT: ELECTION OF BOARD TREASURER (30.6)**

In accordance with Section 404 of the School Code, the Board shall annually elect a Treasurer to serve for one year beginning the first day of July following such an election. The Treasurer's term shall run from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Motion to elect Laura Johnson, School Board Treasurer.

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Armato that the Board approve Laura Johnson as the Board Treasurer.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was recorded as follows: Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Armato; aye, Mr. Heidel; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mr. Kline; absent, Mrs. Spence; absent. Ayes: Seven. Nay: None. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

#### **NON-CONSENT: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PERSONNEL (30.7)**

Motion to approve Personnel 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 #2023-2024-107**.

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

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

#### **NON-CONSENT: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SPECIAL EDUCATION (30.8)**

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 #2023-2024-108**.

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mrs. Kancianic 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. Heidel; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mrs. Kancianic; aye, Mrs. Johnson; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Kline; absent, Mrs. Spence; absent. Ayes: Seven. Nay: Zero. Absent: Two. Motion carried.

#### **INFORMATION**

- Monthly Meeting Notice: June
- June Board Meeting – Recognition for Music Education Award
- Pottstown Pride: Winter 2023-2024

#### **FEDERATION REMARKS – Mrs. Yoder (virtual)**

Federation would like to thank the Board of School Directors, Mr. Rodriguez, and everyone involved in tomorrow's in-service, our lunchtime out in the Community it is very appreciated. Congratulations to the students that attended the Montco program. Grateful that our students have this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Rusiewicz. The discussion about all year school look forward to being a part of the discussion. keystones, PSSA's all the testing throughout the year, cell phones have been an enormous issue. Would like to have a policy/discussion on cell phones. Would like to see athletics fields updated for a second softball field to be added.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Mrs. Spence - Absent

Mr. Kline - Absent

Mr. Heidel – Congratulations to the Class of 2024 and Ms. Adedeji. Glad the budget is done.

Mr. Hylton - No

Mrs. Johnson – attended the Lincoln music program it's nice to see programs getting back on track again. Advocacy/Property Tax Relief had their event lots of discussion. This time of school year everything is crazy and Harrisburg is busy, please make sure that our representatives and state senator and governor know how much we need equitable funding, Not just for our students but also our tax payers. Congratulations to Ms. Adedeji.

Mrs. Lawrence – May is National Mental Health Awareness. Will be a good thing to looking into the cell phone restrictions. Congratulations to Ms. Adedeji, Class of 2024, Montco Program Students. Awesome to have the Montco Programs students in her class.

Mr. Armato – Our students are encouraged to be civically engaged, we had a few students participating with community service. May 23<sup>rd</sup> Reading Phillies will be hosting Pottstown night.

Mrs. Kancianic – Pleasure of spending a full week with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders at North Bay, Maryland. Students took good healthy risks.

Mr. Rodriguez – Talked about appreciation for our students, staff, administrative team, and for all of you the Board Members.

Mrs. Bearden – reiterated what Mr. Rusiewicz said from the foundation with the new donor piece for the Gene Whistler Fund. This will help to support our female students and it's showing with sports. Thank you to the donors and encourage to keep donating. Thanked staff, administrative team, and the Co-curricular and Non-curricular Leads.

Ms. Adedeji – Thank You to everyone.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board adjourn. All in favor. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

  
Maureen Oakley-Board Secretary



**Pottstown School District  
Personnel/Policy Committee  
REPORT  
May 2, 2024**

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

**POLICY**

**Policy 707 Use of School Facilities** A discussion was held amongst the Committee Members regarding their stance on the use of School Facilities for services of Bereavement and Celebrations of Life. A motion was decided to move this as a non-consent item to the Committee of the Whole.

**Policy 202 Eligibility of Non-Resident Students** Grade twelve (12) students may be permitted to complete the school year if they cease residency after the start of the 3rd marking period. Decision to move this forward to the Committee of the Whole.

**PERSONNEL**

- A request to add RBT (**R**egistered **B**ehavior **T**echnician); in-house candidates available.
- New district position (\$21-25) versus hiring outside RBT (\$45-65)
  - Mr. Jeffreys elaborated on the intensive behavior support services that RBT's provide to students in-house.
- A request for In-House School Psychologist to be compensated \$750.00 (market value) per evaluation supplied vs. a contracted School Psychologist fee of \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00.

Requests moved forward to the Committee of the Whole.

**Informational Items**

Recruitment and Retention of Black Educators at Pottstown School District Proposal (Items #16 thru #22)

- #16 – Talent Pipeline Program – High School Students, review of available programs.
- #17 – Teacherpreneur Program – no development or available expertise in this area at this time.
- #18 – Virtual School & Remote Learning and Teaching Opportunities – no development to note.
- #19 – Partnership with Tech Companies, Corporate Sponsored Programs – MCIU: College & Career Readiness, MONTCO Para Pathway Program, ECE at HS, Exploring Travel Experience.
- #20 – Building Alumni Alliances: Community Director actively engaged with social media alumni community. Alumni recruitment: Currently 10% of staff are PSD Grads.
- #21 – Holistic Wellness Program – Initiatives, advocate systems and checklists in each building.
- #22 – Student Teacher Co-Creating Curricular Lab – Need to designate time to investigate and explore more possibilities.

**Next Meeting Date: June 6, 2024**



Pottstown School District  
**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT**  
May 2, 2024

*(immediately following Policy/Personnel Committee meeting)*

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

**Action Items**

**Curriculum Resource Proposal for 2024/2025.** Mr. Oxenford presented the current Curriculum Resources in place. He offered the examination, observations and recommendations given by teachers, department chairs and administrators to address specific problem areas. The cost breakdown and length of curriculum licenses were also reviewed. New curriculum resource additions to address challenges for the upcoming 2024-2025 curriculum include: Flashlight (Language Arts - ELL/MLL), Reveal Math, Study Sync, Code HS – Science and Impact and Social Studies/World History (Gr. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>). The total Curriculum Resource cost of \$692,774 is budgeted through ESSER and Ready to Learn funding.

**Informational Items**

**Lunch & Learn Proposal, Pottstown High School** – Mr. Rodriguez presented a Draft Plan for a new Lunch & Learn schedule to be in place Fall, 2024. The Lunch & Learn model adopted by other school districts has proven to reshape the cafeteria and hallway use and create a more student-friendly structured lunch environment. Improvement in student/school culture is anticipated due to a more cohesive, engaged and fulfilling learning environment for both students and teaching/support faculty (e.g. Spec. Ed. CTE, Clubs, Counseling groups, Gifted, Tutoring and Gear Up Programs). The pilot testing of a temporary lunch system to be used until the new Lunch & Learn structure is in place was initiated and has proved successful. The district will continue to work on creating a new floor plan design and buying new furniture to make ready for the exciting Fall Lunch & Learn launch.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2024





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

Thursday May 9, 2024  
6:32 PM (virtual)

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

**PRESENTATION** - Executive Director Peggy Lee Clark shared a video and presentation about PAED (Pottstown Area Economic Development) with reminders of Economic Development that is being done in the area and the Next Phase of Projects.

Board Discussion: Mr. Armato, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Heidel discussed questions and concerns about the video and presentation.

**FACILITIES** -Mr. Willauer

**Facility Update**

- HS Weight Room Equipment & Flooring discussed and reviewed pictures of the weight room equipment that need to be replaced and due to safety issues. Bid Award: Webster Fitness Products Inc. \$179,621 (Board asked to move to non-consent item on agenda).

Board Discussion: Mr. Armato, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Bearden, discussed other facilities areas to be looked to ensure all educational and co-curricular programs are addressed. There was a recommendation from Mrs. Bearden to get a female uniform version of a Trojan for athletes .

- Began Lead Flushing Update: flushing on a weekly basis meets requirements for the Department of Education compliances.
- Planning on using an Environmental Grant to update any water fountains to filter and bottle fill stations.

**FINANCE** - Mrs. Oakley

**Finance Update**

- Contracts: CMD Agreement 24/25 (1.9 % bus runs 3% admin fees , 3.5% hourly rates increase and vehicle rentals rates flat no increase) (Board asked to move CMD to non-consent on agenda), Grocery Outlet Pottstown Tennis (\$5000 for each year ) Courts Proposal, MCIU (Technology support and RWAN services(6), The Vanguard School (2), LearnWell

Board Discussion: Clarification on the Grocery Outlet revenue program through Market Street Sports was discussed.

- Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution Mrs. Oakley covered this in with the Final Budget Adoption 24/25 presentation and slide show.
- Final Budget Adoption 2024-2025 - proposed final budget for the 2024/2025 school year reflects no change in the proposed revenues and expenditures as presented in the Preliminary Budget. At the direction of the Finance Committee of May 9th , the proposed Final Budget for 2024/2025 includes a zero tax increase and the use of fund balance of \$37,636. 2024 exemptions include the Homestead/Farmstead of \$670.55 per qualified parcel and Pottstown tax relief for homeowners and renters qualified applicants through the PA property tax rebate program at 75% of the state rebate amounts.

Board Discussion: Spoke about different scenarios with piggy backing off of state PA Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program or the 2024 Tax reduction one time refund like we did last year. 75% of the tax relief through the PA state property tax rebate program was recommended.

- Election of Board Treasurer 24/25yr - Mrs. Johnson is willing to be elected for 24/25yr.
- Furniture Bid Award HS Lunch and Learn, MS & Lincoln and Turf Fields Project Costs Updated (ESSER III Funded): Mrs. Oakley displayed a slide show about the Furniture Bid and Turf fields study.

Board Discussion: All were in agreement for moving forward with the Furniture Bid. Mrs. Spence, Mr. Heidel, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bearden, expressed concerns about different areas at certain schools that need to be looked at for the Field Study.

### Information

Fair Funding- Laura Johnson gave a thorough explanation on Proposed State Fair Funding Boost.  
Act 55: School Board Director Training

**Next meeting:** June 13, 2024



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

May 9, 2024

Immediately following the Facilities/Finance Committee

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

**Presentations and Discussion**

Highlights from Social Media (Instagram, Twitter and Facebook) – Mrs. Johnson screen shared a slideshow displaying different school events, functions and Community gatherings. District events showcased over the past month on social media platforms were, Acceptance Stages (career, military and post-graduate acceptances), HS Music/Arts night, HS/MS Music Indoor Color Guard, Elementary School Soil Study, Lego Project, Petting Zoo, Administrative Assistant Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Co-Curricular and HS Senior Stories, Class of 1954 “70<sup>th</sup> Reunion”, Advocacy: “Children First” and the MS Instagram page highlighted a video of students celebrating Library Rocks with a “10,000 Books Checked Out”.

Hattie’s List- Mr. Rodriguez expanded upon research-based Hattie’s List, created by John Hattie, an Australian educational researcher. The list is developed using a metadata approach that gathers world wide data and categorizes it into a 252 list of student outcome learning. Hattie’s List is one research-based study that is used to measure new curriculum and resources in the classroom.

“Year-Round School” Discussion – All Board Members were invited to participate in a discussion on the concept of ‘Year-Round Schooling’ (190 days over 12 months). Questions were posed on what this new approach could look like for teachers, parents and students, the community, scheduling and the school budget. Different models and variations were discussed, as well as the need to examine other countries where this concept is in place. More research is needed into whether this approach might be effective and feasible for Pottstown and it was decided to revisit this topic in a few months.

**Advocacy**

Upcoming Events – POWER Interfaith property tax forum and the effects of funding on taxes. Members from Business, Real Estate and School Representatives will be in attendance. School Board Members are highly encouraged to attend.

Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2024