

# POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 15, 2024

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:35 PM in the Conference Room of the Administration Building with President, Ms. Katina Bearden, presiding. Upon roll call, the following members attended: Mr. John Armato(virtual), Mrs. Katina Bearden, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Susan Lawrence. Mrs. Debra Spence. Five members present, Four member's absent Mr. Steven Kline, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mrs. Phoebe Kancianic, Mrs. Laura Johnson. Also attending were; Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Business Administrator, Mrs. Maureen Oakley; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Matthew Boyer; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis(virtual).

## **MINUTES**

Mrs. Oakley presented the minutes from the Board meeting held on June 20, 2024 and Board Workshop w/limited action meeting on July 18, 2024 for Board approval.

## **LIST OF BILLS**

Mrs. Oakley presented the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of June 2024 and July 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2024-2025-003** 

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Oakley presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2024 and July 2024 to be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum** #2024-2025-004

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

POLICY/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mr. KLINE

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

<u>CURRICULUM COMMITTEE</u> – MRS. LAWRENCE

Curriculum Committee met on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. HYLTON

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - MRS. JOHNSON

Public Relations/Community Engagement met on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Committee report is attached to the Board minutes.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE – MRS. JOHNSON

ABSENT

PSBA REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Kancianic

**ABSENT** 

## MCIU REPRESENTATIVE - MRS. LAWRENCE

End of June meeting was mainly bringing and changing officers for the new year.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Several items for review will use the proper team for each item.

## **PERSONNEL**

## **RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

#### **Professional**

Ratify John Clyne, Long Term Substitute, Middle School, termination effective August 12, 2024; date of hire August 12, 2024 approved June 20 Board Meeting.

Ratify David Arnott, Long Term Substitute, Middle School, resignation effective July 11, 2024; date of hire September 14, 2022.

Ratify Lauren Emes, Teacher, Franklin, resignation effective July 30, 2024; date of hire August 22, 2011.

Rebecca Cubbler, SE Teacher, Rupert, resignation effective August 5, 2024; date of hire August 15, 2023.

Melanie Adams, Teacher, Middle School, resignation effective September 23, 2024; date of hire August 15, 2023.

Ratify Jeremy Lanza, SE Long Term Substitute, Edgewood, resignation effective July 22, 2024; date of hire November 13, 2023.

Amanda Fusco, MTSS Coach, High School, resignation effective August 23, 2024; date of hire August 23, 2016.

Correction: Tricia Mitchell, SE Teacher, Edgewood, resignation previously approved on July 18, 2024 as effective date September 6, 2024; new updated effective date August 6, 2024.

Ratify Jennifer Heller, SE Teacher, Middle School, retirement effective August 12, 2024; date of hire August 25, 1997.

Daniel Higgins, Music Teacher/Band Director, High School, resignation effective October 4, 2024; date of hire March 21, 2022.

#### Classified

Ratify Adam Morant, Summer Cleaner, resignation effective June 25, 2024; date of hire June 17, 2024.

Ratify Victoria Sarandos, Cafeteria Worker, Middle School, resignation July 15, 2024; date of hire August 22, 2022.

Ratify Claudia Pena de Sanchez, PT Cleaner, Rupert, resignation July 12, 2024; date of hire December 4, 2023.

Ratify Judith McGinn, Kindergarten Assistant PT, Rupert, resignation effective July 18, 2024; date of hire January 3, 2022.

Ratify Keith Knier, Proctor, Franklin, resignation effective July 15, 2024; date of hire November 2, 2021.

Ratify Whitney Williams, Intervention Assistant, Middle School, resignation effective July 29, 2024; date of hire December 7, 2017.

Lindsey Wright, Paraprofessional, Franklin, resignation effective August 21, 2024; date of hire August 26, 2019.

Meghan Whitehurst, PreK Counts Assistant, North End, resignation effective August 16, 2024; date of hire October 4, 2022.

Amy Iezzi, PreK Counts Assistant, North End, resignation effective September 13, 2024; date of hire September 6, 2022.

Virginia McCoy-Swinehart, Library Assistant, Rupert/Lincoln, resignation effective August 25, 2024; date of hire December 11, 2023.

#### 21st Century After-School Program (grant funded)

Ratify Elizabeth Angelucci, Data & Security, termination effective July 8, 2024; date of hire August 21, 2023 end of program.

<u>Terminations</u> effective August 8, 2024 due to end of assignment for the year. Xyaire Burke, IT Intern, Administration

Lili Freese, IT Intern, Administration

### **LEAVES**

#### Professional

Samantha Digiacomo, Teacher, Middle School, request for leave of absence, covered by FMLA, effective December 1, 2024; end date TBD.

Amanda Duffy, Teacher, Lincoln, request for leave of absence, covered by FMLA, effective December 28, 2024; end date TBD.

# **CHANGE IN POSITION/SALARY**

#### Professional

Ratify Alanna Jessee, Long Term Substitute to Building Substitute, Franklin, \$251/day, effective August 12, 2024; coverage Burke.

Ratify Adam Girafalco, Building Substitute to H/PE Long Term Substitute, Middle School, \$251/day, effective August 12, 2024; coverage M.Clark.

Ratify Danielle Walt, MTSS Coach to Kindergarten Teacher, Franklin, no change in salary, effective August 12, 2024; contract Emes.

Ratify Maria Henzes, Long Term Substitute to SE Teacher, Edgewood, \$52,243yr., effective August 12, 2024

#### Exempt

Ratify Tasha Walker, PreK Teacher to PreK Coach, North End Early Learning, no change in salary/compensation; replacing J.Vena-Perry.

#### Classified

Ratify Monica Moser, Student Proctor to Reading Support, Lincoln, \$16.50/hr., effective August 12, 2024; replacing S.Myers.

Ratify Rebecca Blanchard, Long Term Substitute returning to initial assignment of paraprofessional, effective August 12, 2024.

Ratify Karissa Zechman, Admin.Assist. to Director of Co-Curricular, High School, change of hourly rate \$24(adjustment to compensate additional duties), effective July 1, 2024.

Ratify Heather O'Connor, Part-time Kindergarten Assist. in addition to current position of Student Proctor, Rupert, \$16.50/hr., effective August 12, 2024.

#### **ELECTIONS**

#### **Professional**

Ratify Sunny Nelson, Teacher, initial assignment Franklin, \$52,892/yr., effective August 12, 2024, step 15, bachelors; replacing S.Armentrout.

Ratify Stephanie Kuhns, Teacher, initial assignment Middle School, \$51,611/yr., effective August 12, 2024, Step 2, bachelors; replacing M.McKeon.

Ratify Laurie Mosley, Teacher, initial assignment Middle School, \$74,172/yr., effective August 12, 2024, step 12, masters; replacing V.Damiano.

Ratify Rachel Brostowicz, Long Term Substitute, initial assignment Barth, \$251/day, effective August 12, 2024; replacing J.Calvario.

Ratify Amy Paulhamus, Long Term Substitute, initial assignment Middle School, \$251/day, effective August 12, 2024; coverage A.Bachman.

Ratify Lauren Trumbore, SE Teacher, initial assignment Rupert, \$51,056/yr., +stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective August 12, 2024; step 1, bachelors, replacing R.Cubbler.

Caitlynn Henry, SE Teacher, initial assignment Edgewood, \$56,807/yr., +stipend in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective September 11, 2024; step 4, masters, replacing T.Mitchell.

Delaney Solomon, Long Term Substitute, Middle School, \$251/day, effective October 14, 2024; coverage A.Figueroa.

Sydney Ziviello, Building Substitute, Middle School, \$251/day, effective August 26, 2024; replacing D.Arnott.

Naif Littles, Building Substitute, Middle School, \$251/day, effective TBD; coverage A.Girafalco.

#### **Exempt**

Ratify Adam Golden, PreK Counts Behavior Support Manager, North End, \$60,000/yr., effective August 12, 2024; new position. PCCD Grant Funded.

Gillian Kriebel, Occupational Therapist, Middle School, \$76,000/yr., effective September 3, 2024.

#### PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

			Conference			
Building	Name	Conference Title	Location	Dates to Attend	Expenses	Cost
Admin		Council of Administrators of Special				
Aumin	William Jeffreys	Education Conference (CASE)	Savannah, GA	11/5/24-11/8/24	Dept Budget	\$0.00
		2024 Four County Business Manager				
Admin	Maureen Jampo	Conference	Skytop, PA	10/9/24-10/11/24	Dept Budget	\$1,295.00
				9/11/24-9/12/24;		
				11/14/24-11/15/24;		
				1/23/25-1/24/25;		
Admin	Stephen Rodriguez	PASA Board of Governors	Harrisburg, PA	4/10/25-4/11/25	Dept Budget	\$90.00
		PACTA Workshop for School			Perkins Grant	
HS	Kelly Leibold	Counselors	State College, PA	10/3/24-10/4/24	Funding	\$603.09

#### FIELD TRIPS

# students	Conference	Conference Location	Date of Trip	Cost to Student	Cost to District- substitutes	Chaperone(s)
	Pocono Environmental					
30	Education Center	Dingmans Ferry, PA	10/2/24-10/4/24	\$10.00	\$420.00	Sam DeAngeli, Tracy Fleming, Ginger DeRenzo

### 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 #2024-2025-005

### 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 #2024-2025-006

### 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 #2024-2025-007

#### TSI RUPERT ELEMENTARY PLAN

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI Rupert Elementary Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2024-2025-008

### TSI HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the TSI High School Plan as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum** #2024-2025-009

## **RESIDENCY ADJUDICATION DECISION**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Residency Adjudication Decision as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2024-2025-010** 

## **ATTENDANCE OFFICERS 2024/2025**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Attendance Officers 2024/2025 as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2024-2025-011** 

### **CONTRACTS**

Invo HealthCare Assoc Agreement 24/25yr	•	Soliant 24/25yr (2)
New Story School 24/25yr (3)	•	SOS Consulting/Personnel Agreement (2)
Green Tree School & Services 24/25yr	•	Capstone Academy Tuition Agreement 24/25yr
Contracted Cheryl Morett	•	Elwyn Davidson School 24/25yr.
MCIU Non Pub Agreement	•	KidsPeace National Centers, Inc 24/25yr

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve/ratify the contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum** #2024-2025-012

#### BID AWARD: URBAN TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Contractor: (pending solicitor review)

 All Seasons Landscaping Base Bid Add Alternate #1 \$24,000
 Total \$537.875

# **BID AWARD: CAFETERIA PLASTIC AND FOIL SUPPLIES**

Cafeteria Foil and Plastic Bid Award:

- Durable Packaging for foil trays \$19,084.30
  - Penn Jersey Paper Company, LLC for disposable trays \$5,605.50

#### **BID AWARD: SEL MUSIC MEDIA**

Bid Awarded - BSCA Grant Funded

STRIVE \$105,000

# **BID AWARD: 2 MIDDLE SCHOOL MTSS COUNSELING SERVICES**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the 2 Middle School MTSS Counseling Services as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum** #2024-2025-013

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE DELEGATE/ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION

The Board Secretary recommends the Board approve the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee Delegate/Alternate Appointment Resolution as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2024-2025-014** 

## **ACKNOWLEDGE CMD SERVICES TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS**

The Board Secretary recommends the Board Acknowledge the CMD Services Transportation Drivers as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2024-2025-015

## **SCHOOL PHYSICIANS RATES**

- Dr. John Anderson: \$16.00 per school physical
- Community Health & Dental \$4.80 per student

### WORKERS COMPENSATION MEDICAL PROVIDERS PACKET AND PANEL

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 #2024-2025-016** 

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

In-Person - None

Virtual - None

Written - copies will be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2024-2025-017

## **BOARD DISCUSSION:** No discussion needed

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

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board approve the minutes from June 2024 and July 2024 and the list of Bills for June 2024 and July 2024 and the Treasurer's Report for June 2024 and May 2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION:** No discussion needed

#### **BOARD ACTION: CONSENT #7 thru #28**

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the following consent items #7 to #28 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. Spence; aye, Mrs. Lawrence; aye, Mr. Hylton; aye, Mr. Armato; aye, Mrs. Bearden; aye, Mr. Kline; absent, Mrs. Kancianic; absent, Mrs. Johnson; absent. Mr. Kline; absent. Aye: Five. Nay: Zero. Absent: Four. Motion carried.

## NON-CONSENT: #32 PERSONNEL: ELECTION \*AMENDED – REMOVED ITEM

Mr. Kalis explained why we have to Remove Non-Consent Item#32. Under school code 508. When a Board member is related to a potential hire they must abstain from voting. We only have five members and one of the members present is required to abstain. Which doesn't give us enough votes to have a Quorum. Will need a vote to move the Non-Consent item to September 20, 2024 Board Agenda as a Non-Consent.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION:** No discussion needed

It was moved by Mr. Armato and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the following Non-Consent Item#32 be moved to our September 20, 2024 Board Agenda. All in favor. Motion Carried.

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

In-Person — None Virtual — None

Written - None

#### **INFORMATION**

- Monthly Meeting Notice: September Mrs. Oakley
- Pottstown Pride: Spring/Summer Mr. Armato

**FEDERATION REMARKS** – Ms. Miller – Happy end of Summer. Everyone is rested and refreshed, excited to meet new students. Shout out to the principals for food and Treats to keep us energized and sugared up for Teacher back to school days.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Mrs. Spence - No

Mr. Hylton – No

Mrs. Lawrence – Wished everyone a great school year.

Mr. Armato – Interested to see how the lunch and learn program progresses and supports our academic mission.

Mr. Rodriguez – Our Montco 360 Program is up and running, we have 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending this program at the MCCC. Updated the wall in Conference room with student's art work. Will update throughout the school year with different art work from students.

Mrs. Bearden – Thank you to the staff for getting Ready to give our students a much-needed education.

Mrs. Kancianic - Absent

Mr. Heidel – Absent

Mr. Kline – Absent

Mrs. Johnson - Absent

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that the Board adjourn. All in favor. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL

Maureen Oakley-Board Secretary



# Pottstown School District Personnel/Policy Committee REPORT August 1, 2024

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

# **POLICY**

According to PSB recommendation the following will be revised as of August 1, 2024:

# Policy 103 \_ Discrimination / Harassment Affecting Students Highlights:

- Updates to title to broadly address discrimination/harassment regardless of protected classification or specific law or regulation.
- Updated definitions and terminology based on the changes to the Title IX regulations, the PHRC regulations, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and EEOC guidelines.
- Updated actions taken by the school entity and Title IX Coordinator, reporting requirements and report forms, training and optional process to handle complaints or discrimination/harassment.

# Policy 103. 1 - Non-Discrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities

- Review of new regulations and updates under Title IX.
- Additions made to procedures, complaint process (Updates on PSD website, Title IX Coordinators information).

# Policy 104 - Discrimination / Harassment Affecting Staff -revisions mirror Policy 103

Agreed upon to move to Committee of the Whole

### **PERSONNEL**

- A request to add (2) Lincoln Center Counselors to the Middle School only for the 2024-2025 school year. Not funded by the budget, but instead funded with CSI funds to support the CSI State regulated process at the Middle School.
- Will support the MTSS process by assisting with truancy support and research-based behavior interventions.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Currently reviewing numbers of ELL students and special education caseloads at PMS as they
  relate to staffing.
- A request to increase Tuition Reimbursement for Support/Exempt staff to the same amount as CBA (\$6,100/year, with a two-year commitment)

**Next Meeting Date: September 5, 2024** 



#### Pottstown School District

# CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

August 1, 2024

(immediately following Policy/Personnel Committee meeting)

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

**Informational Item -** Mr. Oxenford welcomed the Committee and introduced Mr. Rodriguez who provided a succinct breakdown on PDE directives based on the last Federal Legislation findings (ESEA Act, Achievement Testing). If a school falls into set parameters (student achievement and growth, attendance, career standards) remediation is required. Student Groups (i.e. Special Ed, ESL, African American, Hispanic, Native American) are at or below state established standards.

# School Assignment Categories:

- TSI (Targeted Support & Improvement) at or below 1 or 2 standards
- ATSI (Additional Targeted Support & Improvement) strongly below 2 or more standards
- CSI (Comprehensive Support & Improvement) in the lowest performing 5% of State

## Six Categories Assessed:

- Achievement
- Math & ELA
- Growth Math & Reading
- ELL
- Regular Attendance
- Career Standards/Benchmarks

PDE liaisons are assigned to work with schools to build plans to improve these areas. After 3 years, the state will reevaluate performance levels.

The following Elementary Principals gave presentations on their TSI Plans to be delivered during the 2024-2025 school year:

Rupert Elementary - M. Moyer

Lincoln Elementary - C. Boyer

Franklin Elementary - B. Kramer

Barth Elementary - M. Ishler

High School - Dr. D'Annibale presented on a ATSI Plan

**Action Items** - Mr. Oxenford reviewed the New Teacher Induction Itinerary – August 6,7,8. Value of the teacher/parent 'opening year phone call' was celebrated.

Upcoming on the September Agenda: Professional Development Plan Update

**Next Meeting: September 5, 2024** 



# POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT Facilities/Finance Committee

6:30 PM virtual

REPORT
Thursday August 8, 2024

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**PRESENTATION:** Peter Simone from Landscape Architect gave an update of the bidding process and bids due on August 13, 2024. Will post bids on the Penn bid site, review and make a recommendation to the school district in time to have for approval on the Board meeting August 15, 2024. Roughly the cost will be \$515,000 DCNR Grant 80% and district 20%. Anticipated tree costs are \$450k for approximately 450 trees including planting which is targeted this fall.

#### **FACILITIES** – Mr. Willauer

#### Facility Update

- Showed pictures of the before, during and after construction of the High School Gym Floor, Façade work at Rupert has all been completed and High School unit vents are completed. Good AC running for the start of the new year.
- Fire Alarm systems at both MS/HS completed and passed inspections with the fire marshal.
- ELA Athletic improvement study has continued. ELA performed some underground utility locating as well as surveying the field locations.
- Middle School Playground will not have the playground until spring/summer of 2025 due to a lengthy permit process and 10-page requirement letter.
- EI Feasibility Study process a snapshot and update didn't have for meeting but asked the committee to email him with any questions.

## **FINANCE** – Mrs. Oakley

## **Board Approval Items:**

- <u>Contracts:</u> Invo HealthCare Assoc Agreement 24/25yr, New Story 24/25yr (3), Soliant (2), SOS Consulting/Personnel Agreement 24/25yr (2), Green Tree School & Services 24/25yr, Capstone Academy Tuition Agreement 24/25yr, Elwyn Davidson School 24/25yr, MCIU Title 1 Inter-Agency Agreement.
- MCTCCC Delegate/Alternate Appointment Resolution this will name a delegate and update it to Kay Sisko as delegate.
- Acknowledge CMD Services Drivers (PDE requirements) must annually acknowledge a list of names of drivers.
- Worker Compensation Providers Panel for PSD
- School Physician (Dr. John Andersen \$16.00 per school physical) and Dentist Rates (Community Health & Dental \$4.80 per Student)
- Bid Award Cafeteria Plastic & Foil Supplies Awarded in two parts: Durable Packaging for foil trays \$19,084.30 and Penn Jersey Paper Company, LLC for disposable trays \$5,605.50
- Bid Award SEL Music Media Awarded STRIVE \$105,000 (BSCA Grant)
- Bid Award 2 Middle School MTSS Counseling Services Awarded Lincoln Center for Family and Youth \$160,000 (Title 1 School Improvement)
- Bid Award (2) Co-Curricular / HS Instructional 10 passenger Replacement vans (ESSER Funded)
- Bid Award Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Project (DCNR & ARPA Funded) Landscape Architect

#### **INFORMATION** - none

<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> - Mrs. Jackson had a suggestion to have the bus drivers keep a plaque for each bus showing who the bus driver is driving for the day. September 7<sup>th</sup> FAC will have a public game night at the High School 5:30pm -7:30pm just to get the parents and children in the mood for a successful school year.

Next meeting: September 12, 2024



# POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Public Relations & Community Engagement Committee Report

August 8, 2024
Immediately following the Facilities/Finance Committee

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

## **Advocacy**

Mrs. Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the July 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania State Budget. A statewide \$1.1 billion increase was approved targeted to lower income-based districts and underfunded schools.

Some key highlights for this forecasted funding:

- Increase in Basic Education Funding to all schools.
- \$100,000,000 to help districts cover cyber/charter costs.
- Adequacy Supplement (\$891,000) Increased funding for underfunded students.
- Tax Equity/Hold Harmless Relief (\$1,489,000) Increased funding for Tax Relief/Control.
- Increase in Facilities and Special Education Funding
- School Safety/Mental Health Funding

This favorable State Budget is most likely the result of various stakeholders (Superintendent, Student, Parent and Teacher Representatives, POWER and Community Groups) voicing demands for a multi-year state plan. Mrs. Johnson reinforced the importance of staying on this mission and demonstrating to State Legislators that these increases in State funding are making a difference in the lives of students and their families.

### **Presentations and Discussion**

**New Justice Center/Courthouse, Downtown Norristown P.A.** - Mr. Rodriguez was invited to tour the Justice Center in Norristown that is currently under construction. This is a collaborative project between Norristown and Pottstown that displays student art in the lobby of the new Justice Centre, with a 2027 projected completion. The hope is to showcase student's visual artwork to express issues of poverty, victimization and voice social justice concerns. Students and families are encouraged to schedule visits during construction to explore, reflect and ultimately be involved with this joint community project.

**PSD Website Updates** – High traffic website pages (including the PEAK page) have received a revamp of information, a fresh, functional look, and more user-friendly tabs. The possibility of a new PSD website image is in review (functionality and current costs/budgets). This may be revisited in the near future.

**Parent Communication based on the new PowerSchool Safe Arrival System** - Data shows occurrence of Attendance Reporting through various devices, Middle School and High School had the most amount of absences in the district and both missed/successful absence follow-up calls. Chart graph shared indicates reasons for absences: 69% illnesses/quarantine, 11% medical/dental appointments.

Next Meeting Date: September 12, 2024