POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

September 1, 2011 - 7:30 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the 2nd floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard C. Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent was Mr. Nat White. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mrs. Calista Boyer, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mr. Patrick Connors, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

None.

PRESENTATION

None.

COMMUNICATION

None.

REPORTS

Minutes

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 4, 2011 to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular voting meeting held on August 18, 2011 to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock stated that the Finance Committee did not meet in August. There is no September meeting currently scheduled.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman stated that the minutes from the August 22nd meeting will be posted for all the Board Members to review. He provided an overview of the topics discussed at the meeting:

- Pending leases for use of the Annex (Head Start and Buxmont Academy)
- North Fields Project
- Private funding for bubbling the tennis courts
- Guaranteed Energy Savings Project
- Fencing estimates for the stadium
- Card access procedures for the stadium gate
- Final estimate for the light poles
- Concession stand painting
- Estimates to replace the high school chillers
- Repaint the middle school roofing and repairs to drainage system
- Projects for the potential savings from refinancing the high school/middle school project bonds
  - □ resurface the high school parking lot
  - □ tie in the ventilation system for high school and middle school gyms

Mr. Kalis stated the school district was required to obtain a conditional use permit changing the use of the Annex from office and storage to educational. A hearing is scheduled to take place with Borough Council on September 7th to hear testimony on why the conditional use application for the Annex building should be approved. He explained that a draft lease is being prepared between Buxmont Academy and the Pottstown School District. Dr. Lindley explained that Buxmont Academy is required to have a lease agreement prior to the Pennsylvania Department of Education license approval.

PSBA & Montgomery County Legislative Representative

No report.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

No report.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon reported that tonight's committee meeting consisted of 2 committee members. She and Mrs. Weand discussed the Open Doors event. Mrs. Weand thanked Mr. Evan Brandt and Mrs. Nancy March for The Mercury's publicity on the Open Doors events.

Co-Curricular Committee

Mr. Hartman's committee report consisted of updates and discussion on the following topics:

- reported on the progress of the tennis courts
- confirmed insurance coverage for the Cross Country volunteer coaches
  - * coverage under the school district's umbrella policy for volunteers
- Hill School Alumni Football Game at the high school stadium on October 1st
- Table Tennis interests referred to Pottsgrove's program
- The web sight pottstowndigitalevents.com now posts all Pottstown events

- review of Policy 122 Section 5c regarding fundraising
  * suggestion was made to freeze the 10% giveback for 2011-2012
  * schedule policy revision discussions between club representatives and administration
- Suggestion to freeze National Competition funding by the school district for 2011-2012
  * School District will continue to fund local competition; national completion would require clubs to raise funds for student participation

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson reported the committee did not meet in August. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held on September 22nd.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Pargeon stated the policy committee had discussed moving forward on several policies. The committee will place the policies as 1st readings on a future Board agenda.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Weand provided information on two community partnerships discussed at the August committee meeting. The Tri-County Credit Union has proposed providing a program to teach basic banking services to students and staff followed by The Diamond Credit Union proposal to teach seminars to reinforce financial literacy by participating in the business curriculum. The Pottstown Health and Wellness and the United Way proposes to form a partnership in the acquisition of the executive director for the Pottstown Foundation. This partnership will provide additional funding for the executive director position. Mrs. Weand stated that the September Personnel Committee meeting will be changed due to a conflict with the first parent literacy meeting. The re-scheduled date will be advertised and posted on the district website as soon as the date is confirmed.

Neighborhood Schools Committee

Mrs. Adams stated that administration has provided Mr. Walker with all the necessary information to compile the documentation necessary for a credit rating with Standard and Poors. Upon review of the documentation, Standard and Poors will then contact Mrs. Adams for a phone interview to determine the bond rating. Mr. Walker will continue the process by working with PNC, the bond underwriter.

Mr. Hartman asked the Board to confirm that no action is being taken on item #5 of the Neighborhood Schools Committee minutes making a motion to designate Tom Hylton as the representative of the Neighborhood Schools Committee in day-to-day dealings with the school district administration, Crabtree Rohrbaugh, Stephen Kalis, and others involved with the work of upgrading Pottstown's elementary schools. He voiced his disagreement with the motion. Mr. Hartman affirmed that no Board Member should" heavy hand anyone in the district". Dr. Lindley explained that it was determined that the communication happens with the administration; all emails will be copied to Mrs. Adams, Mr. Angstadt and Mr. Hylton. Mr. Angstadt will be the day to day contact for the district. Mr. Hylton is the contact for the Neighborhood Schools Committee.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the July 2011 Treasurer's Reports to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Approval of Resolution for Appointments and Certifications of Administrators and Supervisors

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Appointments and Certifications of Administrators and Supervisors as presented to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Contracts

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts as presented to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

School Resource Officer

Mrs. Adams reviewed the School Resource Officer Resolution as presented to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

PERSONNEL

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Personnel items as presented to be placed on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FACILITIES COMMITTEE PRESENCE AT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mrs. Weand asked the Board to place the motion to direct the Facilities Committee to engage with the Neighborhood School Committee meetings on the September 15, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Mrs. Weand opposes a committee consisting of 3 members having control over a $15 million project. Based on past history, Mrs. Weand asked the Board to direct the Facilities Committee to interact with the Neighborhood Schools Committee. She stressed the need to have input from the Facilities Committee to ensure the $15 million is spent appropriately. She expressed her concern that the actions of one board member could lead this district into bankruptcy and be more vulnerable to charter schools in Pottstown. She asked why the Neighborhood Schools Committee has not scheduled their next committee meeting and why a Finance Committee meeting has not been scheduled.

Mr. Wausnock stated that there has not been a need to schedule a Neighborhood Schools Committee meeting to date and he will schedule a Finance Committee when the finance director has information to present to the committee.

Mr. Huss confirmed that the motion to direct the Facilities Committee engage with the Neighborhood Schools Committee meetings will be added to the September 15, 2011 Board agenda for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. PCTV Spotlighting

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked Mr. Hartman for following up on the Federation's question concerning liability for the volunteer coaches. He asked for clarification on transporting the students to the competitions. Mr. Hartman explained that the students will be transported by a school district van. If the volunteer coaches transport in their own vehicles, insurance coverage is based on the coverage of the owner of the vehicle. Mrs. Adams explained that the district recognize the names of the volunteer coaches by memorializing them in the minutes to ensure they are covered under the district umbrella policy.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mrs. Wilson was pleased with the opening day of the new school year. The cross country team had 15 participants and did well at their first meet at the Hill School.

Ms. Harris commented on the Board Members professional, effective and efficient manner demonstrated at the last Board meeting. She expressed her hope that the Board can continue to move forward. She was pleased with the middle school open house.

Mrs. Pargeon – no comment.

Mr. Hartman thanked the staff and custodians for the wonderful job cleaning up after the hurricane and preparing for the opening day of school. He thanked Mrs. Danielle McCoy for making movie night a success. He welcomed the new interim principals to a new school year.

Mrs. Weand agreed with Ms. Harris's comment that the Board needs to work together. Mrs. Weand stated this can be accomplished through complete transparency.

Dr. Sparagana thanked Mrs. Blute and everyone who participated in the Parent Literacy fundraiser held at Boscov's on August 27th. The event included various activities and raised approximately $537. The new Deputy Secretary of Early Education, Barbara Minzenberg, is scheduled to visit the district's PEAK sites and meet with the members of the PEAK partnership on October 20th. Elizabeth Williamson, a representative of the Federal Department of Education contacted Dr. Sparagana in response to the Parent

Literacy articles in our local newspaper. She will be visiting the district on October 21st to learn more about what is happening in our district with school readiness initiatives and literacy development.

Dr. Lindley thanked the staff and administrators for a great opening of the new school year. He commented on the amount of time it takes during the summer month to prepare for the new school year. He thanked Mr. Angstadt and the maintenance staff for assisting the Red Cross with preparations for the potential hurricane evacuations. Dr. Lindley invited everyone to attend the public meeting sponsored by the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to gather input on how to stimulate economic growth in the community. Dr. Lindley encouraged everyone to participate in the Open Doors event scheduled for Saturday, September 10th.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss welcomed everyone back to the new school year. He thanked the administrators and teachers for great opening days in each building. He thanked Mr. Evan Brandt and Mrs. Nancy March for the great articles promoting the Open Doors event. Mr. Huss reviewed the remaining times available for the Board Table at the Open Doors event. He encouraged the Board Members to sign up for the times available.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausncock and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board adjourns. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary