POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard C. Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Thomas J. Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Julia Wilson and Mr. Nat White. Absent was Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr. Also present were: Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Giering, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Ms. Terri Lampe, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

Mr. Christopher Sperat, Pre-K Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, introduced each student receiving an award. He asked each student to come to the microphone and read their story. Mr. Huss presented each student with a writing award.

K-5 - Morgan Herb
1st Grade - Paige Taylor
2nd Grade - Sklyer Erb
3rd Grade - Winni Weng
4th Grade - Angela Trievel
5th Grade - Nina Yost

THE BOARD ADJOURNED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS AT 7:47 PM.

THE BOARD RECONVENED AT 8:25 PM.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the minutes of the Regular meeting held on January 20, 2011, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 3, 2011 be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the list of bills for the period ending February 9, 2011 for the Athletic Fund totaling $40,309.88; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $142,456.95; the Elementary Fund totaling $704.96; and the General Fund totaling $1,215,513.57 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-052.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Treasurer's Report for January 2011 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-053.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

UPDATE ON TEACHERS' CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Kalis provided an update on the Fact Finding process. He stated that the Pottstown Federation of Teachers had rejected the Fact Finder's Report for the second time. He explained the Fact Finder's report offered a substantial salary increase. The Board unanimously accepted the Fact Finder's recommendations which asked the Federation to accept the district's Core Health Plan. The Core Health Plan has been accepted by the Support Staff, The Act 93 group and the entire Executive Team. Mr. Kalis stated that the Federation did not believe the Core Health Plan was good enough for them. The Bargaining Team for the Board is ready to meet with the Bargaining Team for the Federation if directed by the state mediator. Mr. Kalis suggested having an insurance consultant provide a comparison of the health plans at a future Board meeting giving the Board an opportunity to review the plans and get answers to any questions they may have. The Board agreed that Mr. Kalis would make the arrangements for a presentation at the March 3, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOL

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Ms. Harris that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 1120, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

PERSONNEL

Elections

Exempt

Ratify Jessica Ferraro, Part-Time Physical Therapist, Annex, 2 days per week, $306.73/per day, effective February 2, 2011.

Classified

Ratify Verna Lattick, Part-Time Substitute Van Assistant, Transportation, $11.92/per hour, effective January 28, 2011.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, 2010-2011 school year $23 per period, for the time period ending January 7, 2011

Lisa Cassidy-Lawler	Pottstown High School	12 missed planning times	$276.00

Homebound Instruction

Ratify Matthew Cohen, Franklin Elementary, from January 26, 2011 through June 17, 2011, $29/hour, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Tuition Reimbursement

Administrative

Name	Building	Amount
Lisa Schade	Administration	$1,215.00

FIELD TRIPS:

# of students and/or group	Name of conference or activity	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to student	Cost to district-substitutes	Chaperone(s)
9 Sr. High	PA High School Speech League State Tournament	Susquehanna University/ Selinsgrove H.S.	3/25/11 - 3/26/11	Maximum of $100.00	$200.00	Joe Perrone & Helen Bowers
18 + Sr. High	Educational Tour to Spain	Spain	6/18/12 – 6/30/12	$2700.00		Evelyn & Brian Dudonis

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

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NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Sparagana reviewed all the Non-Consent Items for Board approval.

Hearings From Patrons Of The School (limited to Non-Consent Items)

None.

PERSONNEL

Resignation

Co-Curricular

Kevin J. Kennedy, Assistant Soccer Coach, Pottstown High School, effective February 17, 2011, employed since August 24, 2010.

Employee Disciplinary Action

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following employee disciplinary action and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-054.

Ratified Pottstown Middle School Classified employee, two (2) days unpaid suspension, effective February 7, 2011

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the above Non-Consent Personnel items be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members presented voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

Salaries

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following salaries:

Approval of 2010-2011 Act 93 Salaries
Motion to approve 2010-2011 Act 93 Salaries retroactive to July 1, 2010, contingent upon agreement to and entering into an amendment to the current Act 93 Agreement.

Ms. Harris asked that the Director of Development salary be pulled and tabled for a future vote.

Mr. Hylton stated that he cannot vote in favor of Act 93 salary increases in these current economic times. Mrs. Pargeon voiced her support to compensate the Administrators for their leadership and initiative in accepting the Core Health Program. She asked the Board to support a four year extension of the Act 93 Agreement. Mr. Kalis confirmed that approval of the amended agreement would take place at the next voting meeting.

The vote to table the Director of Development salary was recorded as follows: Mr. White: aye, Mrs. Wilson: nay, Ms. Harris: aye, Mr. Huss: nay, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Pargeon: nay, Mr. Wausnock: nay, Mrs. Weand: nay. Ayes: three. Nayes: five. Absent: one. Motion denied.

It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the 2010-2011 Act 93 Salaries retroactive to July 1, 2010, contingent upon agreement to and entering into an amendment to the current Act 93 Agreement and copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-055.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the 2010-2011 Act 93 Salaries retroactive to July 1, 2010, contingent upon agreement to and entering into an amendment to the current Act 93 Agreement was recorded as follows: Mrs. Wilson: aye, Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: nay. Ayes: five. Nays: three. Absent: one. Motion carried.

Approval of 2010-2011 Support Staff Salaries
Motion to approve 2010-2011 Support Staff Salaries retroactive to July 1, 2010.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the 2010-2011 Support Staff Salaries retroactive to July 1, 2010, be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-056.

Upon roll call, all members presented voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried

FIELD TRIP

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following field trips:

# of students and/or group	Name of conference or activity	Destination	Date of trip	Cost to student	Cost to district-substitutes	Chaperone(s)
9 Sr. High	FCCLA State Leadership Conference	Lancaster, PA	3/16/11 – 3/18/11	$304.20	$600.00	Marilyn Bainbridge, Mary Jo Kuhwald, Pierre Wiegand (BCTC Culinary Instructor)

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Non-Consent field trip be approved as presented.

Upon roll call, all members presented voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FORWARD BORROWING

The Finance Committee recommends the Board approve the Resolution extending the date of issuance of the bonds authorizing and directing the incurrence of non-electoral debt through issuance of general obligation bonds as presented.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Resolution extending the date of issuance of the bonds authorizing and directing the incurrence of non-electoral debt through issuance of general obligation bonds

Mr. Hylton stated that he does not support additional forward borrowing. He stated that the district has the ability to borrow $28 million and this amount is far more that the district could afford to pay back. He reminded the Board Members who ran on a pledge of fiscal responsibility. Mrs. Weand asked Mr. Hylton what has changed from back in 2007 when he strongly supported forward borrowing to the point of threatening a lawsuit. Mr. Hylton had no comment. Mrs. Weand explained that forward borrowing allows the district to access capital, if needed. She does not feel the district would need $50 million for any refurbishing that the President's Task Force may recommend but believes the district should not pass by an opportunity to improve the education of the students. Mrs. Pargeon expressed her disappointment that discussion is still centered on keeping five elementary schools. She stated that the district will need capital for any renovations and she stressed the importance of doing renovations that will support the district's educational needs for the next 20 years. Mr. Hylton stated that Crabtree,

Rohrbach and Associates had proposed renovations for what really had to be done at a cost under $15 million. He was confident that the cost benefit analysis will show that doing the basic renovations on the five existing elementary schools will be far less than new construction for additions to any of the existing buildings. Mrs. Pargeon voiced her disagreement with continuing to put money into five elementary schools.

Upon roll call the vote to approve the Forward Borrowing Resolution was recorded as follows:
Mrs. Wilson: nay, Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye,
Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: nay. Ayes: four. Nays: four. Absent: one.
Motion denied.

RESERVING FUNDS FOR FUTURE PSERS INCREASES

The Finance Committee recommends the Board approve reserving funds in the amount of $919,153.84 for future PSERS rate increases as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve Reserving Funds for Future PSERS increases as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-057.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

CHESTNUT STREET PROPERTY/COMMUNITY GARDEN
The Facilities Committee recommends that the Superintendent work with the solicitor to prepare an agreement for Board approval that transfers 423 Chestnut Street to Preservation Pottstown/Community Land Trust for the purpose of developing a Community Garden. The agreement is to stipulate that the property return to the school district should it no longer be used as a Community Garden.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board approve the Superintendent work with the solicitor to prepare an agreement for Board approval that transfers 423 Chestnut Street to Preservation Pottstown/Community Land Trust for the purpose of developing a Community Garden. The agreement is to stipulate that the property return to the school district should it no longer be used as a Community Garden.

Mrs. Weand asked for clarification that the vote is for the concept of an agreement. Mr. Kalis stated that the vote is to authorize Dr. Lindley to work toward a draft agreement for further discussion.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Policy 122: Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities for Pottstown High School and Pottstown Middle School
2. Policy 122.1: Co-Curricular Awards and Recognition for Co-Curricular Participation

Dr. Sparagana stated that the Co-Curricular Activities Committee will be meeting this month to discuss Policy 122 and Policy 122.1.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

1. Conference Report
2. Second Marking Period Honor Roll Comparison
3. Pottstown Pride
4. Monthly Meeting Notice: March
5. Immunization Chang Parent Letter
6. Parent Conference Summary: February

FEDERATION REMARKS

None.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White enjoyed the students' writings.

Mr. Hylton was pleased with the manner in which Mr. Huss conducted tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Wilson – no comment.

Ms. Harris congratulated the students on their writings. She stressed the importance of having as much information as possible to help make budget decisions in these tough economic times. Ms. Harris stated that the Principals are doing a fine job demonstrating leadership in their schools.

Mrs. Pargeon was pleased with the Lincoln writing awards. She expressed her disappointment with the Federation talks and the failure to approve the Fact Finder's Report.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Dr. Sparagana attended the hearing for Senate Bill 1, along with Mr. Armato and Ms. Lampe. He explained the student voucher guidelines as proposed in Senate Bill 1. He agreed that parents should have choice but didn't hear anything that indicated there was equity between the public and private schools. The private schools don't have to accept the student even if they have a voucher.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mr. Huss expressed his disappointment that the Federation rejected the Fact Finder's report.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and agreed by all Board Members that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary