POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 2011, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at 7:34 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard Huss presiding. The following board members were present Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mrs. Julia Wilson, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr. and Mr. Nat White. Absent was Ms. Valerie Harris. Also present were Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Mia DiPalo, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Robert Giering, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mr. Robert Decker, a member of the press and interested citizens.

PRESENTATIONS

The Elementary Jazz Band, directed by Mr. Langdon, performed 3 arrangements written by Mr. Langdon.

AWARDS

JROTC Distinguished Unit Award

Dr. Lindley read a letter honoring the Pottstown School District JROTC Unit as the recipient of the JROTC Distinguished Unit Award. Mr. Huss presented the unit with the award. Sgt.Donald MacNeil and Lt. Col. Jake Porter accepted the award on behalf of the JROTC Unit.

Voices of Inspiration Award

Dr. Lindley announced this year's recipient of the Voices of Inspiration Award was Pottstown Middle School Teacher, Mr. Steve Allen. Mr. Huss presented the award to Mr. Allen.

Writing g Awards – Culmination K-12

Dr. Sparagana introduced the writing award program with the respective language arts teacher introducing the winner for grades K – 8th grade. Each student read their writing. Mr. Huss presented each winner with an award or certificate of award.

K-5 - Zavion Paschall, Barth
1st Grade - Jesseny Redovan, Franklin
2nd Grade - Darius Smallwood, Lincoln
3rd Grade - Bryce Kochel, Rupert
4th Grade - Harrison Wolf, Barth
5th Grade - Abigail Richter, Edgewood
6th Grade - Xaiver Campbell
7th Grade - Maxine Bacon
8th Grade - Abigail Risner
9th Grade - Tyisha Reddick
10th Grade - Kenneth Zallie
11th Grade -Angelica Stone
12th Grade – Erinn Kenline

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 14, 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 Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the minutes of the committee of the whole meeting held on May 5, 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 of April 7, 2011 through May 11, 2011 from the Athletic Fund totaling $114,825.45; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $147,429.69; the Capital Reserve Fund totaling $11,195.00; the Construction Fund totaling $2,540.00; the Elementary Fund totaling 2,492.67 and the General Fund totaling $1,132,076.76 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2010-2011-077.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Treasurer's Report be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2010-2011-078.

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

HEARING FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Zahora thanked the Board for listening to the public and keeping the arts.

Mr. Corson asked the Board to meet with the teachers to look at their suggestions to the budget. He wanted to know if a person with a criminal background is permitted to run as a candidate for School Board Director. Mr. Corson expressed his disappointment with the public bickering among Board Members. He voiced his concern about the poor example this behavior presents to the students. He would like to see the Board resolve their grievances in a private manner and work together in public.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL

Resignations /Terminations

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following resignations/terminations:

Professional

Sally House, Music Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2011, employed since September 5, 1978.

Ratify Timothy F. Hough, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation effective April 20, 2011, employed since June 20, 2006.

Classified

Ratify Jared Leimeister, Co-Curricular Soccer Coach, Pottstown Middle School, resignation for the purpose of military deployment, effective March 2, 2011.

Ratify Laura Christie, Co-Curricular Cheerleading, Pottstown High School, resignation, effective April 6, 2011.

Change in Position and /or Salary

Professional

Ratify Christine Fiorillo, from Extended Per Diem Substitute, Barth Elementary, to Extended Per Diem Substitute, Pottstown Middle School, coverage for Leslie Smoyer, $115/per day, effective May 2, 2011.

Elections

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following elections:

Professional

Ratify Michael Schwager, Extended Per Diem Substitute Teacher, $115/ day, in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective April 18, 2011.

Ratify Savana Savard, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, $95/day, in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective April 14, 2011. She will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, 14.13/hour, effective April 14, 2011.

Ratify Monica Noto, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, $95/day, in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective April 14, 2011.

Ratify Doug A.Fulton, Special Substitute Teacher, $100/day, in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective April 14, 2011. He will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, $14.13/hour, effective April 14, 2011.

Ratify C.Erin Conlen, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, $95/day, in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective April 14, 2011. She will also assume the role of Substitute Classroom Assistant, 14.13/hour, effective April 14, 2011.

Ratify Jennifer Brown, in addition to her current position as a Classroom Assistant, has assumed the role of Special Substitute Teacher, $110/day, effective May 3, 2011.

2010/2011 Game Workers, $10/hour

Shawn Eagle Brian Allen
Dennis Arms Sara Pennypacker
Joseph Thorpe

Homebound Instruction

Ratify Amy Skarbek, Barth Elementary, from April 18, 2011through May 27, 2011, $29/hour, assignment not to exceed 5 hrs. per week.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, 2010-2011 school year $23 per period, for the time period ending April 1, 2011

Lisa Cassidy-Lawler	PHS	15 missed planning times	$345.00

Tuition Reimbursement

Administrative

Name	Building	Amount
Jerry Ummarino	Administration	$2,046.00

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Bldg.	Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Middle School	Lisa Whitehurst	Pa Educator Certification Test Item Review Conference	Harrisburg, PA	06/20/11 – 06/22/11	Educational Testing Service will cover all expenses

FIELD TRIPS

Bldg.	Name	Conference Title	Conference Location	Dates to Attend	Cost
Middle School	Lisa Whitehurst	Pa Educator Certification Test Item Review Conference	Harrisburg, PA	06/20/11 – 06/22/11	Educational Testing Service will cover all expenses

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts and a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum 2010-2011-079.

1. Camphill
2. Camphill
3. Easter Seals of Southeastern PA

BID AWARD

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded to the companies as listed and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-080. The award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications.

1. Physical Education Supplies and Equipment
2. MCIU Custodial, Fluorescent Tubes and Paper Supplies

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following polices and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-081:

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

3. Policy 707: Use of School Facilities

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

NON-CONSENT

Dr. Sparagana reviewed the Non-Consent Personnel and Textbook Adoptions for Board approval.

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Non-Consent Contracts and Designation of Depositories for Board approval.

Mr. Kalis reviewed the Approval of Special Education Settlement Agreement and 423 Chestnut Street Community Garden for Board approval.

Mrs. Adams reviewed the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget. She presented a revised financial summary of the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget. Mrs. Adams explained the changes and reductions in staff and professional services. She reported that since the last Committee of the Whole meeting, the school district has received notification of additional cuts in Title I and Title II funding of approximately 15%. The school district is in a position to lease the Annex to help offset the funding cuts and will also experience a reduction in transportation costs for out-of-district placements. These changes as outlined will restore the instruction programs from 65% to 90%.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to Non-Consent Items)

Mrs. Zahora thanked the Board for going through the budget. She presented several question to the Board regarding differences in reductions. She asked if music was being cut in a different manner. Mrs. Adams explained the difference in the reduction of the music departments discretionary spending from the music program reduction.

Mrs. Zahora spoke about the district's huge loss due to the resignations of two elementary principals. She suggested the Board consider having the three remaining elementary principals cover the five elementary schools.

PERSONNEL

Resignation

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following resignation:

Professional

Ratify Matthew Kasitz, Special Substitute Teacher, effective May 10, 2011, employed since April 1, 2009.

Tuition Reimbursement

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following tuition reimbursement:

Administrative

Name	Building	Amount
Lisa Schade	Administration	1,515.00
Anne Frederick	Franklin	1,770.00

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Non-Consent Personnel items as presented.

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

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts:

1. Reynolds Energy Services Inc. Energy Audit Agreement
2. Devereux Foundation

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Non-Consent Contracts as presented and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-082.

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the financial institutions as the depositories for the school district's funds for the 2011-2012 school year.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the Designation of Depositories as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum 2010-2011-083.

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

Motion carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD TREASURER

Mrs. Huss opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

Mr. Hartman nominated Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Mrs. Weand seconded the nomination.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the nominations be closed.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: eight. Nays: none. Absent: one. Nominations were closed.

Upon roll call, the vote for Mrs. Zahora as Treasurer was recorded as follows:
Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye; Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye; Mr. Wausnock: aye;
Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: nay; Mrs. Wilson: aye. Ayes: six. Nays: two. Absent: one. Motion carried. Mrs. Zahora was declared Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Motion to approve Special Education award settlement 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.

It was moved Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the Board approve the Special Education Settlement Agreement pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreement and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-084.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: aye, Mrs. Pargeon: Ave, Mr. Wausnock: abstain, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: aye, Mrs. Wilson: aye, Mr. Hartman: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: none. Absent: one. Abstention: one. Motion carried.

TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS

The Technology-Curriculum Committee and the Superintendent recommend the following textbook and supplemental materials adoptions:

1. Elementary Social Studies Textbook Adoption & Supplemental Materials
2. Pottstown Middle School Textbook Adoption
3. Pottstown High School Textbook Adoption

It was moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the Textbook Adoptions as presented a copies be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-085.

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

423 CHESTNUT STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Motion to approve entering into an agreement with Preservation Pottstown, Inc. for the sale of 423 Chestnut Street for use as a community garden. The Deed shall include a right of reversion in favor of the school district should the property ever cease to be used as a community garden with the said sale to be in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Public School Code.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board approve the entering into an agreement with Preservation Pottstown, Inc. for the sale of 423 Chestnut Street for use as a community garden. The Deed shall include a right of reversion in favor of the school district should the property ever cease to be used as a community garden with the said sale to be in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Public School Code and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2011-086.

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

ADOPTION 2011-2012 TENTATIVE BUDGET

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum #2010-2012-087.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. White: nay, Mrs. Wilson: aye, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Huss: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Mrs. Pargeon: aye. Ayes: six. Nays: two. Absent: one. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Policy 100: Strategic Plan-1st Reading (no action to be taken)
2. Policy 101: Mission Statement-1st Reading (no action to be taken)
3. Policy 102: Academic Standards-1st Reading (no action to be taken)
4. Policy 103: Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practices-1st Reading (no action to be taken
5. Policy 104: Nondiscrimination in Employment and Contract Practices -1st Reading (no action to be taken)
6. Policy 105: Curriculum Development-1st Reading (no action to be taken)

INFORMATION

1. Pottstown Pride
2. Monthly Meeting Notice: June
3. New Band and Show Choir Uniforms
4. PEAK Report: May
5. Webmaster Report

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked the Board for taking a hard look at the preliminary budget and making revisions to the programs and staff. He expressed his disappointment that the instructional programs were not restored to 100%. Mr. Decker felt that there has not been a collaborative effort to resolve the district's problems. The district has not tapped the talent and available resources within the staff. Mr. Huss thanked Mr. Decker and suggested the Federation might look a little closer at what they could do to help the situation. Mr. Decker responded that the Federation was not asked for their opinion or input or included in the decision making for the budget. Mr. Huss stated that opportunities for public comment were available.

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Pargeon – no comment.

Mr. Hartman was impressed with the performance by the elementary jazz band. He enjoyed the student writings. Mr. Hartman stated that the budget cuts suggested by the teachers were not a true reflection of savings. He talked about several line items of the proposed cuts (substitutes, electrician and carpenter positions and benefit package selections) and their discrepancies.

Mrs. Weand complimented the elementary jazz band and their families.

Mr. White expressed his appreciation to the students and parents for their presentations.

Mr. Hylton read his statement regarding Charter Schools. He submitted his report to the Board to be included in the May 19, 2011 minutes as attached.

Mrs. Wilson enjoyed the student readings and the elementary jazz band performance. She looks forward to future work on the tentative budget.

Dr. Sparagana complimented Mr. Langdon for his music compositions and the teachers and student writers along with their families. He thanked the Board for approving the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget during tough budget times. He looks forward to additional state funding to assist in the restoration of instructional programs.

Dr. Lindley reported there was good discussion at the 7th Superintendent Forum hosted by Mount Olive Baptist Church. He looks forward to more opportunities to improve the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget and expressed his hope that by June 30th there would be more funds returned from the state. Dr. Lindley thanked the community, the Board and staff for their continuous engagement in the budget process. The administration is not taking a one year view of the budget. Dr. Lindley voiced his appreciation for the student writing on honesty especially as it relates to comments made this evening. He stated that he looks forward to following up on her letter to set the record straight regarding comments made at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Wausnock reported that the Finance Committee and the Board met last night in an executive session for the purpose of negotiations and personnel. These items will be discussed in tonight's executive session. He thanked Mrs. Adams for all her time and effort to put together the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget.

Mr. Huss expressed his appreciation for the students writing awards and the opportunity to hear the progression of the students. He thanked the Board for working so hard on the preliminary budget. He reminded the Board they need to look at what is best for the students and taxpayer, keeping personalities out of the process.

Mr. Huss announced there would be an Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock that the Board adjourns. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL DIRECTOR THOMAS HYLTON
AT THE MAY 19, 2011 MEETING OF THE POTTSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD
TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MEETING MINUTES

On March 30, the Pottstown School District received a letter from Vahan Gureghian, chief executive officer of Charter School Management Inc., stating his firm was considering submitting an application for a charter school in Pottstown. He further stated that if pending legislation, Senate Bill 904, was passed, he would likely offer a proposal to manage the education of our kindergarten through 5th grade students. As I understand it, this would probably entail laying off our entire elementary school staff – principals, teachers, support staff.

After Dr. Lindley read this letter, I urged him to make this letter available to the school board together with a memo explaining what he knew about the matter. The following day, all board members were emailed a copy of the letter together with a letter from Dr. Lindley. Both letters are now part of our minutes.

SEE VAHAN GUREGHIAN LETTER AND LINDLEY MEMO, BELOW

RECEIVED
MAR 31 2011
POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 30, 2011

Mr. Reed Lindley
Superintendent of Schools
Pottstown School District
Administration Building
230 Beech Street
Pottstown, PA 19464-0779

Dear Superintendent Lindley:

I am writing to let you that Charter School Management (CSMI), Incorporated, is considering submitting an application for a charter school in the Pottstown School District. After considerable research and evaluation, my company has concluded that we can offer a positive benefit to the students and citizens of Pottstown based on the successful model of the Chester Community Charter School (CCCS) in Chester, Pennsylvania. Our application would be submitted in time to open a school for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

However, there is a legislation currently pending in the Pennsylvania Senate (PA Senate Bill 904) which would allow for your school board to convert existing public schools into public charter schools. If this legislation is passed, CSMI will likely offer a proposal to the Pottstown School District to manage the education of your kindergarten through fifth grade students at a considerable savings to the district.

CSMI would be able educate the kindergarten through fifth grade students (approximately 50 percent of the district's enrollment) utilizing four of the five current elementary school facilities. CSMI would make necessary upgrades and updates to the facilities at its own expense.

CSMI would set rigorous academic achievement goals for all students, and for overall school performance, to be evaluated at the end of the initial five year period as a condition of renewal of a management contract, and would follow the successful model of its schools at CCCS, building on an excellent track record of academic and behavioral accomplishment.

In addition to school improvements, CSMI would provide all kindergarten through 5th grade services, including facilities and academic management, for a fee that is less than what the Pottstown School District is currently paying to educate these students. The district could use the savings toward the education of the 6th grade to 12th grade population.

If the aforementioned legislation is passed, we would very much like to submit a formal proposal for your review, as well as that of the Pottstown School Board. In the meantime, I would welcome any discussion you might be interested in having.

I look forward to speaking with you soon. Please feel free to call me at (610) 447-0200.

Sincerely,

Vahan H. Gureghian, Esq.

Chief Executive Officer

302 East 5th Street ◆ Chester, PA 19013 ◆ tel: 610-447-0200 ◆ fax: 610-447-8546 ◆ www.csmillc.com

April 1, 2011

Mr. Richard Huss, Board President
Members of the Board of Directors
Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Asst. Supt.
Mrs. Linda Adams, Business Administrator
Mr. Stephen Kalis, Solicitor

Dear Board Members and Colleagues:

Per your request I am reviewing my comments made at the Committee of the Whole on March 31, 2011 during my presentation of the communication that I received regarding a potential proposal for a charter school in Pottstown. Prior to reading the letter that I had received, I provided the following contextual commentary:

Since my appointment as Superintendent I have been contacted by persons wishing to discuss charter schools. I have had 3 appointments with individuals that made it clear to me that there were providers interested in moving a charter school to Pottstown.

I explained to all three that I would personally oppose a charter school (regardless of quality issues), because of the school's ability to "cherry pick" students, to attract students from various schools and grade levels, but not enough for the Board to reduce programs or staff. Solely from a fiscal viewpoint, this approach is detrimental to the School District and to the taxpayers of Pottstown. The District would need to maintain current programming, would not be in a position to close a school, etc. and the funding to the charter would further drain the District budget.

Knowing that the District is facing significant financial challenges, Mrs. Adams and I had two separate visits to Harrisburg to meet with legislators where we advocated for mandate relief. We were assured that various legislators were sponsoring such bills.

I communicated my view that Boards should have all tools in their decision-making box to adequately deal with the challenges that we face. I articulated the following themes: quality education, affordable to the taxpayers, and sustainable over time.

Subsequently, knowing that the Chester Charter School was one of the providers considering Pottstown (and knowing that this Board would need to vote on the charter should such a proposal be made; and knowing that should the Board deny the charter, the proponent has the right to have the charter approved at the state level, which would be very likely in the current environment); I felt that it was important for District leadership to become familiar with the program and

process that could potentially take root in the Borough. Therefore, I along with other central staff members visited the charter school in Chester.

On March 30, I received the letter from the CEO of the Chester Charter School as presented here and in the Board minutes.

In summary, it is my duty as Superintendent of Schools to be in a position to offer sound recommendations to the Board that enhance the quality of education, provide programming that is affordable to the taxpayers; and is sustainable over time. As we face continuing budget deficits, and deliberate on the best solution to improve the elementary schools, I will continue to seek ideas and potential solutions to bring to this Board for consideration.

The communication of the interest of the Chester Charter School has potential implications to the District and the Borough; which should be understood and debated. I clearly understand the “shock” that this letter and my comments created. However, given the potential impact of the information in the letter, I felt it necessary to communicate its contents at this time to the Committee of the Whole.

Currently, there is no decision for the Board to generate regarding a potential charter school—such decisions are required upon receipt of an actual proposal. I appreciate your thoughtful and concerned engagement with this matter.

Sincerely,

Reed Lindley

Reed D. Lindley
Superintendent of Schools

AFTER reflecting over these letters, I sent Dr. Lindley on April 3 a list of nine questions which he declined to answer. Those questions were made a part of the April 14 minutes of this board.

When it became clear Dr. Lindley was not going to answer these questions, I emailed to the district on April 8 a Right To Know request for all correspondence between any member of the Executive Team and any charter school representatives and any state or federal legislators between the dates of Jan. 1, 2011 and April 8, 2011. That Right To Know request was made part of the April 14 minutes of this board.

SEE RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUEST, BELOW

THOMAS HYLTON

222 Chestnut Street Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464 610.323.6837

April 8, 2011

Mrs. Linda Adams
Open Records Officer
Pottstown School District
230 Beech Street
P.O. Box 779
Pottstown, PA 19464

Dear Mrs. Adams:

This letter is a request for information pursuant to the Right to Know Law, Act 3 of 2008:

DATE REQUESTED: April 8, 2011

REQUEST SUBMITTED: E-mail, as a pdf attachment

NAME OF REQUESTOR: Thomas Hylton
222 Chestnut Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
Montgomery County
Phone: 610.323.6837

RECORDS REQUESTED:

I request copies of the following for the dates between Jan. 1, 2011 and April 8, 2011, either in electronic format or hard copy:

1. All correspondence, including email correspondence, between any member of the Executive Team (Reed Lindley, Linda Adams, Jeffrey Sparagana) and any operator, representative, or person affiliated with a charter school operating in Pennsylvania.

2. All correspondence, including email correspondence, between any member of the Executive Team (Reed Lindley, Linda Adams, Jeffrey Sparagana) and any Pennsylvania legislator or federal legislator, including members of the legislator's staff.

3. Any internal correspondence, including memos and emails, regarding charter schools, between any of the following persons: Reed Lindley, Linda Adams, Jeffrey Sparagana, Pam Bateson, Terri Lampe, and John Armato.

4. Any handouts or Power Point presentations given to legislators related to the Pottstown School District.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hylton

Thomas Hylton
Pottstown School Board

I made this request in order that the school board and the public could learn the circumstances leading up to Mr. Gureghian's March 30 letter to the school board.

Last Friday, in response to my Right to Know request, I received a number of emails either sent or received by Dr. Lindley, and I am now reporting to the school board and the public what I was able to gather from these emails.

I am including the pertinent emails as part of my statement so they can be incorporated in the board minutes.

MEETING WITH GUREGHIAN

On Monday, Jan. 31 of this year, Dr. Lindley met with Vahan Gureghian and his assistant, Max Tribble. After the meeting, Dr. Lindley sent an email to Gureghian and copied members of the Executive Team plus John Armato and Terri Lampe.

Dr. Lindley stated in this email he would inform the board that he was exploring charter school options as a possible solution to Pottstown budget concerns.

This he did not do.

Dr. Lindley also confirmed that Mr. Gureghian would assist in expediting a meeting with Sen. Jeffrey Piccola, head of the Senate Education Committee, to review options/legislative needs of districts with declining tax bases.

In this email, Dr. Lindley provided Mr. Gurgehian with the district's enrollments and calculated that if all these students were educated in a charter school, the district would be required to pay $19,295,121 to the charter school.

He also discussed scheduling a visit by the Executive Team and other administrators to the Chester Community Charter School.

SEE 2011-1-31 EMAIL, BELOW

CONFIDENTIAL

Reed Lindley

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:46 PM
To: Vhg000@yahoo.com
Cc: Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana; John Armato; Terri Lampe; Pam Bateson; Reed Lindley
Importance: High
Attachments: 2010-11_Projected_Enrollme~1.xls (52 KB)

Vahan H. Gureghian
CSMI
CEO
Vhg000@yahoo.com

Vahan:
It was a pleasure meeting you and Max this morning. I left with more optimism that I have mustered for a while regarding the future of the Pottstown SD and the Borough of Pottstown. It is clear that the community would be remiss by not exploring any and all possibilities to promote cost savings and educational quality.

NEXT STEPS:

1. I reviewed the highlights of our discussion with the following:
   Linda Adams: Business Administrator
   Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Asst. Supt.
   John Armato, Director of Community Relations
   Terri Lampe, Executive Director of Foundation for Pottstown Education
   We agreed that I would inform the Board that I am continuing to explore charter school options as another possible solution to budget concerns.

2. You plan to assist in expediting the meeting with Senator Piccola where we will have the opportunity to review options/legislative needs that favor communities with a lower or declining tax base.

3. I will forward you our enrollment numbers for your review and comment (See attached). Numbers have changed so please use the following at this point:
   Grades PK-5, general education: 1509
   Grades PK-5, special education: 180

   We calculate this would result in charter school tuition of $19,295,121.

4. If we move to a more detailed proposal, school configuration will become a significant community concern (topic for another discussion).

5. I would like to schedule a visit to Chester with the above and also include Pam Bateston, Director

of Student Services. (Pam, call me about this email).
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Jeff Sparagana
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 12:50 PM
To: Reed Lindley
Subject:

Jeffrey R. Sparagana, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent
Pottstown School District

230 Beech Street
Pottstown, Pa 19464
Telephone: 610-970-6603
Fax: 610-323-8263
jsparaga@pottstownsd.org
www.Pottstownschools.com

Pottstown School District - Building a Better Tomorrow!

Confidential Information

For internal use only

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENTS
2010-2011 School Year

1/4/2011	Barth			Edgewood			Franklin			Lincoln			Rupert			
	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	# STD/GR LVL
Pre-K		8			16			14			14					
		9						9			14			10		94
K		23			22			23			23			23		
		23			23	2		23	4		23			24		
		24									22					276
1st	4	25			26	9		24			23			26		
		24			24	2		23	4		24			26		
		24									22					295
2nd	3	21			22			26	3		15			17		
		20			22	9		23			16			17		
		21		1							15					239
3rd	2	24		2	23			30	7		30	4		23		
		25	9		23						28	4		24		
		24														258
4th	2	27	5	4	27			27			28	6		28	9	
		27	3		27	7		27	5		28	4				
																252
5th	6	32	5		28	7		24	5		26	2		25	6	
		25	7					26	5		25	4		24	5	
																241
# STD/BLDG	17	406	29	7	283	36		299	33		376	24		267	20	
GRAND TOTAL		423			290			299			368			254		1655

MEETING SET UP WITH HEAD OF SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In a subsequent email to Sen. Rafferty on Feb. 3, Dr. Lindley stated he had established a tentative meeting with Sen. Piccola on Feb. 23 to discuss, among other things, “how the charter school law could be adjusted to allow districts to assign students to charters…”

SEE 2011-2-3 EMAIL, BELOW

Meeting Prep

Reed Lindley

Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Vhg000@yahoo.com
Cc: Linda Adams; Reed Lindley
Importance: High

Vaughan:
It would be helpful if Linda Adams, Business Administrator and I met with you prior to our Harrisburg (still tentative for 23rd) visit to review ball park cost estimates/possibilities. Would there be any benefit for you to visit Pottstown, drive by our schools?
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Reed Lindley
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:41 AM
To: Vhg000@yahoo.com
Subject: FW: Meeting Request

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Reed Lindley
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:36 PM
To: Mizdail, Cheri
Cc: tquigley@pahousegop.com; Jeff Sparagana; Linda Adams; John Armato; Terri Lampe; Pam Bateson; Reed Lindley
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Cheri:
I would like the Senator to know that I have a tentative meeting in Senator Piccola's office on Feb. 23. to discuss SB1 and how the charter school law needs to be adjusted to allow district's to assign students to charters (much like Phila. is doing), and also to discuss the opportunity for reduction in force for economic reasons (I understand a bill is currently in the House); and to disccuss any other opportunities for partnership with Districts (Pottstown) and state government to create the new paradigm that can lift communities with a reduced tax base to a competitive and influential position in the market.
Thanks for sharing,
Reed

Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Quigley:
I don't believe that the majority of Pennsylvanian's want to see the public education system

destroyed, however I think there will be strong support when they see the public system working collaboratively with the private system to focus public expenditures in ways that have most educational impact for all of Pennsylvania's students. I do agree with Sen. Dinniman and Piccola in that "we must shake up" the public system. I want to be sure that you are included in the conversation because I am convinced that we are going to shape a bold direction that will benefit taxpayers, parents, and students alike.
Reed

Jeff, Linda, John, Pam, Terri:
We will need to meet here in the District to ensure that we have clear and focused information ready to share and to be in a position to answer detailed budget and staffing questions about the District.

Vaughan:
I left a phone message to see the possibility of our staff to visit Chester on Feb. 24.

To all:
I know that there is support in Pottstown to move in a direction to improve our schools while we continue to improve the quality of instruction that directly impacts student achievement. The question remains, "how can we afford to do this?" We have less than one year to have a plan in action (This itself is unheard of in our business)!

I am in no position to put forward any recommendation, we must investigage all options, we must have evidence that any new direction is clearly a WIN-WIN. It must change the direction of continual tax increases; it must demonstrate quality education for all sectors; it must be sustainable over time (through the natural business cycle). Business as usual is over. We either join the complainers and watch this distirct and town continue to self-destruct, or we create, and lead---this is why we are hired and why we are elected.
I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with partners and staff that are committed to getting the job done and to seeing that it is done with quality.
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Mizdail, Cheri [cmizdail@pasen.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Reed Lindley
Subject: Meeting Request

Cheri Mizdail
Senator Rafferty's Office
20 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

(717)787-1398 (Phone)
(717)783-4587 (Fax)

DISTRICT BUDGET INFORMATION PROVIDED TO CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATOR

In a Feb. 11, 2011 email, Dr. Lindley provided to Gureghian, and his assistant, Max Tribble, detailed staffing data and budget reports regarding Pottstown's elementary schools. This information was apparently provided so Gureghian could make a proposal to educate Pottstown elementary school children.

In a Feb. 13, 2011 email, Dr. Lindley also provided to Gureghian the cost to operate each of Pottstown's five elementary schools, including staffing, supplies, substitutes, and utilities, and all direct costs attributed to the building.

The operating costs per building, including staffing, is information Dr. Lindley has never provided either to the school board or the President's Task Force on Facilities.

Curiously, the numbers show the most expensive elementary school to operate, on a per pupil basis, is Edgewood, followed by Franklin, then Rupert, Lincoln and Barth.

Also note that the middle school and high school are far more expensive to operate than every elementary school combined, even though we have many more elementary school students than secondary school students.

SEE 2011-2-11 AND 2011-2-13 EMAILS, BELOW

RE: Data for projections

Reed Lindley

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Cc: Vhg000 [vhg000@yahoo.com]; Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana; Reed Lindley
Importance: High
Attachments: Enrollment PSD 14-11.xls (46 KB) ; PSD_Elem_Staffing-Enrollmt~1.doc (62 KB)

Max, please find attached:
a. Enrollment sheet (color code is explained on the staffing document).
b. Elementary Staffing Matrix
Budget reports are run, being copied to mail on Monday OR if a visit here is helpful, I could give them to you then.
Look forward to hearing from you.
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 7:51 PM
To: Reed Lindley
Cc: Vhg000; Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana
Subject: Re: Data for projections

Hi Reed-
I think the criteria you outlined will give us a very good starting point. Don't worry about a specific template - use whatever makes compilation easiest for you. Thanks and please don't hesitate to call with any quetions.
Best,
Max

Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

On Feb 9, 2011, at 7:49 PM, Reed Lindley <rlindley@pottstownsd.org> wrote:

> Max, thanks for the follow up, I discussed this with Linda Adams, Business Administrator, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Asst. Supt., Pam Bateson, Director of Pupil Services, John Armato, Director of Community Relations, Terri Lampe, Executive Director of Foundation for Pottstown Education.
>
> Linda, see me if you would like to discuss format etc. I believe we have most of the information needed in the Task Force Binder along with the enrollment updates that Jeff has assembled.
>
> For Example:

Barth
Enrollment, general and special education
general ed teachers by grade level
special education teachers by grade level
support staff (classroom assistants, specialists, etc0
related arts teachers
support staff (custodial, cafe, clerical, etc).

We will want to articulate costs for charter replacement and savings to current configuration.

Max if you have a template that you use, just let us know.
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:05 PM
To: Reed Lindley
Cc: Vhg000
Subject: Data for projections

Hi Reed--

Vahan asked me to follow up with you about getting some data together so that he can make initial projections. Initially, if you can send us data on K-8 enrollment and spending it would be extremely helpful. Also, whatever special education information you can provide, including number of students being sent to outside schools, would be very useful. Let me know if we can do anything to help - we will be happy to provide whatever assistance is necessary.

Thanks,
Max Tribble

--
Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENTS
2010-2011 School Year

2/4/2011	Barth			Edgewood			Franklin			Lincoln			Rupon			# STD/GR LVL
	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	Full Time Special Education	Regular Education	Inclusion Special Education	
Pre-K		8			16			14			15					
		9						9			15			10		96
K		23			22			23			22			23		
		23			23	2		23	4		23			24		
		24									22					275
1st	4	25			26	9		25			23			26		
		25			24	2		23	4		24			25		
		25									20					295
2nd	3	21			22			26	3		15			18		
		21			22	9		23			16			17		
		21		1							15					241
3rd	2	25		2	22			30	7		30	4		23		
		25	9		23						28	4		24		
		24														258
4th	2	28	5	4	27			27			28	6		28	9	
		28	3		27	7		28	5		28	4				
																255
5th	6	32	5		28	7		25	5		26	2		24	6	
		25	7					26	5		25	4		25	5	
																242
# STD/BLDG	17	412	29	7	282	36		302	33		375	24		267	20	
GRAND TOTAL		429			289			302			368			254		1662

Pottstown School District
Elementary Enrollment and Staffing Information

Elementary Enrollment : See Color Coded Spreadsheet

Description:

Red numbers =classroom full, no more enrollment

Orange box=Full Time Special Ed (not included)

Yellow box =special education students included in the regular ed classroom

Green box = Total enrollment in the homeroom, including special ed #s in yellow

Elementary Staffing

Staffing Matrix	Barth	Edgewood	Franklin	Lincoln	Rupert
PK (4yr)	1	.5	1	1	.5
K	3	2	2	3	2
Gr1	3	2	2	3	2
Gr2	3	2	2	3	2
Gr3	3	2	1	2	2
Gr4	2	2	2	2	1
Gr5	2	1	2	2	2
Sp. Ed Lifeskills	2	0	0	0	0
Sp. Ed. Learning Support	3	5, 1 ES	2	5	3
Sp. Ed. Autism	0	0	3	0	0
Speech Therapist	1	1	1	1	1
Occ Therapist -	2.5 elementary level				
Phy Therapist	1.3 elementary level				
English Second Lang	1	1	0	0	0
Art	.5	.25	.5	.5	.5
Health/PE	1	.5	.5	.5	.5
Library	.68	.5	.5	.5	.5
Music	.5	1	.5	.5	.5
Instrumental	1 teacher for district				
Reading Specialist	1	1	1	1	1
Intervention Specialist (tch contract)	1	1	0	1	0
Intervention Assistants (assistant salary)	3	3	4	3	4
Guidance Counselor		0	0	1	0
Psychologist	1	1	1	.6	1
Principal	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	1	1	1	1	1
Other Clerical	0	0	0	0	0
Custodial	1	1	1	1	1

Re: Bldg Costs

Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 4:31 PM

To: Reed Lindley

Cc: Reed Lindley; Vhg000 [vhg000@yahoo.com]; Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana

---

Hi Reed,
Thank you for passing this along. We will review and we will also be back to you tomorrow about tying to schedule the visit.
Best,
Max

Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

On Feb 13, 2011, at 1:40 PM, Reed Lindley <rlindley@pottstownsd.org> wrote:

Max, the reports that I have show the following costs per building, they include staffing, supplies, substitutes, utilities, all direct costs attributed to the building. They do not include indirect costs such as grass cutting, percentage of central office time, etc. Numbers reflect 2009-10 expenditures.

Barth:	2,430,973	
Edgewood:	2,636,403	
Franklin:	2,397,116	
Lincoln:	2,429,172	
Rupert:	2,057,544	
	Total Elementary:	11,951,208
High School:	11,759,260	
Middle School:	6,977,681	

The District has 5 elementary schools, 1 MS, 1 Comprehensive HS, Administration Building, and Administration Annex, across the street from Franklin Elementary.

Hope this is helpful,

Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD

Re: Bldg Costs

Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]

AMENDED BY TOM HYLTON TO SHOW COST PER PUPIL

Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 4:31 PM

To: Reed Lindley

Cc: Reed Lindley; Vhg000 [vhg000@yahoo.com]; Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana

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Hi Reed,
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			2009-2010 ENROLLMENT		COST PER PUPIL
Barth:	2,430,973	÷	408	=	$5,958
Edgewood:	2,636,403	÷	273	=	$9,657
Franklin:	2,397,116	÷	296	=	$8,098
Lincoln:	2,429,172	÷	372	=	$6,530
Rupert:	2,057,544	÷	280	=	$7,348
Total Elementary:	11,951,208				
High School:	11,759,260	÷	781	=	$15,056
Middle School:	6,977,681	÷	609	=	$11,457

The District has 5 elementary schools, 1 MS, 1 Comprehensive HS, Administration Building, and Administration Annex, across the street from Franklin Elementary.

Hope this is helpful,

Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD

rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Reed Lindley
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Max Tribble
Cc: Vhg000; Linda Adams; Jeff Sparagana; Reed Lindley
Subject: RE: Data for projections

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b. Elementary Staffing Matrix
Budget reports are run, being copied to mail on Monday OR if a visit here is helpful, I could give them to you then.
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Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

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Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 7:51 PM
To: Reed Lindley
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support staff (custodial, cafe, clerical, etc).

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To: Reed Lindley
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Thanks,
Max Tribble

--
Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

MEETING WITH SENATORS

On Feb. 22, Dr. Lindley sent an email to an aide for Sen. Jeffrey Piccola, head of the Senate Education Committee, confirming that the following district personnel would attend a meeting the next day, Feb. 23, with the Senate Education Committee:

Reed Lindley, superintendent
Jeffrey Sparagana, assistant superintendent
Linda Adams, business manager
Terri Lampe, Director of Development
John Armato, Director of Communications
Dennis Wausnock, School Board Member

SEE 2011-2-22 EMAIL, BELOW

RE: meeting confirmation

Reed Lindley

Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 3:18 PM
To: Dare, Deanna [ddare@pasen.gov]
Cc: Reed Lindley

Deanna, planning to attend from Pottstown SD:
Reed Lindley, Supt.
Jeffrey Sparagana, Asst. Supt.
Linda Adams, Business Adm.
Terri Lampe, Ex. Dir of our Ed Foundation
John Armato, Dir of Communications
Dennis Wausnock, School Board Member
Hope we all "fit."
Thanks,
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Dare, Deanna [ddare@pasen.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 9:22 AM
To: pcarney@chartersmi.com; Reed Lindley; Stanley Rapp; Transue, David
Subject: meeting confirmation

Hello.
I am confirming your meeting with Senator Piccola scheduled for tomorrow (2/23) at 10:00am in our Capitol Office – Room 173 Main Capitol Building.
Thank you.

Deanna Dare
Office of Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola
Room 173 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717.787.6801

MEETING SUMMARY

The Mercury has already reported that in addition to Pottstown School District personnel, Sen. Piccola, Sen. Rafferty, and Vahan Gureghian attended this meeting.

A Feb. 23 email from Max Tribble, an aide to Gureghian, to Reed Lindley, confirms the participants discussed changes to the charter school law which would make it possible for Gureghian to take over Pottstown elementary schools and operate them.

SEE 2011-2-23 EMAIL, BELOW

House Visit

Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 3:43 PM

To: Reed Lindley

Hi Reed -

That was a good meeting today and you did a great job communicating your situation. It's a powerful message, especially coming from a superintendent.

I woud like to offer to help you get the message out and lobby on behalf of the right provisions for the charter bill. Please consider this an offer for an pro-Bono services (informally) from Carmen Group Pennsylvania, LLC. If you would like to set a day to come to Harrisburg I will set up leadership meetings as well as meetings with a few rank and file members. Let me know if you want to proceed. We can discuss when we see each othe tomorrow.

Best,
Max

Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

CRITERIA FOR CHARTER SCHOOL CONVERSION

Following this meeting, Dr. Lindley sent an email on March 2 to Max Tribble suggesting the criteria by which a local school board would be permitted to turn its schools over to a private charter school provider.

MEETING WITH HOUSE LEADERSHIP

On that same day, Tribble responded to Lindley, stating he was setting up a meeting between Lindley and Linda Adams and the leadership of the state House of Representatives, including
Rep. Sam Smith, speaker of the House
Rep. Mike Turzai, majority leader
Rep. Stan Saylor, majority whip
Rep. Tom Killion
Rep. Todd Stephens

SEE 2011-3-2 EMAIL, BELOW

RE: HSBG DATES

Reed Lindley

Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 4:22 PM
To: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Cc: Linda Adams; Reed Lindley
Importance: High

Linda, knowing that you have a MD appointment on Monday AM when I will be meeting with Max, please work up some numbers for me. I believe Max and others may be seeking some type of fomula--when districts meet this threshold, the Board would be PERMITTED to develop a conversion contact with a private provider.

- Total Debt
- Percentage debt
- Index
- Expected Index
- Local Effort
- Percentage Local Effort
- Etc

Plus, any information that you would recommend to be considered in a formula.
Thanks,
Reed

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 9:20 AM
To: Reed Lindley
Cc: Linda Adams
Subject: Re: HSBG DATES

Hi Reed:

Following up on our conversation yesterday regarding scheduling, I would be grateful if you and Linda could allot the full time you offered for next Tuesday, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, in the Capitol. I am still working out times for the meetings so that they are organized and not overlapping, but I have spoken with the following members specifically, and each has stated that they would like to meet:

Speaker Sam Smith (Jefferson County);
Majority Leader Mike Turzai (Allegheney):
Majority Whip Stan Saylor (York);
Rep. Tom Killion (Delaware County) who is introducing the charter school bill in the House this week);
Rep. Todd Stephens (Montgomery) who is meeting with Superintendents next week and would like to scout prospective allies for this initiative;

I spoke with john Rafferty yesterday to let him know what we are doing and he has lent his endorsement of you for all the meetings. I know that he seemed a little non-committal in our meeting with Senator Picolla but he does in fact seem very much on board.

I will be in touch on the other issue shortly.

Best,
Max

On Thu, Feb 24, 2011 at 5:37 PM, Reed Lindley <rlindley@pottstownsd.org> wrote:

Max:
Linda and I could be available in Harrisburg as follows:
Mar. 7: 11-1pm
Mar. 8: 1-4pm
Mar. 14: 9-11am
Mar. 22/23: 9:00-4:00 pm

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

--
Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, fax

SENATE BILL 904

Senate Bill 904 was introduced on March 25. In addition to allowing school districts to convert existing schools into charter schools, it appears to allow a state board to convert existing schools into charter schools, apparently without the approval of the local school board.

MARCH 30 LETTER FROM VAHAN GUREGHIAN

In an email on March 29, Max Tribble asked Dr. Lindley for the district's fax number so he could fax the formal letter from Vahan Gureghian to the Pottstown School District suggesting that Gureghian was interested in opening a charter school in Pottstown and also interested in taking over the education of Pottstown elementary school students in the event Senate bill 904 was passed.

SEE 2011-3-29 EMAIL, BELOW

RE: Letter

Reed Lindley

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:35 AM

To: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]

610-970-6609

Reed D. Lindley, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pottstown SD
rlindley@pottstownsd.org
610-970-6600

From: Max Tribble [maxbtribble@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:26 AM
To: Reed Lindley
Subject: Letter

Hi Reed -
We are sending this letter out now and I was thinking we should send by USPS and by fax. Is there a direct fax number to your office?

Best,
Max
--
Max B. Tribble
(202) 669-4141, cell
(202) 747-7573, direct fax

Pennsylvania Office:
229 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 461-2401

Washington, DC Office:
1201 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 341-6383

SUMMARY

In summary, it is clear Dr. Lindley actively promoted the idea of allowing a private charter school operator to take over the education of Pottstown elementary school students.

Already, this has had a major effect on our district -- two outstanding elementary school principals – Robert Giering at Barth and Angela Tuck at Edgewood – have announced they will be leaving the district at the end of this school year.

The idea of a school district turning over the education of all its elementary school students to a private charter school operator is unprecedented in Pennsylvania. It may well be a good idea. The school board's responsibility is to provide a quality education at an affordable cost, not to maintain the status quo.

But by pursuing his ideas without informing the school board or the public, Dr. Lindley has undermined a fundamental principle of democracy – that everything is to be done in an open and transparent manner.

Dr. Lindley provided budget information to Vahan Gureghian about our schools that he did not share with the school board or the President's Task Force on Facilities. He actively lobbied with legislators to change the law to allow a charter school operator to take over the education of public school students.

He did all this without the knowledge and consent of the school board, even though he told Mr. Gureghian on Jan. 31 of this year that he would do so. He gave the impression to legislators that the school board was aware of his activities, when in fact it was not.

As a member of this school board, I believe I have an obligation to set the record straight. Thank you.