**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**March 17, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, March 17, 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 Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Julia Wilson. 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 DiPaolo, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mrs. Rita Cohen, Ms. Norma Jean Weatherly, Ms. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. Newstell Marable, Mr. Bruce Madara, a member of the press and interested citizens.

## PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sparagana introduced Ms. Marta Kiesling and Ms. Deb Snow of Village Productions. Ms. Kiesling discussed the development of a partnership to develop a comprehensive district musical theatre program. She presented the board with a questionnaire to complete and return to her. Ms. Kiesling shared a power point presentation on assessing the challenges of developing this program. Student outreach will take place in April and May while parent outreach plans are being finalized. Ms. Snow discussed production team responsibilities. There will be many opportunities for students, not just for those who desire to be on stage. There are sound technicians, costume designers, directors and marketing people who all are a part of production team.

**MR. HUSS ANNOUNCED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL.**

**THE BOARD ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:55 PM**

**THE BOARD RETURNED AT 8:20 PM**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 17, 2011 be approved as presented. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: nine. Nays: none. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the minutes of the committee of the whole meeting held on March 3, 2011 be approved as presented. Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: nine. Nays: none. Motion carried.

## LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the list of bills for the period of February 10 through March 9, 2011 from the Athletic Fund totaling $26,974.54; the Capital Reserve fund totaling $390.00; the Cafeteria Fund totaling $153,488.65; the Elementary Activities Fund totaling $827.99 and the General Fund totaling $1,034,016.73 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2010-2011 058.

Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Treasurer's Report be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2010-2011-059.

Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## HEARING FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Robert Trojanowski discussed a letter he had sent to The Mercury in 2009 indicating that the School Board wastes a lot of money. He asked if anyone knows how much we give the employees. He stated that all mid-level administrators make over $100,000. Senior citizens do not get a cost of living adjustment and recommends a salary freeze for the next three years. With the shortfall in Harrisburg, how will the district pay for salary increases?

Mr. Bruce Madara thanked those board members who return his calls. He is opposed to any pay raises in light of the economy. He is also opposed to any forward borrowing; he feels that any money needs should be taken to the people with a referendum.

Mr. Newstell Marable would like to make an appointment to meet with Dr. Lindley to talk about things that are happening. Dr. Lindley will schedule a meeting with Mr. Marable. Mr. Marable also discussed the district's desire to recruit minority teachers. He suggests that the district does not limit itself for minority colleges, but also reach out to other schools such as Albright and the University of Penn.

## CONSENT ITEMS

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

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Exempt

Ratify Daniel Wilchek, Technology Trainer, Administration Building, resignation effective March 2, 2011, employed since February 16, 2006.

Classified

Ratify Joel Mitchell, Student Proctor, Pottstown High School, resignation effective December 15, 2010, employed since November 18, 2010.

LEAVES

Professional

Ratify Teresa Niemann, Pottstown Middle School, request for intermittent leave of absence coverage under the Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 10, 2011, end date TBD.

Erica Testa, Pottstown Middle School, request for leave of absence covered under the Family Medical Leave Act and Childrearing, effective September 14, 2011, end date TBD.

Classified

Ratify Genevieve Bell, Physical Therapist, Special Education, request for Childbearing leave of absence, effective date February 10, 2011 through December 15, 2011.

Ratify Tracy Oister, Part-time Student Proctor, request for leave of absence covered under the Family Medical Leave Act, effective March 1, 2011, end date TBD.

Ratify Melvenna Santiago, Classroom Assistant, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered under the Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 28, 2011, end date TBD.

Ratify James Corum, Custodian, Annex, request medical leave of absence, effective December 2, 2010, end date TBD.

ELECTIONS

Classified

Ratify Gail Beasley, Part-time Substitute Student Proctor, Pottstown Middle School, $13.87/hour, effective February 15, 2011.

Ratify Jennifer Levengood, Part-time Substitute Student Proctor, Pottstown Middle School, $13.87/hour, effective February 16, 2011.

Ratify Roger Eppehimer, Full Time Classroom/Van Assistant, Annex, $13.65/hour, effective February 1, 2011.

Ratify Kimberly Oliver, Full Time Classroom/Van Assistant, Annex, $14.13/hour, effective February 28, 2011.

Homebound Instruction

Ratify Laura Christie, Pottstown High School, from February 8, 2011 through March 21, 2011, $29/hour, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Ratify Jamie Harle, Edgewood Elementary, from March 14, 2011 through May 6, 2011, $29/hour, assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Compensation for Missed Planning Time, 2010-2011 school year, $23 per period, for the time period ending February 3, 2011

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lisa Cassidy-Lawler | PHS | 9 missed planning times | $207.00 |

Corrections to 2010-2011 Co-Curricular Assignments
Salaries are based upon current contract rates. Rates subject to change pending new contract

| Bldg. | Professional Agreement Category | Employee | Level | Stipend |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HS | C - Baseball-Asst./Junior Varsity Coach | Steve Burdan | 2 | 2,889.00 |

Additions/Corrections to 2010-2011 Support Staff Salaries

Ratify the additions and correction to 2010-2011 Support Staff Salaries and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011-060.

Change in Position and/or Salary

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following change of position and/or salary:

Ratify Dalton Wieder, Part-Time Housekeeper at Edgewood to Full-Time Custodian, Pottstown Middle School, rate $15.60/hour, effective March 7, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following professional leaves:

| Building | Name | Conference Title | Conference Location | Dates to attend | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sr. High | Dennis Arms | 2011 Promising Practices – Proven Strategies Conference | Harrisburg, PA | 3/8/11 – 3/10/11 | Approx. $460.00 paid by the 21st Century grant. |
| Sr. High | Kim Holsonback | Child Nutrition Director's Retreat | Harrisburg, PA | 4/3/11 – 4/4/11 | Approx. $200.00 paid by Food Service |
| Admin<br><br>Franklin Barth | Lisa Schiavone<br>Karen Crable<br>Karen Neitz<br>Julie Schumacher | PAFPC Annual Conference | Seven Springs, PA | 4/3/11 – 4/6/11 | Approx. $3334.00 paid by Title I grant. |
| Admin.<br>Edgewood<br>Lincoln | Jeff Sparagana<br>Treena Ferguson<br>Lori Hoch<br>Kristen Lafferty<br>Stacey VanDruff | PAFPC Annual Conference (Presenting) | Seven Springs, PA | 4/3/11 – 4/6/11<br><br>4/3/11 – 4/5/11 | Approx. $5544.00 paid by SBSL & Title I grant. |
| Sr. High | Diane Fox | TSA (Technology Student Association) | Seven Springs, PA | 4/13/11 – 4/15/11 | Approx. $350.00 Paid by Title I Grant |
| Admin. | Mary Rieck | Pre-K Counts State-wide Meeting | University Park, PA | 5/23/11 – 5/24/11 | Approx. $342.00 paid by PA Pre-K Counts grant |

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following contracts and copies be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum#2010-2011-061.

1. MOU: Public Health Management Corp.
2. The Pathway School
3. MOU: Creative Health
4. The Vanguard School

BID AWARDS

The Superintendent recommends that purchase orders or contracts be awarded to the companies as listed, the award in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2010-2011-062.

1. Custodial Supplies
2. General Supplies

MCIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION

The Superintendent recommends the Board elect Robert Hartman, Jr. as representative to serve three years beginning the first day of July following such election. The representative's term shall run from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

DISTRICT COST PLAN CONTRACT AGREEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a district cost plan contract agreement with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 school year, and a copy be file in the Secretary's Office as addendum #2010-2011-063.

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

**NON-CONSENT**

PERSONNEL

Leaves

Professional

Ratify Jared Leimeister, Pottstown Middle School, requests military leave of absence, effective March 2, 2011, end date TBD.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the leave as presented.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the following professional leave:

| Bldg. | Name | Conference Title | Conference Location | Dates to Attend | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Admin. | Ratify Terri Lampe | PenSPRA (presenting) | Pittsburgh, PA | 3/14/11 -3/15/11 | All expenses paid for by PenSPRA |

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

FIELD TRIP

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that the board approve the following field trip:

| # of students and/or group | Name of conference or activity | Destination | Date of trip | Cost to student | Cost to district- with substitutes | Chaperone(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 Sr. High | PA HS Speech League State Tournament | LaSalle College H.S.Wyndmoor, PA. | 3/25/11 – 3/26/11 | ~~$100max~~ TBD | ~~$200.00~~ $750.00 Maximum | Joe Perrone & ~~Helen Bowers~~ Jen Wiand |

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

SENATE BILL 1: SCHOOL VOUCHER RESOLUTION

Motion to approve the Resolution opposing Senate Bill 1- Tuition Voucher Program.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board approve the Resolution opposing Senate Bill 1 Tuition Voucher Program and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2010-2011-064.

Mrs. Zahora stated when the Governor removes state mandates, she will support school vouchers. She feels using her tax dollars to support private schools is taxation without representation.

Mr. Hylton stated the mandates must be changed or they will bleed the district dry and they are not improving education. He fears this resolution would be an exercise in futility. We should not make private schools our adversaries but our partners. He feels our real problem will be charter schools, not vouchers.

Mrs. Weand stated that as a former educator she is horrified at what the new administration has done. Does the community realize that these schools are not required to give the PSSA? How are we to know if these schools are succeeding?

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Ms. Harris: nay. 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: three. Motion carried.

2011-2012 MCIU PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the MCIU 2011-2012 Operating Budget for the 2011-2012 school year:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| General Administration | = | $1,016,200 |
| Curriculum and Staff Development | = | $2,676,720 |
| Legislative | = | $ 288,688 |
| IMS | = | $3,847,423 |
| Total | = | $7,829,031 |

Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year shall be as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Curriculum and Staff Development | = | $ 968 |
| State and Federal Legislative Services | = | $ 3,233 |
| Instructional Materials Services | = | $ 17,914 |
| Total | = | $ 22,115 |

This would be a decrease in the Pottstown School District's contribution over the amount contributed for the 2010-2011 school year of $238.00.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year General Administration.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year for Curriculum and Staff Development.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year for State and Federal Legislative Services.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon that the Board approve the Pottstown School District's contribution to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year for Instructional Materials Services.

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

ACT 93 2010/2011 AGREEMENT EXTENSION

Motion to amend and extend the Act 93 2010/2011 Agreement through June 30, 2015 which includes amended language for the Core Health Plan Coverage and eliminates the minimum increase of 1.5%.

Mrs. Zahora stated she is proud of the Act 93 team for accepting the new core health plan and for taking the pay freeze.

Mr. Hylton is torn; he appreciates the leadership of the Act 93 team in agreeing to the terms of the extension but feels the school community does not understand the dire financial straits the district is facing. He feels we may have to look at voluntary pay cuts in the future.

Mr. Hartman reminded the Board that the early change in the health plan saved the district over half a million dollars.

It was moved by Mrs. Pargeon and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the amendment and extension to the Act 93 2010/2011 agreement through June 30, 2015, which includes amended language for Core Health Plan Coverage and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2010-2011 065.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye. Ayes: nine. Nays: none. 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.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Pargeon 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. White is concerned that the Task Force will resurrect the 3 elementary school option. Pottstown cannot afford more debt. Mr. Hylton had come up with a solution that would cost $15 million. Why would the Task Force need to go above the $28 million already available?

Mr. Huss feels the board needs to be prepared for the Task Force's recommendation.

Mrs. Zahora stated the Board does not have to spend these funds. The Task Force has a large mountain to climb and we should not limit their options.

Mr. Madara remains opposed to forward borrowing. He feels the Task Force does not represent himself or most of the taxpayers. He voted for school board members, not Task Force members.

Mrs. Harris agrees with Mr. Madara and will not vote for forward borrowing when the district scrambles every year to balance the budget.

Mrs. Pargeon feels the Board needs to provide for future generations. The community cannot maintain 5 elementary schools. We are not attracting middle class families.

Mr. Hylton feels it is not a question of 3, 4 or 5 elementary schools. It is a question of borrowing money. If the Task Force's plan costs more than $28 million the Board can go to referendum.

Mrs. Wilson hopes the Task Force's ideas fit within our budget. She will vote against forward borrowing.

Mr. Hartman stated the forward borrowing was not for a specific plan. The Task Force is only advising the Board, not budgeting the funds. He stated Mr. Hylton did not come up with a plan, his committee asked our architect how much specific improvements would cost. He hopes this Board does not repeat past mistakes.

Mrs. Weand is confused. In 2007 the economy was not good and Mr. Hylton knew his Neighborhood Schools project would cost $38 million. He threatened a lawsuit if that Board did not move ahead with forward borrowing. Mr. Hylton says our buildings will last another 20 years. No matter what we decide it will cost money. We cannot afford 5 elementary schools. The Board must do something and must do it the right way and must have the capital available.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Ms.Harris: nay. Mr. Hartman: aye. Mr. Huss: aye. Mr. Hylton: nay. Mrs. Pargeon: aye. Mr. Wausnock: nay. Mrs. Weand: aye. Mr. White: nay. Mrs. Wilson: nay. Ayes: four. Nays: five. Motion defeated.

RESCINDING PRIOR BORROWING RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. White that the Board approve a resolution to rescind its rights to borrow funds under prior resolutions and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2010-2011-066.

The Board further directs the solicitor to notify all appropriate officials within five business days, in writing, that the Board has terminated its rights to borrow funds under both "the $13,000,000 Prior Resolution" dated August 19, 2004 and "the $10,000,000 Prior Resolution" dated August 19, 2004, and to provide a copy of this notification to all board members.

Mrs. Zahora feels this resolution should have gone through the committee process prior to a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Harris: aye. Hartman: nay. Hylton: aye. Huss: nay. Pargeon: aye. Wausnock: aye. Weand: nay. White: aye. Wilson: aye. Ayes: six, Nays: three. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Contracts **-** Mr. Kalis advised the Board the Executive Team has agreed to no increase in salary for the 2011-2012 school year and asked the Board's permission to prepare simple addendums to their contracts. The Board was in agreement.

INFORMATION

1. Health Care Consortium Panel: March 30th
2 .Monthly Meeting Notice: April
3. Camp Invention
4. Conference Report
5. PEAK Report: March

FEDERATION REMARKS

Ms. Lindi Vollmuth indicated that the Federation is becoming frustrated with the attitude and availability of the administration. While we have not mentioned going on strike it appears to us that the administration has gone on strike against the Federation. Several attempts to set up meetings have been ignored and meetings previously set up have been cancelled. It is imperative that the Federation and administration discuss issues that relate to the productive running of the school.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Hylton feels the Dr. Lindley is more available than previous Superintendents.

Mrs. Wilson is hopeful that the economy is picking up. The Board can still borrow funds by taking to referendum.

Mrs. Harris commends Act 93 staff and the Executive team in accepting the wage freeze. She is hopeful of continued agreement. This is leading by example and shows the students it is about them.

Mr. Hartman reminded everyone of the JROTC banquet to be held March 26. He thanked the Executive Team, Act 93 and support staff for supporting the change in health insurance. They saved the district a great deal of money. Federation issues need to be resolved. He stated our teachers know the right thing to do.

Mrs. Weand thanked those who agreed to the salary freeze. The district and students will benefit.

Dr. Sparagana stated actions speak.

Dr. Lindley advised the Board that he and Dr. Sparagana had a number of meetings scheduled with the Federation to review the Lesson Plan Policy and the Differentiated Plan for Supervision. These meetings were cancelled to avoid miscommunications during a period of negotiations. He indicated he has emailed Mrs. Yoder, willing to meet upon the receipt of the agenda items. Dr. Lindley then addressed the Board and community regarding pending budget cuts and decisions about the future of the elementary schools. Acknowledging, the community members all want the same thing, quality schools at a cost that is affordable. There will always be disagreement over “how many eggs go in what basket” – but this community has the leadership and capacity to strongly emerge from this situation.

Mr. Hylton apologized to the Federation, he was under the impression the cancelled meetings were in regards to contract negotiations.

Ms. Vollmuth stated numerous meetings have been cancelled not relating to contract negotiations.

Mr. Huss thanked Act 93 and the Executive Team for pulling in their belts. It shows they love Pottstown and the kids. He hopes other districts will follow suit.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Harris and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board adjourn. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary