POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
RE-ORGANIZATION AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2011 - 7:30 P.M.

The Re-Organization and Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard C. Huss presiding. The following board members were present: Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert H. Hartman. Jr., Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Dennis Wausnock and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Absent was Mr. Nat White. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Reed D.. Lindley; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. Jerry Ummarino, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mrs. Calista Boyer, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Pamela Bateson, Mr. Scott Ware, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mr. John Armato, members of the press and interested citizens.

Mr. White entered the meeting at 7:31 pm.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 17, 2011 be approved.

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

ADJOURN SINE DIE

The Secretary adjourned the meeting sine die.

BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION

The Secretary proceeded to call roll of the four hold over members. The following were present: Ms. Valerie Harris, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Mr. Thomas Hylton and Mrs. Polly Weand.

Notice of the Organization Meeting

Mrs. Adams read the Notice of the Organization Meeting.

Seating of Newly Elected Board Members

The Secretary read the Montgomery County Commissioners certified results of the Municipal General Election. The Secretary presented the following newly elected Board members to Judge Thomas Palladino who administered the Oath of Office: Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mrs. Judyth Zahora, Mr. W. Ronald Williams, Ms. Mary-Beth Lydon and Mr. Andrew Kefer. A copy is to be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2011-2012-048.

Election of Temporary President

The Secretary called for the nomination of a Temporary President. Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr. was nominated as Temporary President.

There were no further nominations for a Temporary President. It was moved by Mr. Hylton to close the nominations for Temporary President. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for temporary president. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The vote to elect Mr. Hartman as Temporary Present was recorded as follows: All members present voted aye. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Election of President

The Temporary President called for nominations for President.

Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Wausnock. .

Mrs. Weand nominated Mrs. Zahora.

There were no further nominations for the Office of President. Mr. Wausnock moved to close the nominations. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for the Office of President. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The vote for Mr. Wausnock as President was recorded as follows: Mr. Hartman: nay, Mr. Hylton: aye, Ms. Lydon: nay, Mr. Wausnock: aye, Mrs. Weand: nay, Mr. Williams: aye, Mrs. Zahora: nay, Mr. Kefer: nay, Ms. Harris: aye. Ayes: Four. Nays: Five. Motion denied.

The vote for Mrs. Zahora as President was recorded as follows: Mr. Hylton: nay, Ms. Lydon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: nay, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. Williams: nay, Mrs. Zahora: aye, Mr. Kefer: aye, Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Hartman: aye. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

Mrs. Judyth Zahora was declared the newly elected President.

Mrs. Zahora as President took charge of the meeting.

Election of Vice-President

Mrs. Zahora called for nominations for Vice-President.

Mrs. Weand nominated Mr. Hartman..

Mr. Williams nominated Ms. Harris.

There were no further nominations for the Office of Vice-President. Mr. Hartman moved to close the nominations for Vice-President. Ms. Lydon seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for Vice-President. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The vote for Mr. Hartman as Vice-President was recorded as follows: Mr. Kefer: aye, Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Ms. Lydon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: nay, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. Williams: nay, Mrs. Zahora: aye. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr. was declared the newly elected Vice-President.

Election of Treasurer

Mrs. Zahora as President, resigned as Treasurer.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to accept Mrs. Zahora's resignation as Treasurer. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Zahora called for nominations for Treasurer for the balance of the term ending June 30, 2012.

Mr. Hartman nominated Mr. Wausnock. Mrs. Weand seconded the nomination.

There were no further nominations for the Office of Treasurer. Mr. Kefer moved to close the nominations. Mr. Wausnock seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to close the nominations for the Office of Treasurer. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The vote for Mr. Dennis Wausnock as Treasurer was recorded as follows: All members present voted aye Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Dennis Wausnock was declared the newly elected Treasurer.

Authorization for the Use of Signature Stamp (until a new one is received)

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Hartman to authorize the use of the existing signature stamp until a new one is prepared reflecting the new officers.

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

Committee Assignments

Mrs. Zahora asked the Board Members to notify her of the committees of their interest. Mrs. Zahora disbanded the Neighborhood Schools Committee whose function would be handled by the Facilities Committee. She combined the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee. She will provide committee assignments by January 1, 2012. A final copy of the Committee Assignments is to be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2011-2012-049.

Adopt Time And Places For The 2012 Regular Board Meetings

Mrs. Adams presented the proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule. She explained the benefits of two voting meetings a month. Mr. Kalis clarified the purpose of adopting a time and place which is necessary for advertising. Mrs. Zahora asked the Board Members to approve the time and place for the 2012 Regular Board Meetings. She suggested the Board discuss the meeting structure at the next Board meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Hartman that the Board approve the meeting schedule as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2011-2012-050.

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

Appointment of Parliamentarian

It was moved by Mr. Hartman seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board approve Mr. Stephen Kalis, Fox Rothschild, Solicitor as parliamentarian.

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

Approve Rules of Order – Policy #006

It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded by Mr. Wausnock to approve the rules of order as presented in Policy 006 and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2011-2012-051.

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

Approval of Parliamentary Procedure

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve Roberts Rules of Order Revised for decisions involving parliamentary procedure with the understanding that rules of order as adopted supersede the Roberts rules of Order in the event of a conflict between the two.

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

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Jeff Leflar, 1388 Queen Street, spoke on behalf of the Code Blue group. He expressed his view of the new Board as a "re-balancing of the Board". Mr. Leflar looks forward to all nine Board Member working as one to restore the proper balance between education and taxpayers. He urged the Board to take a fresh look at the President's Task Force on Facilities for the elementary projects.

Mrs. Danielle Butterfield, 1106 Queen Street, agreed with Mr. Leflar's comment that the Board work as one. She expressed her disappointment with the information presented to the Task Force. As a member of the Task Force, she did not fully understand the information as it was presented. Mrs. Butterfield stated that she will fight the school board if a decision is made to close an elementary school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Weand made a motion to table the committee reports as none of the committees met in the month of November. All Board Members present agreed to table the committee reports.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be placed on the December 16, 2011 board agenda for approval.

CONSENT

Personnel

Dr. Lindley reviewed the personnel items and professional leave to be placed on the December 16, 2011 Board agenda for approval.

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts to be placed on the December 16, 2011 Board agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects' Invoices

Mrs. Adams reviewed the Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects' October 2011 Invoices for the Neighborhood Schools Project to be placed on the December 16, 2011 for Board approval.

Repairs To Parapet Walls At Rupert Elementary

The Facilities Committee recommends the Board approve the purchase order or contract to be awarded to David Randall Associates for the necessary repairs to the parapet walls at Rupert Elementary from damage caused by previous severe weather conditions. The repairs are needed to prevent future water damage to the second floor. David Randall Associates submitted the lowest estimate not to exceed $15,000.

Mr. Hartman explained the repairs to the parapet walls are necessary to maintain the building through the winter weather. Mrs. Adams added that the Board is being asked to vote on the repairs to expedite the repairs before the beginning of the winter weather.

Mr. Kalis explained that the Board had the option to take a straw vote and ratify the motion at the next Board meeting or the Board could vote to suspend Roberts Rules of Order and proceed with a vote at tonight's meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the Board approve suspending the Roberts Rules of Order.

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

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Ms. Harris that the work to repairs to the parapet walls at Rupert Elementary be completed as presented.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the repairs to the parapet walls at Rupert Elementary)

None.

Upon roll call, all members present voted aye to approve the repairs to the parapet walls at Rupert Elementary. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Policy 3603: Retirement Benefit Program – 2nd Reading (no action to be taken)

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO REMOVE CURRENT LIAISON POSITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS COMMITTEE TO ARCHITECT AND REPLACE WITH SUPERINTENDENT AS CONTACT

Mr. Hartman made a motion that the Board take action to remove the current liaison position with the Neighborhood Schools Committee and the architect and the replacement for all contact to be through the superintendent unless otherwise directed by the Board.

It was moved by Mrs. Weand and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the Board suspend Roberts Rules of Order.

Upon roll call, the vote to suspend Roberts Rules of Order was recorded as follows: Ms. Harris: nay, Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Ms. Lydon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: nay, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mrs. Zahora: aye, Mr. Williams: nay, Mr. Kefer: aye. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

Dr. Lindley asked for clarification of the motion. Board Members and the solicitor discussed that the intent of the motion was limited to assigning a liaison to the architect for the elementary schools project. Mr. Hartman understood that the committee assignments are still to be determined and the purpose of his motion is to remove the current liaison position from a Board Member to an employee of the district. Ms. Harris expressed her concern that not having a committee member as the liaison creates confusion at the committee level.

Board Members engaged in discussion on the benefit of the superintendent as the contact person for all contractors, solicitor, board members and employees.

Mrs. Zahora stated that from this point forward, the superintendent should be the contact person for all district contractor, solicitor, Board Members and employees. The superintendent can gather and disseminate all information.

Mrs. Weand agreed with Mrs. Zahora that directing the superintendent as the contact creates transparency and would save the district time and money.

Mr. Williams was curious the role of the Board with the administration. He asked how much influence the Board has over anything.

Mr. Hartman explained that in the state of Pennsylvania it is the Board's job to set policy and the administration runs the district according to the policy set by the Board.

Mr. Williams questioned the role of the board as strictly a policy enforcement/designer and have nothing to do with curriculum, finances and so forth.

Mrs. Zahora stated that the Board does have a voice over all the things mentioned in compliance with policy. Mrs. Zahora recommended the newly elected board members attend a PSBA workshop for new board members and the administration schedule a new board orientation for the new board members.

HEARINGS FROM PATRON OF THE SCHOOLS (limited to the motion to remove the current liaison position of the Neighborhood Schools Committee the architect and replace with all contact between the architect and the superintendent.).

None.

Upon roll call, the vote to remove the current liaison position with the Neighborhood Schools Committee and the architect and the replacement for all contact to be through the superintendent unless otherwise directed by the Board was recorded as follows: Mr. Hartman: aye, Mr. Hylton: nay, Ms. Lydon: aye, Mr. Wausnock: nay, Mrs. Weand: aye, Mr. Williams: nay, Mrs. Zahora: aye, Mr. Kefer: aye, Ms. Harris: nay. Ayes: Five. Nays: Four. Motion carried.

MOTION: FUTURE COMMITTEE REPORTS BE SUBMITTED IN WO INCLUDE WITH BOARD PACKET

Ms. Harris asked that a motion be added to the December 16, 2011 Board agenda that future committee reports be submitted in writing and be included with the board packet.

Board members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of written reports. Mr. Kalis indicated the committee chairperson could elaborate on the reports at each board meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE OF BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Hylton indicated that Board Members are permitted to discuss board business outside of a board meeting unless they form a quorum either of the Board or of the committee to which they are assigned. He asked Mr. Kalis to confirm tow or more Board Members may talk to each other as long as they are not a quorum of the Board or the committee to which they are assigned. Mr. Kalis confirmed and sated that as long as the Board Members are not making any binding decisions on behalf of the Board they could meet outside of a board meeting.

MOTION: TWO VOTING MEETINGS PER MONTH

Mr. Hartman supports operating two voting meetings per month. Two voting meetings helps to expedite administrative operations.

Ms. Harris asked what the benefits are to having two voting meetings a month as opposed to the current meeting schedule.

Mrs. Adams explained the benefits of two voting meetings: 1) fewer ratifications, 2) expedite business, 3) avoid suspending Roberts Rules of Order and 4) committee reports would be spread out between two meetings.

Mr. Kalis indicated that is is common practice for boards to operate two committee of the whole/voting meetings a month. This eliminates delays and helps administrative planning.

WORKSHOPS FOR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Zahora asked that the administration schedule a New Board Orientation Workshop for the newly elected Board Members to review the following: 1) educational programs, 2) school district facilities and

3) school district staff. The goal is to provide a base for the new school board members. She recommended that all Board Members attend so they all have the same understanding. Mrs. Zahora requested a Board Meeting for all Board Members to meet the staff and become familiar with what everyone does. She suggested the meeting take place at the first meeting in January and to postpone the writing awards.

Board members discussed available times and dates. It was determined that the new board members should attend the December 15 new board workshop at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

All Board Members agreed to move the Regular Voting Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 15 to Friday, December 16. The administration will schedule a 4 hour new board orientation workshop on Saturday, December 17 beginning at 10:00 am.

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT EMAIL ADDRESSES

Mrs. Zahora recommended that all Board Members utilize the district provided email address. She explained it facilitates communication, is easy for the public to find a Board Member and creates transparency under the Right-to-Know law.

INFORMATION

1. First Marking Period Honor Roll Comparison
2. Musical Theater Survey
3. Website Report

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker welcomed the newly elected board members and the returning board members. He encouraged all board members to attend the various activities taking place throughout the district during the month December.

ROUND TABLE

Ms. Lydon expressed her gratitude in being able to serve the students and taxpayers. She believes in accountability, integrity and accessibility. Ms. Lydon looks forward to moving the district forward.

Mr. Hyton – no comment.

Mr. Williams – no comment.

Ms. Harris – no comment.

Mr. Kefer stated he was exicted, scared, challenged and hopeful about his term on the board. His decision to run for a school board director was centered on making Pottstown what he believes it can become. He looks forward to working together as a board, working with the Borough and PAID to move the district forward.

Mr. Wausnock – no comment.

Mrs. Weand welcomed the new board members.

Mr. Hartman reminded the Board of the various concerts and programs taking place in the district this month. congratulated the new board members. He looks forward to working together.

Dr. Lindley recognizes the challenges the district faces. He looks forward to working with the new board.

Mrs. Adams thanked the outgoing board members. She welcomed the new board members and offered her assistance to all board members.

Mrs. Zahora thanked the outgoing members for their hard work and time give to the district. She described herself as a consensus builder and stated that the majority rules. Mrs. Zahora looks forward to dialogue and sharing ideas. She sees the priorities of the board to be focused on education and communication.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Linda S. Adams

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary