POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

November 3, 2011 - 7:30 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School with President Richard C. Huss presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Polly M. Weand, Mr. Nat White, Mrs. Julia Wilson, Mr. Robert H. Hartman, Jr., and Mrs. Michele Pargeon. Absent was Ms. Valerie Harris. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Ms. Pamela Bateson Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mr. Scott Ware, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

AWARDS

None.

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Presentation to Foundation for Pottstown Education

Mr. Armato introduced Michele Catrambone, Asst. V.P & Branch Manager of Fulton Bank who presented to Mr. Harry Price, President of the Foundation for Pottstown Education with a check. Ms. Catrambone spoke about Fulton Bank's commitment to making an impact in Pottstown. Dr. Lindley recognized Ms. Catrambone for her role in Leadership Tri-County. Leadership Tri-Counity is an organization that works with businesses to create a framework to support student involvement.

High School Telecommunication Program (WBZH)

Mr. Armato played a brief segment of the first high school Hearsay broadcast. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about the tremendous progress in telecommunications at the high school. Mr. Rodriguez introduced two high school students, Alexander Acunna and Tyler Stamy to speak about the telecommunications program. Alexandar expressed his appreciation for what he has learned and the opportunity to improve on his skills as a writer and broadcaster. The hands on experience has given him the confidence to pursue a career in telecommunications.

Class of 1961(Video/High School Telecommunication)

Mr. Armato played a brief video produced by the high school telecommunications students. The video focused on the Class of 1961, the first graduating class from the existing high school. The Class of 1961 has donated $200 to the telecommunications class for purchasing equipment and a $500 donation to the art department for a mural in the high school which will commemorate it's 50th anniversary.

MS. VALERIE HARRIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:50PM.

COMMUNICATION

Edgewood Recognition

Dr. Lindley presented the following information in recognition of Edgewood Elementary achievement as a Distinguished Title 1 School for 2011-2012. He report that the PDE Division of Federal Programs has offered to pay for two Edgewood staff members to attend the 2012 Title I Improving Schools Performance Conference as a distinguished Title 1 school.

District Name	School	Eligible Code	Group	Number Scored 2011	Number Scored 2010	% Advanced /Proficient 2011	% Advanced /Proficient 2010	Achievement Gap 2010 vs 2011
Pottstown SD	Edgewood El School	E	Science Economically Disadvantaged	36	28	88.9	57.1	31.8

JROTC Recognition

Dr. Lindley read a correspondence from Joan Daly, YMCA Branch Executive Director, thanking Lt. Col. Jake Porter and 20 cadets for volunteering their services at the October 29, 2011 Annual Safe House event.

Grant and Partnership Opportunities

Dr. Lindley presented a Power Point presentation outlining the continuing efforts to improve the school district and opportunities that exist with entrepreneurships in the arts. His presentation focused on the importance of the arts in education during difficult economic conditions. Dr. Lindley asked the Board for their support for him to work with PAID and local partners to apply for secure a $1 million grant from ArtPlace and a $5 million Revitalization grant from the county.

Board Members asked for clarification as to the party responsible for writing the grant and questions regarding what what would be the district's commitment.

Dr. Lindley explained that he was asking the Board only for their support of the grant. A letter of commitment must be submitted by November 15. He explained that PAID would be the initial party submitting the letter of commitment and writing the grant.

After careful discussion, the Board Members agreed to support the efforts of the grant.

REPORTS

Minutes

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the regular voting meeting held on October 20, 2011 to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Wausnock stated the Finance Committee will not meet in November. He reported the state auditors will be arriving on November 16 for a state audit.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Hartman reviewed the highlights from the minutes of the October 24, 2011 Facilities Committee meeting. Topics discussed included the following:

- Energy Saving Project
- North Fields Project
- Annex Building – Buxmont Lease
- Stadium projects – fencing, card access procedure, and lighting poles
- Repairs to the high school parking areas
- Repairs to parapet walls at Rupert

The Facilities Committee recommended the district seek quotes for repairing the parapet walls at Rupert, not to exceed $15,000. He asked the Board to place this motion on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval. Mr. Huss asked for a straw vote. All members present agreed.

PSBA & Montgomery County Legislative Representative

Mrs. Pargeon reported the Senate passed the SB1 Tuition Voucher Bill. She urged everyone to contact State Representative Thomas Quigley to stop this bill for continuing through the House. She hopes future Board Members will continue to voice their disagreement with SB 1. Mrs. Pargeon expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with PSBA members and representatives.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

Mr. Hartman reviewed main topics discussed at the October meeting:

- IU Building options – seek another location or make repairs to existing building
- 2012-2013 Budget – time line for the districts
- Bundling phone lines initiatives
- Management Services – focus on energy savings costs
- Regional Transportation Project results of pilot program
- Self-Insured Prescription Plan – saving to the districts

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. Pargeon thanked the Committee Members for the opportunity to serve with them on the committee. She spoke about the many accomplishments of the committee during her time as a member of the committee. Mrs. Pargeon encouraged new Board Members to get involved with the many Community Relations events. She thanked Mr. Armato for his support.

Co-Curricular Committee

Mr. Hartman reviewed highlights from the Co-Curricular meeting held on October 24, 2011.

- Wrestling Banner for 500th dual victory
- 1961 Football Team recognition at the Thanksgiving pre-game
- Recognition of the Hartman families involvement with football at the Thanksgiving pre-game.
- Potential funding for 3 to 4 years of boys tennis at the high school.
- Tennis/Golf after school programs to reach elementary age students

Technology/Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Wilson stated the Technology/Curriculum Committee did not meet in October. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and a conflict in re-scheduling, the November meeting is cancelled.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Pargeon talked about the many policies adopted during her term as a member and chairperson of the Policy Committee. There is still lots of work to be done.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Weand stated the Personnel Committee did not meet in October. She hopes to combine future Personnel Committee meetings with the Finance Committee meetings as the district prepares for the 2012-2013 budget.

Neighborhood Schools Committee

Mr. Wausnock announced the next Neighborhood Schools Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the conference room of the Administration Building. Representatives from Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates and Reynolds will attend the meeting and will be available to answer any questions.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

CONSENT ITEMS

Personnel

Dr. Lindley reviewed the personnel items as presented to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Professional Leaves

None.

Field Trips

Dr. Lindley reviewed the field trip as presented to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Contracts

None.

Bid Awards

Mrs. Adams explained the bids for the recoating of the metal roof at the middle school and the compressor replacements at the high school had been advertised and will be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board agenda for approval. Mr. Hartman indicated the recoating of the metal roof includes the gutter repair.

Bid Schedule

Mrs. Adams reviewed the bid schedule as presented to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

NON-CONSENT

Elementary Schools Project Feasibility Study

Mr. Wausnock explained a draft feasibility study to be submitted by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates will be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Elementary Schools Project – PlanCon A and B

Mr. Wausnock indicated exhibits of PlanCon Part A and PlanCon Part B will be presented by Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects for the elementary schools project at the Neighborhood Schools Committee meeting scheduled for November 10, 2011. This is a place holder in anticipation of asking the Board to vote on the PlanCon A & B submission at the November 17, 2011 Board meeting.

Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects' Invoices

Mrs. Adams reviewed the architectural invoices for the Neighborhood Schools Project to be paid from proceeds of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2011 to be placed on the November 17, 2011 Board Agenda for approval.

Mr. Hartman expressed his surprise that the Neighborhood Schools Committee is asking for Board approval on an Elementary Schools feasibility study and PlanCon A and B before the Neighborhood Schools Committee meets to discuss these items.

Mrs. Adams explained the items on the agenda are strictly placeholders to maintain the recommended project schedule. The feasibility study and PlanConA and B were discussed at the last meeting where it was indicated these items would be on the agenda with a vote to take place in November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

High School Parent Conference Summary

Dr. Lindley provided the High School Parent Conference Summary as an information item for all Board Members.

Statement of Support: Colebrookdale Railroad

Dr. Lindley reviewed the Statement of Support for the Colebrookdale Railroad. He explained there is no obligation of funds from the district. The project provides an educational opportunity for students and the potential to promote tourism in the surrounding communities. All Board Members approved Dr. Lindley as the representative to execute the Statement of Support on behalf of the Pottstown School District.

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth suggested that Dr. Lindley's Grant and Partnership presentation creates questions, ideas and some confusion. She congratulated Edgewood on receiving the Distinguished Title 1 award. Mrs. Vollmuth spoke about the importance of recognizing teachers as a positive resource. She invited the Board to attend the buildings during American Education Week scheduled for the week of November 14. Mrs. Vollmuth thanked the Board Members who are leaving the School Board for their many hours of service and for speaking up for the education of our students.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. White – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Mrs. Wilson was pleased the weather conditions were favorable for the Fall-Fest activities that took place throughout the district.

Ms. Harris – no comment

Mrs. Pargeon inquired about a memorial service for Sgt. MacNeil who passed away suddenly this week. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the high school is planning a tribute to Sgt. MacNeil who passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2011. The time has not yet been established. Mrs. Pargeon suggested the district invite Pottsgrove to attend.

Mr. Hartman thanked the students for their excellent telecommunications presentation. He thanked Dr. Lindley for his presentation and thinking outside the box. Sgt. MacNeil will surely be missed.

Mrs. Weand thanked the Board Members who have given so much of their time serving as school directors. It is not an easy job.

Dr. Lindley – no comment.

Mr. Wausnock is looking forward to participating in the district's Grandparents Day on November 11.

Mr. Huss agreed that Sgt. Donald MacNeil will be missed. He also asked that everyone keep Mr. Barry Haring in their prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wausnock that the Board adjourns. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary