

**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 22, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Andrew Kefer, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson and Mr. Ron Williams. Absent was Ms. Katina Bearden. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mrs. Dulcie Rothermel, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, Mr. Matthew Boyer, Mr. Ryan Oxenford, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mrs. Lindi Vollmuth, Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:07 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

H. Michael Gallagher Jr. Memorial Fund Donation

Mr. Joseph Keefe and Mr. Gallagher Sr. presented a G3Plus AED, including a wall mount cabinet and replacement parts to the Pottstown School District, on behalf of the Hugh Michael Gallagher Jr. Memorial Fund. This foundation supports three core purposes: 1) provide A.E.D.'s for local schools, police and public service organization, 2) sponsor a \$1,000 annual college scholarship and 3) support research for the American Heart Association. Dr. Sparagana and Mrs. Stilwell extended their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Gallagher Sr. and the foundation for their generous donation.

PSD Financial Audit: June 30, 2015

Mrs. Megan Thompson of Herbein + Company presented the PSD Financial Audit for June 30, 2015. The district received an "unmodified opinion" or "clean opinion" which is the highest level that can be awarded. She reviewed the revenue and expenses, the new pension standards and pension plan schedule as presented in the audit report.

MINUTES

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes from the joint Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meeting held on January 28, 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Kefer and seconded by Mr. Hylton that the minutes be approved as presented.

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of January 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mr. Heidel that the list of bills paid from the various funds for the period of January 2016 be approved as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-047**.

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2016 for Board approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Francis and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Treasurer's Report for January 2016 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-048**.

All members present voted aye. None opposed. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

HEARINGS FROM THE PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS (General)

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Sparagana presented the Consent Items for Board approval.

CONSENT

It was moved by Mr. Hylton and seconded by Mr. Kefer that the following consent items be approved in accordance with Policy 005, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Mr. Heidel noted the change in position for three principals was an increase in hours with no change in the compensation rate.

PERSONNEL

Resignations/Terminations

Professional

Lindi Vollmuth, Elementary Teacher, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective August 22, 2016; employed since September 1, 1986.

Classified

Ratify Paula Donatelli, Classroom Assistant, Barth Elementary, resignation effective February 10, 2016; employed since August 31, 2015.

Ratify Jill Adams, Part-time Van Driver, Transportation Dept., resignation effective February 5, 2016; employed since November 17, 2014.

Ratify Annette Lacey, Part-time Elementary School Cleaner, Barth Elementary, resignation effective January 22, 2016; employed since December 4, 2000.

Alysha Soto, Student Intern, Administration Building, resignation effective February 24, 2016; employed since August 11, 2014.

Ratify Debora Huber, Classroom Assistant, Lincoln Elementary, effective February 5, 2016; employed since December 7, 2015.

Co-Curricular Activities 2015-2016 Spring Sports

Brandy Scherer, HS Lacrosse Asst Coach

Jason Bergey, MS Track Asst. Coach

Leaves

Administrative

Ratify LaTanya White, Supervisor of Alternative Education, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 3, 2016, end date tbd.

Justin Detweiler, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 24, 2016, end date tbd.

Ratify Kimberly Budner, Secondary Teacher, Pottstown High School, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective February 4, 2016, end date tbd.

Classified

Ratify Mary McMahon, Classroom Assistant, Franklin Elementary, request for leave of absence covered by Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 27, 2016, end date February 9, 2016.

Change in Position and/or Salary

Administrative

Calista Boyer, Principal, Lincoln Elementary, from 225 day to 260 day employee, effective July 1, 2016, salary from \$80,722/yr to \$93,279/yr.

Kevin Downes, Principal, Franklin Elementary, from 225 day to 260 day employee, effective July 1, 2016, salary from \$77,969/yr to \$91,098/yr.

Ryan Oxenford, Principal, Barth Elementary, from 225 day to 260 day employee, effective July 1, 2016, salary from \$80,722/yr. o \$93,279/yr.

Exempt

Karen Kile from Pre-K Coach to Pre-K Counts Coordinator, effective February 22, 2016, salary from \$41,616/yr to \$50,534/yr (grant funded).

Classified

Brenden King, Elementary School Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, from 3 hrs/day to 4 hrs/day, effective February 23, 2016, no change in hourly rate.

Julia Soto from Substitute Support Staff to Elementary School Cleaner, Rupert Elementary, effective February 23, 2016, \$11.92/hr.

Jordan Thomas from Substitute Support Staff to Custodian I, Pottstown High School, effective February 23, 2016, \$15.07/hr.

Elections

Classified

Melissa Wasko, Part-time School Nurse, Pottstown Middle School, effective February 23, 2016, 4 hrs/.day, \$23/hr.

Ratify JoAnn Malauulu, Student Proctor, Barth Elementary, effective February 10, 2016, 2 hrs/day, \$11.74/hr.

Meredith Johnston, Substitute Support Staff, effective February 23, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Joshua Kelly, Substitute Support Staff, effective February 23, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Andrea Hallman, Substitute Support Staff, effective February 19, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Ratify Dajanee Louallen, Substitute Support Staff, effective February 18, 2016, hourly rate per schedule.

Homebound Instruction , \$29/hr

Ratify Kimberly Budner, Pottstown High School, effective January 1, 2016, end date tbd; assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Ratify Nicole Valenti, Rupert Elementary, from February 2, 2016 through March 15, 2016; assignment not to exceed 5 hours per week.

Compensation for Missed Planning time, 2015-2016 School Year, \$23 per period:

Period November 17, 2016 to February 10, 2016

Ratify Michaela Johnson - PHS - 39 missed planning times - \$897.00

2015-2016 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports

Addition to 2015-2016 Game/Event Worker, \$12/hr.

Ratify Gerry Gleeson, Pottstown High School

Addition to 2015-2016 Co-Curricular Assignments: Spring Sports

HS Baseball Asst. Coach	Jeff Endy	Level 1	\$2,398.00
HS Lacrosse Head Coach	Brandy Scherer	Level 2	\$4,081.00
HS Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Samantha Mazzie	Level 1	\$2,398.00
MS Track Coach Boys/Girsl	Jason Bergey	Level 2	\$2,445.00

2016-2017 Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports

Addition to 2016-2017 Co-Curricular Assignments: Fall Sports

HS Football Asst. Coach	Jeff Delaney	Level 3	\$5,110.00
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PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Conf. Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates Attend</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PHS	Steven Park	Temple University CTE Directors' Academy	Philadelphia, PA	4/7-4/8/2016	\$120.00 pd by Perkins Grant
Admin	Karen Crable Sue Yocom	ELO Conference - Promising Practices	Harrisburg, PA	3/30 - 3/31/16	\$515.00 each pd by 21st Century Grant

FIELD TRIPS

<u># Students / Groups</u>	<u>Conference Name/Activity</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	<u>Cost to Student</u>	<u>Cost to District</u>	<u>Chaperone(s)</u>
12	STEM *change in date	England	* 6/18/16 - * 6/26/16	\$3,255.00	\$95 - \$115	Robert Decker TBD

POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following policies as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-049**.

BID AWARD: MOWING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Superintendent recommends the purchase order or contract be awarded to the company as presented, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-050**.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT

The Superintendent recommends the Board acknowledge receipt of the June 30, 2015 School District Financial Audit as prepared by Herbein + Company Inc.

EIT-TCC

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution as presented and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as **Addendum #2015-2016-051**.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye for the above mentioned consent items.
Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT

Dr. Sparagana stated the following non-consent personnel items will be removed from the agenda and will be presented at the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting for further discussion.

PERSONNEL

Elections

- 1) Assistant to the Superintendent for Education, effective July 1, 2016, Stephen Rodriguez, annual salary \$135,000
- 2) Part-time Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development to Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Laurie Kolka, effective July 1, 2016, annual salary \$95,000
- 3) Supervisor of Virtual and Alternative learning to Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2016, La Tanya White, annual salary \$95,000
- 4) Director of Student Services and Special Education to be filled with a Director of Special Education
- 5) New Position: Technology Integration Specialist
- 6) Part-time Clerical Support not to exceed 4 positions as needed, 4 hrs/day, 260 days.

Mr. Heidel stated he was in favor of pulling the above personnel items for further discussion. He shared his thoughts on the recommended restructuring as previously discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. His remarks included affirming his support for the restructuring as presented. He believes the restructuring will have a positive effect on moving the district forward and will provide support for the teachers and job satisfaction. He does not believe these changes have any bearing on teacher negotiations.

TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL SETTLEMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Weand that the Board approve the tax assessment appeal settlements pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the confidential settlement release agreements and copies be filed in the Secretary's offices as **Addendum #2015-2016-052**. The Board Secretary is further authorized to sign the settlement agreements on behalf of the Board.

Upon roll call vote, all members present voted aye for the above tax assessment appeal settlements. Ayes: Nine. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LERTA Resolution – further discussion to take place at the Joint Borough and School District workshop scheduled for Tuesday, February 23.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: How can we be more cost effective

Public comment: none.

Board Comments:

Mr. Hylton would like a line item budget that is easy to read providing a better understanding of where the money goes.

Mrs. Adams stated the new financial system will be able to produce a more detailed budget. The key is getting the system set-up. She emphasized the process and time it takes to get through all the mandates.

Mr. Kefer expressed interest in looking into merging with surrounding school districts and municipalities. He is a believer in economy of scale and believes perhaps larger school districts' lead to more equitable education.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Heidel suggested a merger in some programs versus schools merging together as a whole.

Dr. Sparagana stated that resources are shrinking on a regular basis and partnership is the only way. PEAK is a good example of partnership. Engaging collaboration with community and other foundations strengthens the partnership. The work between the borough and school district is another example of pulling resources together for the betterment of the community.

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Meeting Notice

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Vollmuth clarified that the teachers contribution to PSERS has remained at the same level throughout the start of PSERS and noted the increase in the districts payments is due to poor legislative decisions. The Pottstown Federation officers attended the PaTTAN workshop for stakeholders interest in SPP Scores. The federation is unsure on the benefits as proposed at the workshop. The federation did have the opportunity to submit their concerns which included not only the effects on the teacher evaluations but also the effects on the future growth of the Pottstown community. The Federation supports a restructuring to enable the success of new administrators and the district but is not in favor of the restructuring as presented. The Federation would be happy to be involved in discussion on how changes can be made to meet the needs of the district, the new superintendent and the parameters set by the current budget crisis. Mrs. Vollmuth stated the FPT has always recognized the needs to maintain the buildings and has been involved in sharing their cost saving ideas. She reminded the Board that the teachers' contracts have saved the district millions of dollars which include pay freezes, minimal pay increases and benefits. The teachers are reaching their financial limits and morale is low. If the situation continues more teachers will leave and it will be harder to say "Proud to be from Pottstown".

ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Francis – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden thanked Mr. Keefe and Mr. Gallagher Sr. for their generous donation.

Mr. Wilkerson mentioned the Pottstown Trojan Mascot participated in the Penn State Mascot for a Cure event. All proceeds were donated to childhood cancer. He is also looking forward to the Wiz musical that starts next Friday.

Mr. Kefer stated that he requested more information on the proposed restructuring to be presented at the Joint Finance & Personnel committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd. It is his hope that the information will show the proposed restructuring is efficient and the most cost effective way to go. The information will be sent electronically to all Board Members to review prior to the meeting. He congratulated Mrs. Weand for her contributions that inspired Pottstown teacher Jamie Fazekas.

Mr. Williams thanked Mrs. Vollmuth for her inspiration and influence in negotiation discussions moving forward. He reminded the Board that the Federation is part of the district unit and transparency is important. He disagreed with the newspaper article that the January school board workshop violated the sunshine law. Mr. Williams looks to the solicitor for advice if any session is ill-legal.

Mrs. Weand – no comment.

Mr. Heidel stated as a father he expressed his appreciation of all the teachers. He believes that the board and federation will be able to work out a fair contract. His comments tonight reflect him as a school board director.

Dr. Sparagana congratulated Mrs. Weand on her positive impact as a teacher. He thanked Mr. Wilkerson for his participation in the fair funding presentation that took place in Lansdale. Dr. Sparagana reminded the Board of the Joint Borough and School District workshop to take place tomorrow, February 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria of the high school. There is also a community forum scheduled for Thursday, February 25th at 6:00 pm in the Cafeteria at the high school on qualities the community is looking for in a new superintendent. The community, teachers, parents, students and staff are invited to speak.

Mrs. Stilwell looks forward to hearing from the teachers on their cost saving ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Kefer and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board adjourns. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary