

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 4, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Calvin J. Swavely Board Room of the Administration Building with President, Mr. Barry Robertson presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Barry Robertson, Mrs. Cathy Skitko, Dr. James Smock, Mr. Philip Thees, and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent: Mr. Robert Hartman. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David P. Krem; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Mr. Jeffrey Sparagana; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis; Mr. John Armato, Mr. Robert Giering, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mrs. Loretta Hoch, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Mr. David Garner, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Ronald Brown, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Robert Decker, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mr. Doug Slick, Ms. Denise Johnson, a member of the press and interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 21, 2006 be approved.

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

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Mrs. Barnhill that the list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$194,564.45; the Athletic Fund totaling \$9,733.85; the Data Processing Fund totaling \$11,140.62 is approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-065.

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

MR. HARTMAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:10 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Krem announced the awarding of a 1.3 million dollar grant to Montgomery County Community College to increase the access to automotive technology technician training. A large part of these funds will be used to equip the High School Auto Shop. MCCC will partner with the Pottstown High School to offer training to students.

## AWARDS

Mr. Krem presented placards from the state to all elementary principals for achieving AYP for consecutive years. Barth and Rupert have achieved AYP for three consecutive years. Edgewood, Franklin, and Lincoln have achieved AYP for two years.

## HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Doug Slick thanked the board members for their service to the community. Mr. Slick is against a uniform policy. If he wanted his children to wear uniforms, he would send them to a private school. He has not seen the video, however it sounds like “Reefer Madness.” If students want to bring weapons to school, the district cannot stop them. He would like the board to remember the importance of body type and appearance to adolescents.

Mrs. Denise Johnson, a member of Preservation Pottstown, publicly announced their support of the district’s planned uniform policy.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Montgomery County Legislative Committee

Mr. Robertson advised the committee will hold a meeting later this month under the new leadership of Dr. Sharon Richardson.

### Community Relations Committee

Mr. Armato discussed several community outreach programs. Twenty plus students were directly involved with the fundraising, packaging, and distribution of gifts and meals for Operation Holiday. The Senior High girl’s basketball team donated money and gifts to twenty needy families in the community. The blood drive was a tremendous success; far exceeding the 40 pint goal.

### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

No update.

### PSBA Regional Representative

No update.

### Finance Committee

Dr. Smock advised the committee is working on the budget process. Act 1 has dramatically changed this process.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Barnhill advised the committee will hold a meeting next week.

Technology/Curriculum Assessment Committee

No update.

Washington Street Initiative Joint Committee

Dr. Smock advised EConsult has all of the information they have requested. An initial draft report should be prepared by the end of the month.

Athletic Field Construction Projects Committee

Mrs. Skitko advised a meeting is scheduled for next week.

School Uniforms Committee

Mrs. Francis advised the meeting scheduled for January 9, 2007 will be rescheduled.

Elementary Construction

No update.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS

Scott Schrum, Mathematics Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation effective December 8, 2006, employed since August 23, 2006.

EXTRACURRICULAR RESIGNATIONS

Mary Palladino, Pottstown Middle School, resignation as Middle School Social Studies Department Chair, effective December 7, 2006.

PROFESSIONAL ELECTION

Herbert B. Carter, Jr., Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective December 12, 2006, \$90/day, and in accordance with Board Policy 3920.

EXTRACURRICULAR ELECTION

Lois Sanders, Pottstown Middle School, Mentor for Kimberly Adamski, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Teacher, Pottstown Middle School, \$491.00.

POSITION AND/OR SALARY CHANGE

Andrea Barlow, from Per Diem Substitute Teacher to Floating Substitute Teacher, effective January 2, 2007, \$182/day.

STIPENDS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING GRANT

Three year grant, final year

Orlando Taylor - \$9,990.89

Jeffrey Sparagana - \$4,995.45

Vanessa Saylor - \$1,665.15

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mr. Barry Angstadt to attend PASBO Annual Conference & Exhibits March 13-16, 2007, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,

- No substitutes needed
- Expenses paid by district include:
  - Hotel = \$500.00
  - Transportation per district rate (approx. \$200)
  - Meals per district rate (approx. \$350)
  - Registration = \$300.00

Mrs. Diane Meck to attend Attendance/Child Accounting Spring Conference Hershey, Pennsylvania, March 22-23, 2007.

- No substitute needed
- Expenses paid by district include:
  - Hotel = \$123.00
  - Transportation per district rate (approx. \$95)
  - Meals per district rate (approx. \$10)
  - Registration = \$150.00

Mrs. Carol Miller to attend Attendance/Child Accounting Spring Conference Hershey, Pennsylvania, March 21-23, 2007

- No substitute needed

- Expenses paid by the district include:  
 Hotel = \$246.00  
 Transportation per district rate (approx. \$95)  
 Meals per district rate (approx. \$10)  
 Registration = \$180.00

#### FOOD SERVICE RETURNED CHECK POLICY

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve Policy 8251 – Checks Returned to Food Services For Insufficient Funds and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as addendum #2006-2007-066.

#### EXTENSION OF ACT93 AGREEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the extension of the existing Act 93 Agreement retroactive to January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007.

#### SURVEY ON POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING PROJECTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the survey provided by Dr. Koppel for distribution, and a copy be filed in the Secretary’s office as addendum #2006-2007-067.

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

#### INFORMATION

1. The Oracle – December 2006

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed personnel items which will be placed on the January 18, 2007 board agenda for approval.

2. Professional Leaves – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed three professional leaves to be placed on the January 18, 2007 board agenda for approval.

3. Revised 2006-07 School Calendar – Mr. Krem/Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams reviewed a proposed change in the 2006-07 school calendar. The revision would allow for two high school early dismissal dates, January 18-19. She asked that the board take action on this item at tonight's meeting.

4. Purchase of Leased School Van – Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams advised the board the district will be buying out the lease of a school van. This item will be placed on the January 18, 2007 board agenda for approval.

5. Letter Addressing Inappropriate and Unacceptable Behavior – Mr. Krem

Mr. Krem asked for the board's support of the administration when confronted with extreme or persistent cases of threatening and/or abusive behavior by parents/guardians. He reviewed a letter prepared by Mr. Kalis which addressed inappropriate and unacceptable behavior. Mrs. Francis asked if the district could send a warning letter before banning individuals from contacting school personnel. Mrs. Zahora agrees that perhaps an interim letter should be sent. Mrs. Zahora questioned if the district can in fact enforce an edict that individuals cannot contact their child's school. Mr. Kalis advised this is a draft letter for board discussion. Mrs. Zahora feels this is a misuse of the board's authority and a poor stance for the board to take. After discussion the board agreed they should support the administration but directed Mr. Kalis to prepare an interim memo. The board asked to be copied on any correspondence sent out of this nature.

6. Additional New Business Items

None.

### FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker applauded the board for the additional means of communicating the consequences of inappropriate behavior. He advised the board of several upcoming student activities. The freshman class will hold a dodge ball tournament on January 5, 2007 which will include a "kiss the pig" contest. On February 2, 2007 the Family, Career & Community Leaders of America Club will hold a fundraiser at the Reading Royals game. He advised the board he was recently visited by a former student who is currently studying for her masters and doctorate. She has done research under a Nobel laureate. What a wonderful success story for the district.

### HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Robertson asked if any patron present wished to comment on the revised school calendar. None present commented.

### REVISED 2006-2007 SCHOOL CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the board approve the revision of The 2006-2007 school calendar to permit the early dismissal of high school students on January 18 and

January 19, 2007 and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2006-2007-068.

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

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Thees stated the snow has not come yet, and can stay where it's at.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone for coming out and apologized for his tardiness.

Mrs. Barnhill wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Skitko congratulated the elementary schools on their awards this evening.

Dr. Lindley advised the school must submit a school improvement plan. A draft document is prepared and he would like to thank Dr. Laysears-Smith, Mr. Giering, teachers, and Dr. Shields for their input. He has received a significant commitment from the staff for this project.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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Linda S. Adams, Secretary

