

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

December 15, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayne A. Deegan Room of the Pottstown Middle School 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, Dr. James Smock. Absent: Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Philip Thees, Mrs. Sharon Thomas and Mrs. Judyth Zahora.. Also present were: Substitute Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David P. Krem; Business Administrator, Mr. James R. Bush; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Staff Development, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Mr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. John Armato, Mr. Richard Huss, Mr. Barry Angstadt, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mr. David Garner, Mr. Ronald Brown, Mr. James Fairchild, Mr. Charlie Pierce, Mr. Richard Almquist, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lightcap, Ms. Janile Cohen, Mr. David Babbit, 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 5, 2005 be approved.

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

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$10,505.17 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-051.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Financial Report for the General Fund, including reports of receipts and expenditures for the month of November 2005, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2005-2006-052.

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

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Tax Collector's Report, as prepared by Mr. James R. Bush, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2005-2006-053.

The 2005 Earned Income Tax showing \$1,185,103.28 collected to date.

The 2004 Earned Income Tax showing \$1,658,854.62 collected to date.

The 2001 Delinquent Earned Income Tax showing \$11.25 collected in November.

The 2005 Occupational Privilege Tax showing \$6016.38 collected in November. collected to date.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

AWARDS

None.

MR. THEES ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:46 P.M.

MR. HARTMAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:47 P.M.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

Mr. Charles Pierce addressed the Board several months ago and asked that the golf program be continued. The Board agreed and the team won their first match in nine years. He asked the Board where the golf program stands for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Robertson indicated it is hoped this program would become self-supporting. Mr. Pierce presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be used for the golf program. He thanked the business' and community members for their support.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Robertson announced the following committee appointments:

The Community Relations committee of Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Zahora.

The Finance Committee of Dr. Smock, Mr. Thees and Mrs. Zahora.

The Personnel Committee of Mrs. Barnhill, Mr. Edwards, Dr. Smock.

The Technology/Curriculum Assessment Committee of Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hartman, Mrs. Zahora, Dr. Smock.

The Intermediate Unit Representative will be Mr. Hartman.

The Intermediate Unit Legislative Representative will be Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson announced the following school assignments:

Mrs. Barnhill – Barth and the High School.

Mr. Edwards – Lincoln and the High School.

Mrs. Francis – Lincoln and the Middle School

Mr. Hartman – Rupert and the High School.

Dr. Smock – Franklin and the High School.

Mr. Thees – Rupert and the Middle School

Mrs. Zahora – Edgewood and the High School.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Mr. Richard Almquist, Mr. David Babbitt and Mr. John Wolfington presented an overview of the Mrs. Smith's project. The demolition is complete and Wolfington Companies is working with borough council on the configuration of the site. It will be a multi-use site with residential properties, commercial and retail uses. One hundred nineteen town homes are planned for the site. Mr. Thees reminded them of the flood in 1972 and this property was underwater. Mr. Almquist advised they must build living spaces above the flood line and any retail/commercial establishments would be required to have flood insurance. Mr. Babbitt estimated the total fiscal impact on the school district to be a net profit of \$568,000 per year. Mr. James Fairchild reviewed the Keystone Opportunity Zone benefits. He stated it has always been the borough's intent for this to become a mixed use site. Residential properties have always been a component of the plan. The borough specifically prohibited client based social services. The Keystone Opportunity Zone offers tax benefits at the local and state levels. Dr. Smock is concerned with price. How do we prevent these homes from becoming rental properties? The Home Owners Association can write regulations to insure standards and quality. They can include restrictions on Section 8 housing. Dr. Smock questioned the creation of jobs. Would they be minimum wage jobs? Mr. Almquist stated with office tenants these would be more skilled jobs.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATION

Jean Heffelfinger, 2466 Old Route 100, Barto PA 19504, Business Education Teacher, Pottstown High School, resignation effective no later than January 13, 2006.

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION

Barbara Keim, 7960 Lancaster Avenue, Myerstown PA 17067, Part-Time Housekeeper, Franklin Elementary, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective December 23, 2005.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RESIGNATION

Jeffrey Ellsesser, 1010 Ivy Lane, Pottstown PA 19464, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, resignation effective December 1, 2005.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/NURSES ELECTIONS

Jamie Fazekas, 640 Woodland Drive, Pottstown PA 19464, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, \$85/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective December 5, 2005.

Marva Maul, 318 Willowbrook Lane, Royersford PA 19468, Substitute Nurse, Special Education (1-1), \$25/hour, effective September 7, 2005.

Patricia Smutko, 1288 N. Washington Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Per Diem Substitute Nurse, \$85/day and in accordance with Board Policy 3920, effective November 29, 2005.

CLASSIFIED ELECTIONS

Paul Swanson, 503 Manor Place, Birdsboro PA 19508, Substitute Food Service Driver, \$12.27/hour, effective November 1, 2005.

Aimee Mutter, 766 Willow Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Substitute Clerk/Typist, \$12.27/hour, effective November 3, 2005.

Cynthia Huber, 799 N. Evans Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Substitute Clerk/Typist, \$12.27/hour, effective January 2, 2006.

CSR FUNDED FAMILY NIGHT

Effective for the 2004-05 school year – CSR Funds

Lynne Williams, 606 Hanover Court, Wayne PA 19087, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Lisa DeRenzo, 220 Highland Road, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Kathleen Hayes, 1041 Grandview Circle, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Joan Smith, 23 Eisenhower Drive, Boyertown PA 19512, 4 hours @ \$28/hour .

Laureen Gresko, 1405 Chestnut Grove Road, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Calista Boyer, 708 N. Adams Street, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Stacey Bauman, 708 N. Adams Street, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Rebecca Wyatt, 38 W. 6th Street, Boyertown PA 19512, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Desiree Schwoyer, 4840 Dunham Drive, Reading PA 19606, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Deborah Wilson, 47 Orchard Court, Royersford PA 19468, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Ruth Kuhn, 34 Pine Forge Road, Boyertown PA 19512, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Jayne Pollock, 1033 Logan Street, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Carol Psota, 1550 N. Valley Road, Pottstown PA 19464, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

Karen Winning, 812 Birchrun Road, Chester Springs PA 19425, 4 hours @ \$28/hour.

SUMMERGUIDANCE HOURS

Michele Boyd, 250 Prospect Street, Pottstown PA 19464, 22.5 hours @ \$28/hour.

INSTRUCTION IN THE HOME

Jason Bergey, 700 Farmington Avenue #46, Pottstown PA 19464, Instruction in the Home, \$28/hour for 1 hour every two weeks effective October 24 through December 23, 2005.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Creative Health Services, 212 High Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Homebound Instruction, \$28/hour, effective October 11, 2005.

Creative Health Services, 212 High Street, Pottstown PA 19464, Homebound Instruction, \$28/hour, effective October 11, 2005.

Main Line American Day , 468 Thomas Jones Way, Suite 150, Exton PA 19341, Homebound Instruction, \$28/hour, effective October 17, 2005.

EXTRA CURRICULAR/GAME MANAGEMENT

Jane Thompson, 206 Fairway Drive, Reading PA 19606, \$10/hour, effective for the 2005-06 school year.

STIPENDS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY GRANT

Orlando Taylor, 212 Hampton Drive, Birdsboro PA 19508, \$5,949.29.

Jeffrey Sparagana, 2503 Prospect Street, Reading PA 19606, \$2,974.65.

Vanessa Saylor, 505 Meadowcrest Lane, Douglassville PA 19518, \$991.55.

PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE RATE

1-15 days @ \$90/day

16-35 days @ \$100/day

35+ days @ \$110/day

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Mr. Daniel Tracy to attend the High School Reform Symposium for Project 720 and Dual Enrollment, December 14-15, 2005, in State College, Pennsylvania, with expenses paid by the district.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mrs. Denise DeAntonio to attend High School Reform Symposium for Project 720 and Dual Enrollment, December 14-15, 2005, State College, Pennsylvania.

- One substitute for two days = \$170.00
- District to pay for hotel = \$192.24
- District to pay for breakfast, supper, and mileage
- PDE paying for costs for conference, materials, and lunches

Mrs. Antoinette Rapp to attend and present at the Pennsylvania Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel Conference, March 5-6, 2006, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

- One substitute for one day = \$ 85.00
- Expenses paid by district = \$235.00

FIELD TRIPS

Four to six students to visit New York University and meet with Alrick Brown, December 19-20, 2005, New York City, New York. Mr. Greg Troutman and Mrs. Pat Montgomery to chaperone.

- No substitute needed

- Cost per student = \$120.00

Five students to stay at the Franklin Institute Beating Heart Sleep Over, January 14-15, 2006, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Lynne Williams and Mr. Marcheskie to chaperone.

- No substitute needed
- Cost per student = \$39.00 plus food

STUDENT EXPULSION

The Superintendent recommends the expulsion of a high school student effective November 15, 2005 through November 15, 2006 the name to be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum # 2005-2006-054.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the placement of the students named to the Alternative Education program, located within the Pottstown High School, effective various dates since October 15, 2005 and the names be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-055.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENTS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the placement of the students named to the Community Service Foundation, 1460 N Charlotte Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania and the names be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-056.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

Van #61W/C – This wheel chair van transports two (2) Pottstown special needs students to and from Pottstown High School daily, and also one (1) Pottstown special needs student and her nurse and aide to and from the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown daily, at a cost of \$346.46 per day, effective August 29, 2005. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove as one (1) Pottsgrove student rides this van. Effective October 31, 2005, this van began transporting a Pottstown special needs student to the Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport, daily, changing the cost to \$367.14 per day, an increase of \$20.68 per day.

Van #69 – This is a new contract. This van transports one (1) Pottstown special needs student to and from the Centennial School in Allentown daily, effective October 10, 2005, at a cost of \$207.22 per day.

Van #70Midday – Effective September 28, 2005, this van provides transportation for one (1) Pottstown special needs student to a work study program at the Marriott in Conshohocken daily at a cost of \$87.51 per day. Effective October 31, 2005, a Pottstown special needs student returning from the Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport was added to the van, changing the cost to \$98.49 per day, an increase of \$10.98 per day.

Van #71AM – This van provides transportation for two (2) Pottstown students to Community Service Foundation in Pottstown, two (2) Pottstown special needs students to Pottsgrove Middle School, four (4) Pottstown special needs students to Pottstown Middle School, and one (1) Pottstown special needs student to Edgewood Elementary School daily, effective August 29, 2005, at a cost of \$57.00 per day. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove as one (1) Pottsgrove student also rides this van. Effective September 30, 2005, a Pottstown special needs student attending Franklin Elementary School was added to the van at no additional charge. Effective October 3, 2005, the Pottsgrove student was removed from the van, changing the cost to \$64.90, an increase of \$7.90 per day.

Van #71PM – This van provides return transportation for two (2) Pottstown special needs students attending Pottsgrove Middle School at a cost of \$18.31 per day, effective August 29, 2005. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove School District and with the YMCA, since Pottsgrove students and YMCA students also ride the van. Effective September 30, 2005, one (1) Pottstown special needs student attending Franklin Elementary School was added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$20.50 per day, an increase of \$2.19 per day. Effective October 31, 2005, the YMCA no longer shares the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$29.89 per day, an increase of \$9.39 per day.

Van #74PM – This van provides return transportation for four (4) Pottstown students from Jessie R. Wagner School in Pine Forge, two (2) Pottstown students from Community Service Foundation in Pottstown, and one (1) Pottstown student from Wyndcroft School in Pottstown, at a cost of \$45.26 per day, effective August 29, 2005. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove School District and with the YMCA, as Pottsgrove students and YMCA students also ride this van. Effective October 10, 2005, a Pottsgrove student was removed from the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$47.48 per day, an increase of \$2.22 per day.

Van #90 – This van transports two (2) Pottstown special needs students to and from the Child & Career Development Center in Coatesville and three (3) Pottstown special needs students to and from the Devereux Day School in Downingtown, at a cost of \$214.45 per day, effective August 29, 2005. The cost is shared with Pottsgrove, as three (3) Pottsgrove students also ride this van. Effective October 19, 2005, Pottsgrove removed one (1) student attending Devereux Day School, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$245.10 per day, an increase of \$30.65 per day.

Van #172AM – This van provides transportation for one (1) Pottstown student to Valley Forge Baptist Academy in Valley Forge, and four (4) Pottstown special needs students and their aide, to Limerick Elementary School in Limerick, at a cost of \$79.30 per day, effective August 29, 2005. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove, as Pottsgrove students also ride this van. Effective October 11, 2005, Pottsgrove added a student to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$76.50 per day, a decrease of \$2.80 per day.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize the Secretary to advertise the bids for the following items:

1. General Supplies
2. Art Supplies
3. Custodial Supplies
4. First Aid Supplies
5. Physical Education Supplies and Equipment
6. Shop Supplies and Equipment
7. Science Supplies and Equipment
8. Cafeteria Supplies and Equipment
9. Ice Cream Products
10. Athletic Supplies and Equipment

AMENDMENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve an amendment to the contract between the Pottstown School District and Dr. Anthony A. Georeno to be in compliance with Internal Revenue Service wording for severance payments made to the Superintendent on his retirement with a copy to be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-057.

LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize the Secretary to issue a Letter of Endorsement for a state grant for traffic safety at the five elementary schools that will be requested by the Borough of Pottstown through the Department of Community and Economic Development.

SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFETY POLICY

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve Policy 7020 – School District Safety Policy and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-058.

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

NON-CONSENT

BOARD RESIGNATION

It was moved by Mr. Thees and seconded by Dr. Smock that the board approve the resignation of Mrs. Sharon V. Thomas from the Board of School Directors, effective December 15, 2005. Mrs. Thomas has been elected Mayor of the Borough of Pottstown and will be assuming her duties as Mayor.

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

APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASS

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the Board approve the addition of a second/third grade part-time learning support classroom. The planned site for this classroom will be the Barth Elementary School and will require the addition of one special education teacher and one classroom aide.

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

ADDITIONAL TEACHER POSTION

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board approve the addition of one additional ELL teacher at the secondary level, due to an increase in the number of ELL student enrollments.

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

BID AWARDS

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board authorize purchase orders to the companies indicated, the award being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005 - 2006-059.

1. Auto Shop Wheel Alignment Machine
2. Docu Share Equipment - PEPPM

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

INFORMATION

1. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers
2. Maintenance Report
3. First Marking Honor Roll Comparison
4. Parent Conference Summary
5. Policy 1070 – Appointment of School Board Members

Mr. Robertson appointed the Personnel Committee to interview School Board Member candidates. Mr. Hartman will be the alternate committee member.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Facilities Update – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush advised the next meeting of the Superintendent's Commission on Redistricting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006.

2. Fitness Facility and Track Use Update– Lindley/Bush/Armato/DeRenzo

Dr. Lindley advised of the meeting on Friday, December 16, 2005. Mr. Armato advised open membership drive has begun. The media plan is in operation. We must secure \$25, 000 in memberships to open.

3. Athletic Facilities Construction – Shantz Baseball Field Concessions/Restroom – Grigg Stadium – Hartman/Huss/Lindley/Armato/Angstadt/DeRenzo

No update.

4. Virtual or Shared AP Classes - Lindley

No update.

5. Traffic Study – Bush/Kalis

Mr. Bush advised Corporal McClincy has filed a grant application with the Department of Community and Economic Development. He is hopeful for funding.

6. Virtual or Shared AP Classes – Lindley

Dr. Lindley advised he and Mr. Krem are seeking private funding for the Virtual High School program. Mr. Robertson mentioned this program at the National Honor Society induction ceremonies and received excited responses from parents.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed personnel items to be placed on the January 5, 2006 Board agenda for approval.

2. Addition of Classified Positions (Technology) – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed the addition of two classified technology positions to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

3. Amendment of Policy 3920 (Per Diem Substitute) – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed the amendment to Policy 3920 to reflect the change in per diem substitute rate to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

4. Administrative/Supervisory Professional Leaves – Mr. Krem

Mr. Krem reviewed administrative/supervisory professional leaves to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

5. Act 93 Salaries – Mr. Krem

Mr. Krem reviewed the Act 93 salaries to be placed on the January 6, 2006 board agenda for approval.

6. Professional Leaves/Field Trips – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed one field trip to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

7. Bid Awards – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush reviewed one bid award for technology equipment to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

8. Internal Revenue Service Travel Expense Rate, 2006 – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush reviewed the Internal Revenue Service mileage reimbursement rate to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval.

9. Tax Abatement – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush reviewed a request from the Borough of Pottstown for a tax abatement of the Pottstown Metal Weld property to be placed on the January 5, 2006 board agenda for approval. The Borough did not apply for tax exempt status when they purchased this property. Mr. Thees stated we try to put properties on the tax rolls in one place and take them off in another.

10. Additional New Business Items

Mr. Krem advised the Board the Strategic Plan must be submitted to the state by December 30, 2005. He will distribute via email and asked board members to review and comment. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Krem must sign and submit by the deadline.

FEDERATION REMARKS

None.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Thees wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Barnhill wished everyone Happy Holidays.

MR ROBERTSON ANNOUNCED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

James R. Bush, Secretary