

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, April 20, 2006 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: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Robert Hartman, Mr. Barry Robertson, Mrs. Cathy Skitko, Dr. James Smock, Mr. Phillip Thees and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent: Mrs. Bonita Barnhill. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David P. Krem; Business Administrator, Mr. James R. Bush; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Reed Lindley; Director of Education and Human Resources, Mr. Jeffrey Sparagana, Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. John Armato, Mr. Richard Huss, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Miss Colleen Blute, Dr. Robert Stevens, Mrs. Linda Adams, Dr. Robin Laysears-Smith, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Mrs. Kathy Marchek, Mr. Ronald Brown, Mr. Bruce Madara, a member of the press, and interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 6, 2006 be approved.

Upon roll call, the vote was recorded as follows: Edwards: aye; Francis: abstain; Hartman: aye; Robertson: aye; Skitko: aye; Smock: aye; Thees: aye; Zahora: aye. Ayes: seven. Nays: none. Absent: one. Abstain: one. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$710,650.12 be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-090.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the Financial Report for the General Fund, including reports of receipts and expenditures for the month of March 2006, be approved and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as Addendum # 2005-2006-091.

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

## TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Francis 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 # 2005-2006-092.

The 2006 Earned Income Tax showing \$6,827.21 collected to date.

The 2005 Earned Income Tax showing \$1,677,991.41 collected to date.

The 2004 Earned Income Tax showing \$1,674,724.12 collected to date.

The 2001 Delinquent Earned Income Tax showing \$219.65 collected in March.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Krem announced the sign donated by the Class of 204 has been erected in front of the High School. Mr. Chip Peroni, a local masonry contractor, installed the sign and provided a training session for the building trades students. Mr. Harry Krieffrider of K & K Construction donated the use of a backhoe and his workers to place the sign on the brick pillars.

Mr. Krem shared a letter of appreciation from Diamond Credit Union for hosting the Pottstown Basketball Challenge. The assistance of Mr. John Armato, Mr. Gary DeRenzo, and Mr. Larry Friend were instrumental in the success of this community event.

Mr. Krem read a letter from the National JROTC program thanking Pottstown High School for their support of this program.

Mr. Krem advised the Board of a letter received from the Department of Education in reference to the audit of the Middle School Improvement Plan. The plan meets the requirements and the Department of Education appreciates the of the Middle School staff.

## AWARDS

None.

## HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Robertson advised the Board he attended the April 19, 2006 meeting of the Montgomery County Legislative Committee. He feels we should proceed with the plan to stay under the ACT 72 index. There may be no tax reform passed this year. He discussed a bill requiring districts to begin classes after Labor Day.

Mr. Armato announced Diamond Credit Union has generously donated \$2,500 for the district's Reading Olympics program. He advised Comcast has donated \$300 and Wal-Mart has donated \$1,800 for the gifted symposium. May will kick off the "No Place for Hate Campaign." He is working with Radnor School District to build home libraries for elementary students. The Executive Team is preparing written responses from the March 30, 2005 public hearing.

## SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

## PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS

Michele Boyd, High School Guidance Counselor, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective the last teacher day of the 2005-06 school year.

Dr. Richard Stephenson, High School Teacher, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective the last teacher day of the 2005-06 school year.

## CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS

Danny Mosby, Van Assistant/Substitute Driver, resignation effective May 4, 2006.

Tricia Siwik, Part-Time Food Service Employee/Lunch Program Aide, resignation effective May 12, 2006.

## SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ELECTION

Michael Perez, Special Substitute Teacher, \$100/day, effective March 31, 2006 and upon receipt of emergency certification.

CLASSIFIED ELECTION

Dale Batista, Substitute Custodian/Housekeeper, \$10.41/hour, effective March 21, 2006.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTORS

Main Line American Day, Homebound Instructor, \$28/hour for up to 5 hours/week, effective February 22, 2006.

Horsham Clinic, Homebound Instructor, \$28/hour for up to 5 hours/week, effective February 22, 2006.

Horsham Clinic, Homebound Instructor, \$28/hour for up to 5 hours/week, effective February 10, 2006.

Ryan Knox, Homebound Instructor, continuation of homebound services \$28/hour for up to 5 hours/week, effective March 27, 2006 through the end of the current school year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT STIPENDS

Donna Carpenter, TEAM Instructor, \$28/hour for up to 15 hours, effective February 27 through March 27, 2006.

Joyce Cimaglia, TEAM Instructor, \$28/hour for up to 15 hours, effective February 27 through March 27, 2006.

SCHOOL NURSE COVERAGE

Gemma Patten, School Nurse, Lincoln Elementary, coverage for evening kindergarten registration, 2 hours @ \$28/hour, effective March 22, 2006.

EXTRACURRICULAR EXTENDED SEASON

Eric Dusko, Interim Head Wrestling Coach, Pottstown High School, extended season payment, \$200 maximum as per extracurricular contract, effective for the 2005-06 season.

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

Mrs. Mia DiPaolo and Mr. Robert Giering to attend the Governor's Academy on Urban Education, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, June 24-29, 2006 with expenses paid by district.

Dr. Angela Tuck to attend the PASA Women's Caucus, Hershey, PA, May 4-5, 2006 with expenses paid by district.

Mr. Bud Heller to attend the USDA Fresh Fruit/Vegetable Stakeholders Conference in Seattle, Washington, June 7-10, 2006 with expenses paid by the USDA.

### 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 and the names placed on file in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-093.

### EXPULSIONS

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the expulsion of the students named for the reasons and dates indicated and the names placed on file in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-094.

### 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 Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport, daily, changing the cost to \$367.14 per day, an increase of \$20.68 per day. Effective November 14, 2005, the student attending the Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport was removed from the van, changing the cost to \$346.46 per day, a decrease of \$20.68 per day. Effective February 21, 2006, one (1) Pottstown High School special needs student and two (2) Pottstown Middle School special needs students were added to the van, changing the cost to \$369.48 per day, and increase of \$23.02 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 ride this van. Effective September 30, 2005, a Pottstown special needs student attending Franklin Elementary School was added 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. Effective December 17, 2005, one (1) Pottstown special needs student who attended Pottsgrove Middle School was removed from the van and a Pottstown student attending Community Service Foundation in Pottstown was added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$65.63 per day, an increase of \$0.73 per day. Effective February 9, 2006, two (2) students attending Community Service Foundation in Pottstown were added to the van, changing the cost to \$69.28 per day, an increase of \$3.65 per day. Effective February 21, 2006, three (3) students attending Community Service Foundation were added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$75.13 per day, an increase of \$5.85 per day.

**Van #73AM** – This is a new contract. Effective February 7, 2006, this van transports one (1) Pottstown special needs student to Limerick Elementary School in Limerick at a cost of \$18.38 per day. The cost is shared with Pottsgrove School District, as Pottsgrove students also ride this van.

**Van #95** – This is a new contract. Effective January 24, 2006, this van transports one (1) Pottstown student to and from Opportunities school in Birdsboro, daily, at a cost of \$34.50 per day. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove School District as Pottsgrove students attending Opportunities School in Birdsboro and the Kidspace School in Temple, also ride this van. Effective February 9, 2006, one (1) Pottstown student attending Opportunities School in Birdsboro was added to the van, changing the cost to \$53.72 per day, an increase of \$19.22 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. Effective December 14, 2005, one (1) Pottstown special needs student who attended Pottsgrove Middle School was removed and a Pottsgrove student attending New Life Youth & Family Services in Harleysville was added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$15.26 per day, a decrease of \$14.63 per day. Effective January 24, 2006, two (2) Pottstown special needs students returning from Pottstown Middle School and one (1) Pottsgrove student returning from New Life Youth & Family Services were added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$29.89 per day, an increase of \$14.63 per day. Effective February 21, 2006, two (2) Pottstown Middle School students and three (3) Pottstown students attending Community Service Foundation in Pottstown were removed from the van, changing the cost to \$21.11 per day, a decrease of \$8.78 per day.

**Van #89PM** – This van provides return transportation for four (4) Pottstown special needs students from Opportunities School in Birdsboro and eight (8) Pottstown special needs students from Pottstown Middle School daily, effective August 29, 2005, at a cost of \$80.24 per day. Effective November 18, 2005, Pottsgrove added a student attending Opportunities School to the van, and a Pottstown special needs student attending Lower Pottsgrove Elementary school was added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$83.79 per day, an increase of \$3.55 per day. Effective December 19, 2005, Pottstown added one (1) student returning from Opportunities School, and Pottsgrove added one (1) student who needs a return ride only from Opportunities, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$79.35 per day, a decrease of \$4.44 per day. Effective January 5, 2006, Pottsgrove added a student, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$74.91 per day, an increase of \$4.44 per day. Effective January 24, 2006, Pottsgrove removed two (2) students and Pottstown removed one (1) student from the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$75.62 per day, an increase of \$.71 per day. Effective February 1, 2006, one (1) Pottstown special needs student returning from the Children's Home of Reading was added to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$89.85 per day, an increase of \$14.23 per day.

**Van #135PM** – This is a new contract. Effective January 30, 2006, this van provides return transportation for one (1) Pottstown special needs student from the Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport, daily, at a cost of \$24.67 per day. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove School District as four (4) Pottsgrove students also ride this van. Effective February 13, 2006, Pottsgrove removed one (1) student returning from the Lincoln Academy in Bridgeport from the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$30.84 per day, an increase of \$6.17 per day.

**Van #172PM** – This van provides return transportation for one (1) Pottstown student from Valley Forge Baptist Academy in Valley Forge, and four (4) Pottstown special needs students plus their aide, from Limerick Elementary School in Limerick, at a cost of \$85.40 per day, effective August 29, 2005. This cost is shared with Pottsgrove, as Pottsgrove students also ride this van. Effective December 1, 2005, Pottsgrove removed one (1) student from the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$99.60 per day, an increase of \$14.20 per day. Effective February 7, 2006, a Pottstown student returning from Limerick Elementary School in Limerick was added to the van, changing the cost to \$102.48 per day, an increase of \$2.88 per day. Effective February 21, 2006, Pottstown added three (3) students returning from Community Service Foundation in Pottstown to the van, changing the cost to Pottstown to \$115.25 per day, an increase of \$12.77 per day.

#### CREATIVE HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve a referral agreement between the Pottstown School District and Creative Health Services, Inc., 212 High Street, Suite 103, Pottstown, PA. This agreement encompasses all treatments and services provided by Creative Health Services, Inc. as referred to them by the Pottstown School District.

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

#### NON-CONSENT

#### BID AWARDS

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Zahora that the board authorize purchase orders to the companies indicated, the awards in each case being made to the lowest bidder meeting the required specifications and a copy be filed in the Secretary's office as addendum #2005-2006-095.

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

#### LETTER – PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

It was moved by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Edwards that the board authorize a letter be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board expressing the Board of School Directors opinion regarding a casino located in Limerick Township.

Mrs. Zahora and Mrs. Francis asked the purpose of this letter. Mr. Robertson feels the Board needs to be consistent in its stand that using the proceeds of gambling is not the best way to fund education in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Zahora feels the letter is not worded strongly enough. Mr. Thees would like a follow up letter sent asking pointed questions about the evacuation plan should there be an incident at the Limerick Power Plant.

It was moved by Dr. Smock and seconded by Mrs. Francis that the board table this motion until the May 4, 2006 regular board meeting.

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

### INFORMATION

1. Conferences for Administrators, Supervisors, and Teachers

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Specific Service Agreement – Mr. Kalis

Mr. Kalis advised Borough Council approved the plan on April 10, 2006. The developer needs to provide additional information to compete this agreement before the Board will be in a position to act. Mrs. Zahora questioned if the school district can appeal the assessment. Mr. Kalis stated assessments are always subject to increase and will most likely increase and the Board may appeal any assessment.

2. Hockey/Lacrosse Fields – Mrs. Zahora

Mr. Bush will review estimates on refurbishing these fields. The fields are low and not in the best of shape. The district will have to fence them off and resod. One option is artificial sod. Mr. Bush will prepare an overview of the options and costs.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed personnel items to be placed on the May 4, 2006 Board agenda for approval.

2. Policy 6285 – Freedom of Expression (Students Rights and Responsibilities) – Mr. Sparagana

Mr. Sparagana reviewed the changes to Policy 6285 to be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

3. Administrative/Supervisory Professional Leave – Mr. Krem

Mr. Krem reviewed one Administrative/Supervisory professional leave to be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

4. Professional Leaves/Field Trips – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed professional leaves and field trips to be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

5. Alternative Education Placements – Dr. Lindley

Dr. Lindley reviewed alternative education placements to be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

6. Bid Awards – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush stated the Art Supplies Bid Award will be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

7. Transportation Contracts – Mr. Bush

Mr. Bush reviewed the transportation contracts to be placed on the May 4, 2006 board agenda for approval.

9. Additional New Business Items

Mr. Robertson requested a tour of the autistic class at Franklin Elementary. Ms. Bateson will schedule his visit.

Mr. Hartman discussed the Mercury article concerning Early Education. The letter sent to Borough Council should never have been sent without having the entire board discuss. All members would like to meet with Borough Council. The newspaper indicated the board declined a joint meeting. Mr. Robertson stated the Borough contacted Mr. Bush with one date to meet. Mr. Robertson advised he prefers to put together small committees, perhaps the Borough interpreted that as not wishing to have a joint meeting. He never at any time advised the board would not meet with them. At the last joint meeting, several board members became upset at the agenda being changed at the last minute. Mr. Robertson was only trying to expedite the process. Mrs. Zahora feels meeting face to face will humanize this issue. We never want it to become us and them. Mr. Hartman feels this issue is too important to be bogged down by scheduling problems. We need to hammer scheduling out. The joint meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2006. Mr. Bush requested the board look at scheduling budget meetings. The first budget meeting is set for May 4, 2006 after the regular board meeting. The second budget workshop is scheduled for

May 11, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. and the tentative budget will be placed on the May 18, 2006 board agenda for approval.

#### FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Kathy Marchek advised Edgewood teachers received their laptops today. Dan Wilchek did a nice job with the training and set up. She is looking forward to seeing board members at the April 24, 2006 Edgewood awards program.

#### REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Thees stated our friends in Harrisburg are “hardly working.” They have not addressed the concerns of unfunded mandates. They need to look at the whole picture of school funding.

Mr. Hartman advised of the Occupational Arts Advisory Committee meeting to be held on April 26, 2006 from 6-8 p.m. Budget time is the perfect time to see what the Occupational Art classes are learning and to assess what their needs are.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Thees that the Board adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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James R. Bush, Secretary

