

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 5, 2009 - 7:30 PM

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the second floor LGI room of the Pottstown Middle School. The following board members were present: Mr. Richard Huss, Mrs. Michele Pargeon, Mr. Dennis Wausnock, Mr. Nat White and Mrs. Judyth Zahora. Absent were: Mr. Edwin Edwards, Mrs. Amy Francis, Mr. Robert Hartman and Mrs. Julia Wilson. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David Krem; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Reed Lindley; Business Administrator, Mrs. Linda Adams; Solicitor, Mr. Stephen Kalis, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Taffy Wolfe, Mr. Bud Heller, Mrs. Gail Cooper, Mr. Robert Decker, Mrs. Mia DiPaolo, Dr. Angela Tuck, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Polly Weand, Mr. Robert Giering, Ms. Pamela Bateson, Ms. Terri Lampe, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Lori Hoch, Mrs. Rita Cohen, a member of the press and interested citizens.

**Awards**

None.

Mrs. Zahora congratulated the newly elected board members and stated this will be the most time consuming, frustrating yet regarding job ever.

MRS. FRANCIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 7:43 PM

**Reports**

1. Superintendent's Forum 10/19/09: Budget and Negotiations

Mr. Krem stated he and Mrs. Adams were presenters at the Montgomery County Budget Forum. He stated that Pottstown is not off the mark compared to the wealthier districts in Montgomery County. The only difference is that these districts are just beginning to feel the pinch while Pottstown has long looked for creative ways to develop revenue. Pottstown is the only district to have a development department. Pottstown is well ahead of the pack at cultivating other resources. He has offered to collaborate with other districts. Mrs. Adams indicated she discussed Act 1 and the index. She was surprised at how many other districts are planning to take advantage of the Act 1 exceptions in 2010-2011. Approximately 50% of districts will apply for and utilize the exceptions.

All districts are concerned for future years as the index will decrease. Mr. White appreciates the administration's proactive stance. He is concerned that Pottstown cannot afford to increase taxes. He asked how other districts can go after exceptions when there is so much debt. Mrs. Adams replied the districts will utilize the exceptions and increase taxes above the index. Mrs. Zahora takes it as a compliment that other districts are asking Pottstown for advice.

## 2. Foundation for Pottstown Education

Ms. Terri Lampe stated the development department is researching the I3 Innovation grant. The district has received a \$10,000 grant for the planning. The Innovation grant is a \$650 million dollar grant. The district is considering a \$5 million dollar request. She was a presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Consortium of Educational Foundations forum and indicated that others are asking what Pottstown is doing. The ULI summit was a helpful and positive experience. The district received a \$10,000 Safe Routes to School grant and will collaborate with the Borough on this grant. The first fundraiser for the Foundation will take place on April 24 and will be Dancing with the Pottstown stars. Mrs. Zahora asked if the district is provided a reason for a grant denial. Mrs. Lampe indicated that sometimes we are advised of the reasons for a denial and sometimes not.

## 3. Act 93 Board Report: Technology

Mrs. Wolfe reviewed the changes that have taken place in technology during her time with the district. She stated she is most proud of the Fiber Optic Network, the creative opportunities provided to her and the relationships she has built with people across the district.

## 4. Act 93 Board Report: Food Service

Mr. Bud Heller has been in food service for 25 years. The food service department in Pottstown School District is completely self supporting and in fact has just purchased a new refrigerated food service truck. Mrs. Adams reminded the board that Mr. Heller is a nationally recognized food service director and has been involved with many national initiatives.

Student Delegate(s)

Mr. Rodriguez reported that student delegates to a school board are not a common occurrence, but there are a few schools that do so, such as Spring-Ford, Hamburg, and Oley. There are two scenarios one in which the student(s) report to the Board and the more popular alternative is where a specific student is chosen with an application/selection process to attend board meetings. Mr. Rodriguez feels this could be an effective option and provide a good experience for students. He would suggest using this as a graduation project. Mrs. Zahora feels this is a nice recommendation and asked why schools stopped having student delegates. Mr. Rodriguez believes the issue is usually student commitments. Mrs. Francis stated that in tying this to the senior project, we might get more commitment from students and feels this is a great idea. Mr. Krem suggests Mr. Rodriguez formulate a selection process and present to the board at a future meeting.

### **MINUTES**

Mrs. Adams presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2009 to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Finance Committee

No Report.

#### Facilities Committee

No Report.

#### Montgomery County Legislative Committee

No Report.

#### PSBA Representative

No Report.

#### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Representative

No Report.

### Community Relations Committee

Mr. Armato stated the committee met this evening and discussed initiatives to engage the community. He shared a swine flu prevention video prepared by Mr. Hough's telecommunications class. He stated the district is tracking student attendance and the numbers are stronger this year than last. The district will continue to track attendance and keep the board apprised. Mrs. Zahora asked if we dip below AYP requirements for attendance due to swine flu will the state penalize the district. Mr. Krem stated the state is required to comply with federal NCLB regulations. Mr. Armato shared that as a continuing effort in staying connected with parents Mrs. Lorraine Donnelly has started a Parents series and beginning next month Dr. Sparagana will begin a literacy series. He stated that band and band front took first place honors in percussion and flags at the Spring-Ford cavalcade. Four of last year's seniors received AP scholar awards. The Alumni reunion was a success and has raised several thousand dollars. The district has received several donations, a professor at Ursinus has donated a set of encyclopedias being used at Lincoln Elementary, Toni Rapp, a district teacher, has donated 400 books which will be utilized in our elementary schools. Two corporate sponsors have donated a significant amount of school furniture to the district. Mr. Armato shared recent news articles about Pottstown School District.

### Co-Curricular Activities Committee

No Report.

### Dress Code Policy/School Uniforms

No Report.

### Technology/Curriculum Committee

No Report.

### Policy Committee

No Report.

### Liaison with Borough Council and Economic Oversight Committee

No Report.

## Personnel Committee

Mrs. Pargeon advised the meeting scheduled for November 10 has been rescheduled to November 12 due to a conflict. She advised that on tonight's agenda there are several rescissions of job descriptions and adoptions of revised job descriptions. She also advised there will be an executive session after tonight's meeting regarding personnel issues.

## LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Huss reviewed the lists of bills to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

## CONSENT ITEMS

### Personnel

Dr. Lindley reviewed the personnel items to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### Professional Leaves

Dr. Lindley reviewed the professional leaves to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### Field Trips

Dr. Lindley reviewed the field trips to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

## Substitute Tax Collector Appointment Resolution

Mrs. Adams reviewed the resolution for the appointment of the substitute tax collector to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

Mrs. Zahora asked if the substitute tax collector collects all taxes. Mrs. Adams responded that the substitute tax collector accounts for all collections. Mrs. Zahora asked if most school districts have a tax office. Mrs. Adams stated there is a directive that states all counties must elect a countywide tax collector for Earned Income Tax collection. Mrs. Francis asked if the district could outsource to Berkhimer the entire tax collection process. Mrs. Adams reminded the board that the district shares the cost of the tax office with the Borough, but the tax office personnel are Borough employees.

## Contracts

Mrs. Adams reviewed the contracts to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

## Bid Schedule

Mrs. Adams reviewed the bid schedule to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

## NON-CONSENT

### Termination of Employee

Dr. Lindley reviewed the termination of employee to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### Job Descriptions

Dr. Lindley reviewed the rescission and adoption of job descriptions to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### Agreement for Joint Purchasing of Prescription Drug Benefits

Mrs. Adams reviewed the agreement for the Joint Purchasing of prescription drug benefits to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

### ULI Resolution

Mrs. Zahora reviewed the ULI resolution to be placed on the November 19, 2009 board agenda for approval.

Mrs. Zahora stated the board supports the recommendations of the ULI.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

## INFORMATION

1. Parent Conference Summary - Mr. Krem
2. Alumni Honor Roll - Mr. Armato
3. Grand Alumni Reunion Program - Mr. Armato
4. Technology Update: September 2009 - Mrs. Wolfe

## FEDERATION REMARKS

Mr. Decker thanked the district for their efforts to be proactive during this flu season. He welcomed the new board members and thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the district.

## ROUND TABLE

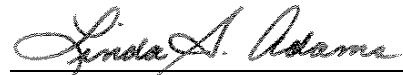
Mr. White stated he is pleased with what the district is doing to make AYP and other strides for Pottstown.

Mrs. Pargeon stated it was great to watch the football team win. She reminded everyone that American Education Week begins November 16 and encouraged everyone to visit classrooms. She stated that parent conferences are coming up and is hoping for strong parent turnout. She reminded everyone that the Cavalcade is coming up soon.

Mrs. Zahora again congratulated the newly elected board members and stated the cavalcade is not just coming up but is this Saturday.

## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Huss and seconded by Mr. Wausnock that the Board adjourn. All members present voted aye. The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.



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Linda S. Adams  
Board Secretary