



**POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
September 22, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Pottstown School District was held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 7:08 PM in the Cafeteria of the Pottstown High School with President, Mrs. Kimberly Stilwell presiding. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Kurt Heidel, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Polly Weand and Mr. Emanuel Wilkerson. Absent were: Ms. Katina Bearden, Mrs. Amy Bathurst Francis, Mr. Andrew Kefer, and Mr. Ron Williams. Also present were Acting Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez; Board Secretary, Mrs. Linda S. Adams; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Deena Cellini; Student Board Representative, Mr. Jaylen Chestnut, Mr. Matthew Moyer, Mr. Joseph Schroeder, Mrs. Elisabeth Yoder Mr. Michael DiDonato, Mr. John Armato, members of the press, and interested citizens.

PRESENTATION

Bond Refinance

Mr. Jamie Schlesinger, Public Financial Management, reviewed the refinancing analysis for refinancing the 2011 and 2013 bonds. He explained the two step process. Step 1 would allow the district to take the initial savings as new money to fund the 2016 projects. Step 2 would provide an opportunity for the district to refinance remaining portions of the bonds with a net savings of approximately \$458,050. The combined project fund/total net savings would result in approximately \$1,044,596. Mr. Schlesinger reviewed the preliminary refinancing schedule in preparation for a November/December settlement date. All Board Members present were in favor of moving forward with Step 1.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 18, 2016 and the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on August 22, 2016 will be sent to the Board for review and placed on the September 26, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

LIST OF BILLS

Mrs. Adams presented the list of bills from the various funds for the period of August 2016 to be placed on the September 26, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2016 to be placed on the September 26, 2016 Board Agenda for approval.

HEARINGS FROM PATRONS OF THE SCHOOLS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

No September meeting.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilkerson gave a report on the Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting held on September 8. A total of 181 students currently participate in sports; approximately 90 students are participating in marching band and color guard. The Homecoming game will take place on October 1st. This date was changed due to SAT's at the high school. The athletic department will be purchasing a storage shed to house equipment. This purchase is being funded by a 2014-2015 NFL grant in the amount of \$1,000.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilkerson gave a report on the Community Relations Committee meeting held on September 8. The committee will work with the Family Advisory Committee Let's Talk event to help parents engage in volunteering and participate in community events. Mr. Hug, Ms. Finlaw and Mr. Armato presented a draft communications plan including an overview of social media tools being utilized throughout the district. It was determined by the committee not to pursue a communications audit at this time but to concentrate on the efforts already in place. The committee accepted plans for a Junior Fire Fighter Club presented by Borough Council President, Mr. Dan Weand. The administration and solicitor will review the plan.

Mrs. Weand gave a report on the Save-The-Lights fundraiser. Funds collected to date are \$100,435. An additional \$73,000 is promised from a matching donor and a grant for \$50,000 has been submitted.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Rome will attend the PSBA Student Delegate conference in October along with a district chaperone. Spirit Week will take place next week. Homecoming is next week against Pottsgrove.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Weand gave a report on the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting held on September 8. PECO has agreed to move the fibers at Beech and Evans at no cost to the district. A STEAM and SEL overview for the 2016-2017 school year was provided by Mrs. Kolka. The committee reviewed the professional development contract from PD Dimensions. The committee is recommending this agreement for board approval as presented on tonight's agenda.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Heidel gave a report on the Facilities Committee meeting held on September 15. PFM provided two options for refinancing the current 2011 series bonds which included a two year refinance plan for both options. Savings in both scenarios would result in more than \$1,000,000 over the life of the refinancing. The committee supports the option as presented tonight. Design and bid specifications for the Franklin Street fields were reviewed and discussed. The consensus of the committee is to approve the recommendation to proceed with the engineering phase. Upgrades to the electrical system in the HS Building Trades room were reviewed. It was determined that the existing breaker box is old and has become a safety issue and impedes the program for building trades. The consensus of the committee is to recommend the electrical upgrade project for board approval.

JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Adams gave a report on the September 15 Joint Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. Dr. George and Dr. Landis provided guidance on determining qualifications for a successful candidate for Superintendent. An advertisement is expected to be placed in October and an anticipated application deadline of January 20, 2017. Personnel items and various contracts were reviewed and are recommended for approval as presented on tonight's agenda. The committee supports the closing of the Edgewood Elementary School Activity fund as presented on tonight's agenda. The bond refinancing options as presented at the Facilities Committee were reviewed and discussed. The Finance Committee supports the option as

presented tonight. Information on a potential Keystone Opportunity Zone program was presented by Mr. Rodriguez. The committee was not in support of the program. An executive session was held for the purpose of personnel discussions regarding Act 93, Support and Exempt staff compensation.

Ms. Bearden entered the meeting at 7:36 pm.

BOROUGH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Heidel gave a report on the September Borough Council meeting. Locations for the street cameras have been identified. Council approved the closure of a portion of High Street for the Annual Halloween Parade. PennDot approval is pending regarding the Walk & Bike Project. Several ordinances were adopted for the Fire Department and Human Relations Commission. A resolution amending the fee schedule associated with the Kennel Policy was also adopted.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, PSBA REPRESENTATIVE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No Report.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Cellini reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the September 26, 2016 Board Agenda for approval:

PERSONNEL

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

FIELD TRIPS

Mrs. Adams reviewed the following consent and non-consent items as presented to be placed on the September 26, 2016 Board Agenda for approval:

CONTRACTS

SETTLEMENT OF PER CAPITA AND OCCUPATION DELINQUENT 2015 TAXES

PDE E-SIGNATURE RESOLUTION

DISSOLVE EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND

BOND REFINANCING

FRANKLIN FIELD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT

PSBA ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR RESIGNATION

Mr. Kalis reviewed the process to fill the vacancy. The Board has 30 days to fill the vacancy in accordance with School Code. Qualifications to serve on the Board require the person be a resident of Pottstown and be 18 years of age or older. Choices for the Board are to appoint a replacement or select from letters of interest submitted by interested residences.

The Board was in agreement to select from letters of interest submitted by candidates.

The timeline for the selection process was agreed to by all Board Members present. Letters of interest will be accepted on or before October 10th via email to the Business Administrator or via US Postal Service. Candidates would be interviewed on October 13th at the Joint Personnel and Finance Committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Residency Initiative: Discussion at the Policy Committee on October 6th beginning at 6:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Retreat:

Mrs. Stilwell requested a Board Retreat for Thursday, October 20th. She recommended that the Committee of the Whole meeting be combined with the October 24th Regular Board meeting. All members present agreed to the Board Retreat on October 20th and to combine the C.O.W. meeting with the Regular Board meeting on Monday, October 24th.

INFORMATION

1. Senator Toomey Acknowledgment Letter: ESSA Resolution
2. Economic Development Luncheon
3. Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools Event: October 6th Walk-in
4. Pottstown Pride: Spring/Summer 2016

FEDERATION REMARKS

Mrs. Yoder spoke in support of the Walk-In event on October 6th. The Federation has prepared community engagement cards that will be handed out at the event to encourage parents to get involved. The Federation is working on a voter registration drive. The AFT, AFT-PA and Federation of Pottstown Teachers support candidates that are pro student. The Federation asks the Board to consider hiring guidance counselors and psychologists in all buildings. She explained the importance of having professional staff qualified to serve the behavior support that is needed at all levels.

ROUND TABLE

Mr. Heidel – no comment.

Mrs. Weand offered condolences to the family of an alumni who recently passed away. She also recognized the alumni for his contributions to Save-the-Lights fundraiser.

Mr. Chestnut – no comment.

Mr. Hylton – no comment.

Ms. Bearden reminded Board Members and patrons of the schools of the upcoming Family Advisory Committee meeting to be held on September 29th. She invited Board Members to participate in the FAC Let's Talk event that is scheduled to take place at each elementary school during the first week of November.


Mr. Wilkerson explained the high school's participation in the Mascot for the Cure to raise money for childhood cancer. The high school mascot challenged the Board to participate in "Let's Twist" fundraiser.

Mr. Rodriguez attended the recent Pottstown Talks. He was impressed with the genuine interest that was expressed by all who attended to continue community improvement. He thanked the Federation leadership for their participation and he felt it was one of the best community meetings he has attended. Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mr. Kefer for his service on the school board.

Mrs. Stilwell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Heidel and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Board adjourns. All members present were in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.



Linda S. Adams
Board Secretary