

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
September 8, 2015

The Board of School Directors for the Pottsgrove School District conducted its meeting at Pottsgrove Middle School on the above date with the following members present:

Justine Valentine	Dave Faulkner	Diane Cherico	Theodore Coffelt
Dee Gallion	Rick Rabinowitz	Matt Alexander	John Rossi
Patti Grimm-Absent			

Also present were: Ms. Shellie Feola, Dr. William Shirk, Mr. Dave Nester, Mr. Michael Wagman, Mr. Daniel Vorhis, Dr. Maura Roberts, Mrs. Pacitto, Mr. Jeff Cardwell, Dr. William Ziegler, Mr. Eric Daney, Mr. Todd Van Horn, Dr. Dave Ramage, Mr. Chris Becker, Mrs. Yolanda Williams, Mr. Steven Sieller, Mrs. Lisa Jones, Mrs. Terri Koehler and Mr. Marc Davis, Solicitor.

### ***Call to Order***

Mr. Valentine called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### ***Presentation/Recognition Awards***

Superintendent Feola introduced the Board and community to the new teachers via a slide show shared with the entire district staff at opening exercises this past Tuesday, September 1.

### ***Public Comment***

Mr. Bill Parker expressed his concern and anger about the overtime costs and inconvenience associated with the delayed opening of the high school.

### ***Executive Session Announcements***

Mr. Valentine announced that there was an Executive Session held prior to the Board meeting to discuss potential litigation. He also announced that there would be an Executive Session immediately following the Board Meeting for personnel.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to approve the August 11, 2015 Monthly Board Action Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to approve the August 21, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to approve the August 25th, 2015 Monthly Board Workshop Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### ***District Accounts***

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mrs. Cherico seconded a motion to approve the District Accounts as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.  
(Addendum #9/15-1)

### ***Granting of Orders***

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve the payment of invoices for August, 2015 in the amount of \$5,810,140.16 as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.  
(Addendum #9/15-2)

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Rossi seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for August, 2015 as presented and file it for audit. The Board unanimously approved the motion.  
(Addendum #9/15-3)

### ***Report of the Superintendent***

#### **Personnel:**

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve the following Professional Staff items:

#### **PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

##### **a. Appointments:**

1. Name: Daniel Kratz  
Education: Wheaton College - B.S.  
Experience: Wheaton Academy - Chicago IL  
March 2013 - June 2015  
Physics Teacher  
Certification: Physics 7-12  
Position: Physics Teacher- High School  
Long Term substitute - full year  
Status: Non-Contractual  
Reason: Replacing Andrew Friedlund  
Compensation: \$41,929 - Bachelors Step 1  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015
2. Name: Alixandra Kleinschmidt  
Education: West Chester University - BS  
Experience: Collegium Charter School  
September 2014 - present  
Instructional Assistant

- |    |                 |  |
|----|-----------------|--|
|    | Certification:  | English 7-12   |
|    | Position:       | Long Term Substitute - First Semester<br>Grade 6 - Language Arts<br>Pottsgrove Middle School |
|    | Status:         | Non-Contractual  |
|    | Reason:         | Replacing Sarah McCurley   |
|    | Compensation:   | \$20,964.50 - Bachelors Step 1 - prorated  |
|    | Effective Date: | September 1, 2015  |
| 3. | Name:           | Brian Rambo  |
|    | Position:       | Alternative Education Teacher<br>Physical Education  |
|    | Compensation:   | \$32.50 per hour<br>6 hours per week   |
|    | Effective Date: | September 8, 2015  |
| 4. | Name:           | Sean Messa   |
|    | Position:       | Alternative Education Teacher<br>Social Studies  |
|    | Compensation:   | \$32.50 per hour<br>3 hours per week   |
|    | Effective Date: | September 8, 2015  |

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve the following Support Staff items:

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**a. Resignation:**

- |    |                 |                               |
|----|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Name:           | Devon Barr                    |
|    | Position:       | Student Assistant             |
|    | Effective Date: | August 31, 2015               |
| 2. | Name:           | Josh Ford                     |
|    | Position:       | Instructional Assistant       |
|    | Effective Date: | August 29, 2015               |
| 3. | Name:           | Tara Breiner                  |
|    | Position:       | Building Aide - Middle School |
|    | Effective Date: | August 31, 2015               |

**b. Appointments:**

- |    |                 |  |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 1. | Name:           | John Katch   |
|    | Position:       | Duty Aide - Pottsgrove Middle School<br>Replacing Michelle Zepka |
|    | Compensation:   | \$11.75 per hour -2.50 hours per day                             |
|    | Effective Date: | September 1, 2015  |

2. Name: Kacey Jurk  
Position: Duty Aide - Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School  
Replacing Lindsey Frederick  
Compensation: \$11.75 per hour - 3 hours/10 minutes per day  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015
3. Name: Erin Mohr  
Position: Duty Aide - Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School  
Replacing Lori Tait  
Compensation: \$11.75 per hour - 3 hours/10 minutes per day  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015
4. Name: Jennifer Cooley  
Position: Assistant Athletic Trainer  
Replacing Rick Moore  
Compensation: \$32.50 per hour  
19 weeks per year  
15 hours per week  
Effective Date: September 9, 2015
5. Name: Melissa Barber  
Position: PT Support Staff Nurse  
Long Term Substitute  
Replacing Debbie Scott  
Compensation: \$20.88 per hour  
21 hours per week  
Effective Date: September 8, 2015
6. Name: Marci Nelson  
Position: Instructional Assistant  
Pottsgrove High School  
Replacing Alexandra Samsel  
Compensation: \$14.30 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days  
Effective Date: September 21, 2015
7. Name: Nicole Kaercher  
Position: Instructional Assistant  
Lower Pottsgrove  
Replacing Joshua Ford  
Compensation: \$14.94 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days  
Effective Date: September 28, 2015
8. Name: Oscar Gans  
Position: Student Assistant  
Lower Pottsgrove  
Replacing Lisa Collins

- Compensation: \$12.46 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days
- Effective Date: September 9, 2015
9. Name: Janel Worner  
Position: Student Assistant  
West Pottsgrove  
Replacing Devon Barr
- Compensation: \$12.46 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days
- Effective Date: September 14, 2015
10. Name: Julie Reicher  
Position: Student Assistant  
Ringing Rocks  
Replacing Ilisha Dorsey
- Compensation: \$12.46 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days
- Effective Date: September 9, 2015
11. Name: Maha Sonsino  
Position: Student Assistant  
Lower Pottsgrove  
New position
- Compensation: \$12.46 per hour  
7 hours per day  
All student days
- Effective Date: September 9, 2015

**c. Leave of Absence:**

1. Name: Debbie Scott  
Position: PT Staff Nurse  
Reason: Unpaid medical leave  
Effective Date: September 8, 2015 - January 31, 2016

The board unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Valentine seconded a motion to approve the following Supplemental items:

**SUPPLEMENTALS**

**a. Resignation:**

1. Name: Tara Breiner  
Position: Middle School Cheerleading Coach  
Effective Date: August 31, 2015

**b. Appointment:**

1. Jessica Norris Hockey Asst. Coach - 7th grade \$2,586.96

The board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve the following Miscellaneous items:

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. Recommendation to approve Miscellaneous Employee Salaries as presented effective September 1, 2015:

Gary DeRenzo	Student Activities Director	\$105,568
Jack Thomas	Athletic Trainer	\$57,467
Angela Lucas	Custodial Supervisor	\$56,375
Jason Grubbs	Network Engineer	\$67,988
Margaret Luft	Data Systems Specialist	\$67,988
Jacqueline Kakareka	Technology Specialist II	\$24.45 per hour
David Bell	Technology Specialist I	\$20.88 per hour
Patrick Voytko	Technology Specialist I	\$21.08 per hour
Brian Cooper	Technology Specialist I	\$20.40 per hour
April Koss	Student Data Support	\$21.91 per hour
Rebecca Pappano	BCBA	\$72,720
Elizabeth Rakoff	Social Worker	\$54,328
Jaime Berge Slack	Social Worker	\$59,686
Laurie Bickert	Confidential Admin. Asst. to Supt.	\$24.66 per hour
Debbie Brilla	Confidential Admin. Asst. to Asst. Supt.	\$26.75 per hour
Theresa Urban	Confidential Admin. Asst. to Bus. Mgr.	\$21.81 per hour

The board unanimously approved the motion.

***Business:***

Mr. Coffelt moved and Mr. Faulkner seconded a motion to authorized administration to enter into an agreement with Children’s Home of Reading for one student for 2015-2016 school year at a cost of \$27,000 as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Coffelt moved and Mrs. Cherico seconded a motion to authorize administration to execute a sponsorship agreement with Mishock Physical Therapy for the 2015-2016 school year at a rate of \$6,000 as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to authorize administration to submit PlanCon Part K “Project Refinancing” for the General Obligation Note, Series AA of 2015 as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to authorize administration to execute an agreement with Glen Mills School for the 2015-2016 school year at an approximate cost of \$22,264. The Board

unanimously approved the motion.

***Education:***

Mr. Coffelt moved and Mrs. Gallion seconded a motion to approve the following conference:

- b. Terri Koehler, West Pottsgrove Elementary Principal, and Yolanda Williams, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Principal, to attend Leadership Lab: *Using Differentiated Feedback to Cultivate Master Teachers*. The cost of the 2-day conference is \$1,240.50 per person. Substitute coverage is not required.
- c. Rebecca Pappana, Behavior Specialist, to attend Student Assistant (SAP) K-12 training. The cost of the training is \$375.00. Substitute coverage is not required.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

There was discussion regarding an upcoming gifted education conference. Board members questioned the conference focus on the development of academic strengths in core subject areas and expressed concern regarding the possible exclusion of other types of giftedness. Dr. Maura Roberts, Pupil Services Director, assured the Board that the conference focus was very consistent with the PA Department of Education's expectations and gifted services in Pottsgrove would continue to serve a broader mission. She also expressed the enthusiasm of those staff members who are participating and believed the conference provides a common experience from which discussion could take place among teachers and administrators. Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Faulkner seconded a motion to approve the following conference after discussion

- a. Alexa Viscardi, Teacher of the Gifted, Debra Lewis, Psychologist, Jon Vesper, Psychologist, Tom Frevert, Psychologist, and Christine Campbell, Teacher of the Gifted, to attend Gifted Boot Camp. The total cost of the conference is \$1,327.00. Substitute coverage is required.

The Board voted 5-3 (Mr. Rossi, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Rabinowitz were the dissenting votes). The motion passed.

***Discussion:***

Jim Hanna, Project Manager from D'Huy Engineering, provided the Board with an update on High School readiness for the September 14 opening.

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve the Act 80 Exception submission request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in order to amend the calendar by four (4) days for the high school only as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion. If approved by PDE, the District would not incur any subsidy loss associated with the delayed opening of the high school, as time associated with the delay was being used for professional development activities consistent with PA School Code Act 80 exceptions to the 180-day rule.

Mr. Nester informed the Board that the Western Montgomery Career and Technical Center had refunded, to the District, approximately \$230,000 of surplus funds that had been accumulated over several years. Mr. Nester recommended that the Board commit these funds and any future surpluses to defray the impact of future increases in the District's contributions to the WMCTC. Mr. Coffelt moved and Mr. Valentine seconded a motion to commit \$230,000 and any future Tech School surpluses for the purpose of defraying the impact of future increases in District contributions to the WMCTC. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Superintendent Feola read a press release from the PA Department of Education about a federal waiver of a section of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act allowing Pennsylvania to suspend for one year the assignment of a School Performance Score to any school that administers the PSSA, as the PSSA comprises a significant portion of that score. There would be a one-year suspension on use of the PSSA scores in teacher and principal evaluations, as well. This waiver resulted from the profound and unanticipated impact of the new PSSA on elementary and middle schools across Pennsylvania. The waiver does not include high schools that administer the Keystone exam. The press release also indicated that the PA Department of Education would study the School Performance Profile to determine a more comprehensive way to look at school performance that is not so heavily focused on a single test.

### ***New Business***

Mr. Rabinowitz expressed concern over the maintenance of volunteer clearances and inquired about ways to simplify the process for parents. The administration indicated that it would look into it.

Mrs. Cherico presented the Board with the officer candidates for the PA School Boards Association. The Board voted on the candidates, as will school boards across Pennsylvania.

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve change order number PC-008 for Integrity Mechanical, Inc., Plumbing Contractor, to memorialize the extension of time granted for the completion of certain areas as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve change order number MC-020 for Frey-Lutz Corporation, Mechanical Contractor, to memorialize the extension of time granted for the completion of certain areas as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Faulkner moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve change order number EC-011 for MBR Construction Services, Inc. Electrical Contractor, to memorialize the extension of time granted the completion of certain areas as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to approve change order number GC-076 for ER Stuebner, General Contractor, to memorialize the extension of time granted for the completion of certain areas as presented.

### ***Adjournment***

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Cherico  
School Board Secretary