

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
October 27, 2015

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

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

Also present were: Ms. Shellie Feola, Dr. William Shirk, Mr. Dave Nester, Mr. Michael Wagman, Dr. Maura Roberts, Mr. Jeff Cardwell, Dr. William Ziegler and Solicitor Mr. Jeff Sultanik.

Call to Order

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

Executive Session Announcements

Mr. Valentine announced there will be an Executive Session immediately following the Board meeting to discuss negotiations.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Operations/Facilities Committee

HS Renovation Update

Jim Hanna from D'Huy Engineering provided an update on the HS renovation project. Everything that was started over the summer has pretty much been completed. The Cafeteria was up and running as of today. The Library has been running for a few weeks. The Guidance Suite is moving along pretty well. The areas are still yet to be done, The Science Wing, the old gym, the auditorium, Dr. Ziegler's space, the lobby, the guidance area and the DAO. With not a lot going on over the winter, Mr. Hanna also discussed possible changes in our current phasing plan to improve efficiency and reduce the amount of work scheduled for the summer of 2016. Those plans are still being solidified and will be presented to the Board formally in November. Mr. Rabinowitz and Ms. Feola discussed the classrooms affected and tentative plan that was just discussed in the meeting held earlier today. Mr. Rabinowitz would like assurances of no delays for the next school year. Auditorium, Dr. Ziegler's space, the last part of the Science area and some exterior would be the work needing to be done over the summer. Mrs. Gallion inquired about the Music area and when that would be available. Ms. Feola confirmed the Orchestra room is the only room not available, The remainder of the Music area was available last school year. See images of newly renovated spaces including the cafeteria and library online at <http://www.pgdsd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=1385>.

Report of the Superintendent

Personnel:

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to approve the following Personnel items:

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

a. Appointments:

1. Position: After School Tutors
Compensation: \$32.50 per hour
Effective Date: October 28, 2015
 - a. Rebecca Slothower - Reading Coordinator
 - b. Sharon Yergey - Math Coordinator
 - c. Michele Chayson
 - d. Patricia Evans
 - e. Marc Rudolph
 - f. Mary Savarese
 - g. Veronica Lightcap
 - h. Amy Miller
 - i. Maria Liedy
 - j. Brenda Novak

b. Leave of Absence

1. Name: Eric Engstrom
Position: Physical Education Teacher
Pottsgrove Middle School
Reason: FMLA
Effective Date: October 8, 2015 - not to exceed 12 weeks
2. Name: Kelly Snyder
Position: Kindergarten Teacher
Ringing Rocks
Reason: FMLA - unpaid child rearing leave
Effective Date: Approx. February 16, 2016 - First day of
the 2016-2017 school year

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

SUPPORT STAFF

a. Leave of Absence

1. Name: Polly Goldcamp
Position: Student Assistant
West Pottsgrove
Reason: FMLA
Effective Date: October 5, 2015 - not to exceed 12 weeks
2. Name: Terri Widmann
Position: Library Assistant
Ringing Rocks
Reason: FMLA
Effective Date: October 20, 2015 - not to exceed 12 weeks

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mrs. Cherico seconded a motion to approve the following Student Teacher Assignment:

STUDENT TEACHER ASSIGNMENT

University of Valley Forge

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Erica Norris	Victor Holladay	October 19 - December 10, 2015

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Education:

Mr. Grimm moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded the approval of the following conference attendance:

- a. Crystal Lloyd, Kindergarten Teacher, and Kelly Snyder, Kindergarten Teacher, to attend *Units of Study in Reading* Conference Day. The cost of the conference is \$386.00. Substitute coverage is required.
- b. Karen Wolfe, Reading Specialist, to attend KSRA Annual Conference. The cost of the conference is \$222.00. Substitute coverage is not required.
- c. Jennifer Snyder, School Counselor, to attend *Wired Differently - What Every Educator Should Know*. Cost of the conference is \$159.00. Substitute coverage is not required.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion Item:

Superintendent Feola reminded the Board about the next Key Communicators meeting to discuss ideas for community outreach and education about district operations and programs. The first meeting will be with those Key Communicators that met last year for a roundtable discussion for some ideas of different parent meetings so parents can sign up for those areas of interest.

Committee Report:

Policy Committee Report:

At the meeting held earlier in the evening, Mr. Rabinowitz and Dr. Shirk provided an update on discussion about the following proposed policies and revisions to existing policies:

- Online Education Programs Sponsored by the School District
- Health and Physical Education Graduation Requirements
- Bullying / Cyber Bullying Prevention

Dr. Shirk and Mr. Nester provided an update at the Board Meeting since time didn't allow for discussion on Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Procedures for Tax-Exempt Bonds. The policy was written by Fox Rothschild and will be posted on the webpage for review.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention per Act 71 was a law passed that requires us to put programs and training in place. Dr. Shirk said this policy will assist with getting grades 6-12 staff trained and getting interventions in place. This policy will also be posted for review on the web.

Curriculum/Technology/Student Affairs Committee Report:

Mr. Faulkner reviewed the topics discussed including the math curriculum and review process, revised grading practices, an update of the DiLE program in the secondary division, and the I Can statements used now in the elementary division that will provide a framework for eventual revisions to the elementary report card.

Ms. Feola discussed the training for the upcoming Staff Development Day on November 3rd.

There were some questions at the meeting about the grading practices. We are working with staff to rectify the confusion between demonstrating knowledge and building knowledge. Dr. Ziegler was asked to follow up with those parents directly in working through and understanding that we are looking at the same thing. Adjustments are being made on an individual basis as needed.

Mr. Rabinowitz said he is hearing anxiety from parents about the new grading practices. Not the 10 point scale, the standard based grading. A little uncomfortable putting this on individual teachers. Understandable that there are some inconsistencies but hopeful things will be smoothed out but we should be ready for an increase in anxiety as grades come in.

New Business

Mr. Rossi reminded those in attendance about the Harlem Wizards game next week. Funds raised support the work of the Pottsgrove Education Foundation. Parent volunteers for that evening are still needed.

Adjournment

Mr. Valentine moved and Mr. Coffelt seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Cherico
School Board Secretary