

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
December 1, 2015

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

Jim Lopic	Al Leach	Ashley Custer	John Rossi
Bill Parker	Rick Rabinowitz	Matt Alexander	Patti Grimm
Diane Cherico	Student Rep-Dominique Johnson		

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, Mr. Gary DeRenzo and Mr. Marc Davis, Solicitor.

Call to Order

Mr. Rabinowitz called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Rabinowitz shared some words that was meant for the last meeting. He is honored to serve as president and wanted to extend his thanks and gratitude to Mr. Valentine for his hard work and dedication to the school district. Thank you to Dee Gallion, Ted Coffelt and Dave Faulkner for their service to the school district. Thank you also to Al Leach, Bill Parker, Ashley Custer and Jim Lopic for stepping up. My role, while sitting in this chair, is to show respect to all my constituencies in PGSD. I pledge to first and foremost respect the community that has voted out 7 Board members in the past two elections. In my mind, those voters have made their preferences clear. He will change how Board meetings are run, making the community feel welcome and make sure their voices are heard. Make it easier for public to comment and to ask questions. He would like to restore traditions. Respect to Parents, Grandparents and Students. The Board will analyze the raw data and use that to make decisions. The ultimate goal is to make Pottsgrove a school district of choice.

Presentation/Recognition Awards

High School Librarian Dani Small presented the Makerspaces concept in the new high school library. A collaborative workshop where student can gain practical hands on experience with new technologies with innovative processes to design and build projects. A flexible learning environment where learning is made physical by applying math, science, technology and creativity to solve problems and build things. A Breakerspace is an area where the kids can mess around with different objects where they can fix them, repurpose them, rip them apart and see how they work.

Public Comment

Pottstown Relay for Life Chair Jennifer Drago presented Pottsgrove with a banner for the many years of support and helping the community. Pottstown Relay is 13th out of 6300 in the world and has raised over ten million dollars since it began.

Student Eric Maynard addressed the Board about the high school robotics team anticipated funding needs for hardware for the March competition. \$339 is what is needed for the hardware. Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Lopic seconded a motion to approve the \$339 for the equipment. The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-1. (Mr. Parker abstained).

Executive Session Announcements

An Executive Session will be held immediately following to discuss personnel and potential litigation.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Parker seconded a motion to approve the November 16, 2015 Monthly Board Action Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Report of the Superintendent

Discussion:

Mr. Chris Turtell from Herbin & Company presented the 2014 - 2015 school district audit report. Mr. Parker would like to further discuss the money that was reallocated to PSERS reserve at the next meeting under Old Business. Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Leach seconded the motion to approve the audit report. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. John Frye from Public Financial Management, Inc. (PFM) presented the final phase of borrowing for the Pottsgrove HS renovation. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mrs. Grimm seconded a motion to authorize administration to work with Public Financial Management Inc., as Independent Financial Advisor, Fox Rothschild LLP as Bond Counsel, and the Solicitor to proceed with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016 and 2016A for the respective purposes of issuing new money and refunding a portion of the District's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2010, via a competitive internet auction. The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-1. (Mr. Parker abstained)

Business Administrator Nester presented the 2016 - 2017 budget development timeline. Mr. Parker motioned for Administrators to come forth with a preliminary budget with 0% tax increase. There was no second to this motion. Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Parker seconded a motion to approve the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index (and No Need to Comply with Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures) 2015-2016 School Year Resolution. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

(Addendum #12/15-1)

Mr. Jeff Cardwell, Director of Facilities, provided an update on the HVAC evaluation at Ringing Rocks Elementary. Discussion ensued on a recommendation for engineering services after a short executive session. Mr. Rossi moved and Mrs. Grimm seconded a motion to accept the proposal. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 8-1.

Student Representative Report:

On December 11th, **West Pottsgrove Elementary** will hold their First Trimester Good Citizen Luncheon sponsored by the PTA. Two students from each class are selected as good citizens by their teachers and honored at the luncheon. The annual holiday sing along is scheduled for December 23rd at 9:30. The annual food drive prior to Thanksgiving for foods items was a big success and the items were then shared with families in need. The staff will also be sponsoring the annual Angel Tree to support some of our families for the holidays. The West End Fire Company is partnering with West in this endeavor this year.

Ringling Rocks Elementary is planning for its large "Polar Express" event sponsored by the PTA, as well as a family holiday sing-along.

The **Lower Pottsgrove Elementary** Student Leadership Team is planning the following service events: Pajama donations to support the Plaid Pajama Project, which helps local families receive new pajamas at the holidays and a food drive to collect items for Operation Backpack, which helps to provide weekend meals for local children.

Pottsgrove Middle School celebrated the fall sports teams before Thanksgiving break with an award assembly. The school is excited that the holiday concerts are about to begin.

At **Pottsgrove High School**, the cast of the Fabulous Fable Factory will be visiting Lower and West Pottsgrove Elementary Schools to share the musical with students. The high school is beginning to prepare for Keystone Exams which begin next week with literature exams on Tuesday, 12/8 and Wednesday, 12/9.

Personnel:

Mrs. Cherico moved and Mrs. Grimm seconded a motion to approve the following Professional Staff items:

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

a. Resignation:

1.	Name:	William Parker
	Position:	Substitute Teacher
	Effective Date:	December 2, 2015

b. Appointments:

1.	Name:	Nancy Cortez
	Education:	Immaculata University - BA
	Experience:	Pasadena School District July 2004 - April 2007 5th grade teacher St. Matthew Preschool Spanish Teacher January 2014 - present Pottsgrove School District Substitute Teacher September 2015 - present

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| | Position: | Long Term Substitute
Lower Pottsgrove Grade 4 |
| | Status: | Non-Contractual |
| | Reason: | Replacing Jennifer Thompson |
| | Compensation: | \$41,929.00 - Bachelors Step 1 - pro |
| | Effective Date: | December 2, 2015 |
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- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 2. | Name: | Ana Roman |
| | Position: | Substitute Teacher |
| | Compensation: | \$100.00 per day |
| | Effective Date: | November 20, 2015 - pending receipt of
ACT 168 release form |
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- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 3. | Name: | Edith Umstead |
| | Position: | Substitute Nurse |
| | Compensation: | \$100.00 per day |
| | Effective Date: | December 2, 2015- pending receipt of
ACT 168 release form |

c. Leave of Absence:

- | | | |
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| 1. | Name: | Debra Lewis |
| | Position: | School Psychologists |
| | Effective Date: | FMLA - November 30, 2015 -
Not to exceed 12 weeks |

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

SUPPORT STAFF

a. Retirement:

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|----|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Name: | Judith Miller |
| | Position: | Intervention Tutor - Lower Pottsgrove |
| | Effective Date: | December 31, 2015 |

b. Resignation:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Name: | John Katch |
| | Position: | Duty Aide - Middle School |
| | Effective Date: | November 17, 2015 |
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- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. | Name: | Judy Bransfield |
| | Position: | Student Assistant - Middle School |
| | Effective Date: | November 17, 2015 |

c. Appointments:

1.	Name:	Karen Nixon Brinkley
	Position:	Student Assistant - Middle School New Position
	Compensation:	\$13.02 per hour
	Effective Date:	December 2, 2015

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mrs. Cherico seconded a motion to approve the following Supplemental/Special Payment items:

a. Appointments:

Jean Randall	Web Page Editor - WP	\$595.20
Tom Yenchick	Musical Choreographer - MS	\$1547.52
Tom Yenchick	Choreographer Show Choir MS	\$595.20

Mr. Parker asked if each building had their own tech support. Ms. Feola explained that we can not take away work from the bargaining unit agreement. Mr. Rabinowitz confirmed that this could be looked at if we choose not to do the work. Mr. Parker does not like it but does understand that we don't have a choice. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Business:

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Alexander seconded a motion to authorize Mr. Nester to pay bills for the month of December 2015. Mr. Parker asked if there were any bills out of the norm. Mr. Nester explained that the Board will be able to ratify them in January. This process will also occur in July. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Leach seconded a motion to authorize administration to enter into an agreement with the Berks County IU for speech and language services for one student at a cost of \$2,100. Mr. Parker asked if we looked at other services outside the IU. Ms. Feola responded that the reason why they chose the IU was articulated in the packet. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Nester explained what E-Rate is and the value of consulting services. The MCIU provides this service to other districts in the county and is less expensive than our current consultant. With the lower rate, it's a win/win situation. Mr. Parker will be voting no because we have the staff and feels that we could figure this out ourselves. Mrs. Cherico moved and Mr. Rossi seconded a motion to authorize administration to enter into an agreement with the Montgomery County IU for E-Rate consulting services at a cost of \$3,000. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 8-1.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Leach seconded a motion to approve the budget transfers for November 2015. Mr. Nester explained budget transfers and why sometimes they are needed. Mr. Parker doesn't understand the budget transfer report provided and would like more information before being asked to vote. Ms. Feola explained that this is an item to be discussed during the upcoming Board training. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 8-0-1 (Mr. Parker abstained).
(Addendum #12/15-2)

Education:

Mrs. Cherico moved and Mr. Rossi seconded a motion to approve the following conference attendance:

- a. Marilyn Eaton, Physical Education Teacher, to attend Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Clinic. The cost of the clinic is \$399.00. Substitute coverage is required.
- b. Steve Mellor, Girl's Soccer Head Coach, Jay Witkowski, Boy's Soccer Head Coach, Jeff Erb, Boys Assistant Soccer Coach, and Kevin Grimm, Boys Assistant Soccer Coach, to attend the NSCAA Coaching Convention. The cost of the convention is \$900.00. Substitute coverage is required for Mr. Mellor and Mr. Witkowski.

Mr. Parker asked about the Cross Country Coaches Conference and what is going to be learned. Mrs. Grimm said that Mrs. Eaton goes each year and a lot to be learned. Mr. Parker stated that he will be voting no unless more information will be provided. Mr. Leach explained that the conference is also about networking and coaches will learn every time they go by sharing ideas on what works and doesn't, Ms. Feola added that although they may not always do a report when returning, they do share knowledge with others. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 8-1.

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Leach seconded the approval of the following mentor:

The Department of Education requires that we have a Teacher Induction Plan so that teachers new to their position or new to the district receive a thorough orientation to district procedures and instructional practices. The following people have agreed to be support teachers for the new teachers listed:

<u>Support Teachers</u>	<u>New Teachers</u>	<u>Building</u>
Stacey King	Corri Speakman	Middle School

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Committee Report:

Mrs. Grimm moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to accept the minutes from the Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting from November 16, 2015. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
(Addendum #12/15-3)

New Business

Mr. Rabinowitz discussed his very positive experience on the MCIU Board and asked for a volunteer to consider replacing him at the MCIU. Added responsibilities in the new role of PGSD Board president necessitated the request.

Mr. Leach raised concern about the reduction of world language offerings from 3 to 2. He presented information about language offerings in districts in the county and neighboring districts in bordering counties. Discussion ensued on this topic.

Mrs. Grimm reported that the Western Center would host their annual open house on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Rossi expressed concern about lack of lighting near the snack bar at the stadium.

Mr. Parker expressed concern about the culture of district spending and requested discussion about justification for expenditures approved by principals and directors. Discussion ensued regarding how items of concern from individual board members become agenda items.

Mr. Parker requested that Budget Powerpoints be included in packet prior to meetings.

Mr. Leach asked to limit the number of presentations due to late hours.

Mr. Parker requested a report from Assistant Superintendent Shirk on exit interviews with staff and families who leave for charter schools. Superintendent Feola indicated that these issues were addressed with the prior Board and this information would be part of the new board member binders. Additional discussion took place about how data might be shared with the Board.

Mrs. Custer raised a concern about the possibility of a trip to Italy assumed to be on the agenda. Superintendent Feola explained that the proposal is not complete and therefore was not presented to the Board.

Adjournment

Mr. Rossi moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:16 p.m. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Cherico
School Board Secretary