

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
March 22, 2016

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:

Rick Rabinowitz	Matt Alexander	Patti Grimm-absent	Diane Cherico
Ashley Custer	Jim Lopic	Bill Parker	John Rossi

Al Leach-arrived at 9:09 p.m.

Also present were: Ms. Shellie Feola, Dr. William Shirk, Mr. Dave Nester, Mr. Michael Wagman, Mr. Daniel Vorhis, Ms. Kate Pacitto, Dr. William Ziegler, and Solicitor Mr. Marc Davis.

Call to Order

Mr. Rabinowitz called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

Executive Session Announcements

Mr. Rabinowitz announced there was an Executive Session held on Friday, March 11, 2016 to discuss personnel evaluations and there will be an Executive Session immediately following the meeting to discuss personnel.

Student Recognition

Mr. Rabinowitz recognized several student college acceptances and significant scholarship awards: Brady Custer, Avery Sicher and Noah Lear.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Report of the Superintendent

Discussion Item:

HS Renovation Update: Jim Hanna from D'Huy Engineering updated the Board on the progress being made in the renovation project. He discussed the work on the old gym space, fields, district office and auditorium. The presentation photos are on the facilities section of the district's website.

Special Education Plan Update: Mrs. Kate Pacitto reviewed the proposed District's special education plan. The Board asked questions and discussed parts of the plan. All districts in Pennsylvania must file a plan with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The plan is available on the pupil services page of the district website for public inspection. The Board must approve the plan and have it submitted by May 1.

District Calendar 2015-2016: Superintendent Feola recommended a modification to the current school year calendar resulting from winter weather closures. Under the recommendation, the Board forgives the 181st day and pushes the last school day back one day to Thursday, June 16. The graduation date would be scheduled for Wednesday, June 15. Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Lopic seconded a motion to amend the 2015-2016 District Calendar as discussed. The Board unanimously approved the motion 7-0.
(Addendum #3/16-8)

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Rossi seconded a motion to approve the Graduation Date of June 15, 2016. The Board unanimously approved the motion 7-0.

HS Class Rank: Superintendent Feola discussed policy language changes regarding how class rank will be reported. The high school would continue to rank students based on academic performance but only report it on the top 25 percent of the class, unless requested a student. Superintendent Feola also discussed the associated administrative regulations. The Board also discussed the way students would be recognized at graduation for their academic performance. The proposed reporting and recognition changes would not impact current seniors. Proposed revisions will be posted before the Board takes action.

Keystone Exams – SB 880: Superintendent Feola discussed recent changes in state law regarding a two year moratorium on the use of Keystone exams as a state graduation requirement. Districts are still obligated to offer interventions for students who do not pass Keystone exams but cannot compel students to do so. Districts can still set local standards for graduation that requires that students demonstrate proficiency by other locally determined means. This was raised for discussion purposes only. No Board action was requested at this time.

Interim Temporary Support for Pupil Services: Superintendent Feola discussed an interim plan for pupil services until the position can be filled. The plan includes expanding by one day per week Dr. Sylvia Cohn who currently serves as a consultant working with the gifted support program and additional support three days per week provided through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The costs incurred with this interim plan will be less than what has been budgeted for the position being covered.

Budget Update: Superintendent Feola and Mr. Nester provided a budget update, both locally and at the state level, and discussed potential cuts from the proposed 2016-2017 school district budget. Mr. Nester also discussed potential budgetary needs with respect to personnel levels and medical and prescription costs. District departments will present their proposed budgets to the Board at the April workshop meeting.

Personnel:

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

1. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

a. Appointments:

1.	Name:	Taylor Tomaselli
	Position:	Substitute Teacher
	Compensation:	\$100.00 per day
	Effective Date:	March 23, 2016

b. Leave of Absence:

1. Name: Diane Manula
Position: Nurse - Middle School
Reason: FMLA
Effective Date: March 16, 2016 - not to exceed twelve weeks

2. SUPPORT STAFF

a. Resignations:

1. Name: Gail Ivins
Position: Attendance Clerk
High School
Effective Date: March 23, 2016

b. Appointments:

1. Name: Julie Bell
Position: Intervention Tutor - Lower Pottsgrove
Reason: Replacing Judy Miller
Compensation: \$21.98 (certified teacher) per hour
5 hours per day - all student days
Effective Date: March 23, 2016
2. Name: Megan Reischel
Position: Intervention Tutor - West Pottsgrove
Reason: Replacing Mary Savarese
Compensation: \$21.98 (certified teacher) per hour
2 hours 20 minutes per day - all student days
Effective Date: March 29, 2016

c. Leave of Absence:

1. Name: Deanna Santangelo
Position: Nurse - Ringing Rocks
Reason: FMLA
Effective Date: March 10, 2016 - not to exceed twelve weeks

3. SUPPLEMENTAL/SPECIAL PAYMENTS

a. Appointments:

Lauren Delp	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04
Erika Alena	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04
Tracy Dise*	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04

Carolyn Kochka	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04
Susan Wolbert*	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04
Sara Beaver	Spring Club Advisor RR	\$595.04
Kristin Hyde	All School Musical - RR	\$238.08
Danette Baum	Study, Make-Up and Remediation Time	\$1904.64 (prorated)

*Denotes non faculty member

The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Business:

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mrs. Custer seconded a motion to nominate Board Member Diane Cherico for the candidacy of MCIU Board of Directors for a 2-year term ending 6/30/18. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Mrs. Cherico moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to authorize the administration to approve an amended Independent Contractor Agreement representing an additional 1 day per week through July 29, 2016 at the same rate of \$80 per hour. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Mrs. Custer moved and Mr. Lopic seconded a motion to authorize the administration to approve an agreement with the MCIU for supervisory support in special education at a per diem rate of \$490 per day to approximately 3 days (or 21 hours) per week. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mrs. Custer seconded a motion to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Wordsworth Academy for one student at an approximate cost of \$27,805.00 for the remainder of the year. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Mrs. Cherico moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with the Vanguard School for ESY services for two students at a cost of \$15,400.00. The Board unanimously approve the motion 8-0.

Mrs. Custer moved and Mr. Parker seconded a motion to approve the submission of PlanCon Part K: Project Refinancing for the Pottsgrove School District General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2016. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Education:

Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Lopic seconded a motion to approve the following conference attendance:

- a. Darrell Weyman, Elementary Music Teacher, to attend Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association Annual State Conference. The cost of the conference is \$610.00. Substitute coverage is required.

- b. David Risko, Maintenance Technician, to attend Recertification Course: Asbestos Worker/Handler. The cost of the course is \$260.00. Substitute coverage is not required.

The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.

Committee Report:

Operations/Facilities Committee: Mr. Rossi moved and Mr. Rabinowitz seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Operations/Facilities Committee meeting held on March 22, 2016. The Board unanimously approved the motion 8-0.
(Addendum #3/16-9)

Policy: The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Alexander reviewed the work of the committee that included the policy governing student representation on the School Board, graduation requirements, as well as a brief review of policies that have already been posted for public review. The volunteer guidelines were also discussed but no specific policy modifications were offered at this meeting. The Board approved revisions to Policy 005 that deals with Board organization and committee structure. Mr. Rabinowitz moved and Mr. Alexander seconded a motion to approve Policy 005. The Board unanimously approve the motion 8-0.

New Business

Mr. Rossi complimented the students who organized and performed a murder mystery at the West End Firehouse.

Mr. Rabinowitz complimented the middle school students and staff for their work on The Little Mermaid. Mrs. Cherico elaborated on the performance, as well as the entire drama program, and the opportunities it provides to so many students.

Mr. Parker complimented Principal Jones and her staff for the way they prioritize student safety at their school.

Mr. Lopic raised an issue concerning the district's policy of not renting out school facilities on Sundays. He inquired about the rationale for the policy. The rationale for the policy and the potential implications of changing it were discussed and Mr. Davis, district solicitor, commented. Mr. Lopic moved and Mr. Leach seconded a motion to allow Premier Dance use our facilities on June 26, 2016. The Board voted 1-7, the motion failed.

Mr. Lopic asked about the strategies used to communicate Board meetings and events to the public.

Mrs. Custer noted an error in the last issue of The Achiever that identified students who have been offered and accepted athletic scholarships for next academic year as 2015 graduates currently competing collegiately, not 2016 graduates.

Adjournment

Mr. Rabinowitz adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Cherico
School Board Secretary