



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held August 27, 2013

Summary of Key Discussion & Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at the Pottsgrove District Office.

During the **Education Report**, the following was presented/discussed:

Staff Development Update – Ms. Feola reported that the administration welcomed staff back on Tuesday, August 20th, and received numerous accolades from staff that this was the most positive opening that they remember in Pottsgrove. Additionally, professional staff participated in three days of staff development that included training for all mathematics teachers K-12 in their new curricula, balanced literacy training for all K-5 teachers, SchoolWires website training for all secondary teachers so that they may get started in establishing a web presence, continued performance assessment training for secondary teachers, as well as training on the New Teacher Effectiveness Project.

Opening of School Update – Ms. Feola reported that the first day of school for students went relatively smoothly with some bus delays within our PGSD system which are typically expected each new school year. She explained that the district has received some complaints with regard to transporting non-public school students. Mr. Nester explained that the district is now utilizing the middle school as a central transfer site. Seven busses collect non-public school students throughout the district. They transfer to the appropriate non-public school bus at the middle school. By completely separating the non-public school runs from the internal District runs, delays in the internal routes will no longer be affected by dismissal delays at non-public schools. Additionally, the change is intended to ensure that non-public school students arrive at their school on-time. He also pointed out that many surrounding Districts have had similar programs in place for years.

No Child Left Behind Waiver Approved - On August 20, 2013, Pennsylvania's No Child Left Behind Waiver was approved by the U.S. Department of Education. This waiver eliminates Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and replaces it with a new accountability system which is reported as a School Performance Profile (SPP). Title I schools will also receive a new designation (priority, focus or reward) and interventions will be provided to "focus" and "priority" schools. The new system focuses on four Annual Measurable Objectives including test participation rate, graduation/attendance rate, closing the achievement gap for all students and closing the achievement gap for historically underperforming students. The profile is expected to become available to school districts in late September, calculated with available 2012-13 data.

In addition to the regular monthly reports and business, the **Board took action on the following**:

1. **District Comprehensive Plan.** Following a twenty-eight day public display period on the district website, the Board approved the Pottsgrove School District Comprehensive Plan for the 2013-2017 school years.
2. **Assistant Superintendent Search.** The Board approved a proposal to contract with the Pennsylvania School Board's Association (PSBA) to conduct a search for an Assistant Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent and one other Director level position, in some combination yet to be determined, will assume the duties of managing curriculum and instruction, managing human resources, and focus on comprehensive planning, monitoring the schools' continuous improvement plans and mentoring principals.
3. **Teacher Effectiveness Project.** The Board revisions to the Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Plan in



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alignment with the recommendations and mandates set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

4. **Special Education Contracts.** Districts are required to provide education to all special education students who reside within their boundaries. The Board approved contracts with several outside agencies to provide educational services for three students from Pottsgrove with significant needs. The cost of these mandated services is approximately \$25,800.
5. **Capital Project Requests.** Preceded by a discussion during a Facilities Committee meeting held on August 13, 2013, the Board gave authorization to utilize capital reserve funds to secure several items and services including a global controller for the HVAC system at Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School at an approximate cost of \$12,590; a commercial washer and dryer at the Pottsgrove High School to launder athletic and music uniforms at a cost of \$12,024.40; a Halo Fogger system to disinfect and sanitize large areas such as locker rooms and the life skills classroom to reduce the spread of germs in the building at a cost of \$4,590; and architectural services with KCBA to design and construct a new secure vestibule at the middle school not to exceed \$12,108.00.
6. **Construction Payments.** The Board authorized payment of invoices for two large projects that took place at the high school over the summer including the payment of \$88,014.65 to B.P. Paterson, Inc. for plumbing services related to a sanitary sewer replacement project and the payment of \$249,803.50 to The Warko Group for replacement of the roof above the gymnasium and auditorium.
7. **School Resource Officer Agreements.** The Board authorized agreements with Upper and Lower Pottsgrove Townships for the services of School Resource Officers in the middle and high schools at a total cost of \$156,993.40 for the 2013-14 school year.

The personnel report included approval of a number of professional and support personnel actions.

In addition to the regular monthly reports and business **the Board discussed the following new business:**

1. **Student Board Representation.** Following discussion, the Board decided to establish the position of Student Board Representative to facilitate communication between the students, especially encouraging the presentation of students' viewpoints and concerns at all Board meetings. The Board Policy Committee was charged with drafting a proposed new Board policy to articulate the purpose, guidelines, selection process, term, succession and responsibilities of the student representative prior to moving forward.

An Executive Session was called prior to the regular meeting for personnel and immediately following the regular board meeting for negotiations.

Upcoming Dates:

- 8/28/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. Grade 3 – Lower
- 8/29/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. Grade 4 – Lower
- 8/30/13 – No School
- 9/02/13 – No School
- 9/03/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. Grade 5 – Lower



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- 9/10/13 – School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – Middle School
- 9/11/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. – Rocks
- 9/12/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. – West
- 9/17/13 – Back to School Night @ 6:30 p.m. – High School
- 9/19/13 – Back to School Night @ 7:00 p.m. – Middle School