



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held December 3, 2013

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its December meeting in addition to the annual reorganization meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at District Office.

During the **Re-Organization Meeting**:

The following New Board members were sworn in:

Matt Alexander, Kelley Crist, Rick Rabinowitz and Diane Cherico.



The following Board members were elected as officers:

Justin Valentine, Board President

David Faulkner, Board Vice-President

Diane Cherico, Board Secretary

Additionally, Matt Alexander filled the seat on the Joint Operating Committee vacated by Mr. Neiffer and Rick Rabinowitz filled the seat on the MCIU vacated by Nancy Landes.

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

High School Physics Program – Dr. Ziegler and Andrew Friedlund (physics instructor) presented information pertaining to the growing physics program at the high school and made a recommendation for some needed instructional materials.

Annual Audit Presentation – Chris Turtell from Herbein & Company, the District's auditors, Presented the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2013. Herbein has issued an unqualified opinion on the District's financial statements and noted no deficiencies in internal controls or compliance with regulations. The Board approved receipt of the audit report.

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

1. **Asbestos Consultant Agreement**: In connection with the renovation project at Pottsgrove High School, the Board authorized the execution of an agreement with JMSI Environmental Corporation for testing services to identify asbestos and lead based paint in the High School and the development of specifications to be incorporated in the bids for the project. The cost for



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held October 8, 2013

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

this service is projected to be \$7,380.00.

2. **Contracted Services:** The Board approved agreements for contracted services for occupational therapy as well as speech and language support services for the 2013-2014 school-year.
3. **Assistant Elementary Principal:** The Board approved Mr. Steven Sieller to serve in the capacity of Assistant Elementary Principal of Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School at a pro-rated annual salary of \$74,000. His start date is to be determined but will not exceed 60 days from December 4, 2013. Mr. Sieller began his career as an English as a Second Language Program Specialist and has spent the last two years working as an Elementary Assistant Principal in the Reading School District.

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

1. **PSERS Reserve:** Mr. Nester presented a revised plan for utilization of the funds set aside to defray the impact of future increases in pension contributions. The Board approved the plan that allows the District to phase in the impact of these rate increases over the next 11 years.
2. **Delinquent Property Tax Collections:** Mr. Nester presented options for the collection of delinquent property taxes. Last year, Montgomery County elected to impose a 5% commission on the collection of property taxes even though the District used another agency (Portnoff Law Associates) to collect these taxes. The Board chose to continue with Portnoff last year and incur approximately \$65,000 in costs related to this commission. Due to recent litigation, Portnoff feels confident that they can now pass on this commission as a cost to the delinquent taxpayer. The Board discussed the pros and cons of this issue and ultimately supported passing this cost on to the delinquent taxpayer.

Board Member David Faulkner presented Dr. Ziegler and Dr. Ramage with a \$4,000 STEM grant sponsored by Bentley Systems, a global engineering firm.

The Board voted to establish a committee to study the merits and drawbacks of the district's current grading scale, as well as alternatives, to determine if changes should be considered.

A parent committee will be formed to work with Mrs. Williams to study the issue surrounding the 5th grade camping trip.

Upcoming Dates:

12/23/13 through 1/1/13 – School Closed

1/14/14 – School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – West Pottsgrove Elementary

1/20/14 – School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/21/14 – District Community Connection Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Ringing Rocks
Cyber Bullying/Bullying/Sexting/Internet Safety

1/28/14 – School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – District Office