



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held January 28, 2014

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at District Office.

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

High School Renovation Financing – A representative from Public Financial Management, the District's financial advisor, presented a financing scenario for the Pottsgrove High School Project for Board consideration. The model calls for bond issues to occur in the current calendar year and each of the next two years and is able to maintain the District's current debt service level. While the ultimate cost of the project is still undetermined, the Board authorized PFM to solicit bids for the initial bond issue of \$15,980,000.

High School Course of Study – Dr. Ziegler spoke on the new courses proposed for the 2014/2015 school year. He emphasized the importance of these courses to increase the level of rigor and to prepare students for college and career. Dr. Ziegler reviewed the recommended changes that included five new AP courses, four new MCCC dual enrollment courses, three new courses in business and computer science, and two new engineering Project Lead The Way courses. Balance was added to the encore courses with additional offerings in Art, FCS, and Music. It was also recommended that the High School add a 1.5 credit Algebra I course to help our student master key mathematical concepts as they prep for the Algebra Keystone exam.

Digital Learning Environment for Pottsgrove – Mr. Wagman, Technology Director, PGMS and PGHS principals and teachers presented Pottsgrove's vision for a Digital Learning Environment (DiLE) for 21st Century classrooms with the goals of increasing student engagement, enhancing instruction and student outcomes, and assuring equity of access to digital learning materials. The presentation identified a key strategy to provide students with mobile computing devices in the secondary schools at the end of the 2014 calendar year. Scenarios for deployment and funding were also presented. The Board endorsed the vision presented and continued work on the development of the Digital Learning Environment and 1:1 Mobile Computing in the District's secondary schools with the understanding that approval to implement is deferred and will be subject to the larger budget deliberations this spring.

Gifted Education Review Services – Mrs. MacLuckie, Supervisor of Special Education, presented the rationale supporting a request for an external review of our gifted support program to furnish the District with recommendations to enhance our service delivery model in order to better support our highest ability students and to assure compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations related to gifted education.

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

Enhanced Video Streaming - The Board approved entering into a contract with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to provide enhanced video streaming capabilities to the District through Discovery Education. The new and expanded content is educationally based and designed to integrate with the Common Core States Standards. The fee for this service will be \$1,370.63 for the remainder of the school year.



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Discovery Education – Professional Development Services – The Board approved entering into an agreement for Professional Services with Discovery Education. This academy will provide practical leadership strategies to support teachers in the implementation of digital literacy instruction and assessment, as well as standards for mathematical practice to prepare all students for college and career. The program will also feature leadership strategies targeting Common Core State Standards instruction and the use of digital resources, tools and processes to implement these shifts in all classrooms, as well as district and school-wide capacity building to implement digital literacy throughout disciplines in all classrooms. The total cost for this academy is \$2,500.00.

New Proposed High School Courses for 2014-2015 – The Board took action to approve the new proposed High School courses for 2014-2015.

Gifted Program Review – After spirited discussion, the Board voted 5-4 to allow the administration to enter into contract with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to facilitate an external review of the District's gifted education program.

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. Board Committees – The new Board Committees will get underway beginning in February. All committee meeting dates and agendas will be posted on the website and are open to the public.

Community Connection Meeting - The second Community Connection Meeting for the 2013-14 school year was cancelled on January 21, 2014 due to weather conditions and the closing of school. We are currently looking in to rescheduling this event.

Upcoming Dates:

02/11/14 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – Middle School

02/14/14 – Staff Day – No Students

02/17/14 – Presidents' Day – No School

02/25/14 – School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. – District Office