



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held October 14, 2014

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School.

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

The Pottsgrove School District follows a balanced literacy approach for teaching students about speaking, listening, reading, and writing. One component of this approach is guided reading. This component engages small groups of students, under the facilitation of the teacher, in learning about decoding and comprehension strategies that will improve fluency. Each group of students utilize leveled texts which match each student's instructional level. As a result, students are presented with texts that are challenging, but not so challenging as to cause frustration. In reading each text, students learn, practice, and independently apply specific strategies that will help each student create greater meaning in reading. As an example, Mrs. Brenda Novak, a fifth grade teacher at Lower Pottsgrove, opened her classroom so that a greater understanding of guided reading can occur. Within the video, a guided reading lesson will be presented. In addition, examples of the centers that other students participate in while Mrs. Novak meets with guided reading groups are represented. These other centers offer learning and practice of essential English and Language Arts skills and concepts that also enhance student-reading behaviors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comment

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

1. The Board approved all professional and support staff items as presented in the agenda.
2. The Board approved all student teacher assignments as presented in the agenda.
3. The Board approved Supplemental/Special Payments as presented in the agenda.
4. The Board approved the Fifth Grade Trip Advisor and Robotics Team Advisor Supplemental job descriptions as presented.
5. The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Pottsgrove Education Association, PSEA-NEA regarding proposed changes to the Supplemental/Special Payment sections of the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.
6. The Board authorized administration to enter into agreement with Foundations for Autistic students at a per diem rate of \$263.
7. The Board authorized administration to enter into agreement with Foundations at a per diem rate of \$186.
8. The Board approved change order EC-001 for the installation of the proper panic hardware for the Pottsgrove Middle School Secure Vestibule Project in the amount of \$4,740.
9. The Board approved payment of the Pottsgrove Middle School Secure Vestibule project as presented
10. The Board approved the payment of the High School Renovation Project invoices as presented.
11. The Board approved several employees to attend conferences as presented in the agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fund Balance Planning – Mr. Nester discussed the fund balance from the 2013-2014 school year and recommended committing these dollars into the capital reserve fund. Mr. Rabinowitz read a prepared statement on the issue proposing a moratorium on capital projects that don't meet a very strict criterion, a reversal of recent capital expenditure approvals, and motioned to keep the surplus funds in the general fund. The Board discussed the issue at depth including potential impact to the District's bond rating and ability to meet future expenses including pension funding and future building maintenance needs. They also discussed the need to restrain future tax increases. The Board requested additional information and chose to defer making a decision on the commitment of surplus funds. Mr. Nester requested that \$275,000 be diverted to the PSERS reserve to stay on the schedule established to defray the impact of future increases in retirement expenses on the District's operating budget. The Board approved the recommendation.

District-Provided Off-site Internet Access – Mr. Wagman presented for discussion purposes a technology to provide Internet access for students' home use on an as needed basis by purchasing or leasing portable access devices using proceeds generated through the sale of retired technology designated for removal from district inventory.

High School Renovation- Two Points of Discussion

1. **High School Tunnel Demolition** - The plumbing contractor brought to the attention of district officials that there are a number of abandoned electrical conduits and pipe hangers remaining in a tunnel left over from previous renovation projects. These items create



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a conflict with the installation of new plumbing that needs to be installed as well as a safety concern of the workers installing the new plumbing. The Board was presented with a change order proposal for the demolition and removal of these items. The low proposal from Sargent Enterprise, not to exceed \$12,000, was recommended to the Board for approval. The Board approved the recommendation.

2. Weight Room Roof Deck - During design development it was discovered that the roof deck of the auxiliary gym (new weight room) was originally constructed with wood decking. Current construction codes prohibit the use of wood for this application and it was decided to completely demolish the roof deck and replace it with an approved metal deck. The construction documents failed to include the metal deck as part of the roof replacement. KCBA, the District's architectural firm, is working with the General Contractor on a change order proposal for this cost to include the metal decking. Jim Keiffer from KCBA discussed this omission with the Board.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Ms. Klaus reported that she surveyed 11th and 12th grade students on a variety of policy issues and received feedback in the form of questions regarding the upcoming 1:1 initiative, the desire for a volleyball team, an expression of appreciation for the district's support for the extracurricular activities and concerns regarding the dress code and its enforcement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Policy Committee asked for acceptance of the minutes from their last meeting on September 23rd, The Academic Affairs Committee asked for acceptance of the minutes from their last meeting on October 7th and the Co-Curricular Activities meeting asked for acceptance of the minutes from their last meeting on October 7th. The Board accepted the minutes for all committees.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rabinowitz commended Ms. Geist for seeking crowd source funding for a special science project for her classroom. Mr. Valentine commended Senior Bernard Steyaert for being selected for the United States Army All American Band.

UPCOMING DATES:

10/16/14 - ELA Parent Night @ 6:30 - West Pottsgrove Elementary
10/21/14 - ELA Parent Night @ 6:30 - Ringing Rocks Elementary
10/21/14 - District Communication & Technology Committee @ 6:30 - District Office
10/22/14 - Act 80 day, 2 hour early dismissal
10/23/14 - WMCTC Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., walk ins welcome!
10/23/14 - ELA Parent Night @ 6:30 - Lower Pottsgrove Elementary
10/24/14 - Senior Night/Pink Out @ 7:00 - Pennypacker Field
10/27/14 - 1:1 Parent Meeting & Resources on Drug Awareness for Parents @ 7:00 @ High School
10/28/14 - Policy Committee Meeting @ 6:30 - District Office
10/28/14 - Board Work Session @ 7:30 - District Office
10/29/14 - 1:1 Parent Meeting & Resources on Drug Awareness for Parents @ 7:00 @ High School
10/30/14 - 1:1 Parent Mtg & Cyber-Bullying/Bulling/Sexting/Internet Safety @ 6:30 @ Middle School

View the Comprehensive Calendar of District events at <http://www.pgsd.org/Page/2>

Visit the Board website at <http://www.pgsd.org/board>

For Renovation information, visit <http://www.pgsd.org/facilities>

Board meetings are now recorded for viewing on PCTV twice weekly, Wed., at 6:30 PM, Sun., at 6:00 PM and on demand from the District website.