



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held April 28, 2015

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at the District Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Students, alumni and a member of the community expressed their concerns regarding proposed staff reductions arts and business.
- One resident spoke about recent Board conduct and pattern of decision-making, as well as recent article in the Mercury regarding back taxes and fees owed by some members of the Board and Board candidates.
- One resident and candidate spoke in defense of her running mates named in the recent article.
- Superintendent Feola responded to concerns expressed during public comments regarding proposed staffing reductions.
- Mr. Valentine appealed for direct discussion of the issues and asked the community to come together on behalf of the students.

Mr. Valentine announced two executive sessions, one held prior to the meeting and the other scheduled for after the meeting. In addition to the regular monthly reports and business, **the Board took action on the following:**

1. The Board approved all personnel items as presented in the agenda.
2. The Board approved the conference attendance as presented.
3. The Board approved the adoption of findings of fact and conclusion of law in the matter of Students ID's 301092, 302650, 302648 and 302649 as contained in the appointed hearing officer's proposed adjudication as presented.
4. The Board approved the adoption of findings of fact and conclusions of law in the matter of students ID's #302571 and 302572 as contained in the appointed hearing officer's proposed adjudication as presented.
5. The Board approved the adoption of findings of fact and conclusions of law in the matter of students ID's 302574, 292089, 301560 as contained in the appointed hearing officer's proposed adjudication as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Superintendent Feola discussed the recent Key Communicators meeting that was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Present were three Board members Mrs. Cherico, Mrs. Grimm, Mr. Alexander with nearly twenty total participants. The Key Communicators participated in a budget development simulation that included activities that had participants in small teams recommend cuts from many options to close a budget gap, explain the rationale, and compare recommendations.

Superintendent Feola reported on a student "Town Hall" meeting was held with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent on Monday, April 27, 2015. The students were provided information about how course requests and staff levels are determined. Superintendent Feola commented on how articulate and reflective the student participants were.

A High School Leadership Team meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. The current state of the budget was discussed. Superintendent Feola and Dr. Shirk attended. The High School Leadership Team is comprised of department coordinators.

Superintendent Feola had the opportunity to meet with State Representative Marcy Toepel of the 127th Legislative District and five other superintendents. Representative Toepel is anticipating a long summer with no budget until at least October. Senate and House are very far apart.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

In addition to the renovation update, the Board took action on the following items:

The Board authorized the Superintendent to change orders or adjustments in work or a "not to exceed" amount of \$25,000.



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The Board approved change orders to all prime contractors for modifications to phasing plan for the High School Renovation project as presented.

The Board approved change order to the General Contractor authorizing them to perform repair work as needed on designated fire walls to meet current building codes as presented.

The Board approved change order to the General Contractor for the relocation of the underground utilities in the cafeteria area as presented.

The Board approved a change order to the General Contractor for the installation of tapered insulation in the roof over the boiler room and cafeteria serving area as presented.

The Board approved change orders to the General Contractor for the installation of two new school flasher signs along Kauffman Road as presented.

The Board approved change orders to the General Contractor for the installation of bottom-up shade motors as presented.

The Board approved credit change order to the Mechanical Contractor as presented.

The Facility Department received a copy of an evaluation report provided by our PASBO contracted interim Facilities Director. Mr. Cardwell will be using it as part of his continuous improvement plan for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Nester presented a brief overview of the results from the solicited proposals for food service management companies as required to occur every five years.

Prior to transitioning to the next committee report, Mr. Rabinowitz raised the issue of the duration and lack of interaction in the new workshop (second monthly meeting) format. Discussion commenced A committee will be formed to determine a better format for implementation in the new school year.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Daniel Vorhis, Director of Education and Dr. Maura Roberts, Director of Pupil Services presented on the topic of Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MRSS). MTSS is a process through which increasing levels of support are provided for students. In Pennsylvania, this process has been known as Response to Instruction and Intervention, or RtII, and has identified three tiers. The first tier provides the approved curriculum, materials, and experiences for all students. Since all students learn at different rates, it is realized that some students will need additional learning time, interventions, and/or supports to reach success. As a result, tier two provides students with additional explicit instruction to assist them in learning. Finally, tier three is the most intensive tier and provides more learning opportunities, sometimes with a different program that better suits students' needs. In short, the goal is to ensure that all students have what they need in order to be successful. Student needs may include intervention, remediation, enrichment, or simply additional learning opportunities.

Dr. Roberts and Mr. Vorhis have met multiple times with building principals to establish current practice, identify generalizations, and craft recommendations for future practice. This work will fully delineate district Goal # 3 for the 2015-2016 school year: *Establish a district system that fully ensures students who are academically at risk are identified early and are supported by a process that provides interventions based upon student needs and includes procedures for monitoring effectiveness.*

POLICY COMMITTEE

Graduation Policy #217: This policy has been available for review on the website. Administration is recommending the addition of a paragraph about cyber courses and how they are used with regard to awarding credit towards graduation and class rank.

Virtual Education Online Learning Policy #141 was deferred at the request of the administration pending further study.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board will need to adopt a Proposed Final Budget at our meeting on May 12, 2015. Mr. Nester recommended that we adopt a budget with an increase of 2.4% and continue to discuss budget reduction ideas as we work toward a final budget adoption. Mr. Nester spoke about offsetting some of the cost budgeted for a necessary upgrade to business software next school year by using some funds budgeted this year for annual support of the software that has not yet been expended.

The Board considered two taxpayers requests that the District waive the 10% penalty charged for paying after October, as well as the fees charged by Portnoff for the collection of these taxes. Discussion commenced. Motion to grant the request was tabled pending further investigation.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed the Western Center's upcoming budget vote. Pottsgrove has three seats on the Western Center's Joint Operating Committee.

Mrs. Grimm reminded the Board and community about the car show at the Western Center this Saturday.

Mrs. Grimm complimented the High School S PTSA about their work including the post-prom. Mrs. Grimm also spoke about "Rachel's Challenge" and expressed her appreciation of the PTSA for its sponsorship.

Mr. Rossi responded to the recent report in the Mercury about past due local township fees and spoke of the personal distress the report caused his family. Further, Mr. Rossi stated emphatically that he would remain in the election.

Mr. Gallion reminded the Board and community about the upcoming spring concert season and Spring Fling.

Upcoming Events:

- 5/1/15 - RR Field Day
- 5/1/15 - LPES Art Show and Spring Fling
- 5/2/15 - Western Center Car Cruise & Community Day 8AM - 3PM
- 5/5/15 - HS Honor Roll Reception
- 5/5/15 - MS & HS Spring Orchestra Concert at 7:30 PM
- 5/6/15 - 2 Hour Early Release, Act 80 Day
- 5/7/15 - HS Art Show
- 5/7/15 - HS Spring Band Concert at 7:30 PM
- 5/9/15 - WPG Emergency Service
- 5/11/15 - WPG Grandparents Day
- 5/11/15 - Elementary Orchestra Concert @ MS at 7:30 PM
- 5/12/15 - Technology Expo @ HS at 6:00 PM
- 5/12/15 - Board Meeting @ High School at 7:30 PM

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

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

For Renovation information, visit <http://www.pgisd.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.