



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held August 25, 2015
Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at District Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A Pottsgrove High School student addressed the Board regarding concerns about the High School opening on time, the potential impact of a late opening on students taking Advanced Placement courses, and student safety. Board President Valentine thanked the student for attending, bringing these concerns to the Board, and indicated that these issues would be addressed during the meeting.

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

The Board approved all personnel items which includes the approval of the revised Non-Union Employee Compensation and Benefits Plan, the revised salary for the Accounts Payable/Purchasing Specialist and the revised job descriptions as presented.

The Board approved the waiver of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for a student attending Elwyn, an approved private school, as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Board had an extensive discussion of the portion of Act 151 requiring volunteers in the school district to undergo TB testing. The administration discussed its research and findings relative to compliance with the Act. The Board expressed concerns that compliance as currently practiced would have a devastating effect on volunteerism in the community and imposed an unfair burden on those parents and community members unable to afford the associated cost. The Board also discussed the minimal TB risk and various interpretations of this portion of Act 151. The Board voted to waive the requirement in Pottsgrove and refer the matter to the Policy Committee for further study and formulation of a new policy associated with compliance with this portion of the Act.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. James Hanna of D'Huey Engineering discussed progress on the High School Renovations (slides available on the District website <http://www.pgsd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=4028>). Extensive discussion commenced on prospects of building readiness and ample time for teacher setup with the September 8 opening date. Superintendent Feola indicated that a decision would be made and communicated to District families on or about Wednesday, September 2 regarding an on-time opening. IF a delay were deemed necessary, it would only affect the high school. Other schools would still open on time. The Board voted to forgive the 181st day in the calendar for the high school and up to two additional days at a cost of \$6,000 per day in lost state subsidy, should a delay be needed, as the District calendar significantly exceeds Pennsylvania's required annual hours of instruction for secondary schools even with a 178 day school year. The District remains optimistic as significant progress has been made towards an on-time opening but necessary setup time for district staff remains a concern. Again, parents can expect a communication on or about next Wednesday with an update and additional details.

Mr. Jeffrey Cardwell, Director of Facilities, reported on the progress of mold remediation on the roof deck of the Ringing Rocks gym. The roof membrane has been inspected and is deemed sound and properly installed. No other mold was found. Mold is being removed professionally and the entire roof deck is being treated with an antimicrobial paint. Higher humidity at the roof deck level was noted and being addressed but no confirmation on the root cause. That continues to be investigated. The total cost of the mold removal and antimicrobial paint application is \$18,742.86, less than half of the original estimated cost.

Mr. David Nester, Business Manager, presented a Facilities Request from the American Cancer Society for use of the stadium next June 3- 5, 2016 for the Annual Relay for Life. The Board approved the request.



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CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Daniel Vorhis, Director of Education and Assessment, presented the preliminary findings from the 2015 administration of the PSSA, Keystone, and Advanced Placement exams. The presentation, available on the website (<http://www.pgsd.org/Page/277>), consisted of three parts: Historical look at the transition to the PA Core and new PSSA, the 2015 scores, and plans of action to address areas of concern and improve student performance. Discussion commenced regarding the curricula in use in the District and their alignment to PA Core.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Grimm noted the start of the fall sports season and wished all Pottsgrove athletes success in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Rabinowitz introduced a concept from a nearby district that provides an opportunity for senior citizens to volunteer in the school district in exchange for some degree of property tax relief. Mr. Nester noted that Pottsgrove did have a similar program that ended around 2003 due to lack of participation. He also noted that there are employment and tax laws that must be considered. Both Mr. Nester and Mr. Rabinowitz agreed that it is still an idea worthy of further investigation.

UPCOMING DATES:

8/26/15 – 9th Grade Orientation @ MS Auditorium 9:00 – 10:00 AM
8/27/15 – Ringing Rocks Elementary Open House 1:00 – 4:00 PM
8/27/15 – West Pottsgrove Elementary Open House 1:00 – 4:00 PM
8/29/15 – West Pottsgrove Elementary PTA Kindergarten Picnic 11:00 – 1:00 PM
8/31/15 – 9th Grade Orientation @ MS Auditorium 9:00 – 10:00 AM
8/31/15 – Ringing Rocks Elementary Kindergarten Orientation
8/31/15 – West Pottsgrove Elementary Kindergarten Orientation
9/1/15 – 6th Grade Welcome Night 4:00 – 7:00 PM
9/1/15 – 9/4/15 Staff Development Days
9/7/15 – District Closed (Labor Day)
9/8/15 – First Student Day
9/8/15 – Middle School PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
9/8/15 – School Board Meeting @ PGMS 7:30 PM

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.