



# POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held January 12, 2016

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at West Pottsgrove Elementary.

During the **Presentations/Recognition/Awards** report: Ms. Feola thanked the Board members for their service, as January is Board Appreciation Month. The Board was presented with letters written by West Pottsgrove students.

Ms. Feola thanked Judy Miller, Jim Polli, Eileen Forsyth and Eileen Edling for their many years of service at Pottsgrove and wished them a wonderful retirement.

Dr. William Ziegler presented certificates for the National AP District Honor Roll, a first time ever for Pottsgrove, to teachers: Alison Federoff, John Hughes, James Huie, Joshua Lindy, Larry Rehtin, Todd Kelly, Glenn Adams, Thomas Banniser, Gwen Gundrum, Daniel Kratz, Joanna Hayden, Antonio Montes, Jaime Reinhart, Cindy Scherer and Margaret Scott.

The 2015 AP Student Scholars were: (2015 Graduates) Andrew Bayless, Vincent Bruno, Samantha Goins, Hailey Jabocs, Tyesha Lewis, David Macartney, Michaela Pahowka and (Current Students) Alexandra Gallion, Kevin Gulick and Kyle Leach. Earning AP Scholars with Honors: (2015 Graduates): Andrew Heuer, Andrew Phillips, Cassandra Shields, Kristi Shultz (Current Students) Matthew Harp, Robert Poston and Avery Sicher. AP Scholar with Distinction certificates went to (2015 Graduates): Joseph Buchler, Chloe Klaus and (Current Students) Elizabeth Driehaus, Austin Leach and Eric Maynard. AP National Scholar went to 2015 Graduate Kyle Reed. Congratulations to all!

Mrs. Terri Koehler presented a certificate and grant check to Ayanna Mitchell for the Summer of Creativity Grant from Youth Service America. Ayanna Mitchell is a MS Student that West Pottsgrove Elementary sponsored for a grant to run a reading program in her neighborhood.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** A resident addressed the Board regarding the way her property tax payment was handled by the tax collector.

## STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATION

Dominique Johnson wrote and reported the following for each of the schools:

Last week, West Pottsgrove Elementary was getting back into the swing of things after the holiday break with refresher lessons on the school-wide behavior expectations as reminders for the children at the mid-year point. Second grade students are working on writing their informational lab reports. We will also be learning more about Martin Luther King Jr. as we prepare to celebrate his birthday.

Last week, Ringling Rocks Elementary introduced the Book of the Month for January. This month our Falcon Five focus is RESPECT and we are reading Everyone Matters to teach ways we can practice respect in our daily lives. Each student will take the book home to share with his/her family throughout the month of January. This week we will continue to reteach our SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behavior System) expectations as part of our mid-year refresher.

Lower Pottsgrove Elementary was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2015 Lifetouch Yearbook Showcase Contest. (This achievement was covered by the Pottstown Mercury) Student leaders did an amazing job creating Falcon 4 videos and participating in whole group discussions about building wide expectations. (These videos will be posted on Vimeo.)

Last week, Pottsgrove Middle School returned to their regular routines and took time to remind students and staff about our Falcon Four principles. They are building a learning community that is Safe, Positive, Respectful, and Responsible. The PTA Winter Dance will be Friday January 15th from 7:30-9:30 PM.



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At Pottsgrove High School last week, Wrestling participated in the Border Battle – a new tradition with Pottstown HS where our students compete in a PAC 10 Wrestling match that exhibits community and sportsmanship. The Biology Club is hosting a Coffee House this Friday for students to perform musically in front of their peers and the community. The Marching Band returned from performing in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. While there, they scored several top level finishes in various competitions.

This week the Winter Algebra Keystone exams will be administered on Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a two-hour delay for students not taking the test. Western Center and ROTC students should report at regular time.

The Western Center is hosting a *Mani-Thon* as part of the Cosmetology program.

Students are preparing for the upcoming Mid-Term Exams and Color Day activities!

This past week I met with Mr. Derenzo and Mrs. Custer to discuss ways to further involve myself with the students and the board. We have already set up an email for myself for students to email me with any questions, so I have them in one place and can answer them as soon as I find out the answer to any questions they have. We set up a date to meet with the Pottstown School District student representatives to talk about their experiences and get more ideas about bettering the student representative's role now and for the future.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jamie Doyle from PFM reported by phone on bond sale results that went better than anticipated due to Pottsgrove's AA credit rating from Standard & Poors. The District will re-finance some existing bonds at more favorable rates and issue new \$7,465,000 in new bonds at 1.93% to complete the high school renovation project. The net savings to the school district on the re-issued bonds would be \$65,000 over a 6-year term.

Superintendent Feola reported on potential changes in the high school transcripts. At issue is what will be reported for students who have been evaluated under both the old 7-point grade scale and the new 10-point scale and what changes to the current practice of recognizing high academic performance the high school may want to make moving forward. After lengthy discussion, the Board referred the matter to the Academic Affairs Committee for further study. The PowerPoint presentation is available online at <http://www.pgsd.org/cms/lib07/PA01916597/Centricity/Domain/19/Transcripts.pdf>

Principal Ziegler presented new high school course proposals for the 2016-2017 school year. The Board discussed each course proposed. The PowerPoint presentation is available online at <http://www.pgsd.org/cms/lib07/PA01916597/Centricity/Domain/19/16-17 Course Pro Board Pres.pdf>

Mr. Nester's presentation of the preliminary budget for the 2016-2017 school year was deferred due to time and because no specific Board action was required at this time.

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

The Board discussed and approved all personnel items as presented.

The Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement with River Rock Academy for one student for the remainder of the School year as presented.

The Board authorized administration to enter into agreement with Woods, Services for one student for the remainder of the school year as presented.



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The Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement with US Medical Staffing, Inc. for contracted services on an “as needed” basis as presented.

The Board authorized administration to enter into a Demand Response Agreement with ENERNOC as presented.

The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of our 2016 and 2016A Bonds as presented.

The Board authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 2148 E. High Street in Lower Pottsgrove Township as presented.

The Board approved the budget transfers for December 2015 as presented.

The Board approved the payment of the Pottsgrove High School Renovation Project invoices as presented.

The Board approved the conference attendance as presented.

The Board approved the mentors for new teachers as presented.

The Board approved overnight trip to Wallops Island, VA and an international trip to Italy as presented.

The Board approved the HS Course Proposals for 2016-2017 as presented.

Mr. Rabinowitz made the following Board Committee Appointments (pending Board Amendment of Policy 005)

**Curriculum/Technology/Student Affairs** - Al Leach (Chair), Jim Lopic (Chair), Rick Rabinowitz, and Diane Cherico

**Operations/Facilities** - John Rossi (Chair), Bill Parker and Ashley Custer

**Policy** Committee to also oversee Transportation - Matt Alexander (Chair), Bill Parker and Rick Rabinowitz

**Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities** - Matt Alexander (Chair), Al Leach, and Patti Grimm

**Personnel** - Rick Rabinowitz (Chair), Al Leach, Ashley Custer and Matt Alexander

**Negotiations** - Assigned as needed

**Finance:** - Board of the Whole

The Board approved Mr. Rabinowitz as the MCIU Legislative Liaison.

The Board approved Mrs. Diane Cherico as the MCIU Board of Director position replacing Mr. Rabinowitz for the term ending June 30 2018.

Mr. Rabinowitz appointed Mrs. Patti Grimm as the Recreation Board representative.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rabinowitz raised the topic of transitioning to electronic Board minutes, documents and informational packets using a product called Board Docs. The administration will gather the necessary information for the Board to consider this change in an upcoming meeting.



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Mr. Parker raised several issues including the scheduling of Board visits to classrooms. Ms. Feola replied that these were being set up. Mr. Parker was also interested in the administration's ability to conduct anonymous surveys of faculty to solicit feedback from faculty. Ms. Feola indicated that we do have that ability and we do use a survey tool, particularly after professional development days. Mr. Parker also requested a change in the process for discussing the budget and setting parameters for administration earlier in the process. Lastly, Mr. Parker asked for an update on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Gifted Program Review. Ms. Feola responded that these recommendations have been prioritized in our District's annual goals and Pupil Services Director Roberts will be updating the Board at a future meeting.

## UPCOMING DATES:

1/13/16 - LPE PTA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

1/13/16 - HS Booster Club Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. - High School

1/14/16 - WPE PTA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

1/15/16 - RR PTA Family Fun Night @ 6:0 p.m.

1/18/16 – Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday - District Closed, No School

1/19/16 - Curriculum/Technology/Student Affairs Committee Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. - District Office

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.