



## POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held December 1, 2015  
Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its yearly Re-Organization meeting and twice monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the High School.

During the Re-Organization Meeting, the following new board members were sworn in to a 4 year term: Al Leach, Jim Lopic, Ashley Custer and Bill Parker. Patti Grimm and John Rossi were also sworn in, being re-elected to a 4 and 2-year term, respectively. The following were elected as officers:

Board President: Rick Rabinowitz

Board Vice-President: Matt Alexander

Board Representative to the Western Center Joint Operating Committee: John Rossi

The meeting was adjourned and the regular business meeting commenced.

During the **Presentations/Recognition/Awards** report: High School Librarian Dani Small presented the Maker Space concept in the new high school library.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Pottstown Relay for Life Chair Jennifer Drago presented Pottsgrove with a banner for the many years of support and helping the community.

Student Eric Maynard addressed the Board about the high school robotics team anticipated funding needs.

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

- The Board approved all personnel items as presented.
- The Board approved the recommendation to allow Mr. Nester to pay bills for the month of December 2015.
- The Board approved administration to enter into an agreement with the Berks County IU for speech and language services for one student as presented.
- The Board approved administration to enter into an agreement with the Montgomery County IU for E-Rate consulting services as presented.
- The Board approved budget transfers for November 2015 as presented.
- The Board approved conference attendance as presented.
- The Board approved a new teacher mentor assignment as presented.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Chris Turrell from Herbin & Company presented the 2014 - 2015 school district audit report. The Board voted to accept the report.

Mr. John Frye from Public Financial Management, Inc. (PFM) presented the final phase of borrowing for the Pottsgrove HS renovation. After lengthy discussion, the Board authorized the administration to proceed with this phase.

Business Administrator Nester presented the 2016 - 2017 budget development timeline. The Board voted to commit to staying within the Act 1 index (not to exceed the allowable 3.1 percent tax increase) in the formulation of the 2016 – 2017 budget.



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Mr. Jeff Cardwell, Director of Facilities, provided an update on the HVAC evaluation at Ringing Rocks Elementary. Discussion ensued on a recommendation for engineering services. The Board approved the recommendation.

## COMMITTEE ITEMS

**Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Committee** accepted the minutes from the 11-16-15 meeting.

## STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATION

Dominique Johnson reported the following for each of the schools:

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, **West Pottsgrove Elementary** will hold their First Trimester Good Citizen Luncheon sponsored by the PTA. Two students from each class are selected as good citizens by their teachers and honored at the luncheon. The annual holiday sing along is scheduled for December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30. The annual food drive prior to Thanksgiving for foods items was a big success and the items were then shared with families in need. The staff will also be sponsoring the annual Angel Tree to support some of our families for the holidays. The West End Fire Company is partnering with West in this endeavor this year.

**Ringing Rocks Elementary** is planning for its large "Polar Express" event sponsored by the PTA, as well as a family holiday sing-along.

The **Lower Pottsgrove Elementary** Student Leadership Team is planning the following service events: Pajama donations to support the Plaid Pajama Project, which helps local families receive new pajamas at the holidays and a food drive to collect items for Operation Backpack, which helps to provide weekend meals for local children.

**Pottsgrove Middle School** celebrated the fall sports teams before Thanksgiving break with an award assembly. The school is excited that the holiday concerts are about to begin.

At **Pottsgrove High School**, the cast of the Fabulous Fable Factory will be visiting Lower and West Pottsgrove Elementary Schools to share the musical with students. The high school is beginning to prepare for Keystone Exams which begin next week with literature exams on Tuesday, 12/8 and Wednesday, 12/9.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rabinowitz discussed his very positive experience on the MCIU Board and asked for a volunteer to consider replacing him at the MCIU. Added responsibilities in the new role of PGSD board president necessitated the request.

Mr. Leach raised concern about the reduction of world language offerings from 3 to 2. He presented information about language offerings in districts in the county and neighboring districts in bordering counties. Discussion ensued on this topic.

Mrs. Grimm reported that the Western Center would host their annual open house on Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Rossi expressed concern about lack of lighting near the snack bar at the stadium.

Mr. Parker expressed concern about the culture of district spending and requested discussion about justification for expenditures approved by principals and directors. Discussion ensued regarding how items of concern from individual board members become agenda items.



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Mr. Parker requested a report from Assistant Superintendent Shirk on exit interviews with staff and families who leave for charter schools. Superintendent Feola indicated that these issues were addressed with the prior Board and this information would be part of the new board member binders. Additional discussion took place about how data might be shared with the Board.

Mrs. Custer raised a concern about the possibility of a trip to Italy assumed to be on the agenda. Superintendent Feola explained that the proposal is not complete and therefore was not presented to the Board.

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

- 12/2/15 - MS/HS Winter Orchestra Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 12/3/15 – West Pottsgrove Elementary Holiday Shoppe Fun Night @ 6:30 p.m.
- 12/4/15 – Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Book Fair & Holiday workshop @ 5:30 p.m.
- 12/10/15 -Lower Pottsgrove Elem Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 12/11/15 - Middle School Band & Handbell Choir Winter Holiday Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 12/14/15 - Lower Pottsgrove Elem Adv Band & Adv Orchestra Holiday Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 12/16/15 - High School Winter Band Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - High School
- 12/17/15 - Middle School Choral Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 12/18/15 – Ringing Rocks Elementary Family Fun Night @ 6:00 p.m.
- 12/22/15 - High School Choir Winter Concert @ 7:30 p.m. - High School
- 12/24/15 – 1/3/16 District Closed, No 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.