



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held February 17, 2016

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice-monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Pottsgrove Middle School.

During the **Presentations/Recognition/Awards** report: Ms. Feola, Mr. Rabinowitz, and Mrs. Grimm presented certificates to the members of the Boys Soccer Team for their successful season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments

Mr. Rabinowitz announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting and will be meeting again after the meeting for matters related to personnel and employee negotiations.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATION – Dominique Johnson reported the following for each of the schools:

West Pottsgrove Elementary children learned about Groundhog Day. They made predictions on if he would see his shadow or not. They also worked through the mid year testing in reading. The PTA is sponsored a bowling event at Limerick Bowl. Last week they are celebrating Valentine's Day by exchanging Valentines with classmates and will be gearing up to celebrate the 100th Day of school on February 18, with many fun activities around the number 100.

Ringin' Rocks Elementary kicked off the new Book of the Month as they focus on the importance of FAIRNESS. They are middle of conducting reading benchmark assessments and the reading specialists are pleased with the preliminary results. Students enjoyed learning about Ground Hog's Day with a variety of engaging activities. Over the next few weeks, they will continue to learn about American presidents, dental health, and Black History. They are looking forward to the 100th day of school as teachers use this special day to reinforce mathematical concepts in creative and meaningful ways for students.

On January 27th and 28th, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary hosted friends and families for the Beginning Band and Orchestra Concerts. The students worked very hard to prepare and they were well-attended. Lower Pottsgrove students brought their "someone special" to dances on January 29th and 30th. Boys had their event on Friday and girls on Saturday. Students danced, played games and had fun with their loved ones. On Saturday, February 6th, the elementary PTAs sponsored the 2nd annual Bowling Bash. Fifth grade student leaders are looking forward to having spring spirit days.

Pottsgrove Middle School was voting for Super Bowl favorites through exercises and the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Students had the option each morning to cast their vote and the tally based on the daily exercise. Additionally, Student Government hosted the annual King and Queen of Heart Dance which is always a well-attended event with lots of school spirit! Students began winter intramurals and revisited the School-wide Positive Behavior lessons using the Falcon Four principles to create a Safe, Positive, Respectful and Responsible learning community.

At the High School last week, students finished up mid-term exams and started the third marking period. The AP/STEAM/Dual Enrollment night took place earlier this month and course selection has started for next school year. The SAT Bootcamp is coming to PGHS on February 27 & 28 from 9a.m. -1 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

HS Renovations, Phase Change Recommendation: Ms. Feola discussed a recommendation to change the phasing of some segments of the high school renovation to reduce the amount of remaining work to be completed this summer. These changes would not impact student instruction, as they include the HS auditorium and district office. The Board also discussed the current status of the project. Mr. Cardwell addressed some of concerns, specifically related to roofing. The Board approved the change



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orders altering the phasing. There is no additional cost associated with the change order.

Gifted Education Concerns and Recommendations: Tabled for this evening.

Budget Update: Mr. Nester briefed the Board on the current state of the Pennsylvania budget and its impact on Pottsgrove School District. If no movement is made on the 2015-2016 budget, it could cost Pottsgrove approximately 5.4 million dollars this fiscal year. Mr. Rabinowitz urged voters to make informed decisions in November. Mr. Nester went on to explain the district budget process and projections for next school year, as required under the timeline outlined in Pennsylvania law. The Board discussed a number of budget scenarios and the Board directed the administration to provide preliminary budgets showing a 2 (currently on the table for consideration), 1 and 0 percent tax increase for the Board to review.

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

1. The Board discussed and approved all personnel items as presented.
2. The Board discussed and approved budget transfers for January 2016.
3. The Board authorized administration to enter into agreement with Woods, Services for a one-on-one aide for a student as presented.
4. The Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement with Eric Ryan Corporation for a utility bill audit, subject to solicitor review.
5. The Board awarded the wireless access points bid to PC Mall Government, the lowest responsible bidder, as presented, allowing the school district to continue to the next phase of the e-rate process.
6. The Board authorized administration to contract for a maximum of an additional 200 hours for record purging as presented.
7. The Board authorized the purchase of IEP Writer and the PA Web-based 504 modules from Leader Services for the Pupil Services department as presented.
8. The Board authorized administration to execute Change Order Request GC-095 for a water line as presented.
9. The Board approved the payment of the Pottsgrove High School Renovation Project invoices as presented.
10. The Board approved the conference attendance as presented.

Committee Update: Policy Committee minutes were accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rabinowitz reviewed an issue related to a taxpayer request to rescind a fine for late payment. The Board discussed the details and circumstances associated with this request and voted to rescind the fine.

Ms. Feola briefly discussed the Remind app to improve communication with the Board.

Mrs. Grimm commended high school staff and administration for the AP/Dual Enrollment/STEAM Night event.

Mr. Parker complimented Dr. Ziegler, Mrs. Ebert, the School Resource Officer, Mrs. Ivins, and others for the way they welcomed a new family to the high school.

Mrs. Custer addressed the Board about funding options for PGHS student looking at a unique learning opportunity.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Parker suggested sharing a staff member between school districts to fund a world language teacher.

Mr. Parker requested more information on monthly reports on students who withdraw for charter schools.

Mr. Parker questioned the use of substitute teacher to facilitate the Learning Walk process.

Mr. Leach inquired about progress on the implementation of Board Docs web portal system.



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Mr. Rabinowitz advised the Board and administration that these items may be addressed at future meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/18/16 - Parent Workshop @ 6:30 p.m. - Middle School
- 2/19/16 - LPES PTA Movie night @ 6:30 p.m. - Lower Pottsgrove Elementary
- 2/22/16 - HS PTSA Meeting @ 7:30 – High School
- 2/23/16 - Policy Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. - District Office
- 2/23/16 - Board Workshop @ 7:30 p.m. - District Office

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



Members of the boys soccer team receive their certificates.