



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held March 22, 2016

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice-monthly meeting on Tuesday March 22, 2016 at Pottsgrove District Office.

Mr. Rabinowitz announced that an executive session was held on Friday, March 11th to discuss personnel evaluations and there will be an executive session immediately following the meeting to discuss personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comment

DISCUSSION ITEMS

HS Renovation Update: Jim Hanna from D'Huy Engineering updated the Board on the progress being made in the renovation project. He discussed the work on the old gym space, fields, district office and auditorium. The presentation photos are on the facilities section of the district's website.

Special Education Plan Update: Mrs. Kate Pacitto reviewed the proposed District's special education plan. The Board asked questions and discussed parts of the plan. All districts in Pennsylvania must file a plan with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The plan is available on the pupil services page of the district website for public inspection. The Board must approve the plan and have it submitted by May 1.

District Calendar 2015-2016: Superintendent Feola recommended a modification to the current school year calendar resulting from winter weather closures. Under the recommendation, the Board forgives the 181st day and **pushes the last school day back one day to Thursday, June 16. The graduation date would be scheduled for Wednesday, June 15.** The Board approved the recommendation for both the calendar change and the graduation date through two separate motions.

HS Class Rank: Superintendent Feola discussed policy language changes regarding how class rank will be reported. The high school would continue to rank students based on academic performance but only report it on the top 25 percent of the class, unless requested a student. Superintendent Feola also discussed the associated administrative regulations. The Board also discussed the way students would be recognized at graduation for their academic performance. The proposed reporting and recognition changes would not impact current seniors. Proposed revisions will be posted before the Board takes action.

Keystone Exams – SB 880: Superintendent Feola discussed recent changes in state law regarding a two year moratorium on the use of Keystone exams as a state graduation requirement. Districts are still obligated to offer interventions for students who do not pass Keystone exams but cannot compel students to do so. Districts can still set local standards for graduation that requires that students demonstrate proficiency by other locally determined means. This was raised for discussion purposes only. No Board action was requested at this time.

Interim Temporary Support for Pupil Services: Superintendent Feola discussed an interim plan for pupil services until the position can be filled. The plan includes expanding by one day per week Dr. Sylvia Cohn who currently serves as a consultant working with the gifted support program and additional support three days per week provided through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The costs incurred with this interim plan will be less than what has been budgeted for the position being covered.

Budget Update: Superintendent Feola and Mr. Nester provided a budget update, both locally and at the state level, and



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discussed potential cuts from the proposed 2016-2017 school district budget. Mr. Nester also discussed potential budgetary needs with respect to personnel levels and medical and prescription costs. District departments will present their proposed budgets to the Board at the April workshop meeting.

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 nominated Board Member Diane Cherico for the candidacy of MCIU Board of Directors for the remaining 2-year term.
- The Board approved the amended Independent Contractor Agreement (pertains to pupil services discussion).
- The Board approved an agreement with the MCIU for supervisory support in special education at a per diem rate of \$490 per day for approximately 3 days (or 21 hours) per week (pertains to pupil services discussion).
- The Board approved an agreement with Wordsworth Academy for one student at an approximate cost of \$27,805.00 for the remainder of the year.
- The Board approved an agreement with the Vanguard School for ESY services for two students at a cost of \$15,400.00
- The Board approved the submission of PlanCon Part K: Project Refinancing for the Pottsgrove School District General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2016.
- The Board approved conference attendance as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy: The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Alexander reviewed the work of the committee that included the policy governing student representation on the School Board, graduation requirements, as well as a brief review of policies that have already been posted for public review. The volunteer guidelines were also discussed but no specific policy modifications were offered at this meeting. The Board approved revisions to Policy 105 that deals with Board organization and committee structure.

Operations/Facilities Committee: The Board accepted the minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rossi complimented the students who organized and performed a murder mystery at the West End Firehouse.

Mr. Rabinowitz complimented the middle school students and staff for their work on The Little Mermaid. Mrs. Cherico elaborated on the performance, as well as the entire drama program, and the opportunities it provides to so many students.

Mr. Parker complimented Principal Jones and her staff for the way they prioritize student safety at their school.



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Mr. Lopic raised an issue concerning the district's policy of not renting out school facilities on Sundays. He inquired about the rationale for the policy. The rationale for the policy and the potential implications of changing it were discussed and Mr. Davis, district solicitor, commented. Mr. Lopic motioned for a one-time exception to this policy. The motion failed.

Mr. Lopic asked about the strategies used to communicate Board meetings and events to the public.

Mrs. Custer noted an error in the last issue of The Achiever that identified students who have been offered and accepted athletic scholarships for next academic year as 2015 graduates currently competing collegiately, not 2016 graduates.

UPCOMING DATES:

3/24/16 – Staff Development, No School

3/24/16 – District Closed

3/28/16 – District Closed

4/5/16 – MS PTA Meeting @ 7:00 PM

4/6/16 – LPES Reading Olympics

4/6/16 – HS Music League Meeting @ 7:00 PM

4/8/16 – 4/10/16 – HS Junior class trip to Boston, MA

4/9/16 – LPES Talent Show @ 6:00 PM

4/12/16 – Operations/Facilities Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM – Ringing Rocks Library

4/12/16 – Board Meeting @ 7:30 – Ringing Rocks Elementary Cafeteria

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