



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Held April 12, 2016

Summary of Key Discussion and Actions Taken:

The Pottsgrove School District Board of Directors held its twice-monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Ringing Rocks Elementary School.

Presentations/Recognition/Awards: The High School Percussion Ensemble earned first place in the Scholastic Standstill Novice Division under the direction of Mr. Kevin Smith, a Pottsgrove alumnus.

The HS Reading Olympics team, under the direction of Mrs. Dani Small, earned a blue ribbon, for the highest achievement of the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Holly Parker from TCN discussed the role community partnerships can play in assisting the school district in meeting needs in light of tight budgets.

Mr. Alexander announced that an **Executive Session** was held on Monday, April 11, 2016 to discuss personnel evaluations, and prior to the meeting this evening to discuss personnel.

Minutes from meetings held on 3/8/16 and 3/22/16 were approved. Minutes are posted on the district website.

Monthly account statements, invoice payments and the treasurer's reports were approved.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATION:

Dominique Johnson reported on the various activities at each of the schools over the past few weeks. A few of the activities discussed included a trip to the DaVinci Center for West Pottsgrove students, spirit week at the Chick-fil-a in Sanatoga for students at Ringing Rocks, and a the fine performance of the Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School Reading Olympics team at an event hosted by PJP. The Lower Pottsgrove and Middle School students are taking the PSSA exams and renovations are underway in the High School's auditorium after a successful performance of the show Sunny Side Up.

Mr. Nester discussed furniture needs for renovated and new office spaces as part of the high school/district office renovation project. The Board discussed the need, the process for acquiring product recommendations and bid pricing.

Mr. Nester reviewed three change orders in the high school renovation project. One change order dealt with damage to walls behind HVAC equipment in the social studies wing that needed repairs. The second change order related to the artificial turf field. Certain stitched lines were left out of the original bid specification and need to be added. The third change order dealt with the discovery and re-routing of utility lines in an unexpected location where the turf field is being installed.

Ms. Feola discussed the issue of holding the Board meetings in a single location to ease the time and costs associated with moving equipment from school to school.

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

1. The Board approved all personnel items as presented, including Kathryn Pacitto as Director of Pupil Services.
2. The Board approved two settlement agreements as presented.
3. The Board approved the agreement with Carbon Lehigh IU for occupational therapy service as presented.
4. The Board approved the Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP, as presented.



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5. The Board approved an agreement with Elwyn as presented.
6. The Board authorized administration to enter into a sponsorship agreement with Market Street Sports Group, LLC, and Community Aid Clothing Collections and Thrift Stores as presented.
7. The Board approved the budget transfers for March 2016 as presented.
8. The Board approved the payment of the Pottsgrove High School Renovation Project invoices as presented.
9. The Board approved the conference attendance as presented.
10. The Board approved the following new and revised policies: 214 (Class Rank), 217 (Graduation Requirements) and 249 (Bullying/Cyber-bullying). Policy 004.1 (Student Representation on the School Board) was removed for additional review through the Policy Committee.

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Policy Committee: The Board accepted the minutes from that meeting of March 22, 2016

Operation/Facilities Committee: Mr. Rossi reported on the meeting held April 12, 2016, just prior to the Board meeting. The committee members reviewed a list of capital project proposals for the summer.

Athletics/Co-Curricular Committee reported on the meeting held on March 31, 2016 and had its minutes accepted from its February 23, 2016 meeting. The report included an overview of a five-year plan to expand opportunities for students to participate in athletics and to establish a Pottsgrove Athletics Hall of Fame. The use of the HUDL program to record student athletes and students participating in other school activities to provide a platform to showcase their talents to subscribing colleges. Mr. Alexander also discussed focusing the Market Street funds (proceeds from facility sponsorship agreements) on athletics and other co-curricular activities. This funding source is generally used to support one-time purchases.

(Approved minutes will be posted on the School Board section of the district website.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Leach discussed a recommendation to implement an administrative recommendation regarding recognizing distinguished and high honor seniors at the graduation ceremony. The original recommendation was to begin this process in the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Leach proposed that the recommendation be implemented this school year. Discussion ensued. A motion to this effect was made and then tabled, pending more information and recommendation from administration and the guidance department.

Mr. Leach discussed GMax (hardness) rating of the new turf field. He expressed concern about the in-fill material compressing and becoming harder over time. Mr. Leach asked the Board to look into a turf fill upgrade. Ms. Feola responded with input from the civil engineer and construction manager. The engineer recommends the current design, as it meets safety standards, and indicated that if the Board wanted to review this plan and make a change at this point, the project would need to be delayed. Additionally, there may be damages resulting from breaches in contracts the district would incur. The Board opted to move forward with the plan, as the engineer remains confident in the safety of the current design over the life expectancy of the turf field.

Mr. Parker discussed the impact of property taxes on the community ahead of the upcoming departmental budget presentations.

Mr. Leach commended the high school administration and PTA for their support and coordination of the upcoming Student Commitment Day event.

Mr. Lopic suggested that students produce *The Achiever* in-house and in digital format. The Board discussed the issue.

Mrs. Custer discussed the Key Club's Mini-Thon, based on Penn State's Thon event that benefits children with pediatric cancer, and encouraged the promotion of this activity throughout the Pottsgrove community.



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Mrs. Grimm discussed the need to include administration in emails, allowing the administration time to respond to concerns and questions expressed.

Mr. Alexander announced that Mr. Rossi would be resigning from the School Board. Mr. Rossi spoke emotionally indicating that the reasons for his resignation were mostly personal. He reflected that the decision wasn't easy and his time on the Board has been both challenging and rewarding. He thanked the district and community for the opportunity to serve. Board members and the superintendent thanked Mr. Rossi for his service. The Board voted to accept Mr. Rossi's resignation.

The Board discussed the process for filling Mr. Rossi's seat. The vacancy and additional details will be posted on the district website. The application process will be open for ten days. The Board will review resumes of interested candidates and hold a special meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7 pm in the high school cafeteria to consider applicants followed by an appointment at the May 10 meeting. The seat must be filled within thirty days in accordance with Pennsylvania School Code.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/15/16 - RR Grandparents Day

4/15/16 - West Pottsgrove Elementary Basket Bingo

4/16/16 - LPES Talent Show @ 7:00

4/19/16 - Curriculum Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM

4/26/16 - Policy Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM

4/26/16 - Board Workshop @ 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 recorded for viewing on PCTV twice weekly, Wed., at 6:30 PM, Sun., at 6:00 PM and on-demand from the District website.