

Board Meeting (Tuesday, June 14, 2016)

Members present

Rick Rabinowitz, Matt Alexander, Patti Grimm, Diane Cherico, Ashley Custer, James Lopic, Al Leach, Bill Parker, and Robert Lindgren.

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by Mr. Rabinowitz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Procedural: 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 1.2 Roll Call

2. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION/AWARDS

Information: 2.1 Kenneth D Child Memorial Counselor of the Year Award - Mrs. Cristina Kleinfelter Ms. Feola and Dr. Ramage recognized Christine Kleinfelter, Middle School Guidance Counselor, for her selection as Montgomery County Association of Guidance Counselors, Counselor of the Year Award.

Information: 2.2 Retirees

Mr. Kenton McGlone was in attendance and recognized for his years of service to the school district on the occasion of his retirement. Ms. Feola also recognized Carol Thompson and Kathy Williams on their retirements. They were not present.

Information: 2.3 Student Board Representative Recognition

The Administration and the Board of Directors recognized Dominique Johnson and the 1 year of service as a Student Board Representative.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Former Board Member John Rossi discussed his view of Facebook as it relates to Board operations. He urged the Board to consider not conducting school district related discussions in this forum.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: An executive session will be held immediately following the regular board meeting to discuss negotiations with the Teamsters.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: 5.1 Special Meeting Minutes (5-4-16) - Approved

Action: 5.2 Approval of Monthly Board Action Minutes (5-10-16) - Approved

Action: 5.3 Monthly Board Workshop Minutes (5-24-16) - Approved

6. RECEIVING OF ACCOUNTS FOR AUDIT

Action: 6.1 Receiving of Accounts for Audit -

High School, Middle School, and Cafeteria Accounts - Approved

7. GRANTING OF ORDERS

Action: 7.1 Granting of Orders - The Board approved the payment of invoices for May 2016. Please note that the above amount reflects all General Fund disbursements for the month including payroll and accounts payable checks, wire transfers for benefits and debt service, and items other - The listed as accounts payable at the bottom of the Treasurer's report.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Action: 8.1 Treasurer's Report - The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

9. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Reports: 9.1 Student Board Representative - Mr. Johnson discussed the high school events last week and reminded the community of the graduation ceremony Wednesday evening. He also shared June activities in the other four schools including school awards assemblies, field trips, outdoor activities, and the senior class visits.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion: 10.1 Math PQR

Director of Education Daniel Vorhis presented the results of the Math Program Quality Review of curriculum alignment with standards, materials. The review was conducted by the Montgomery County IU with teams from Pottsgrove, Perkiomen Valley and Methacton School Districts. Mr. Vorhis discussed math strengths and needs in Pottsgrove, as identified in the review. The Board had a heated discussion of the report, the Everyday Math, Carnegie Math programs, goals and action plans moving forward.

Discussion: 10.2 Restorative Practices

Mr. Rabinowitz and Ms. Feola discussed the research being conducted by the administration regarding the possible implementation of Restorative Practices in Pottsgrove.

Action, Discussion: 10.3 2016-17 School Board Meeting & Committee Calendar

The Board discussed and approved the calendar of Board meetings and Committee meetings for the 2016-2017 school year.

11. ACTION ITEMS - PERSONNEL

Action: 11.1 Administrative Staff - Appointment

The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Kyle Kanter as the Supervisor of Special Education.

Action: 11.2 Professional Staff - Termination: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.3 Professional Staff - Resignation: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.4 Professional Staff - Appointments: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.5 Professional Staff - Leave of Absences: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.6 Support Staff - Appointments: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.7 Support Staff - Leave of Absence: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.8 Student Teacher Placement: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action: 11.9 Granting of Hiring Authority: The Board approved the Administration's recommendation.

Action (Consent): 11.10 Consent Approval

12. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

Action: 12.1 2016-17 General Fund Budget

The 2016-2017 budget document was submitted for approval. The budget calls for no increase in the property tax rate. This is accomplished by using \$900,000 of our PSERS reserve to balance the budget and by recognizing savings resulting from retirements, reductions in tuitions, and reductions in other budget categories.

Mr. Rabinowitz led the discussion regarding the budget. The Board discussed movement of dollars in and out of certain designated funds to facilitate Mr. Rabinowitz's motion for a budget with a .25 percent decrease in local property tax. The Board discussed this motion in detail. The motion failed by a vote of 7-2.

Action: 12.2 2016-2017 Real Estate Levy

The Board adopted a Real Estate Tax of 37.7158 mills \$38 per \$1000 assessed valuation of taxable property within the Pottsgrove School District for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The millage rate of 37.7158 represents no increase.

Action: 12.3 2016-2017 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions

Each year the State certifies an amount of property tax relief to be provided to each district. These funds are to be distributed to qualified homeowners and farm owners who appropriately file a homestead/farmstead application. This year, \$1,453,049.95 is available for property tax relief. The vast majority of these funds are distributed to qualifying homesteads. For homesteads with an assessed value in excess of \$7,053, this generates a tax savings of approximately \$266. Since there are very few farmsteads in the district, only a small amount of tax relief is provided to them. The Board adopted the associated resolution.

The homestead/farmstead application is available on our website.

Action: 12.4 Act 511 Taxes and Per Capita Tax

The Board acted to Continue Act 511 Taxes and Per Capita Tax (Section 679 of the School Code) in 2016-2017 that are presently levied by the District with no substantial change:

- 1% Earned Income Tax
- Per Capita Tax of \$5.00 levied on all Pottsgrove residents who are eighteen (18) years of age or older
- 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Mercantile Tax (1 Mill - Wholesalers; 1 1/2 Mills - Retailers)

Action: 12.5 School District Depositories

The Board approved the appointment of School District Depositories:

- Wells Fargo
- The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust
- First Niagara Bank
- PSDLAF/PNC
- Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T)
- Tri-County Federal Credit Union
- Fulton Bank

Action: 12.6 Tax Collectors

The Board appointed tax collectors for 2016-2017.

- Local Services Tax
 - Lower Pottsgrove Township - H. A. Berkheimer
 - Upper Pottsgrove Township - H. A. Berkheimer
 - West Pottsgrove Township - H. A. Berkheimer
- Earned Income Tax
 - H. A. Berkheimer Associates at a fee of 1.35%
- Delinquent Per Capita Tax
 - H. A. Berkheimer Associates at fees permitted by law
- Mercantile Tax
 - H. A. Berkheimer Associates at a fee of 3%
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
 - Recorder of Deeds of Montgomery County at fees established by law 2016-2017

Action: 12.7 Western Center 2016-2017 Proposed Final Budget

Board approved the Western Center's 2-16-2017 Budget. Please note that total expenditures are projected to increase by 6.14%. However, due to a slight decrease in Pottsgrove's proportionate share of the Center's enrollment, the increase in our contribution to the Center's budget for the upcoming school year will only increase by 2.21% (\$28,817).

Action: 12.8 Final Budget Transfers

The Board authorized the Administration to prepare the final 2015-2016 budget transfers after the audit is complete and to present them to the Board for approval before October 31, 2016.

Action: 12.9 July 2016 Bills

Since we do not have a regularly scheduled meeting in July, the Board authorized the administration to pay bills through July. All checks approved by Mr. Nester will be ratified at our August meeting.

Action: 12.10 May 2016 Budget Transfers

The Board approved May budget transfers.

Action: 12.11 2016-2017 Fall Athletic Bid - The Board approved the athletic bid.

Action: 12.12 2016-2017 District Solicitor- The Board approved the appointment of the District Solicitor.

Action: 12.13 Change Orders for Pottsgrove High School Project- The Board approved the change orders recommended by Administration.

Action: 12.14 Fund Balance Commitment- The Board approved.

Action: 12.15 Schoology Contract- The Board approved the renewal of the Schoology Learning Management System contract.

Action: 12.16 Apple Computer Lease- The Board approved a new Apple lease for classroom technology.

Action: 12.17 Building automation service agreements- The Board approved building automation service agreements.

Action: 12.18 Creative Health 2016-17 Agreement- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.19 16-17 River Rock Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Contract- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.20 Extended School Year Contract - Woods School- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.21 Extended School Year Contract - New Story- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.22 Extended School Year Contract - New Story- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.23 Extended School Year Contract - Melmark- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.24 2015-2016 Tuition Agreement - Elwyn- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.25 One-to-One Aide Contract - Elwyn- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.26 Bayada Pediatrics 2016-17 contract- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.27 2016-17 Montgomery County Community College Dual Enrollment Agreement- The Board approved this agreement as presented.

Action: 12.28 2016-2017 Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation Grant Acceptance- The Board approved receipt of this grant as presented.

Action: 12.29 16-17 one-to-one aide agreement with Woods Services- The Board approved this service agreement as presented.

Action: 12.30 2015-2016 New Story Tuition Agreement- The Board approved this agreement as presented.

Action: 12.31 Extended School Year - Vanguard- The Board approved this contract as presented.

Action: 12.32 Construction Invoices- The Board approved payment of construction invoices as presented

13. ACTION ITEMS - EDUCATION

Action: 13.1 Grading Practices

The Board approved grading practices as presented by Dr. Shirk and endorsed by the Academic, Curriculum and Technology Committee. Specifically, revisions occurred regarding the percentages granted for "demonstrating knowledge" and "building knowledge" at various levels. As a result, for high school courses, it is recommended that advanced placement remain with a 90% demonstrating knowledge and a 10% building knowledge to reflect the rigor of those courses. For all core courses and honors courses, it is recommended that 80% be granted for demonstrating knowledge with 20% for building knowledge. This is to ensure that students view all assignments as meaningful and worthy of effort. Finally, all non-core/encore classes will provided 70% for demonstrating knowledge and 30% for building knowledge to reflect the higher levels of performance within these courses.

Action: 13.2 Textbook Adoption

Mr. Rabinowitz raised concern about one book recommended for use in the gifted English class in the High School The book is "Go Ask Alice" and proposed that all recommended books be approved except for "Go Ask Alice." The Board discussed this concern. There was no second. The Board approved the original motion 7-1 with one abstention.

Action: 13.4 Overnight Trips- The Board approve all overnight field trips as presented.

Action: 13.5 Overnight Camps- The Board approved overnight camps as presented.

14. ACTION ITEMS - POLICIES

Action: 14.1 Approval of Revised/New Policies

The Board approved the new and revised policies as presented.

222 Tobacco Use (200 Pupils)

Revision

323 Tobacco Use (300 Adm)

Revision

423	Tobacco Use (400 Prof)	Revision
523	Tobacco Use (500 Class)	Revision
626	Federal Fiscal Compliance	New
626.1	Travel Reimbursement	New
823	Naloxone (Narcan)	New
827	Conflict of Interest	New

15. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Action: 15.1 Curriculum/Technology/Student Affairs (5-17-16) - The Board accepted Committee minutes.

Action: 15.2 Policy Committee (5-24-16) The Board accepted Committee minutes.

Reports: 15.3 Athletics/Co-Curricular Committee (6-7-16) Mr. Alexander reported on the discussions of the June 7 meeting.

Reports: 15.4 Operations/Facilities Committee (6-14-16) Mr. Lindgren reviewed the status of multiple summer capital funds projects approved by the Board last month.

16. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rabinowitz recommended transferring surplus \$1.5 million from the health care reserve into the capital reserve. A motion was made and approved.

Mrs. Cherico presented information on a PSBA conference in Hershey later this year.

Mr. Parker discussed a letter received regarding the relationship between the Board and the various Facebook discussion sites.

Mr. Parker also requested a full report in executive session regarding the substitute teacher incident in the Middle School.

17. ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS INQUIRIES - No pending inquiries

18. PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comment

19. ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Rabinowitz adjourned the meeting at 10:50 PM.