

# **WELCOME TO THE POTTSVILLE AREA DISTRICT**

The Board of Education appreciates your attendance at this meeting and hopes that this handout will provide some background to its activities.

In Pennsylvania, 500 local school boards provide for the public education needs of the children of the Commonwealth. The Pottsville Area School Board consists of nine members.

## **WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A SCHOOL DIRECTOR?**

Article V of the Pennsylvania School Code details the duties of school directors and the most prominent are listed below.

- ❖ Establish, equip, furnish and maintain schools
- ❖ Adopt a curriculum and textbooks
- ❖ Provide special education
- ❖ Set the length of the school year
- ❖ Manage sports and extracurricular activities
- ❖ Suspend or expel students from school
- ❖ Provide meals for needy children
- ❖ Elect a superintendent
- ❖ Enter into contracts with professional employees and unions
- ❖ Appoint a school attorney and other board employees
- ❖ Adopt an annual budget
- ❖ Levy and collect taxes
- ❖ Incur or increase indebtedness
- ❖ Decide on tuition rate for students from other districts
- ❖ Buy, sell or condemn land
- ❖ Enter into group insurance contracts for personal liability, accidents, or buildings and property

## **HOW DO I BECOME A SCHOOL DIRECTOR?**

In order to be elected to the School Board, you must be at least 18 years old and have resided in the District for a period of one year prior to the election. To have a place on the primary election ballot, you must circulate petitions and gather the signatures of 10 registered voters in a party. Candidates may also choose to cross-file; that is, run in both the Republican and Democrat primary. This is an option given only to school director and judicial candidates in Pennsylvania. School directors do not receive payment for their service.

## **WHERE AND WHEN DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD MEET?**

The Pottsville Area School Board meets in the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center.

The regular monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday, at 7:00 PM. This meeting is to take formal action on the official business of the District. The public may address the Board prior to the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public and the press. After each meeting, the Board may adjourn to Executive Session to discuss legal matters and personnel issues. These meetings are announced at the regular meeting; however, they are closed to the public and the press.

The Board has several committees that meet throughout the year. Standing committees are: Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, Finance, Negotiations, Personnel, Public Relations, Technology, and Textbooks and Supplies. These meetings are also open to the public and press, with the exception of Negotiations and Personnel.

All Board and committee meetings are advertised in the local newspaper.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The School Board desires citizens to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the schools and so that the School Board may have an opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. Pennsylvania law makes no specific provisions for the participation of the public at meetings of local boards of education however the district has adopted Robert's Rules of Order as its method of governance.

To permit community members to be heard, and at the same time to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the district establishes the following procedures for persons wishing to speak before the School Board:

- a. Groups or persons who want to make a formal presentation at a School Committee meeting should request to be put on the agenda through the Superintendent. The request will be granted at the discretion of the School Board.
- b. Any member of the public will have an opportunity to speak to any item for a reasonable length of time outlined below before a vote is taken on an agenda item in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order
- c. All pertinent questions will be answered verbally or in writing at a later time by the Chairman or an appropriate member of the Administration.
- d. There will be no dialogue between School Board and/or administration with the public at meetings except to clarify the nature of questions or comments.
- e. Not more than, thirty (30) minutes of each Regular Business and Special Called Meeting shall be devoted to public comment as provided on the agenda. Public comments shall be limited to up to 3 (three) minutes, no recognized speaker may yield his/her time to another speaker. At the discretion of the Chairman, limitations may be placed on the following: 1) a speaker's time to comment; 2) the number of speakers commenting on the same topic; and/or 3) the number of speakers representing the same group or organization.

Speakers will be allowed to comment by the Chairman of the Board at the appropriate time during the agenda. Speakers must state their name, home address, organization he/she is representing, if any, and subject of the presentation before they are permitted to proceed. Speakers may offer objective comments about school operations and programs that concern them. Speakers are asked to refrain from using names of personnel or names of persons connected with the school system, particularly when lodging a complaint. Speakers will not be permitted to engage in gossip, make defamatory comments, or use abusive or vulgar language. The Chairman shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who is disruptive or does not adhere to Board rules.

All Business Meetings and Special Called Meetings are subject to the Sunshine Law, Act 84 of 1986.

*Legal Ref:  
Board Policy 006  
Robert's Rules of Order  
Act 84 of 1986*

## **HOW LARGE IS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET?**

The current fiscal year for the District is from July 1 to June 30. The Board was required to adopt a balanced budget; proposed expenditures may not exceed anticipated income. The total budget is \$42,744,498.00 Each January, the budget planning process for the District begins, as Directors meet with the administrators and building principals to determine the most cost effective manner to operate the schools. For details please contact the business office.

## **WHO ARE THE CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS?**

Dr. Ann Blankenhorn  
Dr. Michael Cardamone  
Mrs. Ashley DeWitt  
Dr. Christina DiCello  
Mr. Patrick Moran  
Mr. Noble Quandel, Jr.  
Mr. Craig Shields  
Mr. Jerome Urban  
Ms. Linda Wytovich

Dr. Jeffrey S. Zwiebel, Superintendent\*  
Mr. Brian Manning, Business Manager  
Mrs. Patricia Lombel, Assistant Business Manager/Board Secretary

Kevin Reid, Attorney at Law, Solicitor\*

## **QUESTIONS????**

If you have any questions, after the meeting, please feel free to ask any Board member or administrator.