

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Responsible GOVERNMENT

Resumes should be provided

The Pottstown School District is a \$50 million-a-year enterprise which serves about 3,200 students and employs about 600 people. It collects nearly three-quarters of the real estate taxes levied in Pottstown.

Under Pennsylvania law, a school district is governed by a nine elected school directors who appoint a superintendent of schools to manage the district. By law, the superintendent must be given a contract from between three to five years. If the school board wishes to consider other candidates for superintendent when his term expires, the superintendent must be given at least 150 days' notice before the end of the contract, or it will be automatically renewed. Superintendents, therefore, have far more job security than most managers in the private sector.

Pottstown's school directors are average citizens as we are, most with full-time jobs. Not one is an expert in law, management or finance. Whatever decisions the school board makes requires a consensus of five people – not always an easy thing to achieve.

For all practical purposes, they are almost completely reliant on two people to oversee the district: their solicitor (lawyer), to tell them what they can and cannot legally do; and the superintendent, to tell them about school district operations.

The Pottstown School Board has also signed contracts with three other members of the administration who called themselves the Executive Team: Reed Lindley, assistant superintendent; Jeffrey Sparagana, director of education and human re-

sources; and Linda Adams, business administrator.

On Monday, we noted that school district solicitor Stephen Kalis declined our request for the invoices he has submitted since his appointment in December 2003. However, the salaries of the Executive Team members have been made public.

- ♦ David Krem Superintendent \$158,250
- ♦ Reed Lindley Assistant Superintendent \$151,942
- ♦ Jeffrey Sparagana Director of Education and Human Resources \$139,770
- ♦ Linda Adams, Business Administrator \$124,490

The resumes of Executive Team members have not been made public. When we asked for their resumes last year, we received this written reply from district solicitor Stephen Kalis, as follows: "Please note that there are no current resumes maintained by the School District for any executive team member."

In our judgment, it is unprofessional for the Pottstown School Board to sign multi-year contracts with top administrators without having their complete resumes on file. These administrators are responsible for spending millions of dollars and educating our youth. Resumes should be posted on the school district Web site. The Owen J. Roberts School District, for example, posts on its Web site resumes of all its administrators, including school principals.

Thomas Hylton, a 36-year resident of Pottstown, is treasurer and Web site editor of Pottstown Citizens for Responsible Government.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Summary

- ♦ Pottstown School District administrators manage a \$50 million annual budget and the education of 3,200 students.
- ♦ They are well paid and enjoy contracts giving them more job security than most managers in the private sector.
- ♦ It is unprofessional for the Pottstown School Board to sign contracts with these administrators without having their complete resumes on file. Resumes should be posted on the School District Web site as soon as possible.