

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR  
**Responsible**  
 GOVERNMENT

## An attempt to thwart local democracy

A motion to extend the contracts of Pottstown's top four school administrators by three years has been placed on the agenda for Thursday night's meeting of the Pottstown School Board.

At present, the contracts of the administrators — David Krem, superintendent; Reed Lindley, assistant superintendent; Jeffrey Sparagana, director of education and human resources; and Linda Adams, business administrator — are set to expire a year from now, on June 30, 2010.

In the recent primary election, two incumbent school directors lost their bids for re-election. A third incumbent remains on the Republican ballot for November, but faces a strong challenge by a Democratic opponent.

It is virtually certain, therefore, that two and possibly three new members will take their seats on the Pottstown School Board this December.

Thursday's motion is designed to tie the hands of the new school board and guarantee the jobs of the current administrators until 2013. It would allow school directors who have been voted out of office to control the destiny of the school district for years to come.

By state law, the superintendent of schools must be given a contract from between three to five years. If the school board wishes to consider other candidates for superintendent, the superin-

tendent must be given at least 150 days' notice before the end of his contract. A decision on whether to extend the contract of Superintendent Krem will need to be made in January 2010. There is no need to make any personnel decisions before then.

Two years ago, a slate of five candidates ran for the Pottstown School Board promising to retain and renovate Pottstown's five neighborhood elementary schools. They also pledged to practice fiscal responsibility.

They defeated five incumbents — the directors who appointed the current administrators — by an overwhelming majority.

Last month, two new candidates also won, by a wide margin, on a pledge to retain neighborhood schools and practice fiscal responsibility.

Thursday night's motion is an attempt to thwart local democracy and achieve by legal maneuvering what incumbent board members could not achieve at the voting booth.

It may be that all four administrators should be retained for new terms. But that decision should be made by the newly elected school board — not members defeated at the polls.

*Tom Hylton is Web site editor of Pottstown Citizens for Responsible Government. He won both the Republican and Democratic nominations for Pottstown School Board in last month's primary.*



Commentary by  
 Thomas Hylton

### Summary

- **A motion to extend the contracts of Pottstown's four top school administrators by three years has been placed on the agenda for Thursday night's meeting of the Pottstown School Board.**
- **As a result of last month's primary election, it is virtually certain that two and perhaps three new members will replace incumbents on the school board this December.**
- **The motion is designed to tie the hands of the newly constituted school board and continue policies that the public has rejected in the last two elections.**
- **The motion is an attempt to circumvent the democratic process. It should be defeated.**