

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
April 19, 2017
D. H.H. Lengel Middle School Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone,
Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner,
Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent;
Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager/
Acting Board Secretary; Mr. Thornburg,
Solicitor; Mrs. Kalovcak,
Ms. Amy Marciano, Republican Herald

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John Boran.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Boran welcomed everyone and asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Adrian Portland, Lead teacher of the Pottsville Area High School Science Department and is the Vice-President of the Pottsville Area School District Education Association, addressed the Board and audience. He thanked the Board of Education and Dr. Zwiebel for allowing him the opportunity to speak and also thanked everyone in the audience for their attendance and support. Mr. Portland said he felt obligated to speak because he will be completing his twentieth year of teaching. He said he has spent much of his childhood on the third floor of the high school, countless hours in Martz Hall and on Steidle Field and has taken many bus rides on district transportation. Adrian said several members of his family have also been employed by the school district for the last fifty years; Crimson Tide Pride runs deep in his heart. Unfortunately the events that occurred on Thursday, April 6, 2017 and over the last school year have seriously troubled him. The District he loves so much had reached the dangerous crossroads and the decisions yet to be made will have worse consequences on our students and community. He urged the Board to look deeply into their hearts as they make these very serious decisions that will impact so many. The Association since day one is against furloughing teachers, mainly because it will directly affect the students, reduce instructional time which will lead to increased class sizes and the reduction of the quality of education offered to our students. He said, knowing what impact the furloughs will have on our education, the Association has carefully considered, researched and developed very real solutions. He said the children should remain our primary focus but instead, we have a School Board that has become more focused on blame than accountability, is more focused on eliminations than alternative resolutions and more focused on ill-advised strategies that will ultimately diminish any hope of carrying on the prestigious academic traditions of PASD.

John Hannaway, a sophomore at PAHS, enrolled in Spanish II and earned the top Spanish student award, remarked that he is worried about his continuing Spanish education. He spoke on behalf of Senorita Reichert and said the students learn from both books and her

real life lessons. They learn from her passion as she always pushes her students to learn more. He said she is always available to help us when we struggle. Senorita Reichert shares her lessons that she learned while studying abroad. He noted that he was originally planning to only take Spanish I just to fill the requirements, but after having Miss Reichert and after learning so much from her, he not only decided to take Spanish II but is now also planning to major in Spanish in college.

Cara Turolis, a Pottsville Area High School math teacher said she is on the furlough list but noticed something very positive in the audience; she said there is a lot of worry, a lot of concern and much despair on the faces of the people in the audience for the future of the district. She said she was there to speak out for her fellow teachers and students of the district to tell the Board of Education that by eliminating teachers it will create a much larger deficit than the budget deficit at hand. Cara said in the face of the impending decision the Board has to make, our students are not just dollar signs and should not be treated as such. Cara said the students in attendance were here to remind you of their importance in this decision and should not be unseen. Cara said if the Board could see the number of emails and discussions that she has had with her students these past few weeks, they would see the disservice that these potential decisions will have. If it was not evident before she hoped it is now, all of the teachers and students that represent this district have a unique bond and refuse to let something or someone to come in its way. Cara ended with a quote "the best thing about being a teacher is that it matters, the hardest thing about being a teacher is that it matters everyday,"and today is no different.

Angela Snyder, a first grade teacher at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, who may be losing her job, mentioned that she started her education in the JSC Elementary Center in 1984 as a young student and then came back to teach in 2009. Angie said her education at the elementary center and middle school flew by fast. In high school, she said she was busy being involved in many different things such as, Band, Choir, Softball, Class President, Key Club and many other activities. What she said she remembers the most was her interaction and experiences with not just her friends but her teachers that befriended and mentored her and guided her along the way. She said she went off to Elizabethtown College knowing she wanted to become a teacher; she wanted to be able to give back to the district she loved so much, and wanted to be like her third grade teacher, Mrs. Dwyer. Mrs. Dwyer was kind, patient and shared her love of education onto her students, all of which made her what she is today. Landing a job in her home district was a dream come true, she thought she was safe and would be here where her four children would attend and would receive the best education possible. She said she believes in what the District stands for and her children would receive the best education of anyone else around the area, but we can't continue with the way things are going and still keep our reputation. She never thought about leaving and going to another district until the wind was knocked out of her a few weeks ago. She said the declining enrollment was not a new problem, this has been happening for ten years now, she said there are other issues that came to the surface over the past year or two that are not being talked about or are being swept under the rug or put onto other people. Angie noted she is a tenured teacher with five years teaching in the District. She said what did or didn't happen put her in a very

uncomfortable, awful and unforgettable place, and this isn't supposed to happen in Pottsville. Her children who see her dedication, spend many long summer hours in her classroom, helping her set up, are now asking her what she did so wrong? She said her youngest is to start Kindergarten this year and wants nothing more than his mom to be in the building. She asked what she is to do now to support her family, how will she provide health care for them now. She remarked that she has been substituting and teaching for eight years and was totally surprised to learn about these potential furloughs and asked the Board to reconsider because furloughing teachers is not the answer or the best decision for our students in the Pottsville Area School District. She added that this isn't supposed to happen in Pottsville.

Chelsea Balulis, a junior at Pottsville Area High School said that the students in attendance chose to ban together and exercise what they have been taught, to stand for what they believe in. They were taught that if someone is getting in the way of your dreams, speak up. She added, cutting any of the teachers, especially Senorita Reichert, could be detrimental to our district image. Thanks to the foreign language department, we will look better in our future education and the workforce. She added that by not including Spanish in our curriculum, we are stuck in one culture instead of understanding and learning to accept all the other cultures around us.

Deborah Lecker, an Emotional Support teacher at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center for twenty-five years said Pottsville has so much to offer, she is proud of our students and the work that they do. Mrs. Lecker said she is thrilled with the curriculum and buildings and was always very happy to be a part of it. Teachers in this district are very caring, hardworking and many stay late working as often as needed. Mrs. Lecker noted that our Special Education students' needs, who are already identified in large numbers, are growing and was upset to hear that one of our young, calm, new teachers, Miss Kacie Sullivan was on the furlough list. Kacie is always a teacher that goes the extra mile to help. Classes are full and students are needy, and now more than ever need all the extra help we can give them. She noted that we are already seeing large numbers of preschool children, already identified coming into the Pottsville Area School District and we are going to need more rather than less services in the near future for these young students. Mrs. Lecker noted that many other districts are experiencing some of the same financial issues but found other ways to deal with it. She said our Association has been working very diligently to come up with alternative plans rather than the furloughs. She asked the Board to reconsider an alternate plan.

Nobel "Bud" Quandel, Citizen of Pottsville and a candidate for the Pottsville Area School Board thanked the President of the School Board, the Board as a whole and Dr. Zwiebel for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Quandel said he had a question relative to Board policy. He questioned Mr. Boran as to why his wife was distributing election materials in school to students earlier that day, which is clearly a Board policy violation. Mr. Boran replied that this was a personnel matter and was already addressed.

John Powers, a retired Dean of Students at the Pottsville Area High School said he spent 41 years teaching in the district. He said he is disheartened to see what is going on in this district. He said he shared the tears of Angela Snyder and noted that she was an outstanding student in this district. He said over the years, whoever he voted for as School Board of the Pottsville Area School District, he believed their first and foremost responsibility was to provide the very best education possible and then it was their job to figure out how to pay for it and not the other way around. Mr. Powers said he heard a lot of discourse over the past few months and doesn't know what exactly is going on but knows there are major financial problems. He said over his career he was blessed to deal with over 10,000 students who went through this district and on to excel in their adult lives. He said looking at the front table of Board members and the Superintendent, noted that every one of them, or at least their family members had the great opportunity to attend Pottsville Area School District and received an excellent education resulting in successful careers. He asked the Board why they would want to offer anything less to our students.

Maxwell Babcock, President of the PAHS Drama Club and a member of the junior class, said he is going to be very disappointed if the School Board follows through with the previous mentioned furloughs. He was always told it was the job of the School Board to handle the financial end of the district and it was the teacher's job to teach. He noted that by following through with their decision, they would be getting in the way of both.

Alexis Fermaintt, a parent, said her family is fairly new to the district but said this isn't about her but about the teachers. She said her children are attending this district sometimes struggling but are successful because of the great support team we have here. She said she was very disappointed to hear of the furloughs because some of those teachers taught her children. If the district is willing to give up on these teachers what are we teaching our kids? She said that just because the district doesn't have enough money these teachers are left go. She noted these teachers are doing a great job and she has always been very proud to say she chose to live here and have her children educated here. She added that she appreciates everything these teachers have done for her children.

William Zierle, District Support Staff President, employed here for twenty-three years, noted that we have good people here. He said prior to moving here, he never in any of his previous school districts had what we have here. We all work together, the Board, the teachers and the support staff. He said besides the pending furloughs, he asked what would be next, the support staff and or the transportation.

Matlina Ritschel, sophomore at PAHS, told the Board she didn't agree with the Board's way of fixing the problems, getting rid of good teachers isn't the way she said. Pottsville is like home to her and asked the Board to reconsider.

Alex Gonzalis remarked that everyone employed at Pottsville Area School District is very compassionate about what they do. He noted that Kacie Sullivan is a very compassionate,

hardworking coach and teacher. She helps everyone with our water polo skills and it would be a terrible shame to furlough her.

Theresa Cornish spoke and noted that she has a son with special needs in the district and said he flourished under his special needs teachers Kacie Sullivan and Angela Snyder. She said in under a year he has gone from not knowing his letters or numbers to learning the alphabet, numbers, addition and subtraction all because of those two teachers and she said she couldn't have asked for better teachers. She said they came from the Lehigh Valley and chose this school because of its reputation. In his previous school he was put in the time out room and not taught anything because of his behaviors, which have also lessened. She added that he was a kid that was given nothing, had a slow start of life and now you are taking his teachers away that are doing such a great job educating him. She said that upsets her as a parent because she chose this district to teach her children and if you take these teachers away or make larger classes, how is he to learn. She said because of these two women he has shown so much improvement and now loves school so much that he wants to go to school even on the weekends. Ms. Cornish said it was a shame to have these two teachers, Mrs. Snyder and Miss Sullivan, on the furlough list when they are doing such an outstanding job.

Deanna Stevenson, a junior at PASD, remarked how sad it was the day that her Spanish teacher found out she would not have a job here next year and how upset she was that she had to leave in the middle of class because she was crying in front of her students or the day her English concepts teacher would also be losing her job and didn't know where she would go. Deanna said the District expects us to care about our grades and school pride but then you take away the teachers we love. She added that their accessibility to our education is now taken away from the students. You selected teachers to remove but you don't sit in the classroom. You take away the teachers that are great, caring and compassionate but don't remove the teachers that are here over ten years and don't care about their jobs or only teach us once a week instead of everyday and make education hard for the students. Deanna said that one of her best teachers she has ever had has only been here for one year and is the most efficient, helpful and caring individual she has ever known. She asked the Board to please reconsider what is just not more cost effective but do the right thing for the students of the District. She told the Board that if they cared about the education of the students, please do not take it away from them.

Rachael Rubright, senior at PASD, spoke in Spanish and noted that if the Board of Education and the audience could not understand what she just said, then they must not have had the amazing Spanish education that she did or an outstanding teacher like Senorita Reichert. Senorita Reichert is one of the most amazing people she has met. She is not only a sincere, caring individual who is genuinely concerned about her students. Senorita Reichert not only wants us to learn the Spanish language but also to understand how to connect with people and understand that a language is more than just letters on a page. Rachael said to get rid of Senorita Reichert would rob any of her students of their education. Rachael added that to remove the Spanish curriculum in the middle school would also rob students at a younger age. Studies prove that kids learn a foreign

language so much easier at an earlier age. It is essential at this point to learn Spanish because if you go 45 minutes in any one direction, the people are speaking Spanish rather than English and because of Senorita Reichert we know how to speak and connect with them. She said, we have the most amazing teachers at Pottsville Area School District and to cut any of these teachers that inspire us would be a crime. She understands the difficult decisions the School Board must make but urged them on behalf of all of the students, to please listen to what we are saying and don't take these teachers away from us.

Marlaina Ritschel remarked that she attended Pottsville Area School District since Kindergarten and was speaking on behalf of Miss Katybeth Morrison. She said Miss Morrison is an outstanding teacher and would hate for her to be furloughed because of the loss the students would experience. Marliana also said she was proud to go to Pottsville but no longer feels that way because of the decisions that are being made. Marliana said she doesn't know what the right solution is but knows furloughing teachers isn't the right one. These teachers have changed student's lives in positive ways and will be a huge loss to the students of the District.

Lloren Reichert, PAHS Spanish Teacher who is also on the furlough list, stated that she is concerned with the elimination of the Middle School Spanish program because it will leave a huge deficit in our foreign language curriculum. Miss Reichert said she was concerned several years ago when we lost the French and German curriculum and now Spanish program seems to be going away also. Many schools rather than eliminating foreign languages, now include it in their elementary schools to students as young as kindergarten. These school districts recognize the importance of foreign language competency and know that greater success of foreign language use and study is tied to exposure at an earlier age. Miss Reichert said that when she completed her student teaching nine years ago in Hamburg, her assignment was teaching Spanish to the kindergarten through fourth grade students. She added that neighboring school districts such as Blue Mountain, Minersville, North Schuylkill and Gillingham Charter School are all currently teaching foreign language at the lower levels. She said it is a fact that early language learners experience much greater success not only in foreign language but also in the areas of math, science and English, some of the major components of our academic curriculum which strengthens their future education not only in high school but in college as well. Miss Reichert asked the Board to reconsider the idea of eliminating middle school Spanish curriculum. She said she knows that once it would be eliminated it would never be reintroduced in the future. These decisions will decide how well future graduates will compete at the next level of their education with their peers who have a stronger foreign language background, we should be strengthening rather than weakening our foreign language curriculum

Kelly Lecher, district resident, mother and sister of a district teacher, asked the Board to look into the whole budget for any other possible way to cut before making these drastic furloughs. She said fewer teachers will not solve the problems. She said parents are thinking there has to be another way to fix this situation.

Julio Perez, sophomore at PAHS, addressed the Board and audience noting these furloughs sound like a very large mistake for the Board to be furloughing these teachers. He said that Miss Morrison helped him during his darkest days. He missed two weeks of school and she was a huge help to get back on track. He said the people in attendance were there to urge the district to reconsider.

Mr. Boran, Board President, addressed the audience, noting that the meeting was not a question and answer period but said he felt compelled to make a statement after listening to each and every person speak with their concerns. He said it was a very emotional evening but he wanted to rewind to about two weeks ago on April 5th when the Board was at a budget committee meeting where the committee heard for the first time about this possible situation. He said that Amy Marciano was in attendance of the meeting when the issue was first discussed. He said he begged Amy not to print that in the newspaper, because people's lives would be affected and that the Board just heard about it for the first time at that meeting. He said he is not involved in the teacher negotiations because his wife is an educator, so he excuses himself, however from past contracts he knows there are issues which can be addressed to keep teachers and keep them in the classroom. Mr. Boran asked Dr. Zwiebel the following questions, in an effort to be more transparent. First, he asked Dr. Zwiebel to explain to those in attendance, his thought process and how these staff reductions were derived and who was involved in the decisions. He also asked Dr. Zwiebel what the impact of the academic offerings to the district would be. Dr. Zwiebel answered by saying the decision making process involved himself and the administrative team and they have been discussing this for months and then went to the Board with the names two weeks ago. Mr. Boran then asked what the monetary effect on the overall budget would be, because the budget is due in one month. Dr. Zwiebel answered, with the possible furloughs it would be nearly eight hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Boran asked if it was nearly eight hundred thousand dollars or was it eight hundred thousand dollars. Dr. Zwiebel answered by saying, it was approximately eight hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Boran remarked that the district is approximately one month away from voting on a preliminary budget and asked Dr. Zwiebel to give an update on the progress of the budget that he will be submitting and will he be recommending any other reductions for our academic or extra-curricular programs? Dr. Zwiebel said at this time, they weren't planning any. Mr. Boran then asked if his answer was a "No" then. Dr. Zwiebel answered, "Yes". Mr. Boran then remarked that last year the District made staff reductions through attrition rather than furloughs and we received push back for this course of action by Dr. Zwiebel and the Administration, so he then asked Dr. Zwiebel if he feels now that replacing some of those positions was an incorrect course of action. Dr. Zwiebel said he felt like himself and the whole administrative team was on trial tonight and they weren't prepared for that. Mr. Boran said that at the beginning of the school year, during the in-service presentation, he had presented a power point presentation slide and told everyone the financial situation the board was in. At that point he said he asked the faculty for their recommendations and noted that he didn't hear from one single faculty member on any recommendations. Mr. Boran said there was enough blame to go around and is strongly going to take it as the leader of this Board but he said the blame should be shared among all of us.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the March 1, 2017 Work Session minutes and March 15, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of March 2017 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Cafeteria Financial Report of the Pottsville Area School District for the month of March 2017 was accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

A list of bills, as appended, was submitted for payment. (Copy to each Director.)

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, vouchers were ordered drawn in payment of the bills listed or where vouchers had been drawn, such action was approved and the list of bills was ordered appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

Attorney Thornburg stated that since he would be retiring soon and would not be here for the upcoming series of hearings regarding Mr. Stephen Curran. Atty. Thornburg suggested that Marc Fisher serve in this capacity and noted that he also served in the same capacity during the Gillingham Charter hearings.

On the recommendation of Dr. DiCello, and seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the board appointed Marc Fisher, as the hearings officer for the upcoming hearings regarding the suspension of the district business manager, Mr. Steven Curran. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved homebound instruction for one middle school student. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board ratified the Superintendent's preapproval of the credits indicated for the following professional employees in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association: Kimberly Barone – 3 credits; Beth Bauers – 3 credits; Christopher Lombel – 3 credits; Mary Matulevich – 3 credits; Katelynn Miller – 3 credits; Peter McDonald – 3 credits; Greg Schuettler – 3 credits; Robert Sheaffer – 3 credits; and Erin Tranquillo – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board ratified the Superintendent's preapproval of the credits indicated for the following Administrative employees: Michael Maley – 3 credits; and Caitlin Mohl – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following professional employees be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Kimberly Barone - \$1,362.00; Patricia Zimmerman - \$825.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the resignation of Rebecca Mazurik, School Psychologist, effective June 30, 2017, in accordance with her updated letter of April 10, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following resignation for retirement purposes from Miss Jacqueline Mitchell, PAHS Chemistry teacher, effective August 31, 2017, in accordance with her letter submitted April 5, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following resignation for retirement purposes from Mrs. Melanie Thornburg, effective at the close of the 2016-2017 school year in accordance with her letter submitted April 13, 2017: Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the four-year Addendum to an Agreement between Source4Teachers, LLC and the Pottsville Area School District be approved through the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following professional employee to be excused from her teaching duties to serve as a juror in the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA: Courtney Reichert – Retroactive to Thursday, April 13, 2017. Motion carried by

roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following workers for the track and field meets at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective April 20, 2017: Bernadette Laubenstine and Mike Wallace. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Wagner, Chairman of the Committee on Real Estate, noted that he met with the head custodians, crew and electrician earlier that day and noted that the footers have been poured at the baseball and softball fields for the installation of the CACL signs.

Mr. Boran noted that each Board member received a copy of an election ballot in their packets for the Schuylkill I.U. Board Directors. He asked that each Board member return their completed ballot to him.

Mr. Moran, Legislation Chairperson, noted that he is continuing to keep a very weary eye on the National government. The current budget that has been recommended by President Trump contains cuts in items such as teacher trainings and school programs. Mr. Moran continued, these cuts always trickle down to the State level and we are already feeling the cuts. The State House Committee recently moved out of committee with reforms to the twenty year Charter School Law and also there was a bill introduced to limit "Out of School Suspensions."

Mrs. Blankenhorn, Chairperson of the Drug and Alcohol Coalition Committee, noted that a meeting organized by Dr. Zwiebel was held to reestablish the Task Force. She said something that was discussed was the need for more Drug and Alcohol Coalition education for our District and the community. Mrs. Blankenhorn said they would really like to know what our community and parents are interested in learning more about.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes from Karen Leahy, John S. Clarke Elementary Cafeteria employee, effective on the day after the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes from Phyllis Marberger, D. H. H. Lengel Middle School Cafeteria employee, effective April 21, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the unpaid leave of absence for Carol McKeone, full-time custodian at the high school for June 15 and June 16, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the unpaid leave of absence for Sarita Battish, part-time paraprofessional at the high school for April 11, May 5 and May 19, 2017. Motion carried.

Under Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Davidson read the following:

1. The Pottsville Area High School Band started the month of March off with eighteen band members participating in The Schuylkill County Band Festival, which was held at Blue Mountain High School, March 2nd through 4th. The guest conductor was Brian Balmages, who is a very famous composer of concert band music.
2. Congratulations to Colin Williams for participating in the PMEA Region V Band Festival, held at East Stroudsburg High School North. The guest conductor was Dr. Travis Cross from UCLA. Colin successfully re-auditioned and was selected to represent PAHS in the All State Concert Band at the PMEA Convention in Erie, PA in April.
3. Artworks from the following students were selected to be displayed at the Annual Schuylkill County High School Art Show. The Gallery Opening was on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts, located in the Yuengling Mansion in Pottsville. Their artworks will be on display until May 9, 2017:

12th Grade

Julia Conville
Rachel Conville
Sarah Griffiths
Allie Jones
Abbey Kostyal
Haley Long-Murton
Erin Ryan
Rebecca Weist

11th Grade

Ariana Ansel
Matilyn Ashfield
Kaelen McMullin
Jared Omlor
Megan Skosnick

4. The PASD 2017 Mini-Thon was held on March 31st at the Pottsville High School. Events included a bean bag toss, 3 on 3 basketball, volleyball, dancing, music, T-shirt decorating, a movie room and a celebrity boxing match between Mini-Thon advisor/English Teacher, Mr. Nathan Halenar and substitute teacher, Mr. Cody Blankenhorn. The event was a great success and raised almost \$4,200.00 for the Four Diamonds Fund with three year cumulative donation total of \$12,876.10.
5. Nine students performed at DeSales University Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival Competition. Congratulations to Senior, PJ Moran for being the first student in seven years from PAHS to be awarded scholarship money for his performance. Dr. Davidson remarked how much the drama productions have improved over the years.

6. Congratulations to the cast and crew of the PAHS Drama Club for their outstanding production of "Titanic", the Musical.
7. Congratulations to the following students for earning awards from the Buck County Playhouse Student Theatre Festival on April 13, 2017: Patrick (PJ) Moran – Best Actor and Logan Spevak – Best Supporting Actor.
8. Congratulations to Dylan Stillwagner for being selected as the PAHS nomination for the 2017 Arnold Delin Award.
9. Congratulations to Eric Wapinsky, Senior, for being selected as the 2017 PAHS Football Scholar Athlete.

POTTSVILLE AREA
WINTER SPORTS 2016-2017

Boys' Swimming: Season record (13-1) thirty seventh non-losing season
 League Record (9-1) SIAL Co-Champions
 League meet (24 medals won) Smerlick, Gonzalez, Turnitza, Young, Zelinsky, Botto, Kelly, Evan Lecher, Logothetides
 District XI meet (12 medals won) Turnitza, Gonzalez, Botto, Smerlick, Young, Zelinsky
 200 freestyle relay qualified for the state meet (Mike Smerlick, Jordan Young, Charlie Botto, and Zach Turnitza)

Mike Smerlick topped the 1,000 point plateau in scoring.

All team members achieved at least (3) lifetime best performances during the season

Girls' Swimming: Sara Corse-Campion topped 1,000 point plateau and qualified for the State meet.

Wrestling: Season record (16-4) Schuylkill League Champions, finished 7th in District XI.
 Richie Bentz hit 126 wins in his career.
 4 qualifiers for the Northeast Regional Tournament
 1 qualifier for the PIAA State Tournament

Boys' Basketball: Made the Schuylkill League Playoffs and took the silver medal.
 Made the District XI playoffs and took the silver medal.
 Made the PIAA State Playoffs
 Jordan Abdo scored his 1,000 point

Girls' Basketball: Made the Schuylkill League Playoffs and took the silver medal.
 Made the District XI playoffs

Winter Track: Colin Ebling and Nate Varano competed in the PIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships at Penn State University

Dr. Davidson noted that it was a very exciting winter sports season.

Mr. Moran, Negotiations reported that they are continuing to meet with the Pottsville Area School District Teachers Association. He said they are working together to the best of their abilities during this extremely passionate and extremely physical time during these negotiations. Both sides are coming with their best efforts and doing the best that they can do to minimize the effect on the Pottsville Area School District. He thanked the Association for their assistance with trying to get this process completed.

On the recommendation on the Committee of Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved to accept and award the bid from ePlus Technology, Inc. in the eRate discounted amount of \$1,636.66 for the wireless access points and network switches. Motion carried.

On the recommendation on the Committee of Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved to accept and award the bid from Network Rescue Services, in the eRate discounted amount of \$1,738.10 for the wireless maintenance fees and maintenance. Motion carried.

Dr. DiCello, Chairperson of the Committee of Technology reported that the following Technology Fee changes will be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year: She noted students who did not have a device incident for the 2016-2017 school year will not be required to pay a technology fee for the 2017-2018 school year. Students that had an incident resulting in a device repair will be required to pay the technology fee for the upcoming the school year.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the revenue report for the month of March 2017; the report includes local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried.

Under new business, Mr. Thomas requested, that all of our financial documents such as our Annual Financial Reports and Audits be made available online on our website for public view. There is no better way for transparency than to make any allowable documents available on our website.

Atty. Rismiller has been a member of this Board for about eleven years and has always been a very proud graduate of this district, and her children are graduates of this district as well. She said she heard and felt the passion and the concern of the students, parents, staff, and faculty and how it is impacting everyone in this room. She said it was with a very heavy heart that she sat there listening and knowing that we have a significant budget deficit. She said this didn't happen last week or two weeks ago, she said this is something we have been addressing for several years. Last year, the Board went to the Administration and asked them to freeze their salaries, which they did. We went to the

support staff and asked for concessions from them and accepted contribution to their health care. The Board went to Athletics and clubs and asked them to do more. We need students, parents and faculty to come together if we want to keep this operation as it's going alive, we need more help and we are looking for everyone to help us continue what we've been doing. We don't want to make decisions that hurt anybody, but we also have to work with the money we have, we can't spend money we don't have. She said that household budgets don't work that way, you can't write checks and not have the ability to pay them. We are trying to do this responsibly. We don't want anyone hurt; we are doing the best we can. We want to work with you, not against you. This issue about furloughs, this list was presented about two weeks ago, and we have not taken any action yet. She said that the Board has tough decisions to make. That does not mean that the parents, faculty, staff, Administration can't come to us with suggestions. She said there are things we can't control such as pension contributions, the state has let this pension crisis bubble up and we don't have the money to contribute millions of dollars every year to pensions and something has got to give. We can control negotiations and health insurance. We are doing our best to find solutions. We are imploring you to help us make hard decisions, no formal actions have been taken and the Superintendent's recommendations were presented to the Board on Wednesday evening 5th and those hard decisions took place with those teachers on that Friday morning. Nothing formal has happened. She was encouraged by the number of people that attended this meeting for speaking and were passionate. Don't think that it stops here, much more needs to be done.

Mr. Wagner said that he wanted to clear the air; it was made to look like Dr. Zwiebel came up with the names for these furloughs on his own. He said that was not the case. He said this Board as a group, facing the economic crisis that we are, charged Dr. Zwiebel and his Administrative team to try to find ways we could save money. He said Dr. Zwiebel came back with suggestions and the Board told him we still need more cuts. Some members of the Board were more adamant than others, but as a group we all share that responsibility. Dr. Zwiebel is not to be blamed. He is an employee closest to the educational program and looked at where any possible money could be saved. Mr. Wagner told those in the audience not to leave there that night thinking that Dr. Zwiebel is bad guy, he is not, we as a Board charged him with that responsibility and Dr. Zwiebel came up with suggestions that they thought would be possible ideas. Mr. Wagner was glad Atty. Rismiller said this is not over and done because it isn't. He appreciates the passion and enthusiasm that was displayed from those that addressed the Board, but did say he was extremely troubled when he heard a few students' remarks about only a few teachers caring. Mr. Wagner said that as a person that spent the better part of his adult life in this school district, those statements extremely bothered him. He said all teachers should care about all the students and approach them in a positive manner each and every day. He said, No, this is isn't a good time in the district, he said we have seen cuts in some of our Athletic programs and other programs, and yes, we are probably going to have to furlough people in our support staff, which we don't want to do that either. He said we know these people, and know what they do for our students each and every day. Mr. Wagner said this is not a done deal, it is not over yet but we do need to sharpen our pencils and get back and relook at the situation.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following Use of Facilities:

D.H.H.Lengel Middle School

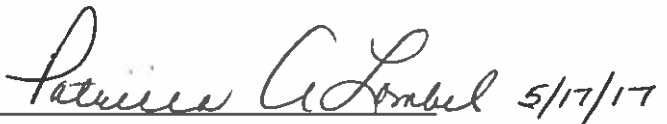
- PAHS Girls Soccer Boosters, Chinese Auction, October 8, 2017, 1:00 – 6:00 pm – DHHL Cafeteria

Alumni Field

- PASD Life Skills/ Autistic Support Classes, Picnic, June 2, 2017, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Alumni Field
- Pottsville Boys Soccer Alumni Association, Boys Alumni Soccer Game, September 2, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Mrs. Lombel announced that in accordance with Act 84 of 1986, the Sunshine Act, an Executive Session with the Board as a whole immediately following this meeting is hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Davidson, meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.



Patricia A. Lombel (Date)
Acting Board Secretary