

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
August 17, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Academic Center

Present: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent; Mr. Curran, Business Manager / Board Secretary; Atty. Thornburg; Solicitor; Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Lombel, Mr. Pytak, Pottsville Republican;

Absent: Mr. Boran

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Atty. Karen Rismiller.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Rismiller asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Under Public Comment, parents voiced their concerns about the Pottsville Area School Board's decision to cut back on the transportation services for the 2016-2017 school year.

Tracey Yourey, a parent with a child in the middle school, was concerned that her child would not have transportation services since she lives in Woodland Acres. Mrs. Deniece Krater, transportation supervisor dispatcher, said no, since it is a hazardous route. Mr. Ansbach noted that the state certifies if the route is hazardous or not.

Tracy Willinsky, also a parent with a child in the district, wanted to know how many children will be affected by the cut backs. Mrs. Krater noted that there were 293.

Colleen Brennan, a parent with a child in the middle school, was concerned about the safety of her child walking to school. Mr. Ansbach also noted that an assessment will be done and then the law will be followed. Mr. Thomas suggested that a map be on the school's website so parents can see the bus routes.

Mrs. Brennan also asked if some of the iPads are being funded with private donations. Dr. DiCello, Technology Chairperson, explained the reason for the technology fee. Dr. Zwiebel also noted that the lease payments for the new iPads are reduced. It is a \$560,000 savings for the school district.

Mr. Kerry Ansbach, Director of Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, noted that the changes were not easy for the district to make but were necessary due to the lack of funding over the last several years and the increase of operational costs.

Trisha Bouchard, a parent with a child in sixth grade, was also concerned for the safety of her daughter. She will be among the walkers.

Atty. Rismiller stated "As you may be aware, we are faced with some serious budgetary issues and financial issues. We're only reimbursed based upon meeting state regulations. So we need to be responsive to the taxpayers. We're not at all discounting the safety of children. But in terms of maintaining the quality of education for all the students for the entire district, we needed to make difficult decisions and to follow the regulations and to do so properly."

Karen Serrano, felt she was blindsided. She noted that if she knew about the changes in the transportation service, she wouldn't have been so upset. Ms. Serrano has a sixth grade student and will have to walk to school.

Fran Curry is also concerned about the safety of walking to school. Her child will be walking to school and some of the areas do not have sidewalks.

Angela Novack is also concerned about the safety of the children. She will gladly contact the state because of the changes with the transportation services but is afraid something will happen to one of the students if they walk in an area without sidewalks.

Dr. Cortese noted that Senators and Congressman have to be held accountable.

John Przywara has children in the elementary and middle schools. He just stated "we should try to make it safe for all children."

Stephen Pytak asked, "When did the school board formally approve the transportation changes?"

Atty. Rismiller stated "there is a transportation committee. I don't believe that there's a requirement that there needs to be any formal action taken when we're implementing state regulations."

Brian Manning, Assistant Business Manager, Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, noted that he is not affected by the transportation issue. He has been attending the meetings for the last 24 months and explained that the Board is faced with decisions on a monthly basis on education, providing extracurriculars and a well-rounded education. Mr. Manning continued that it is important to realize that these nine individuals face the brunt of the decisions such as keeping the teachers in the classroom or bus children to school. He noted for the past 10 to 20 years we used taxpayer's money to transport children but the money is no longer available.

Mr. William Zierle noted that everyone should call the state representatives and local officials about the issues with transporting students.

Mr. David Carroll was concerned about the funding for the Pottsville Free Public Library and the Port Carbon Library; funding for the libraries was not included in the budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

Cheryl Webster was concerned about whether her child will be bused. Atty. Rismiller told the parents to contact Mr. Ansbach or Mrs. Krater.

Atty. Rismiller stated "We as a district made a financial decision upon the information we have available to us. And the work that we've done previously was no longer available to us. Therefore, there's been no formal action taken. We adopt the bus routes on an annual basis. I'm not aware that we ever adopted what is considered to be the appropriate bus route for every single student in the Pottsville Area School District. So what we have done is, through committee work, made a decision to follow the recommendations and policies that are implemented by the state and to do so in a financially responsible manner."

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of June 22, 2016 Work Session and Board Meeting, July 6, 2016 Special Board Meeting and July 20, 2016 Work Session and Board Meeting. 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 Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of July 2016 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the cafeteria financial report of Pottsville Area School District Cafeteria for the month of July 2016 was accepted and ordered filed. (See office files.) Motion carried.

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

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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.

On recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved one FMLA request. Motion carried.

On recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following security personnel for various home events at the Pottsville Area School District, at a rate of \$10.00/hour, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

- Chris Andruchek

- Chuck Bauers
- Nick Eckley
- Jim Ketner

Motion carried.

The Superintendent submitted part-time payroll bills and recommended payment.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board authorized payment to the persons listed in the amounts indicated after their respective names for services on the programs specified in accordance with payroll bills submitted and approved by the Superintendent. (See office files) Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the preapproval of the credits indicated for the following professional employees be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Leigh Ann Bosak	-	3 credits
Katrina Greenawalt	-	3 credits
Casey Horvath	-	9 credits
Nathan Halenar	-	3 credits
Heather Jenkins	-	3 credits
Jennifer Lipton	-	6 credits
Mary Matulevich	-	3 credits
Lucas McMurtrie	-	3 credits
Benjamin O'Brien	-	3 credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the reimbursement for the professional employees as indicated for the successful completion of a preapproved credit course in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Kimberly Barone - \$1,362.00; Katelyn Dunn - \$5,490.00; Alicia Fehr - \$1,449.00; Angela Snyder - \$300.00; Jennifer Stock - \$300.00; Shannon Sweeney - \$300.00; Jillian Strohecker - \$600.00; Jenna Troutman - \$2,724.00; Cara Turolis - \$600.00; Kate Zimmerman - \$5,490.00 and Patricia Zimmerman - \$825.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mr. Boran, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the resignation of Anthony Majorino, PAHS English teacher, effective August 17, 2016 in accordance with his letter dated August 5, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded

by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the following Temporary/Professional Employee be elected, subject to the assignment of the Superintendent and set her salary effective August 23, 2016, pending the submission of all appropriate paperwork:

Katybeth Morrison – PAHS English – Bachelor’s-Step 4 - \$42,000.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the first reading of Policy #247 – Hazing. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the following salary adjustments be approved and become effective for the 2016-2017: Katelyn Dunn – Bachelor+15; Tyler Moyer – Master+15; Gregory Schuettler – Bachelor+15; Cara Turolis – Bachelor+15 and Patricia Zimmerman – Master+15. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the agreement between Pottsville Area School District and Saint Clair Area School District to share Speech Therapy Services. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the agreement for participation in the Child Nutrition Program between the Pottsville Area School District, Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and School County AVTS Operating Agency. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the awarding of PAHS diplomas to two additional members of the class of 2016 based upon the successful completion of the requirements and the recommendation of the High School Principal. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved that the following personnel be elected as advisors at the stipend indicated for the 2016-2017 school year in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Amy Babcock	Co-Advisor National Honor Society	\$200.00
Patricia Halko	Co-Advisor National Honor Society	\$200.00

Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel noted that during the summer the administrative staff has prepared for the opening of the 2016-2017 school year. A district in-service program will be held for teachers on Tuesday, August 23, Wednesday, August 24 and Thursday, August 25, 2016. The practice bus run and orientation for kindergarten children will also be held on Thursday, August 25. The opening of school for all students is Monday, August 29, 2016.

Vice President Rismiller commended and thanked the administrative team and Mr. Ansbach and his staff for the work that was done during the summer.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following coaches for the 2016-2017 school year:

Aquatics Director

Gregory Schuettler - \$4,400.00

Football

Tom McGeoy, Head Coach - \$6,250.00
John Toomey, First Assistant - \$6,303.00
Jake Wartella, Assistant - \$4,000.00
Jamie O'Brien, Assistant - \$3,400.00
Peter McDonald, Assistant - \$3,600.00
Rob Shaffer, Assistant - \$3,800.00
Rusty Yost, Assistant - \$3,000.00
Robert Shott, Assistant - \$4,000.00

Freshmen

Charles Schuster, Head Coach - \$6,713.00
Pete Kalinich, Assistant - \$4,200.00
Kurt Eroh, Assistant - \$3,600.00
Bill Messaros, Assistant - \$3,400.00

Junior High-8th Grade

William Rhoads, Head Coach - \$3,800.00
Matt Maccarone, Assistant - \$3,400.00

Junior High-7th Grade

Nick Sajone, Head Coach - \$3,200.00
Scott Grochowski, Assistant - \$2,800.00

Foorball Equipment Manager

Charles Rinaldo - \$4,474.00

Cross Country

Barbara McGinley, Head Coach - \$5,204.00
Kelly Lombel, Jr. High Coach – Volunteer

Golf

James Lord, Head Coach - \$2,600.00

Girls' Volleyball

Maria Sherakas, Head Coach - \$4,361.00
Krista Varano, Co-Assistant - \$1,400.00
Rachel Koury, Co-Assistant - \$1,400.00

Boys' Soccer

David Newton, Head Coach - \$5,300.00

Matthew Newton, Jr. Varsity Head Coach - \$3,400.00

Girls' Soccer

Robert Stock, Head Coach - \$5,300.00

John Dalton, Assistant - \$3,400.00

Girl's Tennis

Andrew Smink, Head Coach - \$3,600.00

Water Polo

Greg Schuettler, Head Coach - \$3,100.00

Neil Johnson, Assistant - \$2,000.00

Girls' Basketball

Curt Ziegmont-8th Grade Head Coach - \$3,000.00

Phil Tenaglia-7th Grade Head Coach - \$2,400.00

Cheerleader Advisors

Melissa Recla, Head Varsity Coach - \$2,850.00

Judy Rutherford, Assistant - \$2,000.00

Samantha Lecher, Jr. High Coach - \$1,800.00

Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mr. Boran, Absent.

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 volunteer coaches for the 2016-2017 school year:

Football

Tony Barone

Cody Blankenhorn

Jack Botto

Ken Bowler

Kevin Keating

Mark Laubenstine

Joe Palko

Butch Vandermeer

Boys' Soccer

Christian Newton

Girls' Soccer

Brian Spotts
Eric Lord
Jen Stock

Girls' Volleyball

Sammi Davidavage
Megan Powers
Mike Puzauskie
Caroline Schuster

Water Polo

Kim Barone
Kaycee Sullivan

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the following weight room supervisors for the 2016-2017 school year at an annual salary of \$5,200.00 to be divided as follows:

James Lord - \$1,733.33
Peter McDonald - \$1,733.33
Daniel Slotterback - \$1,733.33

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Fall Sports Budgets for the 2016-2017 school year:

Football - \$63,767.00
Boys' Soccer - \$11,851.00
Girls' Soccer - \$8,335.00
Girls' Volleyball - \$6,898.00
Water Polo - \$7,170.00
Cross Country - \$3,293.00
Golf - \$5,525.00
Girls' Tennis - \$1,812.00
Medical Budget - \$3,112.00

Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner thanked Mr. Ansbach and his staff for an excellent job in getting the buildings ready for the new school year. He also noted that all bus tickets should be out by tomorrow, August 18, 2016.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the change order from Honeywell for the cooling system at the middle school in the amount of \$427,800.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mr. Boran, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Special Education Service Agreement for the 2016-2017 school year in the tentative amount of \$978,656.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the agreement with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 for Title I services, effective August 19, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the Schuylkill County Online Learning letter of agreement between the Pottsville Area School district and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, effective August 1, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved a line of credit from Gratz Bank, Pottsville, PA to cover expenses for the chiller installation at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the 1st Reading of the following policies:

- Policy 808 – Food Services (Revision)
- Policy 827 – Conflict of Interest (New)
- Policy 626.1 – Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs (New)
- Policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance (Revision)
- Policy 609 – Investment of District funds (Revision)

Motion carried.

Mr. Moran, Drug and Alcohol Chairperson, read the prepared statement:

“The Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Program will be presenting the Schuylkill County Addictions Awareness and Recovery Solutions event in order to increase awareness about addiction in our communities and offer tools and information about recovery and treatment for individuals who have been impacted by substance abuse.

Some of the topics that will be discussed at this event include treatment options, mental health and legal issues, as well support for individuals and their families who are recovering from addiction.

The event will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at Martz Hall in Pottsville, PA from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The guest speaker at the event will be Chris Herren, a former NBA player and nationally recognized speaker on recovery.

For more information about the event or to reserve a table for your agency or organization, please contact the Drug and Alcohol Administrator, Melissa Chewey, at 570-621-2890 ext. 104 or via email at mchewey@co.schuylkill.pa.us.”

Mr. Moran also noted that there is a new powerful drug, Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is much stronger than heroin and is absorbed through the skin. Narcan has a limited effect on this drug.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following paraprofessional resignations:

Patricia Blake – effective August 2, 2016

Jennifer Singer – effective July 28, 2016

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following part-time paraprofessionals at an hourly rate of \$12.60, effective August 29, 2016, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

Jackie Murton

Sandy Paulschock

Karen Schock

Shannon Seiders

Anneta Yackenchick

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following instructional aides at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, at an hourly rate of \$12.60, effective August 29, 2016:

Susan Drasdis

Kaier Trovato

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Bernadette Ott as a full-time paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary, effective August 29, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the purchase of 40 new iPads at an additional yearly lease cost of \$4,000.00 for four years. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mrs. Blankenhorn, Mr. Thomas, Nay. Mr. Boran, Absent.

Dr. DiCello noted the following:

- There were several trainings for the iPads and they were well received
- Half of the iPads were distributed
- Cash and carry sale of iPads netted \$125,500.00

On the recommendation of Mr. Wagner, PSBA Representative, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following PSBA Slate of candidates for 2017:

President Elect – Michael Facinetto, Bethlehem Area SD (Northampton Co.)
Vice President – David Hutchinson, State College SD (Centre Co.)
Central At Large – No Candidate

Trustees for the PSBA Insurance Trust Board (Five Seats Open and Five Candidates):

Michael Facinetto (term ends December 31, 2017)
William S. LaCoff (term ends December 31, 2018)
Mark B. Miller (term ends December 31, 2019)
Marianne L. Need (term ends December 31, 2017)
Kathy K. Swope (term ends December 31, 2019)

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Special Ed/Alternative Ed/Charter, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Jessica Tofany to provide Auditory, Speech and Language Therapy at the rate of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour for a maximum of 81 hours.

Contract Period: August 23, 2016 – May 31, 2017.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Curran, Business Manager, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the revenue report for the month of July 2016; the report includes local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following requests for use of facilities:

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School

- Pottsville Wrestling, Practice, September 10, 2016, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wrestling Room

- Pottsville Mothers Football Boosters, Chicken BBQ Pick-Up, October 29, 2016, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Canopy
- PAHS Water Polo, Water Polo Game/Concession Stand Sales, September 7, 26, 28, 2016; October 6, 17, 2016, Hall Adjacent to Pool
- PAHS Water Polo, Water Polo Parent's Booster Meeting, August 24, 2016, September 21, 2016 and October 11, 2016, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Cafeteria
- D.H.H. Lengel Middle School PTO Meeting, September 12, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- Pottsville Wrestling, Elementary Registration, September 14, 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- D.H.H. Lengel Middle School PTO, Halloween Dance, October 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Cafeteria

Pottsville Area High School

- PAHS Water Polo, Water Polo End of Season Dinner, October 18, 2016, 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- PAHS Cheer Boosters, Senior Night Party, October 21, 2016, 3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., Cafeteria

John S. Clarke Elementary

- Pottsville Girls' Basketball League, Basketball Practice/Games during various times in September through December 2016 and January through March 2017 in the Gymnasium

PAHS Stadium


- Football Boosters, All Sports Pep Rally, August 25, 2016, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Stadium

Motion carried.

Mr. Curran noted that in accordance with Act 84 of 1986, the Sunshine Act, an Executive Session with the Board as a whole immediately following this meeting was hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel and/or legal matters.

There being no further business and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Thomas the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 8:35 p.m. and adjourned at 9:27 p.m.


 Stephen C. Curran (Date)
 Board Secretary