

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
December 7, 2016
Reorganization Meeting
Academic Center
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese,
Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner,
Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent; Mrs. Lombel,
Acting Secretary / Assistant Business Manager;
Atty. Thornburg, Solicitor, Mr. Ansbach,
Mrs. Kalovcak, Mr. Pytak, Republican Herald

The Reorganization Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Mr. Moran asked for a moment of silence to honor the victims of Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Boran asked if anyone wanted to address the Board. Mrs. Josephine Kwiatkoski, a Pottsville resident and taxpayer came forward. Mrs. Kwiatkoski voiced her concerns about the financial distress that the school district is in. She mentioned the cost of iPads, Gillingham Charter School hearings, not replacing retired teachers and cutting hours for aides and cafeteria staff. She is also concerned about the current status of the former business manager. As a taxpayer, she does not want the students of the district to be adversely effected.

Patrick (P.J.) Moran, Vice President of the 2017 senior class addressed the Board and told them he was in attendance because he was interested in learning about student government and how the Pottsville Area School District Board of Education works.

On the recommendation of Dr. Cortese, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, an Executive Session was called at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mrs. Lombel noted that in accordance with Act 84 of 1986, the Sunshine Act, an Executive Session with the Board as a whole was hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel/legal matters.

Dr. Cortese exited the Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Mrs. Lombel, Acting Board Secretary, read Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code providing for the Reorganization of the Board of School Directors during the first week in December.

The Secretary continued by reading the following notice of the meeting that was sent to all Board members, Superintendent, Solicitor and advertised in the Pottsville Republican on November 23, 2016.

In compliance with Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code of the State of Pennsylvania, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District will meet in the Directors' Room in the Academic Center on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing a

President and Vice President for the ensuing year; electing a Solicitor for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017; and also for general purposes.

Mr. Boran appointed Mr. Moran, as temporary President, to proceed with the Reorganization Meeting.

Mr. Moran declared the meeting in order to proceed with the election of a President and Vice President for the ensuing year.

Dr. Davidson nominated John F. Boran to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year. Mr. Thomas seconded.

On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. DiCello, nominations for President were closed. Motion carried.

The Secretary cast the ballot and John F. Boran was elected to the office of President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Boran proceeded with the election of a Vice President.

Mr. Thomas nominated Atty. Karen Rismiller to serve as Vice President of the Board for a term of one year. Mr. Moran seconded.

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the nominations for Vice President were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Atty. Karen Rismiller was elected to the office of Vice President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of Mr. Boran, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board adjourned the Reorganization Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Boran noted that each Board member received copies of the October 19, 2016 work session and regular board meeting minutes and the November 16, 2016 work session and regular board meeting minutes. On motion of Mr. Wagner and seconded by Atty. Rismiller these minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Boran reported that an Executive Session of the Board of Directors was held on November 20, 2016.

The Board proceeded with a motion for the election of a Solicitor for the ensuing year. Mr. Thomas nominated Richard A. Thornburg to serve as Solicitor for the Pottsville Area School District beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Atty. Rismiller seconded.

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, nominations for Solicitor were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Richard A. Thornburg was elected as Solicitor of the Pottsville Area School District beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board set the salary of Richard A. Thornburg at a retainer of \$1,250.00 per month beginning January 1, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board authorized the proper officers to execute the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Richard A. Thornburg for his services as Solicitor. Motion carried.

Mr. Thornburg thanked the Board for their continued support and said he is eternally grateful and is looking forward to serving for another year. He said this will be the start of his twenty-ninth year.

Mr. Boran announced that the Board will continue to meet once a month on the third Wednesday of each month during 2017. Mr. Boran stated public notice will be advertised in the Republican Herald on December 9, 2016 stating that the Board's regular meetings for the calendar year 2017 will be held at the Academic Center on the third Wednesday of each month beginning January 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and that public notice of each rescheduled regular meeting, special meeting or hearing shall be given in accordance with the Sunshine Act. He also noted the Board will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month for work sessions beginning January 4, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until further notice. The meeting schedule will be posted in the Academic Center.

On the recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved a FMLA for an employee of the district. Atty. Thornburg noted that all paperwork is in order. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the additional payroll for the payday of November 18, 2016 and December 2, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, homebound instruction is granted for one high school student. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, 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: Christopher Lombel – 3 credits; Peter McDonald – 6 credits; Robert Sheaffer – 3 credits; and David Sterner – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, 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: Brianne Drexel - \$2,820.00; Kelci Killian - \$2,898.00; and Jennifer Stock - \$315.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following salary adjustment be approved and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year: Katybeth Morrison – Bachelor’s +15 and Jennifer Stock – Master’s +15. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved pursuant to Section 1108 of the School Code, having received a satisfactory rating for the second semester of the third year of teaching, the following professional employees be awarded a permanent contract and tenure certification: Samantha Jansson, Stacey McClusky, Katelynn Miller, Alyssa Palina and Elaina Prestileo. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following student early dismissal for the Christmas holiday on Friday, December 23, 2016. Dismissal times are as follows: Pottsville Area High School – 12:00 noon; D.H.H. Lengel Middle School – 12:30 p.m. and John S. Clarke Elementary School – 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding Transportation Procedures Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill County Children Youth Services. Motion carried by roll call vote Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye; Atty. Rismiller, Abstain.

Mr. Moran, Committee on Legislation reported that there is a push for Property Tax Reform. This will be addressed when the legislators reconvene in January 2017. Mr. Moran noted that pension costs continue to escalate and concern about changes with the federal administration on education also continues.

On the recommendation of Atty. Rismiller, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the resignation of Mary Theresa Shrift, a paraprofessional at the Pottsville Area High School, effective November 29, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the resignation for retirement of Kerry Ansbach, Director of Facilities, Grounds and Transportation, effective December 31, 2016. Motion carried. Atty. Rismiller thanked Kerry Ansbach for all of his dedication and hard work throughout the district for the past few decades.

Kerry Ansbach thanked the Board for their support over the last 34 years. Mr. Ansbach noted that he enjoyed working with former and current administrators and staff.

Dr. Davidson noted that Kerry was originally hired in 1983 as a bus mechanic when he was Superintendent, but it didn't take long until his many talents were realized such as reconstructing a missing chandelier in the high school auditorium and repairing the planetarium telescope for little or nothing instead of the district paying the \$40,000.00 repair quote they received. Dr. Davidson noted that our maintenance program and transportation program run much smoother today because of Kerry. He also mentioned the large amount of money Kerry has saved the district over the years. Dr. Davidson added that it was a privilege to work with Kerry.

Dr. Davidson, Chairperson for the Committee on Public Relations, noted that Kassi Kuperavage, Jessica Turnitza and Hannah Joyce will be representing the Pottsville Area High School as the 2017 Winter Carnival princess candidates.

Dr. Davidson also remarked that twenty-nine baskets were donated by various Pottsville Area School District clubs, organizations and building offices for the Thanksgiving holiday. The baskets were delivered to our area needy families on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. Dr. Davidson commended all of the students involved.

Dr. DiCello, Chairperson of the Committee on Technology reported that to-date 1,181 iPads and iPad minis have been sold, earning \$209,503.00 in sales with 230 remaining to sell. Dianne Dougherty has been very busy getting everything listed on eBay along with other items as well.

Mr. Wagner, IU #29 Representative, noted they will meet Monday, December 12, 2016 and the Director search is going very well and they have received a number of applications.

Mr. Moran, Chairperson of the Policy and Planning, noted a meeting will be scheduled in the next two weeks.

On motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Wagner the Board granted the following requests for the use of facilities:

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School

- PASD Aquatic, Age Group Swim Registration, November 30, 2016, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria. (Retroactive)
- Pottsville Wrestling, Wrestling Tournament, April 1, 2017, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Martz Hall
- PAHS Basketball/Softball Boosters, Quartermania, April 2, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria. (Set up April 1, 2017 - 5:00 p.m.)
- Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, Housing and Rehearsal for DCI Championships, August 4, 2017 – August 5, 2017, 6:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., MS Music Room, Locker Rooms, Martz Hall and the Academic Center parking lot/practice fields.

Pottsville Area High School

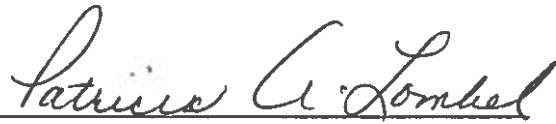
- Majestic Theatre Organization, Majestic Theatre Awards, May 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., HS Auditorium.
- PAHS Special Education, Parent Training/Transition 101, March 9, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., HS Library. (Snow Date – March 23, 2017)

Motion carried.

Mr. Moran remarked that on Monday, December 12, 2016 the Pottsville Area High School Drama Club will perform "A Christmas Carol" in the basement of the Pottsville Free Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Lombel 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 matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Patricia A. Lombel 12/07/2016
Acting Board Secretary