

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
February 15, 2017  
Academic Center  
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. 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 in the audience wished to address the Board.

Ms. Josephine Kwiatkoski, a Pottsville resident addressed the Board. She mentioned that she was very impressed with Mr. Moran's January Legislative Report regarding his detailed explanation of the Property Tax Elimination Bill. Ms. Kwiatkoski challenged the Board to write letters from the Board as a whole, to Senator Argall and the Republican Herald stating their position. She also expressed concerns regarding Mr. Boran's statement of trusting the process and everything will work out. She said that trust needs to be earned and little if anything has been done by the Board of Directors to earn the trust of the taxpayers. She stated there is no transparency, no answers or even acknowledgement given to any public inquires. Ms. Kwiatkoski also remarked about the unpaid leave of the business manager, the fiscal health of the district, the district's purchase of iPads, and the proposed tax increases.

Mr. Boran thanked Ms. Kwiatkoski for her comments and then proceeded with the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of both the Work Session held on January 4, 2017 as well as the regular Board Meeting held on January 18, 2017. 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 January 2017 and directed it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Financial Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeteria for the month of January 2017 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 Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Wagner, 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 the recommendation of the Atty. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the list received from the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau of the repository sales of three properties. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board ratified the Superintendent's preapproval of the credits indicated for the following professional employee in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association: Leigh Ann Bosak – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board ratified the Superintendent's preapproval of the credits indicated for the following administrative employees: Michael Maley – 9 credits; Caitlin Mohl – 9 credits. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the reimbursement to the following professional employees for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association: Beth Bauers - \$300.00; Alicia Fehr - \$600.00. 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 further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the adjustment of the 2016-2017 school calendar due to the inclement weather. Thursday, April 13, Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18, 2017 will be changed to regular school days. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following salary adjustment be approved effective for the 2017-2018 school year: Heather Jenkins – Master's Degree. 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 Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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 employee be awarded a permanent contract and tenure certification: Jill Chiccini. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Consultation Services Contract of Mary Ellen Setlock effective February 15, 2017 through December 31, 2017, with the option of consulting until June 30, 2018 to organize and prepare the new Federal Programs Coordinator for the District's Spring 2018 monitoring review. It is further recommended a \$1,100.00 per month compensation be approved. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following Spring Sports Budgets for the 2017 season: Baseball - \$9,324.00; Girl's Softball - \$8,913.00; Boy's Track - \$8,407.00; Girl's Track - \$7,716.00; Boy's Tennis - \$1,960.00; and Boy's Volleyball - \$4,504.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas and 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 appointed the following coaches for the 2016-2017 school year and set their salaries as indicated:

BASEBALL

Michael Welsh, Head Coach	\$5,600.00
Thomas Guzick, Jr. Varsity Head Coach	\$5,118.00
Edward Terefenko, Assistant	\$3,200.00
Ben O'Brien, Jr. Varsity Head Coach	\$2,600.00

SOFTBALL

Charles Rinaldo, Head Coach	\$5,300.00
Thomas Mull, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Clarence Herndon, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Bruce Heffner, Head Junior Varsity	\$2,600.00

SPRING TRACK

Charles Schuster, Boys' Head Coach	\$5,773.00
Barbara McGinley, Girls' Head Coach	\$5,300.00
Kelly Lombel, Assistant	\$3,400.00
Craig Stevens, Assistant	\$2,400.00
Jeff Dunkel, Assistant	\$2,200.00
Peter McDonald, Assistant	\$3,200.00
William Rhoads, Assistant	\$3,200.00
Diane Dunkel, Jr. High Head Coach	\$3,400.00
Cara Holman, Co-Jr. High Assistant	\$1,600.00
Mark Laubenstine, Co -Jr. High Assistant	\$1,600.00
Jim Lord, Jr. High Assistant	\$3,000.00

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Dan Hedemann, Head Coach	\$4,200.00
Doug Bendetti, Assistant	\$2,200.00

BOYS' TENNIS

Adrian Portland, Head Coach	\$2,600.00
-----------------------------	------------

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

BASEBALL

Tyler Heffner  
Dave Sterner  
Jacob Tobin

SOFTBALL

Mike Kiehner  
Caroline Schuster  
Ashley Shappell  
Brian Spotts  
Jenn Stock

TRACK AND FIELD

Robert Brouse  
Corey Schuster  
Mike Stank

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Kenton Martin  
Maria Sherakas

Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner reported for the Committee on Transportation met with Building head custodians, transportation department and outside crew director, Mr. Hoak and everything is going well. Mr. Wagner remarked that with the transition of Mr. Kerry Ansbach to the building custodial supervisors and they know they can rely on Kerry when needed. Mr. Wagner noted that one other thing we need to think about maintaining the boys and girls gymnasiums in the near future. It has been three or four years since the floors were maintained. Mr. Thomas expressed cost concerns. Mr. Wagner said he would not recommend it to be to the same scale as Martz Hall.

Mr. Wagner distributed copies of a Transportation Budget Analysis that Mr. Ansbach prepared for the Board's review.

Mr. Boran, Finance Chairperson, read the following:

**Resolved**, by the Board of School Directors of Pottsville Area School District, as follows:

The Proposed Preliminary Budget of the School District for the 2017-2018 fiscal year on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board is adopted as a Preliminary Budget Proposal for the School District General Fund. The Administration and School Board will continue review of budget components, and the Preliminary Budget may be revised prior to adoption of a Final Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The Act 1 index applicable to the School District as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is 3.6%. The Preliminary Budget Proposal assumes that the School District will receive approval for use of one or more Act 1 real estate tax referendum exceptions. The School District shall take all steps required to obtain approval for the referendum exceptions contemplated in the Preliminary Budget Proposal, including advertising once in a newspaper of general circulation and placing on the School District internet website **Act 1 Referendum Exception Notice** in substantially the form as presented to the School Board.

The School District shall continue to make the Preliminary Budget Proposal available for public inspection, and shall make the Proposed Final Budget in its then current form available for public inspection at least 20 days before the date schedule for adoption of the Final Budget.

At least 10 days before the date scheduled for adoption of the Final Budget, the Secretary shall advertise **Final Budget Notice** in substantially the form as presented to the School Board. The notice shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation and shall be posted conspicuously at the School District offices.

School District officials shall take all action necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board of Directors adopted the following Preliminary Budget resolution. The Preliminary Budget may be revised prior to adoption of a Final Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal 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.

Mr. Moran, Legislation Chairperson, noted that on a National Educational Level, Ms. Betsy DeVos was confirmed as Secretary of Education and on the next day, Republican Representative Thomas Massie from Kentucky proposed a one sentence bill to abolish the Department of Education, which was referred to Committee. They also proposed to

overturn ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act accountability rules and were referred to committee. Mr. Moran said now we are just waiting to see what they will do on the National level for the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Mr. Moran noted, on a State Legislative Level, initial conversations coming out of Harrisburg indicate there will be a swift budget process. He noted that part of the Governor's proposed 2017-2018 budget contains an increase for Basic-Education Funding of one hundred million dollars and possible distribution to the district of \$163,918.00; A proposed Special Education Funding increase of 25 million dollars for a possible District increase of \$59,313.00; Early Child Education is slated as being increased by 75 million but unfortunately there is not a district breakdown available at this time; The Ready to Learn Block Grant's approximate district increase could be \$488,569.00. Mr. Moran stated the Federal Government and State Government are also looking at a possible increase in the food service budget for districts with over 60% free or reduced lunch participation and because Pottsville Area School District is currently 61% we may see an increase. There is also a decrease in the amount of money slated for pupil transportation funding by approximately \$50,000.00.

Mr. Moran noted there is also a possible inclusion of training Bus Drivers and Crossing Guards in the use of EPI-PEN's. Mr. Moran noted he could understand the bus drivers being trained because of transporting students in the warmer weather with windows opened but he is not sure of the need to train the crossing guards.

Mrs. Blankenhorn, Drug and Alcohol Coalition Chairperson, noted there will be a Tide Task Force meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Academic Center.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Sharon Davis be hired as a part-time transportation aide for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, retroactive to February 14, 2017, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board accepted the resignation of Kayla Leibel, transportation aide for the Pottsville Area School District, effective February 13, 2017. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved Kayla Leibel be hired as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$10.70, retroactive to February 14, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved an unpaid leave of absence for a cafeteria employee at the D. H. H. Lengel Middle School for the requested dates of Monday, March 20, 2017 through Friday, March 24, 2017 and Monday, March 27, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following substitute part-time paraprofessionals at an hourly rate of \$12.60: Molly Bressler – retroactive to February 10, 2017 and Holly Gotshall – retroactive to January 27, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following motion and directed the Superintendent and Administration team to:

1. Study the professional district staffing needs based upon instruction program requirements and student enrollment.
2. Determine the minimum professional district staffing needs for the upcoming school year based upon the foregoing studies.
3. Make recommendations to the Board during March and/or April 2017 based upon the considerations set forth in the Public School Code, concerning whether any professional or temporary professional employee position should be maintained, added, reduced or eliminated during the 2017-2018 school year.
4. If a recommendation is made for elimination or reduction of positions, implement the established procedures through termination of specific temporary professional employees, suspension of specific professional employees or demotion of specific professional employees, obtaining such approvals from the Department of Education that may be required for the alteration or curtailment of education programs;
5. Notify any temporary professional and professional employees who may be affected by the recommendation; and
6. Consult with and work with district legal counsel to insure the correctness and completeness of the process.

Motion carried.

Dr. Davidson, Chairman of Public Relations, congratulated the following Pottsville Area School District student accomplishments:

- a. Hanna Joyce was selected as 2017 Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival Princess, Jessica Turnitza was 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up and Kassandra Kuperavage was also named as a finalist.
- b. Jessica Wensus, (12<sup>th</sup> grade) was selected as a 2017 Horatio Alger State Scholar. Jessica was awarded a \$10,000.00 scholarship.
- c. Dasia Reichert earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place for welding and Maria Spencer earned 8<sup>th</sup> place for commercial baking at the SkillsUSA District 6 competition held at the Schuylkill Technology Center.
- d. The County Mathcounts competition was held Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Penn State Schuylkill.

The Lengel Mathcounts team, coached by Mrs. Donna Skosnick, earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of ten schools. Team members: Christian Honicker (8<sup>th</sup> grade); Justyn Stevens (8<sup>th</sup> grade); Aidan Moran (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Nick Giuffre (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

Individual participants were Jeff Davis (8<sup>th</sup> grade); Justin Sickle (7<sup>th</sup> grade); Kendra Spevak (7<sup>th</sup> grade); Ayva Strauss (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Kaylee Burke (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Ryan Sickle (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

Christian Honicker (8<sup>th</sup> grade) earned 1<sup>st</sup> place and Nick Giuffre (6<sup>th</sup> grade) earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Both Christian and Nick qualified for the state competition in Harrisburg on March 11, 2017.

- e. Sara Mean and Peyton Kleckner, both 8<sup>th</sup> graders, were honored by the Pottsville VFW for their submission in the Patriots Pen Essay Contest. Students in grades 6-8 were eligible to submit an essay with the theme, "The America I Believe In". Peyton placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Sara place 2<sup>nd</sup> among all the D.H.H. Lengel School submissions.
- f. The Varsity Quiz Team competed in the county-wide match at the Schuylkill IU#29 on February 6, 2017. The varsity team competed in three matches against Blue Mountain, Pine Grove and Shenandoah Valley. The PAHS varsity team garnered the highest score of the evening and compiled a score of 350 points against the other three schools. The next all-county competition will be held March 31, 2017 at Penn State Schuylkill Campus.
- g. The PAHS Wrestling Team won the Schuylkill League Championship. Individual league champions included Richie Bentz and Cole Painter.

Dr. DiCello, reported that all of the iPads have been sold. Total sales for the year \$236,203.90 which is above the projected amount of \$225,000.00. The Technology Department is still looking to see if there are any remaining desktops, iPad carts, or any additional surplus that we may have. Dr. Davidson remarked that the willingness of the people to purchase this technology indicates the importance of our iPad Program and also saved the district \$10,000.00.

Mr. Thomas, IU#29 Representative, remarked that the Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget for 2017-2018 totals \$6,028,222.00. Pottsville Area School District's share is \$864,738.00, which is an increase of \$51,420.00 over the 2016-2017 share. Mr. Thomas recommended that the Board reject the Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. He stated the budget was well put together but his concern is the amount of increase to the Pottsville Area School District and is because of their funding formula.

Atty. Rismiller asked Mr. Thomas if he voted "No" when the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29 presented the budget to the District Representatives. Mr. Thomas answered, yes.



On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board rejected the Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year in the amount of \$6,028,222.00. 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.

Mr. Boran noted that each director received a ballot which they must sign indicating their vote on the above motion.

On the recommendation of the Committee and Policy and Procedure Review and on motion of Mr. Moran and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approve the following policies: Policy #200 – Copy of Enrollment in District and Policy #202 – Copy of Eligibility of Nonresident Students. Motion carried.

Mr. Moran commended the District's Transportation Staff and Administrative Staff, which acted admirably for the proper handling of the recent bus accident on 20<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. They responded not only to the scene, but brought a secondary bus. Fortunately the students were not dramatically injured, only a few bumps and bruises. Every student involved was loaded onto the second bus and taken to both local hospitals for assessment. He said both Medical Centers enacted their mass causality event and each student had an adult escort from the time they walked into the door. Kudos to Lehigh Valley – Schuylkill Center, our Administrative Staff, Transportation Staff, Police Department, Fire Department and Schuylkill EMS for a job well done. Dr. Davidson noted that it was not the fault of our bus driver. Mr. Moran added the driver of the other vehicle admitted at the scene that she just did not see the light.

On recommendation of Patricia Lombel, Acting Business Manager and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Revenue Reports for January 2017, which included local, state and federal sources. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wagner, Aye.

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

**John S. Clarke Elementary Center:**

PTO, Theme Basket Auction, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (Set-up, Browse and Bid) 4:00-8:00 p.m., May 20<sup>th</sup> Auction, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, May 21, 2017 (Pick up/Clean up) 9:00-11:00 am, JSC Gym and Cafeteria.

- PTO, Committee Meeting, February 27, 2017, 6:30-7:30 pm, JSC Cafeteria.

**D.H.H. Lengel Middle School:**

- PAHS Cheerleaders, Meeting with Apparel, March 6, 2017, 4:30 – 7:30 pm, Martz Hall Concession area.
- Pottsville Boys Basketball League, Pizza Party and Banquet, March 15, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, MS Cafeteria

- PAHS Boys Basketball Teams, End of Season Banquet, March 12, 2017, 4:00-7:00 pm, MS Cafeteria.
- Pottsville Wrestling, Wrestling Banquet, April 9, 2017, 3:00-8:00 pm, MS Cafeteria and Auditorium
- Schuylkill Chapter of PIAA Volleyball Officials, Annual Rules and Interpretation Meeting, August 2, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, MS Auditorium

**P.A.H.S.:**

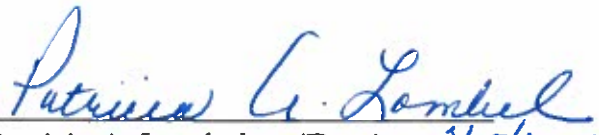
- PAHS Wrestling, Wrestling Camp on July 24 – 26, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the boy's gym
- PAHS Language Dept., Honor Society Induction Ceremonies, March 9, 2017, 5:45 – 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium.
- PAHS Percussion Ensemble, Rehearsals, February thru April 2017 on Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, HS Band Room. (Retro)
- PAHS Guidance Dept., Financial Aid Night 2017-2018, September 20, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, HS Auditorium
- PAHS Guidance Dept., FAFSA Completion Night, October 2, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, HS Computer Lab.

Mrs. Blankenhorn mentioned that she was approached about a date revision for the HS Wrestling banquet, it was originally requested for April 9, 2017 but they would like to change the date to either April 2<sup>nd</sup> or April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Lombel said she would check into the facility availability.

Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager, reported 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.

Mr. Moran, Committee on Negotiations, reported that negotiations are ongoing and we are working very well with the teacher negotiation team and look forward to the next meeting to February 21, 2017.

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

  
 Patricia A. Lombel (Date) 3/15/2017  
 Board Secretary