

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Work Session  
January 20, 2016  
Academic Center  
5:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson,  
Dr. DiCello, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Moran,  
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner,  
(Skype); Dr. Zwiebel, Mr. Curran,  
Atty. Thornburg, Mr. Ansbach,

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President Mr. Boran called the Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Ziegmont, P.A.S.D. Curriculum Coordinator informed the board of several positive initiatives on-going throughout the district including:

- P.A.H.S. Mentor Program
- P.B.I.S.
- Act 70 training for teachers
- Act 71/Suicide Prevention training
- Apple training for 60 staff members on the Act 80 day

Mr. Richard Pitcavage, C.P.A., Jones and Company, Pottsville PA reviewed the 2014-2015 audit with the Board. He informed the Board that during the audit there are several components starting with reviewing compliance with local laws, PDE regulations, Internal Revenue Service regulations and any public bidding, all of which were clean. Another component is the federal programs and this year the Title One program was tested and also yielded no issues.

Mr. Pitcavage stated that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board required all public entities to begin reporting their financial statements the same as the private sector. The three major funds are the General Fund, Capital Reserve and Food Service. The other funds such as activities and scholarships are deemed fiduciary and not included in the entity wide statements. For this year, GASB required school districts to report their PSERS liability. PSERS itself is underfunded by 92 billion dollars. Our share of that amount is 57 million which puts the district in the red. He added that all districts are in the red, some more bloody than others. He commented that the Pottsville Area School District in comparison to the other county schools has one of the lowest debt structures and commended the board.

Mr. Boran asked Mr. Pitcavage if there were any suggestions or areas of improvement that he could recommend. Mr. Pitcavage responded that a tax increase is warranted. He added even if it is a half mill each year, it has a positive ripple effect. He added that all districts have uncontrollable costs such as PSERS, healthcare, salaries, and tuition which typically comprises 85% of the budget. His own firm incurred an increase of \$67,000 for

healthcare for twelve people. He noted another area is the food service operation. The participation over the years with the implementation of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act has declined and had a corresponding detrimental effect on revenue.

Mr. Pitcavage asked if there were any more questions, hearing none, he thanked the Board and informed them that the final audit report would be available in the next few weeks.

Mr. Boran asked if there were any old business for the Board, hearing none he asked the board to review the regular meeting agenda and asked for comments or questions.

He then asked for the committee reports:

- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities - Mrs. Blankenhorn indicated that one will be covered at the regular meeting.
- Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation - Mr. Wagner indicated that there are two items for action.
- Finance - Mr. Boran asked the board to review the S.T.C. budget between now and the February meeting.
- Legislation - Mr. Moran stated he will report some informational items at the regular meeting.
- Negotiations - Dr. Cortese stated that there is no report for this evening.
- Drug and Alcohol Coalition - Mr. Moran indicated that the committee has not met at this point but a meeting is being set up in the future.
- Personnel - Attorney Rismiller stated that there are several personnel motions for the regular meeting.
- Public Relations - Dr. Davidson stated that he will cover the items at the regular meeting.
- Technology - Dr. DiCello stated that she has several informational items for the regular meeting.
- Textbook and Supplies - Dr. Davidson stated that there was no report but as we near the budget season he will have more to report.
- IU 29/PSBA Representative-Mr. Wagner stated that there was nothing to report aside from the S.T.C. budget review and consideration next month.
- Pottsville Recreation Committee - Mr. Thomas indicated that there is a meeting this evening.
- Special Education/Alternative Education/Charter Schools - Mr. Thomas stated that there was no report.
- Grading/Curriculum - Mr. Moran stated that there was no report.

Mr. Boran asked if there was any new business for the Board, hearing none, he asked for the announcement of executive session.

Mr. Curran stated that in accordance with Act 84 of 1986, also known as the Sunshine Law, an Executive Session is hereby announced immediately following the adjournment of the Work Session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Boran asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn and passed by unanimous vote at 6:12 p.m.

Executive session was held from 6:16 p.m. through 6:59 p.m.

Stephen C. Curran 2/17/16  
Stephen C. Curran (Date)  
Board Secretary