

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
March 15, 2017
Academic Center
7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Dr. Davidson

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

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

Ali Rosenberger and Isabella Meyers, both Freshmen/Varsity cheerleaders, addressed the Board of Directors asking them to allow cheerleaders to also play an instrument in the marching band. Ali mentioned that she was originally told there was a Board Policy which the band director inherited, that forbids participation in both activities, but since learned otherwise. She noted that other districts such as North Schuylkill, Tri Valley, Tamaqua, Schuylkill Haven, Minersville, Nativity and Shamokin allow students to participate in both band and cheerleading. She understands the schools she mentioned are much smaller than Pottsville but with all the time and money her family has spent on music lessons, she would like to use her talents and participate in both. Ali said the cheerleading coach was fine with them performing with the band and is willing to cooperate but needs approval of the band director and Board as well. Isabella Meyers inquired with the high school principal to see if this policy could be revised. Mrs. Reedy told her she would suggest a policy be constructed next year. Isabella mentioned that she was a Scholar Athlete, volunteers at St. John the Baptist Church, a Senior Girl Scout, the recipient of the Good Citizenship Award and is also in this year's Drama Club play "Titanic". Isabella said she would like to show her school spirit and use her talents by being allowed to participate in both cheerleading and band.

Mr. Adrian Portland, Lead Science Teacher at the high school, also addressed the Board to publically thank Mr. Brad Ross and the whole custodial staff for their efforts in maintaining the building and keeping it looking wonderful. The Science Department has been holding many open house planetarium events and several people attending remarked how nice the whole building is kept. Mr. Portland wanted to make sure the efforts of the custodial staff don't go unrecognized.

Mr. Boran noted that Ali Rosenberger and Isabella Meyers are correct, there is not a Board Policy regarding this topic. Mr. Boran said that the primary responsibility of the Board of Directors is to oversee the operations of the school district. He noted their recommendation should be directed to the Administration of Dr. Zwiebel and Mrs. Reedy and any further conversations would need to be discussed with them. He thanked both girls for their participation in all of their activities.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the Work Session held on February 1, 2017 as well as the Regular Board Meeting held on February 15, 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 Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of February 2017 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Cafeteria Financial Report of the Pottsville Area School District for the month of February 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 Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, 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 Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board ratified the Superintendent's action for granting 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: Beth Bauers – 3 credits; Nathan Halenar – 3 credits; Kimberly Jackson – 3 credits and Angela Snyder – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the reimbursement to the following professional employees for their 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: Casey Horvath - \$1,506.00 and Katelynn Miller - \$2,724.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. DiCello, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner (Skype); Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye. Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Heather Berger, Kindergarten Teacher at

John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective, March 31, 2017 in accordance with her letter dated March 10, 2017. (Letter appended). Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel mentioned he spoke to Mrs. Berger about revising her original departure date to the end of the marking period on March 31, 2017.

Mr. Boran asked how this position would be filled. Dr. Zwiebel answered with a substitute for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Zwiebel also remarked that he had been in constant contact with custodial staff during this storm and noted that they are working extremely hard trying to stay ahead of the storm but with the winds and drifting, they no sooner get an area cleaned, it would blow back shut again. He said it is a constant struggle during this time. Dr. Zwiebel mentioned that there is also a triple header basketball game scheduled for March 16th and assumed the facilities would be in great shape for the PIAA to continue as scheduled. Atty. Rismiller remarked that there are no additional plans to reschedule because the schedule must move on.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Police Department. Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel added the Memorandum of Understanding is required as part of our Safety Audit which will be coming up this Spring. He noted a copy of this current Memorandum of Understanding was distributed to each Board Member. Atty. Rismiller asked if there were any changes to previous copies. Dr. Zwiebel remarked that this is the recommended template of the Department of Education. Each building Administrator and the Chief of Police will need to sign it.

Mr. Boran proceeded with the committee reports.

On the recommendation of Mr. Wagner, Chairman of the Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved Administration to accept Request for Proposals (RFP) for Contracted School Bus Transportation. Motion carried. Mr. Wagner noted that the RFP's are to be received by Friday, March 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran, Chairperson, noted that on a state level the Pennsylvania Department of Education continues to meet with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. This week the House and Senate Appropriations Committees met separately with Education Secretary Pedro Rivera. Among the key topics that were discussed:

Basic Education Funding – Legislators discussed the disparities in basic education funding, noting the inequities in the share of state and local funds provided to districts. The new basic education funding formula considers various factors, but is only for new funding. Questions

were raised concerning the datasets used for the formula, and the department is working on this issue.

Decrease in Pupil Transportation Funding – Concerns were expressed with the proposed decrease for pupil transportation funding. The Secretary said that updating and simplifying the transportation funding formula would incentivize efficiency and better reflect actual costs. Legislators noted the difficulty in developing a new funding formula for transportation costs in place before school districts complete their budgets.

Charter Schools – Various concerns were raised with the outdated charter school law, accountability of these schools and the financial impact on school districts that must pay for charter costs. The Committees also recognized the need to address funding issues, particularly regarding special education costs.

Teacher Evaluation - The need to re-examine the teacher evaluation system was discussed, and the Secretary noted that the Department is interested in working with the General Assembly to revise the law.

Graduation requirements/assessments – Secretary Rivera discussed efforts to revise graduation requirements for the Keystone and PSSA Exams. Concerns with the costs of standardized testing were raised while acknowledging that assessments are used to fulfill state and federal requirements. The Secretary said that the department is looking at multiple pathways for graduation.

PlanCon – The Secretary clarified that the moratorium remains in place for new projects and noted that the PlanCon Advisory Committee has not yet completed its work. The Department can provide technical assistance to a district starting a construction project, but the district cannot formally begin the PlanCon process.

School immunization changes are now final, effective for 2017-2018 school year. Proposed regulations from the Department of Health (DOH) for student immunization and school attendance were published in the March 3, 2017 issue of the "Pennsylvania Bulletin" as final. The new regulations will be effective on August 1, 2017, and are required to be implemented beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. This will enable schools to provide information to parents as kindergarten registration is beginning now for the upcoming school year.

Among the key changes:

The current provisional waiver of eight months for school children to be fully immunized is reduced to five school days for multiple dose vaccines. Children transferring from outside the state as well as children in foster care will have 30 days to provide immunization records or provide a medical certificate.

The student may attend school provisionally beyond the five days if he or she submits a medical certificate from a health care provider outlining the dates for additional vaccination.

The proposal changes the time for school administrators or designees to review medical certificates for student compliance from every 60 days to every 30 days.

The deadline for schools to report immunization data to DOH is extended from October 15 to December 31.

Federal Notes:

Congress sends measures to repeal education rules to the President. This week, the U.S. Senate approved two measures passed earlier by the U.S. House to repeal education regulations that had been finalized by the Obama Administration last year. The measures will be headed to the White House for approval and the President is expected to sign the measures.

House Joint Resolution 57, initiated under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), repeals the Accountability regulations that were set to take effect on January 30, but the Department of Education postponed the effective date to March 21. As a result, the regulations have not yet taken effect. The regulatory package included over twenty regulations that addressed all matters relating to accountability and set requirements for state plans, which states have been working to develop and finalize over the last year. The department said the administration will maintain previously announced state plan application deadlines that were included in the regulations. Furthermore, the department is expected to release a new consolidated plan template within the next few weeks.

House Joint Resolution 58, also initiated under the CRA, repeals teacher preparation regulations finalized last year. The regulations had required federally-funded teacher preparation programs to be evaluated based on the academic outcome of those teachers' students.

House Bill 610

Introduced in House (1/23/2017)

Choices in Education Act of 2017

The Bill repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and limits the authority of the Department of Education (ED) such that ED is authorized only to award block grants to qualified states.

The Bill establishes an education voucher program, through which each state shall distribute block grant funds among local educational agencies (LEAs) based on the number of eligible children within each LEA's geographical area. From these amounts, each LEA shall: (1) distribute a portion of funds to parents who elect to enroll their child in a private school or to home-school their child, and (2) do so in a manner that ensures that such payments will be used for appropriate educational expenses.

To be eligible to receive a block grant, a state must: (1) comply with education voucher program requirements, and (2) make it lawful for parents of an eligible child who elect to enroll their child in any public or private elementary or secondary school in the state or to home-school their child.

No Hungry Kids Act

This Bill repeals a specified rule that established certain nutrition standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. (In general, the rule requires schools to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or fat free milk in school meals; reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat in school meals; and meet children's nutritional needs within their caloric requirements.)

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Committee on Negotiations, noted that the committees met last week and progress is moving slowly but they are busy analyzing each line of the contract to make sure both sides are on the same page.

Under the Drug and Alcohol Coalition, Mrs. Blankenhorn noted that the committee had to cancel their last meeting and rescheduled it for Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School auditorium.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of LouAnn Vinc, as a full-time paraprofessional at the D. H. H. Lengel Middle School, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted the resignation of Karen Shoener, as a paraprofessional at Blue Mountain High School in the autistic support room for a Pottsville Area High School student, retroactive to March 3, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board hired Kim Ulmer, part-time paraprofessional at Blue Mountain High School in the autistic support room for a Pottsville Area High School student, at an hourly rate of \$12.60, retroactive to March 16, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. DiCello, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner (Skype); Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the unpaid leave of absences for the following paraprofessionals at the Pottsville Area High School: David Hess – March 17 and March 31, 2017; and Monica Natishak – March 17, 2017. Motion carried.

Reporting for the Public Relations Committee, Mrs. Blankenhorn congratulated the following National Foreign Language Week Poster Contest Winners: 1st place – Rachel Rubright; 2nd place (tied) – Katie Stover and John Hannaway; 3rd place – Hannah Sponenburg.

Mrs. Blankenhorn also noted that twenty-one members of the Key Club read to our JSC students on March 2nd in honor of "Read Across America Day". She also mentioned that

several members of the High School Girls' Basketball Team also participated by visiting students at the Saint Clair Elementary/Middle School.

Mr. Moran also noted that the High School Drama Club will be presenting the "Titanic the Musical" on Friday, March 17th at 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 18th at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Robert W. Wachter High School Auditorium.

Reporting for the Technology Committee, Dr. DiCello reported that \$7,200.00 was raised in the sale of additional technology equipment and to-date \$51,650 was raised. These funds will be put toward the 2017-2018 Technology Budget. She noted there are still some Dell computers for sale and a further sale date still pending.

As IU 29 Representative, Mr. Thomas noted Dr. Gregory Koons was hired as the new Executive Director at the Schuylkill IU #29 and will begin April 1, 2017. Dr. Koons originally came from the Northern part of Pennsylvania but previously worked at Tamaqua Area School District.

Mr. Thomas also noted that the roof issue at the Schuylkill IU#29 was discussed at the Superintendent's meeting and remarked that he will be talking to Dr. Zwiebel regarding this issue.

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

Mrs. Lombel also noted as information, the salary and benefit expenditures for the month of February was \$2,456,269.79.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following use of facilities:

D.H.H.L. Middle School

1. L.A. Dance Theatre, Nutcracker Performance, Dec. 1 & 2, 2017, 5:00 – 10:00 pm, Dec. 3, 2017, 12:00 – 5:00 pm, MS Auditorium. (Rehearsals Nov. 20, 22, 27, 30, 2017, 4:00 -9:00 pm)
2. DHHL PTO Meeting, March 23, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, MS Cafeteria.
3. PASD Cheerleading, Cheer Practices, Various dates and times from March 20, 2017 – August 24, 2017, Martz Hall Top.

P.A.H.S.

4. PAHS, Red Cross Blood Drive, May 19, 2017, 6:30 am – 1:00 pm, HS Boys Gym.

I.S.C

5. PAHS Band Front, Flag Try Outs, March 13, 14, 15, 2017, 4:30 – 6:00 pm, JSC Cafeteria or Gym.
6. PA Synergy 18U Softball, Softball Practices, June-July 2017 (At the conclusion of the High School season), Mon. thru Sun. 5:00 – 8:00 pm, CACL Complex Softball Field.
7. Pottsville Midget Football League (PMFL), Midget Football Practice, July 31 – Aug. 18, 2017, Mon thru Fri 6:00 – 8:00 pm, CACL Complex Field #3.

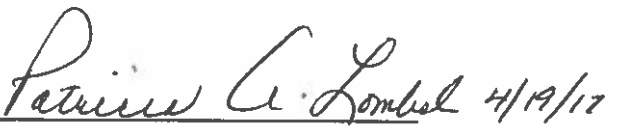
Alumni Field

8. PMFL, Midget Home Football Games, Sept.3, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, 2017, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, Alumni Field.

Motion carried.

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 Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.


Patricia A. Lombel (Date)
Acting Board Secretary