

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
January 20, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
Academic Center  
7:00 p.m.

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

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President John Boran.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Boran asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

On a motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes for the November 11, 2015 Special Board Meeting, November 18, 2015 Work Session and Board Meeting and the Reorganization Meeting held on December 2, 2015. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the reports of the Treasurer for the months of November and December 2015 and directed that they be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Cafeteria Financial Report of the Pottsville Area School District for the months of November and December 2015 were accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

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

On motion of Mr. Wagner, 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 Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board denied a request for an FMLA due to insufficient medical information. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved Mr. Marc Fisher to serve as a hearing officer, in the nonrenewal hearing, at an hourly rate of \$185.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the resolution to seek court approval for two school police, Robert O'Connor and John Zuratt. Motion carried.

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

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, 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 Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board ratified the action of the Superintendent for granting preapproval of 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: Heather Berger – 3 credits; Kate Delenick - 3 credits; Scott Delenick – 3 credits; Derek DiRenzo - 3 credits; Katelyn Dunn - 9 credits; Jennifer Holiday - 3 credits; Steve Horvath – 3 credits; Heather Jenkins– 3 credits; Katie Koneschusky– 6 credits; Nicole Kutsmeda – 6 credits; Kelly Lombel – 3 credits; Mary Matulevich – 3 credits; Lucas McMurtrie – 3 credits; Alyssa Palina – 6 credits; Courtney Reichert – 6 credits; Gregory Schuettler – 3 credits; Christina Seiger – 3 credits and Patricia Zimmerman – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the reimbursements to the following professional employees as indicated 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: Heather Berger – \$1,680.00; Lindsey Boncore - \$1,500.00; Kate Delenick - \$1,680.00; Derek DiRenzo - \$1,314.00; Alicia Fehr - \$1,314.00; Tara Hess - \$1,680.00; Stephen Horvath - \$1,680.00; Heather Jenkins - \$1,314.00; Paula Jones - \$1,695.00; Kelci Killian - \$2,820.00; Krystina Kubeika - \$1,314.00; Nicole Kutsmeda - \$1,314.00; Jennifer Lipton - \$3,612.00; Christopher Lombel - \$1,410.00; Kelly Lombel - \$1,680.00 Shannon Magdeburg - \$300.00; Stacey McClusky - \$4,830.00; Lucas McMurtrie - \$3,360.00; Tyler Moyer - \$2,628.00; Kara Prock - \$1,314.00; Gregory Schuettler - \$1,410.00; Christina Seiger - \$850.00; Ashley Shappell - \$2,820.00; Jennifer Stock - \$300.00; Cara Turolis - \$1,314.00; Janice Whitaker - \$1,410.00 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, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following Administrative employee be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of a preapproved credit course: Stephanie Ziegmont - \$3,390.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved an Act 80 Day to be held on Friday, February 12, 2016 for the purpose of curriculum development. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved that a PAHS diploma be awarded to one additional member of the class of 2015 based upon the successful completion of the requirements and recommendation of the High School Principal. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following salary adjustment for the 2016-2017 school year: Paula Jones – Master’s +15. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved Rebecca Clayton as a long term substitute and placed on the Bachelor’s Step 1 of the salary chart effective January 21, 2016 through the remained of the 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel noted that the Pottsville Area School District launched a Facebook page today.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, and seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved that the committee proceed with purchasing a new scoreboard and establishing naming rights for the 16<sup>th</sup> baseball field. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, and seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board adopted a resolution, presented by the Bond Counsel, authorizing the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016 to finance performance based energy savings projects approved by this Board, secured by a pledge of the School District’s full faith, credit and taxing power. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Henry Sallusti, RBC underwriter and Atty. Jens Damgaard, Bond Counsel, commented about the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, and seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board adopted a resolution to approve Stephen C. Curran, Business Manager, as compliance officer, who is charged with the duties and implementation of the Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation and on motion of Mr. Thomas, and seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the extension of the no-lead gasoline and diesel fuel contract with PAPCO, Inc., Aston, PA for the 2016-2017 school year, per school district specifications – No-Lead Gasoline \$1.2130 per gallon (2016-2017) and Diesel Fuel \$1.3278 (2016-2017). Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Wagner also noted that his committee met this month to review the improvements that were completed within the district.

Under Legislation, Chairperson Moran noted the following items:

- 203 days without a full state budget
- Gov. Wolf urged to rethink refusal to negotiate new budget deal
- Public school funding system needs repair
- Gov. Wolf is on board with delaying graduation testing requirement

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Ashley Maher as a substitute cafeteria/lunch aide, effective January 21, 2016, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board rescinded the Board motion of Jeffrey Buchanan, part-time paraprofessional hired October 21, 2015, effective January 21, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the resignation of Suzette Joy, a part-time paraprofessional at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School, effective December 23, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the resignation of Brittany Bendetti as a part-time paraprofessional, effective January 21, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the substitute paraprofessionals, effective January 21, 2016, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

- Brittany Bendetti
- Gabrielle Hammer
- Yvonne Mattera
- Jodi Moyer
- Rachel Snukis
- Cynthia Wixted

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following as part-time paraprofessionals, at an hourly rate of \$11.85, effective January 21, 2016, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

- Gloria Bartol
- Gretchen Leshner
- William Robbins

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved a leave of absence for Jacqueline Butz, autistic support aide at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School and a student at Alvernia University. The days will be done sporadically throughout the spring semester which begins January 25, 2016 and runs through May 6, 2016. Time will also be needed in the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved a leave of absence for Lisa Falkowski, fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade learning support aide at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center and a student at Alvernia University, beginning February 1, 2016 and returning March 1, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following basketball concession employees, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, retroactive to December 5, 2015:

- Beth Barnes
- Taylor Eckley
- Nathan Halenar
- Gabrielle Hammer
- Nancy Jones
- Christine Kondrack
- Kelly Messina
- Colleen Miller
- Kelly Painter
- Mary Rinaldo
- Diane Schwiekert
- Emily Soubik
- Joanie Williams

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Ruth Bensinger as a bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$10.45, effective January 21, 2016, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Sami Davidavage, assistant girls' volleyball coach for Pottsville Area High School, effective December 6, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Public Relations and on motion of Dr. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the request for use of the Robert Wachter Auditorium to host the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Majestic Awards on Monday, May 16, 2016 at a flat fee of \$150.00 Motion carried.

Chairman Dr. Davidson congratulated the following:

- The Pottsville Area School District had 15 band members successfully audition for the Schuylkill county band this year. They were Autumn McDonough; Colin Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> chair Alto Sax; Grace Muench; John Hannaway; Ashley Pogash; Tom Honicker – 1<sup>st</sup> chair French Horn; Emma Stinnett; Michael DeColli; Chris Pekarik; Donna Lonergan; Jalen Tran – 1<sup>st</sup> chair tuba; Amanda Meyers; Taylor Brigade; Kaitlyn Pekarik; Cody Gemmel – 1<sup>st</sup> chair Timpani.
- Rachel Rubright for being selected to receive the Widener University High School Leadership Award. This is an honor to be selected for this highly-competitive award. It is designed to recognize high school students in the region who embody the University's commitment to develop and inspire leaders to affect positive change. Rachel will also receive an invitation to join other selected students at a special awards event at the National Constitutional Center on March 23, 2016, followed by a unique leadership experience in the fall where all of the 2016 student award winners will convene on Widener's campus for an exciting day of leadership training. Additionally, if Rachel chooses to enroll at Widener University, a \$20,000 scholarship over four years will also be awarded.
- Justin Sickle, 6<sup>th</sup> grade DHHL student, for being chosen as Artist of the Month for January February.
- Pottsville Area High School 2016 Winter Carnival princess candidates – Jillian Mullin, Rebecca Sites and Morgan Zimerofsky. The pageant will be held on January 30, 2016 at the Pottsville Area High School auditorium.
- Fifteen clubs and the district building offices in donating twenty-six baskets which were delivered to needy families on December 23, 2015. Members of our student councils also delivered toys purchased through the Penny-A-Week homeroom collections.

Under Technology, Chairperson Dr. Christina DiCello noted the following items:

- Advertise bids for hardware at a 80% discount erate
- Working on an insurance policy for student iPads

On recommendation of Stephen Curran, Business Manager and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Revenue Reports for November and December 2015, which included local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

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

- John S. Clarke Elementary Center
  - PAHS Band Front, Practice for Florida band front and Majorettes, February 7, 2016 and February 14, 2016 in the gymnasium
  - PAHS Majorette Squad, Majorette Little Girl Camp on May 14, 2016 in the gymnasium and cafeteria
- D.H.H. Lengel Middle School
  - Schuylkill Achieve After School Program/IU 29 Spring Session during various dates from January 2016 through May 2016, contingent upon receipt of insurance coverage
  - PAHS Water Polo Alumni Water Polo Tournament, retroactive to December 26, 2015
  - Lisa Robinson, Walk in Art Center & Jazz Occurrence with Lewis Achenbach and Paul Miller, in Martz Hall on March 3, 2016. Dr. Zwiebel noted that 4<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in this program of painting and music
  - PAHS Majorette Squad Tryouts during various dates in March 2016; tryouts are near the cafeteria entrance
  - PAHS flag squad, training camp tryouts, top of Martz Hall during various dates in April 2016
  - DHHL PTO, PTO Bingo planning meeting in cafeteria on January 21, 2016
  - PAHS Swim Team Boosters, cafeteria on February 13, 2016 – Schuylkill County League Meet
  - PAHS Wrestling, Wrestling Tournament on April 2, 2016 in Martz Hall
  - PAHS Swim/Diving Parent's Boosters, Underclassmen athletes preparation for senior night, pool deck, January 18, 2016 and informal pizza dinner prior to Blue Mountain swim meet on January 11, 2016 (retroactive)
- Pottsville Area High School
  - PAHS Social Studies Department, Annual History Night, Little Theatre, Library and first floor classroom on April 25, 2016
  - PAHS Majorette Squad, final majorette tryouts, March 22, 2016 on auditorium stage
  - Special Olympics of PA-Schuylkill County, May track and field meet on May 11, 2016 from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (rain date – May 12, 2016)
  - PAHS Foreign Language department, Honor Society Induction Ceremony, March 10, 2016 in the PAHS Little Theatre


- o Schuylkill County Knights of Columbus, throw shooting contest for boys and girls on January 31, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the PAHS girl's gym

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 is hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel/legal matters.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Executive Session – commenced at 7:45 p.m. and adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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