

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Work Session  
June 7, 2017  
D. H.H. Lengel Middle School Auditorium  
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. Tucker,  
Solicitor; Mrs. Kalovcak,  
Ms. Amy Marciano, Republican Herald

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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 introduced Atty. Jeffrey Tucker as the interim solicitor for the School District.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas an Executive Session of the Board was announced at 7:32 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board accepted the gift of \$62,189.18 from the Music Endowment Society to fund one music teacher position at the D. H. H. Lengel Middle School, currently held by Ms. Kayla Searles. 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 Negotiation Committee and on the motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board accepted the following Memorandum of Understanding for the retirement incentive between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association. (See office files)

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board considered and approved the Superintendent's recommendation as to the staffing of the District for the 2017-2018 school year; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of said staffing recommendation, it is necessary to abolish certain professional positions due to district declining enrollment.

NOW, THEREFORE, move that the Board abolish the following positions pursuant to Section 11-1124 of the Public School Code: High School Business; High School English,

High School Title I Math; Middle School Industrial Arts; Middle School Guidance; Elementary teacher.

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.

Also on the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following staffing recommendation resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board considered and approved the Superintendent's recommendation to staff the District for the 2017-2018 school year; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of said approval, it is necessary to suspend certain professional employees and non-renewal of certain temporary professional employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, move that the Board approve the following suspensions and non-renewals pursuant to Section 11-1125.1 of the Public School Code: The following employees: Leslie Payne; Angela Synder; and Cara Turolis. The following professional employees to be non-renewed: Kiersten Rivera; Katybeth Morrison; and Kaycee Sullivan.

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 Mr. Moran, and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board accepted the resignation of Jennifer Holiday, Special Education teacher, effective June 6, 2017 in accordance with her letter submitted May 23, 2017. Motion carried.

Mr. Boran asked the audience if anyone wished to address the Board.

Adrian Portland, Lead teacher of the Pottsville Area High School Science Department and Vice-President of the Pottsville Area School District Education Association, addressed the Board and audience. He asked the elected officials of the School Board if they took an oath of office and did they swear to discharge the duties with the greater good for all when they were sworn in as new Board members. He asked the Board to stop the "Blame Game". He said the Education Association strives to demonstrate leadership and asked the Board of Directors to do the same.

Amy Babcock, addressed the Board of Education with the following various concerns: Valued employees, transparency issues and transportation issues. Mrs. Babcock said there was so much debate on the transportation issue and asked that the teachers receive the same consideration from the Board. She said she was happy that the Middle School Spanish position was saved and thanked Mr. Denny Hardock for his generous donation to

save the Middle School music position. Mrs. Babcock noted now the remaining six furloughed teachers will need to seek further employment. She said Pottsville Area School District used to be the best District, but not anymore.

Maria Larish said a ray of sunshine saved the Middle School music position but the District is still weathering the storm. She said furlough letters will be mailed and unfortunately the District will be losing a great number of good teachers. She asked the Board to please consider the effect this will have on the students.

Cara Turolis, addressed the Board saying how hurt and upset she was when she learned that she would be one of the teachers to be furloughed. Even though she doesn't know what her future holds she said she will be fine. She thanked those that supported her and asked that the parents, teachers, and community continue to support and speak up for what is right for the educators of this District.

John Powers, spoke to the Board of Education and said that he never thought in his retirement that he would be attending all of the recent Board meetings or be involved to stick up for his fellow teachers. He said this current Board is looking for someone to blame and is more interested in getting re-elected than worrying about our students. He reminded the Board to stop blaming the teachers, the Administrators and the accounting errors. He told the Board to have the same passion for our students as they did for the transportation options. He thanked the generosity of the Pottsville Area Music Endowment for their generous donation but said it was not their job to come up with the money because it was the job of the Board of Education. He reminded the Board to offer the future students the same great education as our previous students received.

Nobel Quandel asked how the decision to lease the transportation for six years to Wolfington rather than outsource to Krapf as Dr. Wayne McCullough recommended was reached. He said Krapf would pay the drivers and save the District \$600,000 over a three year period. He questioned why they didn't take Dr. McCullough's recommendation knowing about the downgrade of the Moody's credit rating and the District's budget concerns.

Atty. Rismiller answered that she was present during all the transportation discussions and based on the Board's financial statements, the confusion of numbers, and the presentations from Krapf, the Board did not feel Dr. McCullough was qualified with his only 8 months experience and that is why they chose the lease option.

Mr. Quandel stated that Mr. McCullough is an Author of the book "Elements of School Facilities" and said he was hardly a novice. He said that the transportation decision deserved a second look.

Stacey McClusky, JSC Reading Specialist said because of the declining enrollment, the District had five reading specialists but are now down to only three from the time she was first hired. She said that now there are three reading specialists to test 908 students. She

encouraged the Board to sit in the classrooms so they can see what teachers go through on a daily basis. She said teachers are not just numbers and they always strive to do the job they set out to do.

Denny Hardock thanked the Board of Education for accepting the gift from the Music Endowment Association to retain Miss Kayla Searles, Middle School music teacher. He said he is very passionate about the music program and encouraged the Board to attend the concerts of all of our buildings to see how well our teachers prepare this talent.

Mr. Hardock said this District is just not the same anymore and encouraged everyone to work together and look to the future to make it better.

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the May 1, 2017 Special Board Meeting. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Committee and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board set the following athletic ticket prices as per the attached schedule. (See office files). Motion carried.

It was further noted that the ticket prices will remain the same as the 2016-2017 school year.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the resolution to secure the issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes – Series 2017-2018 in anticipation of its 2017-2018 fiscal year taxes and revenues yet to be collected. It was noted these Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes will be purchased from Gratz Bank in the maximum amount of \$2,500,000. 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 Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the special sick leave school sponsored (60 Day Provision), as per the teachers contract for Kristyn Blum, teacher at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, retroactive to March 31, 2017. It was noted this request was made by PSERS to be made part of the Board minutes. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the following instructional aides be hired for the Extended School Year program at \$12.60/hr., effective June 20, 2017 and starting July 1, 2017 at \$13.10/hr.: Kim Ulmer and Kim Pekarik. 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 Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the hiring of the following substitute instructional aides for the Extended School Year Program: Deb Herb and Farrah Benart. 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 Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the hiring of Molly Boran, as Speech Therapist for the Extended School Year Program at an hourly rate of \$32.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mr. Boran, abstained.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board rescinded the hiring of the following individuals for the Extended School Year Program at the May 17, 2017 Board meeting: Karen Schock and Karen Schoener. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the resignation of Charlene Brennan as a cafeteria worker at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, retroactive to May 23, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the resignation of Hunter Craven as a substitute paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective June 6, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the resignation of Carl Subalesky as a paraprofessional in the autistic support classroom at Blue Mountain High School, effective June 6, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Bus/Van Drivers for the Extended School Year Program at an hourly rate of \$15.45, effective June 15, 2017: Natalie Bachman, Carol Davis, Bob Dusel, Bob Heckman, Bill Martin, Pat Roos, Teagan Shirk and Dorothy Vaughan. 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 Personnel Committee and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following summer employees for garage/bus cleaning and office/bus routing at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective June 12, 2017: Becky Berger, Rose Kiehner, Jayne McKeown, Melissa Petrozino, Theresa Stonelake

and Christine Muldowney (substitute). 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 Textbooks and Supplies and on motion of Dr. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the textbooks and teaching supplies requisitions for the 2017-2018 school year. It was noted that all purchase orders will be sent out July 1, 2017. Motion carried.

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

#### **D.H.H.L. Middle School**

1. Pottsville Midget Football League Cheer, Cheer Practice, July 31 – Nov. 2, 2017, 5:45 – 8:00 pm (Mon thru Thu), MS Parking Lot (Bus Canopy in rain).
2. Yorkville Hose Fire Company, Block Party Apparatus Parking, August 8, 2017 (Rain Date Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>), 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Martz Hall Parking Lot.
3. Gabriel Youth Orchestra, Rehearsals (Wednesdays), Sept. 20, 2017 – March 28, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, MS Aud/HS Band Room.
4. Gabriel Youth Orchestra, Concerts, Dec. 17, 2017 & April 29, 2018, 12:00 am – 5:00 pm, MS Auditorium.
5. DHHL Choir, Annual Christmas Concert, Dec. 17, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, MS Auditorium.
6. DHHL Small Ensembles, Concert, March 15, 2018, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium.
7. DHHL Choir, DHHL 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert, April 26, 2018, 7:00 pm, MS Aud.
8. DHHL Band, MS Band Spring Concert, May 8, 2018, 7:00 pm, MS Aud.
9. DHHL Choir, MS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert, May 15, 2018, MS Aud.
10. PASD Boys Basketball, Give and Go Basketball Camp, June 13 – June 26, 2017, 8:00 – 3:30, Martz Hall/ HS Gyms.
11. PASDEA, General Membership Meeting, June 13, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, MS Aud.

#### **P.A.H.S.**

12. PAHS Percussion Ensemble, Rehearsals, Sept. 7, 2017 – April 26, 2018 (Thursdays), 5:30 – 7:00 pm, HS Band Room.
13. PAHS Percussion Ensemble, Concert, February 22, 2018, 5:00 – 9:00 pm (Concert@7:00) HS Aud/Band Room.
14. PAHS Choirs, Christmas Concert, Dec. 7, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Show@7), HS Aud.
15. PAHS/DHHL Bands, Holiday Concert, Dec. 21, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Show@7:30), HS Aud.
16. PAHS Band, Annual Spring Concert, May 3, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Show@7:30), HS Aud.

17. PAHS Choirs, Annual Spring Concert, May 10, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Show@7:30), HS Aud.
18. PAHS Stage Band, Concert, May 17, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Show@7:30), HS Aud.
19. JSC Fourth Grade, Family Fun Night, May 22, 2018, 7:00 pm, HS Aud.
20. PAHS Baseball, Baseball Banquet, June 9, 2017, 2:00 – 9:00 pm, HS Boys Gym.

**J.S.C.**

21. PASD Art Dept., District Art Show, May 18, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, JSC.
22. Community School-Based Behavioral Health, Summer Program for JSC clients, June 12 – August 17, 2017, Mon thru Thu 7:30 am – 3:30 pm, JSC Room 101.
23. PAHS Band Front, Paint & Enjoy Party Fundraiser, June 20, 2017, 4:30 – 9:30 pm, JSC Cafeteria.

**CACL Complex**

24. PAHS Baseball, Tide Baseball Camp, June 19 – June 23, 2017, 7:30 am – 3:00 pm, CACL Complex.
25. Mike Toomey, Pitching Camp, June 26 – June 30, 2017, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, CACL Complex.
26. PAHS Softball, Summer Camp, June 12 – June 16, 2017, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm, CACL Complex.

There being no further new business, on motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. DiCello, meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

 7/19/17

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)  
Acting Board Secretary