

WELCOME TO THE POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board of Education appreciates your attendance at this meeting and hopes that this handout will provide some background to its activities.

In Pennsylvania, 500 local school boards provide for the public education needs of the children of the Commonwealth. The Pottsville Area School Board consists of nine members.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A SCHOOL DIRECTOR?

Article V of the Pennsylvania School Code details the duties of school directors and the most prominent are listed below.

- ❖ Establish, equip, furnish and maintain schools
- ❖ Adopt a curriculum and textbooks
- ❖ Provide special education
- ❖ Set the length of the school year
- ❖ Manage sports and extracurricular activities
- ❖ Suspend or expel students from school
- ❖ Provide meals for needy children
- ❖ Elect a superintendent
- ❖ Enter into contracts with professional employees and unions
- ❖ Appoint a school attorney and other board employees
- ❖ Adopt an annual budget
- ❖ Levy and collect taxes
- ❖ Incur or increase indebtedness
- ❖ Decide on tuition rate for students from other districts
- ❖ Buy, sell or condemn land
- ❖ Enter into group insurance contracts for personal liability, accidents, or buildings and property

HOW DO I BECOME A SCHOOL DIRECTOR?

In order to be elected to the School Board, you must be at least 18 years old and have resided in the District for a period of one year prior to the election. To have a place on the primary election ballot, you must circulate petitions and gather the signatures of 10 registered voters in a party. Candidates may also choose to cross-file; that is, run in both the Republican and Democrat primary. This is an option given only to school director and judicial candidates in Pennsylvania. School directors do not receive payment for their service.

WHERE AND WHEN DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD MEET?

The Pottsville Area School Board meets in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

The regular monthly meeting is held on the second Wednesday, at 7:00 PM. This meeting is to take formal action on the official business of the District. The public may address the Board prior to the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public and the press. After each meeting, the Board may adjourn to Executive Session to discuss legal matters and personnel issues. These meetings are announced at the regular meeting; however, they are closed to the public and the press.

The Board has several committees that meet throughout the year. Standing committees are: Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, Finance, Negotiations, Personnel, Public Relations, Technology, and Textbooks and Supplies. These meetings are also open to the public and press, with the exception of Negotiations and Personnel.

All Board and committee meetings are advertised in the local newspaper.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The School Board desires citizens to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the schools and so that the School Board may have an opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. Pennsylvania law makes no specific provisions for the participation of the public at meetings of local boards of education however the district has adopted Robert's Rules of Order as its method of governance.

To permit community members to be heard, and at the same time to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the district establishes the following procedures for persons wishing to speak before the School Board:

- A reminder to the public that the public comment period is not a question and answer period, but rather the opportunity for the public to submit comments to the Board. Public comments will follow our public comment procedures which require members of the public to identify themselves by indicating name and address, If members of the public wish to make public comments, then they must do so in person. The meeting will be available online.
- The School Board will strive to answer questions pertaining to the current agenda at the beginning of the school board meeting, in a conscious effort to maintain transparent practices. After the School Board agenda is posted online, questions may be emailed to plombel@pottsville.k12.pa.us by 2:00 PM the day of the meeting. Questions pertaining to the agenda posted online will be answered in the order received for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. If the questions are not able to be answered during the 30-minute period, the School Board will endeavor to answer the questions at the beginning of the next School Board meeting. Questions pertaining to confidential personnel matters will not be addressed. Questions that require some research or further inquiry and might not be answered at the current school board meeting. **The question and answer period does not replace the public's current right to public comment.**

All Business Meetings and Special Called Meetings are subject to the Sunshine Law, Act 84 of 1986.

*Legal Ref:
Board Policy 006
Robert's Rules of Order
Act 84 of 1986*

HOW LARGE IS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET?

The current fiscal year for the District is from July 1 to June 30. The Board was required to adopt a balanced budget; proposed expenditures may not exceed anticipated income. The total budget is \$46,807,047.00. Each January, the budget planning process for the District begins, as Directors meet with the administrators and building principals to determine the most cost effective manner to operate the schools. For details please contact the business office.

WHO ARE THE CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS?

Dr. Ann Blankenhorn
Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan
Dr. Michael Cardamone
Mr. Harry Ciavarella
Mrs. Ashley DeWitt
Mr. Craig Shields
Mr. Bob Thomas
Mr. Jerome Urban
Ms. Linda Wytovich

Dr. Sarah Yoder, Superintendent*
Mrs. Stacy Stair, Business Manager
Mrs. Patricia Lombel, Assistant Business Manager/Board Secretary

Kevin Reid, Attorney at Law, Solicitor*

QUESTIONS????

If you have any questions, after the meeting, please feel free to ask any Board member or administrator.