

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
March 20, 2013
Academic Center
7:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Boran, Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese,
Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner,
(SKYPE); Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent;
Mr. Delenick, Business Manager/Board
Secretary; Mrs. Lombel, Mr. Pytak,
Republican & Herald

Absent: Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, Atty. Rismiller
Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, several students from the government classes at the high school introduced themselves to the Board.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of both the work session meeting held on February 13, 2013 as well as the regular board meeting held on February 20, 2013. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of February 2013 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater the Operating Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of February 2013 was accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the following Financial Statement of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of February 2013 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 Mr. Krater, seconded by Mr. Thomas, 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.

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

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, 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 Mr. Krater, that homebound instruction be approved for two high school students and one middle school student. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, 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: Alicia Fehr - 6 credits; Mary Fetterolf - 3 credits; Jennifer Kepner - 3 credits and Kara Prock - 6 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, 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: Tracey Fidler - \$156.00 and Emily Kleeman - \$1,512.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, and Atty. Rismiller, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board excused Donna Skosnick, retroactive to March 1, 2013 and Lara Swartz, effective April 4, 2013 from their teaching duties to serve as a jurors in the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the 2013-2014 School Calendar be approved. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 26, 2013, and tentatively the last day of school will be Monday, June 2, 2014. Teacher In-service days will be held August 20, 21 and August 22, 2013; October 14, 2013 and January 20, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board approved the child rearing leaves of absence be granted to the following employees in accordance with the negotiated agreement between PASD and the PASDEA:

Tentative Dates

- Sophia Capone - March 8, 2013 - Return after 1st marking period 2013-14
- Jacqueline Morgan - April 8, 2013 - Return date to be determined
- Jenna Troutman - August 26, 2013 - Return date to be determined

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board approved a Family Medical Leave for the purpose of child rearing be granted to Christy Clemson from May 20, 2013 through May 31, 2013 and from August 26, 2013 through September 27, 2013. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board approved the resignation of Brenda Day as a contracted Physical Therapist effective June 1, 2013. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board settled the Fairlane Village Mall tax assessment appeal according to those terms previously explained by Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, and Atty. Rismiller, Absent.

Mr. Boran proceeded with the committee reports. For the benefit of the students, Mr. Boran stated that each Board member is responsible for an individual committee and each will give a report on their own separate committee.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District approved a Resolution Calling for Reform of the Commonwealth's Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding Formula

WHEREAS, the current state funding formula for regular and special education in charter and cyber charter schools bear no relationship to the actual instructional costs incurred by the charter schools, and

WHEREAS, the charter and cyber charter school funding formula in the Public School Code is based on the sending school district's prior year budgeted expenditures per average daily membership minus certain budgeted expenditures of the district of residence including nonpublic school programs and student transportation services, rather than the charter or cyber charter schools actual costs to educate the student; and

WHEREAS, the charter and cyber charter school funding formula for special education differs from the formula used to calculate school district special education subsidies and again is based on the student's district of residence's special education expenditures for the prior school year; and

WHEREAS, the state's flawed charter school funding formula is costing taxpayers hundreds of millions in additional tax dollars, as Pennsylvania's school districts are facing unprecedented economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's reimbursement to school districts for students attending charter schools was completely eliminated beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, and such funding was not restored under the 2012-13 state budget for K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, since the Commonwealth discontinued even partial reimbursement for charter schools costs to school districts, now 100 percent of the burden of charter school tuition fall to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Pottsville Area School District's charter and cyber charter school expenditures for the past five years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows: School years 2008 through 2013 charter school expenditures total \$4,728,760.55; state reimbursement to district total \$264,521.18;

WHEREAS, school districts are required to pay charter and cyber charter schools for their employer pension contribution as part of the charter school funding formula; however, the state also reimburses charter schools for up to 50 percent of their pension contribution, thus allowing charter and cyber charter schools to receive payment for the same costs twice; and

WHEREAS, this pension "double-dip" is unnecessarily costing school district taxpayers an additional \$50 million each year, especially during a time when individual taxpayers cannot afford overpayments due to simple policy flaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pottsville Area School Board urges its district's state legislators to support legislation to correct the tuition and pension payment inequities under the current charter school funding formula so that the funding received by the charter school reflects the true cost of educating the child, thus relieving the financial burden charter schools place on school districts and ensuring that local taxpayers are not overpaying for the services these schools provide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the district's website and submitted to the elected state senators and representatives of the Pottsville Area School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2013.

**Signed,
John Boran
School Board President**

**David J. Delenick
Board Secretary**

On the recommendation of the Committee on Negotiations and on motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved a two year contract agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Pottsville Area School District Education Association for school years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, and Atty. Rismiller, Absent. Mr. Boran, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. Smink, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board appointed the following 5 ½ hour part-time cafeteria employees at \$12.45/hr. retroactive to March 1, 2013:

Lisa Frederick – JSC Elementary Center
Crystal Major – JSC Elementary Center
Patty Devine – DHH Lengel Middle School
Karen Pretti – Pottsville Area High School

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, and Atty. Rismiller, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. Smink, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Pat Brennan, Varsity Wrestling Head Coach effective immediately. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. Smink, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board appointed the following full-time personnel at the DHH Lengel Middle School retroactive to March 18, 2013 at an annual salary of \$15,740.16:

Karen Bevan – Life Skills Support Teacher Aide
Monica Natishak – Learning Support Teacher Aide

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. Smink, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Mrs. Petchulis, and Atty. Rismiller, Absent.

On behalf of the Committee on Public Relations, Mr. Krater congratulated the following students: Rachael Smith was awarded 3rd place in the annual Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Pottsville Post 1051 essay contest.

The following students received awards in the Schuylkill County Historical Society 2012 High School Photo Essay Contest:

Schuylkill County Winners:
1st place - Brittany Buleza
2nd place - Laura Dallago

High School Winners:

1st place - Nicole Stephens
2nd place - Laura Dallago
3rd place - Brittany Buleza

The following middle school students participated in the Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 2, 2013:

5th Grade

Alyssa DeLeon - Tied for 6th place
Caleb Reedy - Tied for 2nd place

6th Grade

Aaron DeLeon
Liam DiNicola

7th Grade

Courtney Holley - Tied for 5th place
Kaitlin Pekarick
Erica Shuman

Mr. Krater reported, in the absence of Mrs. Grube, that negotiations are continuing with Intermediate Unit 29 administration and bargaining unit.

On behalf of the Committee of the 80th Anniversary of PAHS, Mr. Wagner reported that there have been over 200 bricks sold.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the January & February 2013 Per Capita and Occupation Tax reports as submitted by the following tax collectors: Cheryl Messina, Port Carbon; and Ellen Micka, Pottsville. (See office files.) Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the following reports for the month of February 2013: Harry E. Ebling – Business Privilege Tax - \$65,482.94; Berkheimer – Earned Income Tax - \$154,594.44 and Berkheimer – Local Service Tax - \$5,592.17. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the report of A. Matthew Dudish, Recorder of Deeds, for February 2013 in the amount of \$3,232.60 for Realty Transfer Tax. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following commissions to tax collectors paid on the basis of \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the school district during the month of February 2013. (See office files.) Motion carried.

Mr. Delenick 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.

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following requests for use of facilities: Pottsville Area High School for the administration of SAT's on the following dates: October 5, 2013, December 7, 2013, January 25, 2014, March 8, 2014, May 3, 2014 and June 7, 2014; Martz Hall to conduct a Girls' Youth Basketball Camp on Monday, June 3, 2013 through Friday, June 7, 2013; and High School Boys and Girls Gym and Martz Hall for a Give and Go Boys Basketball Camp from June 10, 2013 through June 14, 2013. Motion carried.

Mr. Delenick reported proper notice to bidders was advertised in the Pottsville Republican on February 22, February 28, and March 6, 2013 of the Board's intention to receive bids for certain athletic equipment and supplies (Fall Sports) in accordance with the school district's instructions and specifications. Mr. Delenick reported several bids have been received.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board directed Mr. Delenick to open the bids and refer them to the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities for tabulation, study, and recommendation. Motion carried.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Krater, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.