

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
October 15, 2014  
Academic Center  
7:30 p.m.

Present: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello,  
Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Grube,  
Mr. Wagner, Dr. Zwiebel,  
Superintendent; Mr. Curran, Business  
Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Thornburg,  
Solicitor; Mrs. Lombel, Mr. Ansbach,  
Ms. O'Grady, Republican Herald  
Absent: Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-President Scott Krater.

Mr. Krater welcomed students from the high school and asked them to introduce themselves. They told the Board what classes they were taking and what their plans were after graduation.

Under Public Comment, Mr. Mark Weber, a CPA from Lancaster County, expressed his dissatisfaction with the hiring of the transportation director. Mr. Weber had various questions which were on his right-to-know request. Mr. Weber read aloud his detailed right-to know request.

Also under Public Comment, Mr. Scott Thomas, former school board member, had expressed his dissatisfaction with the current board in the hiring of the transportation director. Mr. Thomas had asked the board to admit their mistake in this hiring.

Vice-President Krater thanked both for their statements and asked if there were any other public comments, hearing none he asked for a motion for the minutes.

On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the work session held on September 10, 2014, the regular board meeting held on September 17, 2014. 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. DiCello, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of September 2014 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Operating Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of September 2014 was accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the following Financial Statement of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of September 2014 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 Dr. DiCello seconded by Atty. Rismiller, 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 Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the Repository Sale – Parcel 59-02-0121.002. Motion carried.

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

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, 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. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following professional employee be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Derek DiRenzo – 3 credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following professional employees be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Elizabeth Grow (Adjustment) - \$ 786.00

Erin Shaffer - \$2,538.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following adjustment for the 2014-2015 school year:

Ashley Shappell – Master’s

Krista Torpey – Master’s (Equivalency) +15

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following professional employees be appointed as Extracurricular Club Advisors for the 2014-2015 school year at the stipend listed in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Nathan Halenar	Co-Key Club Advisor	\$200.00
Manuela Koch	Altheia Club Advisor	\$400.00
Benjamin O'Brien	Co-Key Club Advisor	\$200.00
Cara Turolis	AID Advisor	\$400.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Joseph Eckley, effective immediately, due to health reasons. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved a PAHS diploma be awarded to three additional members of the class of 2014 based upon their successful completion of the requirements and recommendation of the High School Principal. Motion carried.

Under Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, Chairman Scott Krater commended the golf team for winning the Schuylkill League Golf Championship and also commended Rachel Brahler for winning the Schuylkill League Girls' Championship.

Under Legislation, Chairman Patrick Moran noted that the legislation is still talking about cyber snow days. This would give the students credit for the day and have their course curriculum online instead of calling off school completely.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the resignation of James Domlesky as a full-time custodian at the Pottsville Area High School, effective September 18, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the resignation of Joseph McGlinchey as a full-time custodian at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective October 2, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from William Atkinson, custodian at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective October 31, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Irene Dallago, lunch aide at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective September 24, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Connie Pellish as a substitute lunch and cafeteria aide, retroactive to September 20, 2014, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Susan Drasdis as a substitute lunch and cafeteria aide, retroactive to October 7, 2014, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Mrs. Grube, the Board approved Carol Cook as a part-time van driver at an hourly rate of \$10.45, retroactive to September 22, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved Deb Herb as a part time autistic support aide at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School at an hourly rate of \$11.10, retroactive to September 30, 2014. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board recognized the recent fact that the district historically compensated van drivers with handicapped certification at an equal rate of a district bus driver with a commercial drivers license and approved the established hourly rate of \$15.20 for district van drivers with handicapped certification, retroactive to August 25, 2014. Motion carried.

On Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Cortese congratulated the following students who were elected as Class Officers:

	<u>Senior Class</u>	<u>Junior Class</u>	<u>Sophomore Class</u>
President	Bill Laundry	Katrina Whalen	Eric Wapinsky
Vice President	Cody Lubinsky	Anthony Wojciechowsky	Sierra Watkins
Treasurer	Any Wood	Brandon Daubert	Rebecca Sites
Secretary	Rachel Coyle	Leah Guzick	John Mason

On Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Cortese congratulated the following students who were elected Band Officers for the 2014-2015 school year:

President	Jacob Shoener
Vice President	Rachel Salata

Secretary Olivia Connors  
Treasurer Patrick Brennan  
Librarian Sarah Williams  
Equipment Justin Denchy and Cory Schuster

Drum Majors Michaela Zanis and Anthony Wojciechowsky  
Cheerleaders Captain – Kira Nelson, Co-Captain – Breana Brennan  
Majorettes Co-Captains: Megan Berdanier, Elise Horvath, Jaelynn Jackson,  
Lily Keitsock and Andrea Sanders

Under Public Relations, Dr. Cortese read the prepared statement:

“Of the many initiatives undertaken over the past two and a half years, one was the revision of 15 job descriptions, including that of Transportation Supervisor. One reason why job descriptions are revised is for financial reasons. The last 3 years, over \$42,000 was spent on overtime in the Transportation Supervisor position. We want to ensure that the taxpayers’ money is utilized wisely; \$42,000 in overtime over 3 years is not acceptable.

We utilized the same hiring process we have always followed (Board Policies 404 and 504), the same process that was in place when Mr. Thomas had relatives hired in this district while he was a member of this board, the same process that was utilized to hire 51 professional staff members over the last two and a half years. We advertise positions on our web site. We post internally. Both full time and part time staff members can see those internal posts. Each school year, we receive dozens of applications for various professional and support personnel positions. It is through these methods that we build applicant pools for interviews.

The District has received 5 Right to Know Requests submitted by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Pytak and Mr. Weber that, to date, have required the expenditure of more than 20 hours by administrators and solicitor; time taken away from the real job of the district, the education of our children. Our solicitor advises us that our responses are in strict compliance with the Right to Know Act.

Again, School Board President, John Boran provided a statement to the press after the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, of which, only one paragraph was present in the subsequent story in the Republican Herald; however, the bulk of Mr. Thomas’ statement was run along with his photo, front page, above the fold. Previously, a statement from his Facebook account was also run in its entirety in an article that appeared in the Republican Herald on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This statement and 127 initiatives that have been accomplished by this administration and board will be posted on the District’s web site. This way those who are really interested in what the District has been doing to improve, as opposed

to individuals only interested in advancing person political agendas, can make their own informed decision”.

In a personal note addressed to Mr. Thomas, Dr. Cortese noted that he just does not understand what is behind all this questioning about the hiring of the transportation supervisor.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the following policies:

Policy 216.2 – Privacy and Security of Student Electronic and Digital Information

Policy 815.2 – Cloud Computing

Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner, IU 29 Representative thanked the board members who attended the video conference on public education funding at the Schuylkill County IU 29 on September 30. Mr. Wagner noted that these board members gave up their time to attend this conference and it also showed the interest and dedication that these members have towards the school district.

Vice President Scott Krater noted that the Pottsville Area High School Band received all superiors at the recent band festival in Tamaqua.

On the recommendation of Mr. Curran, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Revenue Report for September 2014, which included local, state and federal sources. (See office files) Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Krater, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, and Mr. Wagner, Aye. Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

Mr. Curran stated 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 Dr. Cortese, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Executive Session commenced at 6:45 p.m. and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Executive Session commenced at 8:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Stephen C. Curran (Date)

Board Secretary