

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
April 15, 2015  
Academic Center  
7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mrs. Petchulis

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

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

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of both the work session held on March 11, 2015 as well as the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 18, 2015. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of March 2015 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Operating Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of March 2015 was accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran seconded by Dr. Cortese, the following Financial Statement of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of March 2015 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 Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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 additional part-time payroll and recommended payment.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, 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 Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board ratified the Superintendent's 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 - 3 credits; Katelynn Hranchock - 6 credits; Kimberly Jackson – 3 credits; Kelci Killian – 6 credits; Nicole Kutsmeda – 6 credits; and Stephanie Maroukis – 6 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, 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: Cristy Clemson - \$600.00; Tracey Fidler - \$600.00 and Stephanie Maroukis - \$300.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the 2015-2016 School Calendar. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 31, 2015, and tentatively the last day of school will be Thursday, June 2, 2016. Teacher In-service days will be held August 25, 26, 27, 2015; October 12, 2015 and January 18, 2016. There will also be an Act 80 Day added in November for parent/teacher conferences. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board awarded a PAHS diploma to an additional member of the class of 2013 based upon the successful completion of the requirements and the recommendation of the High School Principal. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy 307 – Student Teachers/Interns. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the S4Teachers, LLC Substitute Teacher Placement Agreement for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Boran explained to the students that each board member is responsible for an individual committee and each Director will now give a report on his or her committee.

Under the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, Mr. Krater noted that applications are being accepted for the head varsity girls' basketball coaching position. Deadline for applications is Friday, April 24, 2015.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board authorized the proper officers to make withdrawals from the various commencement award funds to provide the awards for the 2015 Class Day. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mrs. Grube, the Board accepted the audit report of the Pottsville Area School District for years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011. The audit report was completed by the Department of the Auditor General. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy 609 –Investment of District Funds. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the single audit report of the Pottsville Area School District for the period ending June 30, 2014. The audit report was completed by Jones & Co., Pottsville, PA. Motion carried.

Mr. Moran, Chairperson, noted under Legislation that State Representative Glen Grell from Cumberland County will be the new PSERS Executive Director. Mr. Moran also noted it could property reduction or property elimination when it comes to tax proposals and there is legislative news about a hold harmless bill that would still release funds to school districts for operating expenses, in the event of a budget impasse.

Mr. Krater, Chairperson of the Negotiations Committee, noted that progress is being made with both the teachers and support staff negotiations.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the request from Geraldine Schwartz, paraprofessional at the DHH Lengel Middle School, for an unpaid personal leave from Tuesday, June 2, 2015 through Friday, June 5, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the request from Lou Ann Vinc, paraprofessional at the DHH Lengel Middle School, for an unpaid personal leave from Monday, May 4, 2015 through Friday, May 8, 2015. 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 Amy Babb, part-time paraprofessional at the Pottsville Area High School, effective April 10, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Thomas Cooney, Hunter Copeland, and Eugene Morgan as custodians at the Pottsville Area High School, at an annual salary of \$19,500.00, effective April 20, 2015. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Jon Bowman as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, at a rate of \$10.45 per hour, effective April 16, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the proposal from Frontline Technologies to purchase VeriTime time and attendance management system at a cost of \$8,400.00, as appended. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

The Personnel Committee met on Monday, April 13, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.  
The next Personnel Committee will be on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 a.m.

Under Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Cortese, congratulated the following:

- DHH Lengel Middle School students who were winners of the Republican Herald Design an Ad contest. Ms. Katrina Novatnak's 6<sup>th</sup> grade students-Bethany Reedy, Rebecca Lascala and Trista Yarnell and Ms. Alyssa Palina's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students – Preston Hunter and James Blake.
- Teams of high school students from across the Commonwealth were challenged to select a real-world problem, conduct research, design, build and present a device that is capable of making the quality of life better for citizens of Pennsylvania and will also research the STEM opportunities available in their communities. Each team was given a \$500.00 stipend to use to create their prototype.

The Pottsville Area team under the supervision of Mr. Adrian Portland, earned 1<sup>st</sup> place for their Heated Roadways project and will now advance to the statewide finals, scheduled for May 29, 2015. Winning students will receive prizes, including college scholarships.

- Earlier in February, the Hi-S-Potts yearbook staff found out that the 2014 yearbook, Days/Hours/Seconds, had a spread featured in the 2015 Jostens Look Book. The Look Book is a publication Jostens puts together each year to display the “best of the best” when it comes to yearbook design and content. Out of over 3,000 schools that are eligible to be feature, only 476 actually are, and Hi-S-Potts was one of those chosen.
- The high school Drama 2 class, Drama Club upperclassmen and Senior Stage Crew on being awarded the “Best Play” award at the Bucks County Playhouse Annual Theater Festival on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Winners at the Regional Middle School Computer Fair held on April 10, 2015. The first place winners in each category will advance to the State Computer Fair which will be held the end of May.

Logo – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Trevor Sherakas; Cory Holobetz; and Jacob Roos
Logo – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Logan Seddon; Jude Brennan
Graphic Design – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Bryan Daniels; Lakota Brode; Victoria Oswald
Graphic Design – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ed Hahner; John Logothetides; Parker Zimerofsky
Web Page Design – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Madeline Schuettler; Nashon Key; Rachel Weist
Web Page Design – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Nick Seddon; Kevin DiCello; Adam Toothaker
Animation – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Gary Chen; Ben Polley; Patrick Ryan
Animation – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jordan Young; John Connors; Zakkary Hozella
Programming – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Giovanni Leymeister; Michael Johnson-Ponce
Programming – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jacob Sobel; Nick Mason
Digital Movie – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Emily Rose; Emily Peleschak; Emma Bertsch
Digital Movie – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Logan Palko; Sammy Brennan

On the recommendation of the Committee on Textbooks and Supplies, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the Reading Street Series for Grade 6 at a cost of \$14,984.68. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

As the IU #29 Representative, Mr. Wagner noted that negotiations are very close to a settlement. Mr. Wagner also noted that an informative meeting was held about audits and budgets. Mr. Wagner asked that the Board fill out ballots for the election of school board members to the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

Mr. Moran noted that the Pottsville Recreation Committee has a meeting tonight, April 15, 2015 to discuss plans for the city wide yard sale, chinese auction and city cycle 17. The Lager Jogger was held on Saturday, April 11, 2015. There were approximately 3,200 participants in this year's event.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Special Ed/ Alternative Ed/Charter, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Special Ed Portion of the PASD District Level Plan (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019). Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Curran, Business Manager, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the revenue report for the month of March 2015; the report includes local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried.

Under New Business, Mr. Boran noted that the Pottsville Area School District will pass a one year agreement for the 2015-2016 school year with the St. Clair Area School District. The two boards had held a public presentation during the month of March for the proposed merger with the Pottsville Area School District and the St. Clair School District. The merger was declined. The administration, solicitors and school board presidents tried to come to an agreement.

On a go forward agreement, the Pottsville Area School District wanted a multiyear agreement but St. Clair wanted a one year agreement. Mr. Boran stated that in the one year agreement, St. Clair would pay a flat funding of \$1,737,440.00.

Mr. Boran also noted that the board is very conscious of the students and how important it is for the student's stability within the district. The St. Clair students have been here for 25 years and they are a fabric of the district. Mr. Boran also noted that if a student comes to Pottsville Area High School as a freshman, then he will continue his education through his senior year.

Dr. Zwiebel read the following:

**POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRESS RELEASE  
HIGH SCHOOL TUITION AGREEMENT FOR  
ST. CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
APRIL 15, 2015**

“For the last 25 years, the St. Clair high school students have been a part of our Crimson Tide family. They have benefited from a rigorous high school curriculum, outstanding extracurricular programs and have been part of our tradition rich sports programs. Many St. Clair students have been in the National Honor Society and several have also served as either valedictorian or salutatorian. In other words, they are our kids, through and through. While we and the Pottsville Area

communities did not believe that a merger at this time was in the best interest of the Pottsville Area School district due to the 12.5 million dollars of debt that St. Clair has incurred, there is one thing we are certain on and that is that St. Clair high school students are an integral part of the fabric of this district, and especially Pottsville Area High School. In my three years as Superintendent I have had the distinct pleasure to be in the company of these students. I consider them to be a part of our district family.

Last June, the St. Clair Area School Board gave our district notice that if there were not a merger of the two districts or if we could not agree to a new high school tuition agreement, then their board would terminate the current tuition agreement and look elsewhere to educate their students. The Pottsville Area administration and school board have done everything possible over the last year to try and keep the St. Clair students a part of our family. We have lent our extra reading textbooks to St. Clair for their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students so that they are learning the same curriculum our students are. We have also shared our SAS curriculum portal, which is the mapping of the current curriculum for English, Reading, Math and Science. Each of these endeavors is meant to benefit their students' education and to help to ensure they are prepared to enter PAHS as 9<sup>th</sup> graders. St. Clair teachers have also participated in our Summer Learning Academy and Pearson Reading Street coaching sessions.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the St. Clair Area School Board voted to issue a Request for Proposal for their high school students, sending it out to several districts in Schuylkill County. One week prior to April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Pottsville Area administration and school board sent a draft agreement to St. Clair to keep the St. Clair high school students here in Pottsville for an additional year, in the hopes of negotiating a long term agreement to keep their students here well into the future. This evening, the Pottsville Area School Board approved this agreement. For planning purposes, our district needs a response from St. Clair no later than Noon, Friday, April 24, 2015.

We are reminded that the educational well-being of 200 students is at stake, students who are a part of our family. We sincerely hope that St. Clair will also approve this one-year agreement for the sake of their children."

This letter was sent out to parents and guardians of students of the school district.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board approved the Joint Secondary Management Agreement between St. Clair Area School District and Pottsville Area School District, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, as appended. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Krater, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Grube, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

Mr. Curran 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 and/or labor relation matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Krater, meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Executive Session commenced at 8:06 p.m. and adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Stephen C. Curran 5/24/15  
Stephen C. Curran (Date)  
Board Secretary