

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors January 21, 2015 Regular Meeting Academic Center 7:30 p.m.	Present:	Mr. Boran, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Mrs. Petchulis (Speaker Phone), Atty. Rismiller, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wagner (Skype), Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent; Mr. Curran, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor; Mrs. Lombel, Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Pytak, Republican Herald,
	Absent:	Mrs. Grube

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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 asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

On a motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes for the December 3, 2014 Reorganization Meeting and for the Special Board Meeting on December 22, 2014. 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. Krater, the Board accepted the reports of the Treasurer for the months of November 2014 and December 2014 and directed that they be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Operating Reports of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the months of November 2014 and December 2014 were accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the following Financial Statements of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the months of November 2014 and December 2014 were 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.

On the recommendation of Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Family Medical Leave for an employee of the school district; the Family Medical Leave is for 12 weeks. Mr.

Thornburg noted that if the employee requests leave beyond the 12 weeks, he will have to send a request in writing to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the salary and step adjustment for Edward Terefencko, a teacher at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Borough of Mt. Carbon's petition to compromise to eliminate school taxes on buildings that were destroyed by a fire. Taxes have been accruing since 2011 to the present. At this time there are no buildings on the properties. 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 ratified the action of the Superintendent for granting preapproval of 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: Heather Berger - 3 credits; Cristy Clemson - 6 credits; Derek DiRenzo - 3 credits; Tracy Fidler - 6 credits; Nicole Kutsmeda - 3 credits; Kelly Lombel - 3 credits; Lucas McMurtrie - 3 credits; Alyssa Palina - 3 credits; Robert Sheaffer - 6 credits; and Jennifer Stock - 3 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the reimbursements to the following professional employees as indicated for the 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: Derek DiRenzo - \$1,269.00; Alyssa Palina - \$4,650.00 (6 credits); Lloren Reichert - \$2,167.50; and Janice Whitaker - 1,362.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Krater, Mrs. Petchulis, (Speaker Phone), Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following professional employee be excused from her teaching duties to serve as a juror in the Schuylkill County Court of Common

Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Sofie Capone – effective, Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following policy be revised: Policy No. 806 – Child Abuse. Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent, noted that January is School Director Recognition Month. Dr. Zwiebel presented each director with a certificate and thanked them for “volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community”.

On recommendation of the Committee of Finance and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board adopted the Resolution Pursuant to Section 311(d)(1) of the Special Session Act 1 of 2006 indicating that the Pottsville Area School district will not increase any school district tax for the 2015-2016 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Krater, Mrs. Petchulis, (Speaker Phone), Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Absent.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran noted that the new Secretary for the Department of Education is Mr. Pedro Rivera, Superintendent of the Lancaster School District.

Mr. Moran also noted that the Mid East Region 8 Director for the PSBA is Mr. Darryl Schafer.

Under Negotiations, Mr. Krater noted that there is progress being made with the current negotiations.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Toni McElvaney, a cafeteria aide at the John S. Clarke Elementary, effective October 15, 2014. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board rescinded the motion of November 19, 2014 for Albert Ditzler, custodian hired for D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved Evan Davis as a full-time custodian at the Pottsville Area High School, at annual salary of \$19,500.00, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved the transfer of Dan Vidal from his current high school position to a custodial position at the middle school, at an annual salary of \$31,070.00, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Shannon Seiders, part-time paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective January 21, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Michelle Stephenson as a part-time Learning Support Paraprofessional at Pottsville Area High School, retroactive to December 8, 2014, at an hourly rate of \$11.10. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Ashley Ortiz as a part-time Autistic Paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, at an hourly rate of \$11.10, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Jessica Robbins as a part-time Learning Support Paraprofessional at Pottsville Area High School, at an hourly rate of \$11.10, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following part-time paraprofessionals at Blue Mountain High School to work in the Autistic Support room with a Pottsville Area High Student, at an hourly rate of \$11.10, effective January 22, 2015:

Carl Subalesky

Karen Shoener

Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Jane Yeasted as an in-home tutor for no more than 6 weeks, 2 hours per week, at an hourly rate of \$29.00, retroactive to December 8, 2014. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Kaitlyn Fleischut as a substitute lunch aide, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Sarah Ames as a substitute lunch and cafeteria aide, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried.

Atty. Rismiller, Personnel Committee Chairperson, read the following statement:

“Historically, the Transportation Department always included the dispatcher position and a transportation manager. The Director of Facilities and Transportation, Mr. Ansbach, oversees the total operation.

Mr. Joe Rich initially held the Transportation Manager position until August of 2011 when he was reassigned to the Attendance Office as Director of Attendance. Mr. Jay Tobias was transferred from being a high school study hall aide to Mr. Rich’s former position of Transportation Manager. In 2012 it was reconfigured to also include home visitations.

In 2013, Mr. Tobias resigned his position and his duties were split and the dispatcher, Mrs. Debbie Doran, absorbed some of those duties including the printing of bus tickets for all district students. For one year, the Transportation Department was a two-person operation and not three.

The Pottsville Area School District Board of Directors continually examined the transportation operation during the 2014 calendar year specifically staffing, duties and overtime.

During the summer of 2014, it was discovered there were many errors in the printing of the bus tickets, with only weeks until the start of school. Mrs. Kim Blum was asked to help on a temporary basis during this time period. In August of 2014, the transportation dispatcher resigned her position, leaving Mr. Ansbach as the only full-time person in the Transportation Department. Mrs. Blum was still there on a temporary basis to help out.

After a new Transportation Supervisor was hired in September of 2014, the board also decided to reinstate the position of Assistant Transportation Manager in the fall of 2014, which restored the total number of staff in transportation back to three people”.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board rescinded the motion of September 27, 2014 for Kimberly Blum, hired as a part-time Assistant Transportation Supervisor. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Kimberly Blum as full-time Assistant Transportation Supervisor at an annual salary of \$25,000.00, effective January 22, 2015. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Krater, Mrs. Petchulis, (Speaker Phone), Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Absent.

Under Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Cortese reported that Gina Comfort, Lucy Murray and Shelby Hahner will represent Pottsville Area High School in the 2015 Snowflake Princess Pageant.

Dr. Cortese also reported that members of various Pottsville Area School District clubs and staff members donated and delivered 38 Thanksgiving and 30 Christmas baskets to area needy families.

As the IU 29 Representative, Mr. Wagner noted that the meeting was held on January 19, 2015.

Mr. Moran, Pottsville Recreation Committee Chairperson reported that there will be a movie night at the Sovereign Majestic Theatre on March 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and a Hot Shot Basketball Contest on February 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

On recommendation of Stephen Curran, Business Manager and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the Revenue Reports for November 2014 and December 2014, which included local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Krater, Mrs. Petchulis, (Speaker Phone), Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Grube, Absent.


Mr. Curran noted 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 and negotiations.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following requests for use of facilities: Junior High Cheerleading tryouts at the top track of Martz Hall on March 9, 10, 11, 12, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Pottsville Area High School Wrestling Camp on July 28, 29, 30, 2015 from 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the boys and girls gym; Tide Cheer Boosters Meet and Greet Night at the girls gym on March 5, 2015 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.; Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps for housing and practice at Martz Hall and the practice field on July 31 and August 1, 2015; John S. Clarke Elementary Center PTO Themed Basket Auction at the JSC gym and cafeteria on May 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 2015; PAHS Drama Club Musical Rehearsal in the Little Theatre and the auditorium on Mondays during various times from January through March 2015; Diversity Club for community movie night retroactive to November 20, 2014; D.H.H. Lengel Middle School

Drama Club for rehearsal in the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School auditorium, retroactive to December 9 and 16, 2014; Mid-Penn AAU for basketball practice in Martz Hall during various times from March through June 2015; PAHS Social Studies Department Annual History Night in the Library, Little Theatre and ground floor classrooms on April 28, 2015; Pottsville Youth Wrestling Elementary Wrestling March at Martz Hall on December 14, 2014, January 25, 2015 and February 1, 2015; NEPA Manufacturers Association 7<sup>th</sup> annual career night in Martz Hall on April 21, 2015; Schuylkill County Special Olympics Track and Field Meet in Veterans Memorial Stadium on May 13, 2015; Dalinda Dance Studio annual recital and rehearsal in the PAHS auditorium on June 18 and June 20, 2015; and LA Dance Theatre Fashion Show at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle school auditorium on February 14 and 15, 2015. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Mr. Krater, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Executive Session – commenced at 8:02 p.m. and adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

  
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Stephen C. Curran      (Date)  
Board Secretary