

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
December 2, 2015  
Reorganization Meeting  
Academic Center  
5:30 p.m.

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

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The Reorganization Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Boran welcomed everyone attending the Reorganization Meeting.

Mr. Boran asked if anyone wanted to address the Board, hearing none, Mr. Boran recognized a senior student who was attending the meeting and who will be taking pictures of this evening's Reorganization Meeting for the yearbook.

Mr. Curran, Board Secretary, read Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code providing for the Reorganization of the Board of School Directors during the first week in December.

The Secretary continued by reading the following notice of the meeting that was sent to all Board members, Superintendent, Solicitor and advertised in the Pottsville Republican on November 23, 2015.

In compliance with Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code of the State of Pennsylvania, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District will meet in the Directors' Room in the Academic Center on Monday, December 2, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of accepting the Certificates of Election for the School Directors who were elected in November 2015, and for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; electing a Solicitor for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016; and also for general purposes.

Mr. Moran, temporary President, proceeded with the Reorganization Meeting.

Mr. Moran requested the Certificates of Election for the Directors who were recently elected to be presented.

Mr. Moran reported he had received the original Certificates of Election for the following: Ann Blankenhorn, Dr. Gary Cortese, Dr. William Davidson, Atty. Karen Rismiller and Scott Thomas being elected for four-year terms at the General Election held on November 3, 2015. On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the Certificates of Election.

Mr. Moran requested that the Oaths of Office be administered to each newly-elected member of the Board by Judge James Reiley.

Judge James Reiley administered the Oaths of Office individually to each newly-elected Board member in the presence of some of their family members.

Judge Reiley wished all of the newly-elected members the best of luck. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Moran thanked Judge James Reiley.

Mr. Moran declared the meeting in order to proceed with the election of a President and Vice President for the ensuing year.

Dr. Davidson nominated John F. Boran to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year. Atty. Rismiller seconded.

On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Thomas, nominations for President were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and John F. Boran was elected to the office of President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Boran proceeded with the election of a Vice President.

Mr. Thomas nominated Atty. Karen Rismiller to serve as Vice President of the Board for a term of one year. Mr. Moran seconded.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the nominations for Vice President were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Atty. Karen Rismiller was elected to the office of Vice President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye.

The Board proceeded with a motion for the election of a Solicitor for the ensuing year. Dr. Cortese nominated Richard A. Thornburg to serve as Solicitor for the Pottsville Area School District beginning January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Dr. Cortese seconded.

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, nominations for Solicitor were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Richard A. Thornburg was elected as Solicitor of the Pottsville Area School District beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board set the salary of Richard A. Thornburg at a retainer of \$1,250.00 per month beginning January 1, 2016. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board authorized the proper officers to execute the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Richard A. Thornburg for his services as Solicitor. Motion carried.

Mr. Thornburg thanked the Board for their continued support and said he is looking forward to serving for another year. He said this would be the start of his twenty-eighth year.

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 was hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel/legal matters.

On the recommendation of Mr. Boran, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, an executive session was called at 5:58 p.m. and adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

On the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board reviewed "the academic performance, financial health and operations of the Gillingham Charter School during the existence of the Charter School and have concluded that there are grounds for the School Board not to renew the Charter under Section 1729-A of the Charter School Laws". Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Blankenhorn, Mr. Thomas, Abstain. (See files – Resolution of Pottsville Area School District)

Mr. Boran announced that the Board will continue to meet once a month on the third Wednesday of each month during 2016. Mr. Boran stated public notice will be advertised in the Republican Herald on December 4, 2015 stating that the Board's regular meetings for the calendar year 2016 will be held at the Academic Center on the third Wednesday of each month beginning January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and that public notice of each rescheduled regular meeting or special meeting or hearing shall be given in accordance with the Sunshine Act. He also noted the Board will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month for work sessions beginning January 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. and will continue until further notice. The meeting schedule will be posted in the Academic Center.

On the recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved a FMLA for an employee of the district. Atty. Thornburg noted that all paperwork is in order. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Mr. Moran seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved a resolution to appoint Michael Messner as a school police officer. Officer Messner is a member of the City of Pottsville's police force. Atty. Thornburg noted that all paperwork is in order. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Dr. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the repository sales of three properties located in the City of Pottsville. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the additional payroll for the payday of November 20, 2015. Motion carried.

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

- Heather Jenkins – 3 credits
- Jennifer Lipton – 6 credits
- Elaina Prestileo – 9 credits
- Jennifer Stock – 3 credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the preapproval of the credits indicated for the following administrator: Stephanie Ziegmont – 6 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 a preapproved credit course in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

- Brianne Drexel - \$1,242.00
- Kimberly Jackson - \$3,360.00
- Anthony Majorino - \$1,932.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following salary adjustments be approved and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year:

- Anthony Majorino – Bachelor’s +15
- Kimberly Jackson – Master’s

Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel noted that on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, coffee and cookies will be served to district employees by members of the Pottsville Area School District Board of Education.

Dr. Zwiebel also mentioned that the Crimson Tide Foundation will host Heather Dinich, a sportscaster for ESPN Championship Drive, on April 8, 2016. Ms. Dinich is a Pottsville Area School District graduate.

There will be early dismissal for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday, December 23, 2015. Dismissal times are as follows:

- Pottsville Area High School – 12:00 noon
- D.H.H. Lengel Middle School – 12:30 p.m.
- John S. Clarke Elementary School – 1:00 p.m.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate & Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board adopted the resolution to approve financing with RBC Capital Markets, LLC, for energy savings improvement programs with Honeywell Inc. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, and seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board adopted the Resolution Pursuant to Sanction 311(d) (1) of the special Session Act 1 of 2006 indicating that the Pottsville Area School District will not increase any school tax for the 2016-2017 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board adopted the Resolution to make applications and obtain necessary loans to operate during the budget impasse, as appended. Motion carried.

Under Legislation, Chairperson Mr. Moran noted that the budget impasse is in its 154<sup>th</sup> day.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following full-time custodians, effective December 3, 2015, at an annual salary of \$18,500.00, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

- Corrine Firestine
- Eric Snyder

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following part-time transportation aides, effective December 3, 2015, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances:

- Kim Henry
- Kayla Leibel
- Kathleen Setlock
- Tegan Shirk

Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cortese, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mr. Moran, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Mark Poslosky, custodian at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective November 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Dr. Davidson, Chairperson for the Committee on Public Relations, noted the following:

- The 2014-2015 issues of the Tide Lines were recently awarded a Silver Medalist ranking from the Pennsylvania School Press Association.
- Thirty-five different yearbook, newspaper and literary magazine students earned 107 PSPA awards for their writing, designs, and photographs in the 2014-2015 school year.
- Twenty-one Publication students completed the application process to become new members of Quill & Scroll, the high school journalism national honor society. The new members are Kali Baldwin, Kristen Campion, Cameron Chaplick, Catie Coyle, Elizabeth Garraway, Lil Golden, Camryn Heinbach, Courtney Holley, Hannah Joyce, Allure McCuller, Releigh McPhillips, Jillian Mullin, Chloe Mullins, Lucy Murray, Gillian Revenis, Abby Schroding, Rebecca Sites, DeAnne Stevenson, Luke Stoner, Emma Walinsky and Abby Young.

An article highlighting the efforts and processes developed and instituted by the administrative team at the Pottsville Area School District in relation to the new regulations within the Educator Effectiveness System in Pennsylvania will run in the Pennsylvania Educational Leadership journal for the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (PaSCD) in either its December or January publication. The article discusses how the district

moved from a detached evaluation system to one that encompasses all the new requirements mandated by the state.

On the recommendation of the Curriculum and Grading Committee, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the new grading scale which will begin with the class of 2020. The grading scale will be revised to reflect the following:

- Courses will be designated as Standard, Academic, Honors, Honors Double Lab, or AP, and will carry the corresponding weight. Class rank will be calculated based on the sum of the new scaled score
- A numeric range will be assigned to respective courses based on student average
- There will no longer be weighted F's
- The teacher handbook ("black book") grading guidelines for final average will be null and void
- Instead, final averages will be calculated based on a straight numeric average
- Changes will not impact upperclassmen

Motion carried.

Mr. Boran thanked the committee for their time and commitment with the changes made to the grading scale.

Mr. Boran asked for Requests for Use of Facilities, Mr. Curran noted there weren't any requests.

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 was hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel/ legal matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Executive Session commenced at 7:12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

 Stephen C. Curran 1-20-16

Stephen C. Curran (Date)  
Board Secretary