

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2015  
Academic Center  
7:30 p.m.

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

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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 Dr. Clyde K. Hornberger, an educational consultant, who served as the President and Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA). Dr. Hornberger is developing options to enhance the vocational/technical education for high school students in Schuylkill County. Dr. Hornberger is focusing on program operations, budget efficiencies and reviewing the articles of agreement. Dr. Hornberger presented some of these options to the Board of Directors, high school students who were in attendance, and some business leaders from around the county.

Mr. Boran thanked Dr. Hornberger for his presentation.

Dr. Zwiebel noted that the front conference room would be available for any of the business leaders present to talk with Dr. Hornberger.

Mr. Boran 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. Jerry Pritchett, Pottsville, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for taking its responsibilities seriously with the decision about the merger with the St. Clair School District. Mr. Pritchett's concerns were with the debt Pottsville Area School District would assume with the St. Clair merger, problems with curriculum and litigation issues. Mr. Pritchett asked the Board "not to hang the burden on Pottsville Area taxpayers".

Mr. Chris Kelly also addressed the Board concerning the merger with the two school districts. Mr. Kelly was concerned with the amount of debt that Pottsville Area School District would assume with the merger, issues about the tax base and would like to hear more about

Option B. Mr. Kelly also noted that he does not want the merger.

Mr. Boran thanked Mr. Pritchett and Mr. Kelly for addressing the Board. The Board will take these comments under consideration.

Atty. Rismiller requested an executive session to address a personnel issue.

Executive Session commenced at 7:50 p.m. and ended at 8:09 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of both the work session meeting held on February 11, 2015 as well as the regular board meeting held on February 18, 2015. 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 February 2015 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

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

On motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the following Financial Statement of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of February 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 Mr. Krater, 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 part-time payroll and recommended payment.

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 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: Krystina Kubeika - 6 credit, Mary Matulevich – 3 credits and Christina Seiger – 3 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 employee 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: Brianne Drexel - \$1,474.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mrs. Grube, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Petchulis (phone), Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the resignation from Christopher Vrabel, 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, effective date to be determined upon securing a replacement. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Peter McDonald, a professional employee be excused from his 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, effective Thursday, April 2, 2015. Motion carried.

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 Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mr. Krater, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the purchase of 150 Speed Classic football Helmets from Riddell, through Costars contract #014-091, at a cost of \$34,700.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mrs. Grube, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Petchulis (phone), Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Krater noted that the new helmets will replace outdated helmets and to make sure athletes from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are protected.

Mr. Krater also congratulated all winter sports athletes for a great season.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Krater, the Board approved the Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year in the amount of \$5,533,991.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mrs. Grube, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Petchulis (phone), Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran noted with all the changes at the administrative level, the Legislature's focus is on budgetary amounts for education.

Under Negotiations, Mr. Krater, noted that progress is being made with negotiations for the professional and support staff.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board appointed Brad Ross as head custodian at the Pottsville Area High School, at an annual salary of \$27,500.00, effective March 19, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Grube, the Board approved Corrine Firestine as a part-time substitute cafeteria aide, effective March 19, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved Jessica Rubright and Shawna Vesay as part-time cafeteria aides at the Pottsville Area High School, at an hourly rate of \$13.45, effective March 10, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the letter of resignation for retirement from Judy Chiccini, cafeteria aide at the Pottsville Area High School, effective March 16, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Grube, the Board approved Jillian McSurdy as an in home tutor for a student at the Pottsville Area High School, for 2 (two) hours per week, at an hourly rate of \$29.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Amy Babb as a Learning Support Paraprofessional at the Pottsville Area High School at an hourly rate of \$11.10, effective March 19, 2015, 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. DiCello, the Board approved Kaitlyn Fleischut and Vaughn Shuman as part-time substitute paraprofessionals, effective March 19, 2015, 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 the Director of Technology and the Director of Food Service as Act 93 Administrators, effective July 1, 2015. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Cortese congratulated the following:

- Tide Lines staff for recently receiving word from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association regarding its critique from the 2013-2014 school year. CSPA does a

“hybrid” critique for us, which means they consider both our print issues and our website when providing their comments. CSPA name Tide Lines a Gold Medalist, giving it 935 points out of a possible 1,000 on its critique and awarding it All-Columbian Honors in the verbal category. In order to earn All-Columbian Honors in the various scoring categories on the critique, a staff must score at least a certain number of points in that category.

- Senior Michaela Zanis for being offered a summer internship with Senator Dave Argall. Senator Argall offered Michaela the position after reading her research paper on Juvenile Detention Sentences.
- Mr. Portland’s Science class for receiving first place honors at the Jobs 1<sup>st</sup> Stem Competition at the Schuylkill I.U. #29 held on February 11, 2015. With their first place honors they will now move on to the State competition in May.
- John S. Clarke Elementary Center was recently presented the Family Reading Festival Award for Outstanding Participation during the Family Reading Festival which was held in November. The award was presented by the Schuylkill County Reading Council and The Republican & Herald. This is the first time since the inception of the award in 2008 that we received the honor.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board awarded Connect-Tek, Inc. as vendor for cabling and access point installation for the Pottsville Area School District at a cost of \$29,664.80. Bids were received up until Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 12:00 Noon. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mrs. Grube, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Petchulis (phone), Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mr. Wagner, I.U. #29 Representative, noted that a vote will be taken on Monday, March 23, 2015 to accept several program changes to the Schuylkill Technology Center, including ninth grade students, effective with the 2015-2016 school year.

Under merger update, Mr. Krater noted that with hearing the comments tonight, and at the feasibility study merger meeting on March 9, 2015, combined with what is heard in both communities concerning the St. Clair Area School District merger, he stated “I would move that the board does not pursue the merger at this time and I would put that in the form of a motion.”

On motion of Mr. Krater, and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board will not pursue the merger with Saint Clair Area School District at this time. Mr. Boran asked if there is anything on the question. Each Board member also shared their comments and concerns on the merger. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mrs. Grube, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye. Mrs. Petchulis (phone), Abstain.

Mr. Boran commented that there are a number of issues that were considered with the merger and not only through the feasibility study. Mr. Boran noted that the PSERS issue is still not resolved and also St. Clair Area School District is still waiting on their Planning and Construction reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Boran and Mr. Krater noted that they look forward to meeting with St. Clair Area School District officials to talk about renewing the tuition agreement. Pottsville Area School District wants to continue the relationship with the high school students.

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

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 labor relations and personnel matters

There being no further new business, on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 8:47 p.m. and adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

 Stephen C. Curran 4-15-15

Stephen C. Curran (Date)

Board Secretary