

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting June 17, 2015 Academic Center 7:30 p.m.	Present:	Mr. Krater, Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Curran, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor; Mr. Pytak, Pottsville Republican; Mrs. Lombel, Mr. Ansbach
	Absent:	Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Dr. Zwiebel

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Krater asked if anyone had questions or comments which they would like to bring before the board.

Sandy Kiapes expressed to the Board about starting a junior high softball program. Even though this may be an extra cost to the district, Ms. Kiapes noted that starting athletes at the junior high level would be a benefit when they reached the high school level.

Sarah Hahner, Teen Health Director of CareNet of Schuylkill County along with Cheryl Cresswell, Executive Director of CareNet of Schuylkill County, requested the use of a district facility for the ticketed event called "Silver Ring Thing" on Saturday, November 14, 2015. CareNet is a non-profit organization which promotes healthy choices about relationships among teens.

Paul Dizenzo, Jr., of Peak Hour Power, LLC, requested that the board send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in support of the preliminary permit application for the Silver Creek Pumped Storage Project. Mr. Dizenzo had recently sent information to the board for review.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the work session held on May 13, 2015 as well as the minutes of the regular board meeting held on May 20, 2015. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Curran noted that 154 graduating seniors in a Class of 249 received awards totaling \$200,589.25.

On motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the report of the Treasurer for the month of May 2015 was accepted and ordered appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the following Operating Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of May 2015 was accepted and ordered filed. Motion carried.

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the following Financial Statement of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of May 2015 was accepted and ordered filed. (See office files.) Motion carried.

A list of bills was submitted for payment. (Copy to each Director.) On motion of Mr. Wagner, 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 recommendation of Atty. Thornburg, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Grube, the Board approved the contract with Progressive Pediatric Therapy for Occupational and Physical Therapy services for the Extended School Year Program. Motion carried.

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

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner 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 Mr. Wagner, 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: Suzanne Delaney - 6 credits; Judith DiObilda - 3 credits; Tara Hess - 6 credits; Kimberly Jackson - 3 credits; Jennifer Kepner - 6 credits; Nathan Kraft - 9 credits; Kelly Lombel - 3 credits; Matthew Maccarone - 9 credits; Anthony Majorino - 3 credits; Stephanie Maroukis - 3 credits and Patricia Zimmerman - 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board ratified the Superintendent's preapproval of the credits indicated for the following administrator: Stephanie Ziegmont - 9 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved 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: Suzanne Delaney - \$300.00; Elizabeth Grow - \$1,632.00; Stephen Horvath - \$1,530.00; Katie Koneschusky - \$1,269.00; Krystina Kubeika - \$300.00; Kelly Lombel - \$1,530.00; Matthew Maccarone - \$600.00; Shannon Magdeburg - \$300.00; Stephanie Maroukis - \$300.00; Heather McDonald - \$600.00; Lucas McMurtrie - \$1,530.00; Nicholas Sajone - \$3,264.00

and Zane Simpson - \$1,362.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the list of personnel be elected as advisors at the stipend indication for the 2015-2016 school year in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA. (See Office Files.) Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent; Mr. Krater, Abstain.

On recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following salary adjustment be approved and become effective for the 2015-2016 school year: Kate Delenick – Master’s. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following professional employees be excused from their teaching duties to serve as jurors in the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Karen Bertsch – Retroactive to May 27, 2015

Peter McDonald – Retroactive to May 27, 2015

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board accepted the retirement of Michelle Evans for health reasons, effective October 26, 2015. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the following long term substitutes for the start of the 2015-2016 school year:

- Allison Tenaglia – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade learning support - August 25, 2015 until December 2015
- Crystal Pugh – 1<sup>st</sup> grade – August 25, 2015 until October 15, 2015
- Amy Schaeffer – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – August 25, 2015 until December 2015 or January 2016
- Rebecca Clayton – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – August 25, 2015 until November 2, 2015

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate, and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the school district insurance package with Higgins Insurance for the 2015-2016 school year as follows: Package Policy (Property/Liability/Auto) - \$114,255.00; Educators Legal Liability - \$26,562.00; Commercial Umbrella - \$25,017.00; Cyber Liability - \$6,329.00; Workers’ Compensation - \$120,089.00; and Athletic Team Insurance - \$39,185.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs.

Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate, and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board awarded the no-lead gasoline (\$1.9288 per gallon) /diesel fuel (\$2.1424 per gallon) bids from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 to PAPCO, Inc., Aston, PA as per low bid. Bids were received on June 10, 2015 for no-lead gasoline/diesel fuel. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate, and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the use of its district facilities to Luther Ridge @ Seiders Hill, as an emergency evacuation site. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate, and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Grube, the board approved a lease agreement with Child Development Inc. to rent one classroom at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance, Mr. Krater reported that the tentative budget notice and the adoption of the budget this evening was published in the Pottsville Republican on June 1, 2015 stating that the budget for the fiscal year commencing the first day of July 2015 would be adopted as of June 17, 2015. The budget herewith presented has been carefully considered by the Board of Directors and is now submitted by the Committee on Finance for action at this meeting.

The Committee on Finance recommended that the Board of Directors adopt the following budget resolution authorizing the expenditures of the amounts indicated in the various classifications for the general fund budget totaling \$43,972,595 and be appended to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting:

RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District, Schuylkill County, hereby authorize expenditures of \$43,972,595 set forth in the school budget, as appended, during the school year 2015-2016 and levies a tax of 34 mills (\$3.40 per hundred dollars) of the County assessed valuation on real estate; a per capita tax of five dollars (\$5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a per capita tax of five dollars (\$5.00) per person under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an earned income tax of one-half percent (1/2%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an occupation tax of 285.72 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of \$100.00 (\$350.00 x 285.72 mills), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; a business privilege tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the school district except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill, and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as

amended; a local services tax at the rate of \$5.00, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; and a realty transfer tax of one per cent (1%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of 1986; to provide the necessary revenue for the expenditures hereby authorized.

The above taxes will be levied and collected in each of the following political subdivisions included in the Pottsville Area School District as follows: City of Pottsville, Borough of Port Carbon, Borough of Mechanicsville, Borough of Mount Carbon, Borough of Palo Alto, and Township of Norwegian.

On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board of Directors adopted the resolution by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

The Committee on Finance recommended that the Board authorize and direct the following to collect the amount due on the 2015 taxes, real estate and personal, in the respective political subdivisions indicated:

Pottsville City	-	Ellen Micka
Port Carbon Borough	-	Cheryl Messina
Mechanicsville Borough	-	Denise Swartz
Mount Carbon Borough	-	Harry E. Ebling
Palo Alto Borough	-	Anna Cook
Norwegian Township	-	Germaine Delenick

On motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board of Directors authorized and directed the collection of taxes. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board confirmed the rates of compensation to tax collectors in the respective political subdivisions for the 2015 duplicates:

Pottsville City	-	School District's 1/3 share of tax office salaries, with the City of Pottsville and County of Schuylkill to pay the other two-thirds
Port Carbon Borough	-	\$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District
Mechanicsville Borough	-	\$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District
Mount Carbon Borough	-	\$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District
Palo Alto Borough	-	\$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District
Norwegian Township	-	\$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District

On the motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the rates of compensation to tax collectors were approved. Motion carried.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the resolution imposing a Per Capita Tax of five dollars ( \$5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a Per Capita Tax of five dollars (\$5.00) on each resident of the Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the 1980-1981 school year and subsequent years. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax which is currently in force.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the resolution imposing an Earned Income Tax of one-half of one percent (1/2%) under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the period beginning July 1, 1966 and ending December 31, 1966, and thereafter, during each successive calendar year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax which is currently in force.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the Realty Transfer Tax of one percent (1%) on the transfer of titles on real estate in the Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of 1986, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2015-2016 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the Local Services Tax of \$5.00, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2015-2016 school year.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the Business Privilege Tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the School District except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill, and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2015-2016 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.

The Committee on Finance reported as a matter of record that the Occupation Tax of 285.72 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of \$100.00 (\$350.00 x 285.72 mills) under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, will continue during the 2015-2016 school year.

The Committee on Finance reported that proper notification of the continuance of the Per Capita Tax, Earned Income Tax, Realty Transfer Tax, Local Services Tax, Business Privilege Tax, and Occupation Tax, all under Act 511 as amended for the fiscal year 2015-2016, will be forwarded to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Center for Local Government Services, by certified mail, as required.

The Committee on Finance reported the tax structure for the 2015-2016 fiscal year will be as follows: Real Estate - 34 mills; Per Capita (Section 679) - \$5.00; Per Capita (Act 511) - \$5.00; Earned Income Tax - ½%; Realty Transfer Tax - 1% (shared with City - .5%); Local Services Tax -

\$5.00; Business Privilege Tax - 1 mill (wholesale), 1 ½ mills (retail), 4 ½ mills (other/service); and Occupation Tax (Act 511) - \$100.00.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board authorized the homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions for the school year beginning July 1, 2015, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006). (See Resolution in office files.) For 2015, the homestead exclusion will be \$144.36. The assessment reduction is \$4,246.00, and the total number of approved homestead properties for 2015 is 4,873. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the Board approved payment of \$55,000.00 to the Pottsville Free Public Library and \$2,300.00 to the Port Carbon Public Library for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

Mr. Krater reported that the contract between the Pottsville Area School District and Harry E. Ebling, as Business Privilege Tax Administrator, and Delinquent Tax Officer of the Pottsville Area School District, shall be construed to be renewed for an additional term of one (1) year and thereafter, from year to year unless notice in writing is given by either party thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the current year. The original term of the contract extended from July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978 exclusive, and was renewed for subsequent years. No written notice having been given by either party, the contract will continue in force for the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 inclusive.

Mr. Krater reported that the contract provided for a commission of 2.8% on all taxes collected and paid to the district from July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978 inclusive, and the same rate was effective for subsequent years. The same rate will continue in effect during the 2015-2016 school year.

On motion of Mrs. Grube, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board directed Harry E. Ebling to furnish bond in the amount of \$250,000.00 with approved surety for the period of one year from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 inclusive. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board reappointed the Schuylkill County Recorder of Deeds to administer and collect the Realty Transfer Tax within the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board appointed Jones and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to

conduct the annual audit of the Pottsville Area School District accounts, including Federal Funds, for the school year ending June 30, 2015. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board designated the following institutions as depositories for the Pottsville Area School District for the 2015-2016 school year and to continue under presently existing depository agreements: Susquehanna Bank, Pottsville, PA and Susquehanna Bank –Valley Forge Asset Management Corporation, Lebanon, PA -- General Fund, Federal Funds; National Penn, Pottsville, PA -- Award Funds; Gratz Bank, Pottsville, PA -- Award Funds; M & T Bank, Pottsville, PA -- Cafeteria Fund, Award Funds; Wells Fargo, Pottsville, PA -- Award Funds, Activities Funds. Motion carried.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran noted that the Basic Education Commission will be releasing their recommendations and the Senate voted to delay the Keystone Exams as a requirement for graduation until 2017.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Negotiations, and on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the revised Act 93 Agreement, effective July 1, 2015. Term of Agreement is thirty-six (36) months – July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Grube, Dr. Cortese, Mr. Krater, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller and Mr. Wagner, Aye; Mr. Boran, Mrs. Petchulis, Absent.

Under Personnel, Atty. Rismiller, Chairperson, noted that a meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 7:00 a.m.

Dr. Cortese, Public Relations Chairperson, congratulated Jacob Shoener, who was honored by the Pottsville Kiwanis at a luncheon as the outstanding instrumental and vocal student from Pottsville Area High School on May 26, 2015.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Textbooks and Supplies, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Cortese, the Board approved the annual textbook and teaching supply requisitions for the 2015-2016 school year totaling \$298,709.20. Motion carried.

Mr. Moran noted that the Pottsville Recreation Committee will meet tonight. He also noted the following events during the month of June and July:

- June 18 – Sports Night at JFK Pool
- June 20 – Movie at the Majestic
- June 27 – Celebration at Union Station
- July 18 – Movie at the Majestic
- July 25 – Cycle 17


Mr. Moran, chairperson of the newly formed Curriculum and Grading Committee, noted that the committee will be reviewing the grading system and quality points system. The committee will also reach out to colleges to see how students are evaluated.

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

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 matters.

With no further business, on motion of Dr. Cortese, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Executive Session – 8:16 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

  
Stephen C. Curran (Date)  
Board Secretary