

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
January 18, 2017
Regular Meeting
Academic Center

Present: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Mr. Boran, Dr. Cardamone,
Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner (Skype);
Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager / Acting
Board Secretary, Mr. Thornburg, Solicitor;
Mrs. Kalovcak, Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Pytak,
Republican Herald,
Absent: Dr. Jeffrey S. Zwiebel, Superintendent

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance the Oath of Office was administered to Dr. Michael Cardamone by Schuylkill County President Judge William E. Baldwin. Dr. Cardamone replaced the vacant seat of Dr. Gary Cortese who submitted his resignation on December 7, 2017. Dr. Cardamone is a physics professor at Pennsylvania State University, Schuylkill Campus.

Dr. Cardamone thanked the Board for their confidence and remarked he will discharge the duties with fidelity.

Mr. Boran welcomed everyone and asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Miss Chelsea Balulis, Junior of Pottsville Area High School addressed the Board regarding the water polo team. As she mentioned previously, she understands the team is on the district's chopping block to save money. She noted she was a member of this team for three years and has made many wonderful memories and friends because of this team. She noted the booster club is busy raising money for the team to help out in any way they are able to. Chelsea added, this team does not need to travel very far or often because the other teams travel to use our facilities. She asked the Board to please consider keeping the team together because many of the players are being considered for possible scholarships but need to remain as a team sport in high school.

Mr. Adrian Portland and three 11th grade students, Angela Eckert, Olivia Eckert and Chelsea Balulis, presented an Apple Classroom application demonstration to the Board Members, Press and audience. Mr. Portland explained that this is a new application which many teachers are using. The students explained how the application works and how teachers are implementing these applications for classroom instruction. Mr. Portland explained, as a teacher he has access to what the students are viewing at all times, which helps keep the student's attention to lessons being taught. Mr. Portland noted Maria Larish and Brian McMullin have been a great help implementing these new applications. He noted Maria has created very valuable instruction sheets to help all teachers use the new application with ease.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Attorney Rismiller an Executive Session of the Board was announced at 7:50 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters and Labor Negotiation items.

The meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Boran, President of the Board, asked for a moment of silence for former Board member Mrs. Agnes Reiley who passed away January 12, 2017. Mr. Boran remarked that Mrs. Reiley served on the Pottsville Area School District Board of Education for twenty years and he was fortunate enough to spend three of those years serving alongside her. He mentioned it was her who approached him to serve on the School Board and advised him that board members need to balance what is good for the taxpayer, the employees of the district, and most importantly the youth of the district.

Mr. Boran also made a few comments regarding the current situation the School District is involved in. He said there is much talk going around the community and newspaper about the Board not being upfront with everything. He assured everyone that every Board member is committed to making sure we offer the best possible education to each child in the district. He stressed there is no intent to mislead, shadow, or not be forthcoming with information.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of December 2016 and directed it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Cafeteria Financial Report for the month of December 2016 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. Thomas, 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. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Family Medical Leave for two employees of the school district according to the terms of the request. Atty. Thornburg noted that the proper paperwork was in order. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Davidson, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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: Meredith Coleman - 3 credits; Derek DiRenzo - 3 credits;

Kayla Fehr - 3 credits; Jennifer Kepner– 3 credits; Krystina Kubeika – 3 credits; Andrew Smink – 3 credits; and Jenna Troutman – 6 credits. Motion carried.

On further recommendation of Dr. Davidson, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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: Heather Berger - \$3,285.00; Scott Delenick - \$1,642.50; Derek DiRenzo - \$1,362.00; Kayla Fehr - \$1,362.00; Katrina Greenawalt - \$1,449.00; Nathan Halenar - \$1,362.00; Lillian Hobbs - \$900.00; Heather Jenkins - \$1,362.00; Jennifer Lipton - \$3,744.00; Christopher Lombel - \$1,449.00; Stacey McClusky - \$4,926.00; Mary Matulevich - \$1,131.00; Benjamin O'Brien - \$1,362.00; Alyssa Palina - \$6,975.00; Courtney Reichert - \$2,724.00; Gregory Schuettler - \$1,449.00; Andrew Smink - \$2,463.00; Jenna Troutman \$1,362.00; and Cara Turolis - \$300.00. Motion carried.

On recommendation of Dr. Davidson, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following salary adjustments effective in the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year: Benjamin O'Brien – Bachelor +15 and Alyssa Palina – Master's Degree. Motion carried.

On recommendation of Dr. Davidson, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Stephanie Ziegmont, Curriculum Director/Federal Programs Coordinator, effective January 20, 2017, in accordance with her letter. Motion carried.

Dr. Davidson noted that Stephanie has been with the Pottsville Area School District for several years and did an excellent job while she was here. He noted that this is definitely a win for Southern Columbia School District.

On the recommendation of Dr. Davidson, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved an Act 80 Day to be held on Friday, February 17, 2017 for the purpose of curriculum development. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board appointed Dr. Jeffrey Zwiebel and/or Patricia Lombel, Assistant Business Manager, as authorized representatives to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board authorized the School Board Secretary to have the required proposed preliminary budget notice published in the Republican Herald on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board set the date February 15, 2017 at 7:30

p.m. to adopt the preliminary budget for the 2017-2018 school year for the Pottsville Area School District. Motion carried.

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation, urged the district taxpayers to read and understand House Bill and Senate Bill No. 76, The Property Tax Independence Act. He explained, under this Act, both income tax and sales tax will increase dramatically. He noted property tax will not get eliminated under this plan in any district that maintains debt service. He said people of this district will be paying higher sales tax and higher personal tax along with a higher property tax. He noted this will take several years until the property tax is officially eliminated leaving the taxpayers paying three times the amount they are currently. Mr. Moran suggested the taxpayers contact their representatives to have them truly examine this to see if it is in the best interest of the district and taxpayers. Mr. Wagner noted Senator Argall is the primary author of this bill. Dr. Davidson asked if the increased personal and sales taxes raised in the district will stay in the district. Mr. Moran answered, no, this is the whole problem. The money raised locally will go to Harrisburg to be combined and shared among all districts in the Commonwealth.

Under Negotiations, Mr. Moran noted there is a meeting to discuss negotiations scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the resignation of Beth Barnes, a part-time secretary at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School, retroactive to January 4, 2017. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the resignation of Mary Tamburelli, lunch aide, retroactive to January 9, 2017. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Carol Strouse, Cafeteria Manager at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective the day after the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Kathie Ward, managerial employee, effective June 30, 2017. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved hiring the following lifeguards, at an hourly rate of \$9.00/\$10.00 per hour based upon specific job duties: Angela Eckert; Max Kelly; Stephen Messina; Jordan Young; and Joshua Zelinsky. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved two (2) unpaid days, February 16 and

February 17, 2017 for Kimberly Steigerwalt, teacher at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center. Motion carried.

Under Committee on Public Relations, Dr. Davidson, reported the following students were selected to participate in the PMEA District 10 Festivals: (Jazz Festival, Orchestra Festival and Band Festival) Colin Williams – PMEA District Jazz Festival (Alto Sax); Thomas Honicker – PMEA District 10 Orchestra Festival (French Horn); and Grace Muench along with Colin Williams and Thomas Honicker were all selected to participate in the PMEA District 10 Band Festival.

Dr. Davidson reported both Rachel and Julia Conville received a combined total of seven awards at this year's Scholastic Art Awards. Julia Conville won a Gold Key and two honorable mentions and Rachel Conville won a Gold Key, a Silver Key and two honorable mentions. Their artwork will be on display at Marywood University and then their Gold Key award-winning artwork will continue on to the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition in New York where they will be considered for further awards, exhibition and scholarships.

Dr. Davidson also congratulated Vanessa Biddle for being selected as the Artist of the Month for January/February. He noted her drawing is currently on display at the Academic Center.

Mr. Wagner also remarked that he received a copy of "The Castle" and how impressed he was with this top notch endeavor.

Dr. DiCello, Chairman of the Committee on Technology, reported the iPad sales of technology reached \$234,378.90 for 2016-2017. There are presently 168 iPads remaining for sale along with desktops and other technology equipment. The Committee is hoping the proceeds will cover the previous year iPad leases through June 30, 2017. Additional lease payments are due in July and August 2017. In 2015-2016 the Technology budget was reported \$150,661.00 under budget. The 2016-2017 Technology budget is \$891,069.00 and year to-date expenses total \$752,056.00. It is anticipated it will also come in under budget, although there are still some annual contracts remaining to be paid. Dr. DiCello is anticipating another iPad sale for the remaining 168 iPads to be held in February at the Academic Center. She is hoping the next sale generates enough revenue to be allocated toward the remaining 2017 leases.

Mr. Thomas, IU 29 Representative, noted they are currently conducting interviews for the Director position and will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Policy and Procedure Review Committee, noted they will be meeting on Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. to discuss two policies which need to be reviewed.

Mrs. Lillian Hobbs, Pottsville Library Representative, reported the Library is currently searching for a new librarian.

On recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, Assistant Business Manager and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the Revenue Report for December 2016, which included local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner (Skype), and Mr. Boran, Aye.

Mrs. Lombel 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. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following requests for use of facilities:

D.H.H.L. Middle School

1. Republican-Herald, Regional Spelling Bee, March 4, 2017, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, MS Auditorium.
2. Schuylkill YMCA, Swim Meet, February 26, 2017, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm, MS Pool/Cafeteria.
3. DHHL Lengel Middle School Drama Club, Annie MS Drama production, April 15, 2017, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, April 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2017, 3:00 – 7:00 pm (Rehearsals), April 22, 2017, 5:00 – 9:00 pm (Show), MS Auditorium/Cafeteria/Music Room.
4. Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Council, Annual Schuylkill County Career Fair, April 19, 2017, 4:00 – 8:00 pm, Set Up, April 20, 2017, 7:15 am – 4:00 pm, Career Fair, Martz Hall.
5. PASD, Anthracite Swim League County Championship, March 25, 2017, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm, MS Pool/Cafeteria.
6. Junior High Cheer, Junior High Cheerleading Practice, February 27, 28, March 1, 2, 3, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Top of Martz Hall.
7. PAHS Swim Boosters, Parent Booster Meeting, February 1, 2017, 6:30 pm, MS Cafeteria.

P.A.H.S.

8. PAHS Drama Club, Rehearsal, January 2, 9, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 21, 27, 2017, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, HS Little Theater. (Retro)
9. PAHS Drama Club, Rehearsal, January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, February 1, 2017, 2:30 – 5:50 pm, HS Auditorium. (Retro)
10. Special Olympics of PA- Schuylkill County, 2017 May Track and Field Meet, May 10, 2017, 6:00 am – 3:00 pm, HS Track. (May 11, 2017 Rain Date)
11. Junior High Cheer, Junior High Cheerleading Tryouts, March 4, 2017, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, HS Boys and Girls Gym.
12. PAHS Cheer Boosters, Cheer practice, February 27, 28, March 1, 2, 3, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Martz Hall.
13. PAHS Cheer Boosters, Tryouts, March 4, 2017, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, HS Boys and Girls Gym.
14. PAHS Cheer Boosters, Parent Meeting, March 8, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, HS Little Theater.

15. PAHS Drama Club, Rehearsals, Feb. 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 2017, Various Times, HS Auditorium.

John S. Clarke

16. PAHS Band Front, Majorette & Flag Tryouts Practice and Judging, January 31, February 1, 2, 2017, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm, February 2, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, February 6, 2017, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, JSC Caf and Hallway.

Alumni Field

17. Pottsville Recreation, Easter Egg Hunt, April 8, 2017, 2:00 pm, Alumni Field.
(April 15, 2017, 2:00 pm, RAINDATE)

CACL Complex

18. Penn State University-Schuylkill Campus, Baseball Practices and Games, February 1, 2017 - November 1, 2017, Steidle Field.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Lombel 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 and related negotiations.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Patricia A. Lombel (02/15/2017)
Acting Board Secretary