

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
August 16, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Academic Center

Present: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Mr. Boran,
Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran
Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner,
Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent; Mrs. Lombel,
Assistant Business Manager/Board Secretary;
Atty. Tucker; Solicitor; Mrs. Kalovcak;
Ms. Marciano, Pottsville Republican.

Absent: Dr. Davidson

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Boran asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Under Public Comment, Mr. Richard Grate, former student and father of children in the District addressed the Board with the following concerns and suggestions:

- Asked that the Board Meeting minutes be posted to the District website quicker than they have been.
- Asked that the Board Agenda be posted prior to the meeting.
- Openness and Transparency – Mr. Grate noted that he recently read four years of minutes and in February 2016 the Board reported they were in sound fiscal shape but never reported as to what happened to the current finances.
- Suggested the Board read the minutes for errors prior to being approved.
- Questioned the sale of iPads and noted with the numbers that were reported in the minutes, 126 iPads were missing.

Mr. Boran asked Mr. Grate to compile his questions on a list and noted the Board will get back to him with answers.

Ms. Jessica Sickle also addressed the Board asking if there was any way the District could break the five year iPad deal. She said other districts or colleges that are financially sound do not give students iPads. She asked why our District, who has no money, entered into this type of an agreement. She said that seemed like a poor decision and if there is any way to break the agreement it should be considered.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of July 5, 2017 Work Session and July 19, 2017 Board Meeting.

Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of July 2017 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the cafeteria financial report of Pottsville Area School District Cafeteria for the month of July 2017 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. Moran, 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 Ms. Lisa Eckley, Food Service Director, and on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board awarded the bids to the following suppliers for the 2017-2018 school year: Meat and cheese – Varano; Fresh fruits and vegetables - Bedway; Milk, 100% orange juice, iced tea, 20% orange drink, lemonade, and spring water – Guers Dairy; Bread and baked goods – Bimbo; and Ice cream products -Hershey’s. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

It was noted that these vendors have in the past provided the District with superior quality and were favorites of the students.

Under Unfinished Business, Atty. Rismiller stated that she wanted to put Dr. Zwiebel and the Administrative team on notice saying she will be continuing to ask questions regarding the \$500,000 budget reduction and savings challenge status. She asked that the Board be updated each month regarding this challenge. She said she is asking for an estimated forecast at the work session followed up by numbers at the regular meeting. Mr. Boran noted this challenge is in effect prior to January 2018.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, 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: Leigh Ann Bosak - 3 credits; Suzanne Fredericks – 3 credits; Nathan Halenar – 3 credits; Kimberly Jackson – 3 credits; Jennifer Lipton – 3 credits; Peter McDonald – 3 credits; Stephanie McDonald – 3 credits; Crystal Pugh – 3 credits; and Andrew Smink – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the reimbursement for the professional employees as indicated for the successful completion of a preapproved credit course in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Meredith Coleman - \$2,832.00; Derek DiRenzo - \$1,416.00; Katelyn (Dunn) Reichard - \$3,900.00; Casey Horvath - \$3,102.00; Kimberly Jackson - \$300.00; Stephanie McDonald - \$1,740.00; Benjamin O'Brien - \$1,416.00; Crystal Pugh - \$300.00; and Angela Snyder - \$300.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following salary adjustment be approved and become effective for the 2017-2018: Casey Horvath – Master’s +15. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Pottsville Area School District English as a Second Language (ESL) program as submitted. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Josephine Kwiatkowski to serve as a Title I aide at John S. Clarke Elementary Center effective, August 28, 2017. He noted her salary will be paid from the Title I funds. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the awarding of PAHS diplomas to three additional members of the class of 2017 based upon the successful completion of the requirements and the recommendation of the High School Principal. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following professional employee to 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: John Boris – Beginning, Friday, September 1, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Temporary/Professional Employee be elected, subject to the assignment of the Superintendent and set his salary effective August 22, 2017, pending the submission of all appropriate paperwork: Neil Johnson – DHHL Social Studies Teacher - Bachelor’s +15 -Step 1 - \$47,100.00. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the resignation of Kelci Killian, Middle School Health and Physical Education teacher, in accordance with her letter dated August 11, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the resignation of Erin Anderson, Elementary Center Special Education Teacher, in accordance with her letter received August 16, 2017. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Temporary/Professional Employee be elected, subject to the assignment of the Superintendent and set their salaries effective August 22, 2017, pending the submission of all appropriate paperwork:

Lisa Falkowski - Elementary Special Education Teacher	- Bachelor's -Step 1 - \$40,500.00
Jill Prestileo - Elementary Teacher	- Master's - Step 1 - \$49,100.00

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

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Samantha Lecher as Junior High Cheerleading Coach at the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School, effective, July 13, 2017. Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner, Chairman of the Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation Committee reported that everything is moving along smoothly in preparation of the new school year. He also noted in regards to the bus lease program the District is waiting for the arrival of two busses and a few vans.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the 2017-2018 Non-public Title I Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 for an agreement term of August 25, 2017 through June 10, 2018. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the contract between Jessica Tofany and the Pottsville Area School District. Ms. Tofany will provide Auditory, Speech and Language Therapy Services at a rate of \$100.00 per hour for a maximum of 44 hours for the contract period from August 28, 2017 through May 30, 2018. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Legislative Committee reported that the big news coming out of Harrisburg this week was that Governor Wolf signed off on the changes to the PSSA tests. He also noted that the House of Representatives have not met since their break to discuss the Senate passing of the state budget. He urged the audience to contact their legislatures to get things moving and pass the budget.

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Committee on Negotiations reported that negotiations are going very well and is hoping for a positive outcome.

Mrs. Blankenhorn, Chairperson of the Committee on Drug and Alcohol Coalition reported that regular meetings of the Tide Task Force will resume with the first meeting scheduled on September 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the hiring of Kellie Borrell as the John S. Clarke Elementary Center Cafeteria Manager, at an annual salary of \$27,500.00, effective August 17, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the hiring of Candice Witmier as a part-time cafeteria employee at the D. H. H. Lengel Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$15.45, effective August 17, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following be hired as cafeteria/lunch aide substitutes, effective August 17, 2017: Emilie Martin, Patricia Reilly, and Gloria Rich. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the following paraprofessional resignations: Joanne Torracco (full-time), effective July 28, 2017; Mary Ann Miller – effective July 17, 2017; Shannon Seiders – effective July 28, 2017; and Monica Natishak – effective August 28, 2017.

It was further recommended that the Board approve Joanne Torracco be hired as a part-time paraprofessional effective August 17, 2017 at an hourly rate of \$13.10. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following be hired as paraprofessionals at an hourly rate of \$13.10, effective August 28, 2017 contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances: Holly Gotshall, Paula Heffner, Brooke McShaw-Boardman, Kayla Murray and Crystal Segilia. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following be hired as transportation aides at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective August 17, 2017: Tracey George, Dawn Leigh and Joseph Shaw. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Gloria Haremza be hired as a bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$15.45, effective August 17, 2017. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Marlin Reed, bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective August 26, 2017. Motion carried. Atty. Rismiller thanked Mr. Reed for his many years of service to the District.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board motioned to remove Policy #715 – Use of Fax Machines and Policy #717 – Cellular Telephones and merge with Policy #815 and also approved the following policy updates to: Policy #815 – Acceptable Use of Communications and Information Systems; Policy 816 – Social Media Policy and Policy #237 – Electronic Communication Devices. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Atty. Rismiller, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Boran, Aye; Dr. Davidson, Absent.

Dr. DiCello reported that School Pay is now in effect for parents to make deposits to their child's lunch account but noted there is a \$1.95 per transaction convenience fee. Parents with multiple children in the District can make one deposit transaction and then divide the amounts between children at the cost of one transaction fee of \$1.95. She noted the website is schoolpay.com. Dr. DiCello also noted that parents can still send in envelopes to add to their children's lunch accounts but School Pay is another option. There is also a School Pay icon on the District's website.

Dr. DiCello also noted that the iPads were distributed in each homeroom.

Dr. DiCello stated that a copier survey is currently being conducted. She said the District has three copier leases with eleven copiers costing \$6,800 per month to lease and does not include the paper or extra cost for color copies. She is looking for ways to reduce paper usage throughout the District and to see if the amount of copiers could also be reduced. Dr. DiCello said she is hoping to have a recommendation available at the September meeting.

Mr. Thomas, Chairman of the Special Educ/Alt. Educ/Charter Committee mentioned that the District is waiting for the decision of the Gillingham Charter appeal scheduled for September 19, 2017.

Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Policy and Procedure Review Committee mention that a policy for the utilization of Narcan will be looked at for the next meeting.

On the recommendation of Ms. Lombel, Acting Business Manager, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the revenue report for the month of July 2017; the report includes local, state and federal sources (see office files). Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Atty. Rismiller, the Board approved the following requests for use of facilities:

D.H.H.L. Middle School

1. PASDEA, General Membership Meeting, August 23, 2017, 3:30 – 6:00 pm, MS Auditorium.
2. Schuylkill Choral Society, Concert, March 8, 2018 (Rehearsal) 6:00 – 10:00 pm, March 11, 2018 (Concert) 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm, MS Auditorium.
3. DHHL PTO, PTO Meeting, September 13, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, MS Cafeteria.
4. Pottsville Boys Basketball and Barefield Recreation, Basketball Tournament, June 14 - 15, 2018, 5:00 – 10:00 pm, June 16, 2018, 9:00 – 7:00 pm, Martz Hall and HS Boys Gym.


Academic Center

5. Title 1, Parent Annual Policy Review Meeting, Sept. 6, 2017, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Academic Center Board Room.

Motion carried.

Ms. 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 and/or labor negotiations.

There being no further business and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

 *Patricia Lombel* 9/20/17

Patricia Lombel (Date)
Board Secretary