

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2018
Academic Center
7:30 p.m.

Present: Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Blankenhorn,
Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Mr. Stank, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban,
Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent;
Mr. Manning, Business Manager; Mrs. Lombel,
Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary,
Atty. Tucker, Solicitor; Amy Marchiano,
Republican Herald
Absent: Nobel Quandel

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Atty. Karen Rismiller.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Atty. Rismiller welcomed everyone in attendance.

Atty. Rismiller noted that an executive session was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

Atty Rismiller asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Mr. Stephen Moyer, a Pottsville taxpayer and school district resident, expressed his concern about the impact the proposed tax increase would have on the community, especially the senior citizens. Mr. Moyer said he is speaking on behalf of the senior citizens. They cannot afford another tax increase. Mr. Moyer said if the seniors want to stay in their homes, we cannot increase taxes. Mr. Moyer is on a fixed income and receives military pension but a lot of seniors do not have that extra income. Mr. Moyer paid an extra \$350.00 last year with the tax increase. This year the increase could be close to \$800.00 if taxes are raised. Mr. Moyer said in 2013 the Pottsville Area School District had a 12.5 million dollar surplus, 2014 the surplus was 10.1 million dollars, 2015 the surplus was 5.9 million dollars and in 2016 the surplus was \$765,000.00. Mr. Moyer said the district lost a surplus of 5.1 million dollars. Mr. Moyer said the deficit is now 1.2 million dollars. He stressed we cannot continue this trend. Mr. Moyer thanked the Board and the teachers for their continued dedication.

Mr. Thomas encouraged Mr. Moyer to write to the state legislators. Mr. Moyer said he already has.

Atty. Rismiller thanked Mr. Moyer for his comments.

Dr. Michael Cardamone, a former School Board Director, read a prepared statement:
"All of us are painfully aware of last week's horror at a school in Florida. It was every educator's worst nightmare and caused every parent's heart to bleed.

In response to this senseless killing of 14 beautiful children and three dedicated educators, national social media organizations have called on students to leave their schools in nationwide walkout protests scheduled for March 14th and April 20th. While students have a right, and perhaps a need, to protest, schools have the “in loco parentis” responsibility to protect and keep safe its students. This is our most important responsibility. Students who leave the protective confines of their campus are vulnerable to any number of unforeseen threats.

Therefore, I respectfully request that Pottsville Area takes a proactive position and makes special arrangements where students may participate in these national outpourings of grief and outrage while remaining safely protected on the campus. The administration and the Board can define the particular arrangements that will satisfy these needs for students to make a statement while assuring their safety.”

Atty. Rismiller thanked Dr. Cardamone for his statement.

Mr. David Zvorsky said he thought there would be a more detailed Revenue Report along with budget information. Mr. Manning said he gives a Revenue Report which states amounts that are in the bank. Mr. Manning said the budgets and financial reports are on the website. Mr. Manning said if Mr. Zvorsky would like to see more detailed reports, Mr. Manning said he could come to the Business office and he would go over other financial reports.

Mr. Thomas asked if we could put the revenue report figures on the Board agenda.

Ms. Chelsea Balulis, a senior at Pottsville Area High School, read the following statement:

“In light of the tragedy last week in Florida, I believe it is time to start a revolution in Pottsville. There is much more to this issue than donating to the cause; we need a change. When people think about these tragedies, all they think about is their second amendment. In this revolution I would like to take a proactive standpoint with students and faculty on what they feel would make them feel better in schools and lay to rest mental health stigmas and how they see fit. I am sure many students have many ideas on what they would like to see with forms of mental health awareness and safety overall. Although I am graduating in a few short months, I am asking for a change. I do this to leave behind a legacy at Pottsville High School to have a safer future for classes to come. Change is contagious and starting in one place can spread to many others. We are students of today and tomorrow. We represent all those who come to us in the future and those who already came through these halls. We owe it to them to take a stand for a change. The T is for Tradition. The I is integrity. D is for dedication and E is for excellence. At this school we are committed to move forward to represent what the TIDE is about. We owe it to the district to do something for a change.”

Dr. Zwiebel said the safety of the students is the top priority of the district.

All Board members received copies of the minutes for January 3, 2018 and January 17, 2018. The Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the Work Session held on January 3, 2018 and the Board meeting minutes on January 17, 2018. On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of January 2018 and directed that it be appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Thomas seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Cafeteria Financial Report of the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias for the month of January 2018 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 Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Urban, 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 the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board preapproved credits indicated for the following professional employee be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Corrine (Frederick) Houtz – 6 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following professional employees be reimbursed as indicted for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Paula Jones	-	\$3,570.00
Deborah Lecker	-	\$ 300.00
Charles Taronis	-	\$ 225.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the adjustment of the 2017-2018 school calendar due to the inclement weather:

Changed to Regular School Days

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Friday, June 1, 2018

Monday, June 4, 2018

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Suzanne Heiser as a substitute nurse at a rate of \$100.00 per day. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the 2018-2019 John S. Clarke Elementary Center grading scale be adjusted to the same scale as the Pottsville Area High School and D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel thanked the staff members and the administrative staff for all their work over this past week in light of the tragic events in Florida. A continued discussion is top priority in helping keep our students safe. Dr. Zwiebel thanked all staff members who were present at the meeting for their help and support for keeping our students safe.

On the recommendation of the Athletics and Extracurricular Committee and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board appointed the following coaches for the 2017-2018 school year and set their salaries as indicated:

<u>BASEBALL</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Michael Welsh, Head Coach	\$5,600.00
Thomas Guzik, Jr. Varsity Head Coach	\$5,118.00
Edward Terefenko, Assistant	\$3,200.00
Ben O'Brien, Jr. Varsity Assistant	\$2,600.00
<u>SOFTBALL</u>	
Charles Rinaldo, Head Coach	\$5,300.00
Thomas Mull, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Clarence Herndon, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Bruce Heffner, Head Junior Varsity	\$2,600.00
<u>SPRING TRACK</u>	
Charles Schuster, Boys' Head Coach	\$5,773.00
Barbara McGinley, Girls' Head Coach	\$5,300.00
Kelly Lombel, Assistant	\$3,400.00
Craig Stevens, Assistant	\$2,400.00
Jeff Dunkel, Assistant	\$2,200.00
Peter McDonald, Assistant	\$3,200.00
William Rhoads, Assistant	\$3,200.00
Dee Dunkel, Jr. High Head Coach	\$3,400.00
Cara Holman, Co- Jr. High Assistant	\$1,600.00
Mark Laubenstine, Co- Jr. High Assistant	\$1,600.00
Jim Lord, Jr. High Assistant	\$3,000.00
<u>BOYS' TENNIS</u>	
Adrian Portland, Head Coach	\$2,600.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Athletics and Extracurricular Committee and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board appointed the following volunteer spring coaches for the 2017-2018 school year:

Baseball:

Tyler Heffner

Dave Sterner

Softball:

Mike Kiehner

Caroline Schuster

Ashley Shappell

Brian Spotts

Jenn Stock

Track and Field:

Robert Belcher

Robert Brouse

Lucas Bricker

Mike Stank

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Athletics and Extracurricular Committee and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Barbara McGinley as Head Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach after twenty years as Head coach. Ms. McGinley will also resign as Girls' Track and Field Head Coach and Boys and Girls Distance Coach at the close of the 2018 Track and Field Season. Motion carried.

Mr. Moran wanted to make sure Ms. McGinley was recognized for everything she has done for the district. Ms. McGinley coached many talented athletes over the years.

On the recommendation of the Athletics and Extracurricular Committee and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved Jamie O'Brien and Lucas Bricker as game workers for athletic events, effective February 22, 2018. Motion carried.

Legislation Chairperson, Mr. Moran said the Legislature in Pennsylvania are attempting to show their support and effort to mitigate any potential school tragedies in the future. There are eleven pieces of legislation that are being worked on such as metal detectors in every school district in Pennsylvania to offering money to districts for better resources and educational trainings.

Negotiations Chairperson, Mrs. Blankenhorn said the negotiations committee will meet next week.

Mrs. Blankenhorn, Drug and Alcohol Coalition Chairperson, said the committee is finalizing a date for the next committee.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Atty. Rismiller, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Carol Buchinski as a Transportation Aide for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective February 22, 2018. Motion carried.

Under Public Relations, Dr. Davidson read the following items:

- The Senior Mural Committee selected the winning design of Megan Skosnick for the 2018 Senior Mural. Her design features a telescope atop PAHS with their graduation year written as a constellation. The location of the mural on the first floor football hallway was also selected. Students will begin preparing the wall and gridding it for the design transfer next week.
- Congratulations to Thomas Honicker and Grace Muench for participating in the PMEA District 10 Orchestra Festival at Fleetwood High School on February 12th. Congratulations also to Grace and Thomas for being selected to audition and participate in the PMEA Region 5 Band Festival at Middletown Area High School on February 22, 2018 and East Stroudsburg North in March.
- The following high school students will participate in the Schuylkill County Chorus Festival, which will be held in February. Participants are: Naomi Brode (9th), Thomas Honicker (12th); Lauren Hunter (12th), Mar cayla Lutzkanin (11th), Autumn McDonough (11th), Gillian Revenis (12th) and McKenzie Stotelmyer (10th).
- The Lengel Middle School Tide Tones performed the National Anthem at the Penn State Mens' Basketball game, hosted by the Penn State Schuylkill Athletic Department on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. We have received positive feedback from the officials at Penn State and from community members who were in attendance at the game.
- Tide Tones performed the National Anthem at the High School Boys' basketball game on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. and at the Schuylkill League Championship on February 16, 2018 at Martz Hall. They were also invited to sing at a Reading Royals hockey game on March 23, 2018.
- Congratulations to Emma Bertsch, 2nd runner-up representing Pottsville Area High School at the 2018 Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival Princess competition and to Kali Grochowski, 3rd grade John S. Clarke student for winning the 2018 Snow Drop competition.

- Congratulations to the Varsity Quiz Team who competed and won two of their matches by defeating Marian Catholic and Gillingham Charter School. The Quiz Team is busy practicing for their final match of the season. This county-wide match will be held March 16, 2018 at Penn State Schuylkill campus.
- Congratulations to the following Pottsville Area High School students for placing in the recent Schuylkill Technology Center SkillsUSA competition:

Plumbing	Devin Steidle	1 st Place
Cosmetology	Alyssa Haney	3 rd Place
Motorcycle	Gabe D'Agostino	Bye to States
Commercial Baking	Maria Spencer	Honorable Mention
Commercial Baking	Abrielle McDemus	Honorable Mention
Nail Care	Jenna Rupp	Honorable Mention
Medical Terminology	Jessica Turnitza	Honorable Mention

Devin Steidle and Gabe D'Agostino will advance to compete in the State competition in April.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology, and on motion of Mr. Urban seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board accepted and awarded the bid from ePlus Technology, Inc. for wireless access points. Total after eRate Discount (80%) - \$4,500.81. Motion carried.

Dr. Davidson, Chairperson of Textbooks and Supplies, said that the budget should be lower on textbooks with iPads taking the place of textbooks.

Policy and Procedure Review Chairperson, Mr. Moran said the committee continues to meet.

On the recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the Revenue Report for January 2018, which included local, state and federal sources. (See Office Files). Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Stank, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Atty. Rismiller, Aye. Mr. Quandel, Absent.

On recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the extension of child rearing leave from March 7, 2018 to March 26, 2018 for an employee of the Pottsville Area School District. Motion carried.

On recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stank, the Board approved the following Use of Facilities:

D.H.H.L. Middle School

1. Anthracite Philharmonic Orchestra, Rehearsals, March 22 and 27, 2018, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, MS Auditorium. (Billing Custodial fees)
2. Schuylkill County Senior Charity Bowl, Basketball Games, April 6, 2018, 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm, Martz Hall.

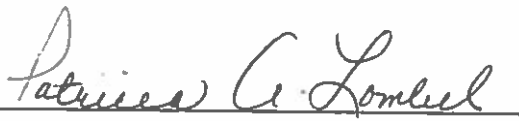
J.S.C

3. JSC PTO, Chinese Auction Committee Meeting, March 5, 2018, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, JSC Cafeteria.

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.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Executive Session – 8:15 p.m. to 8:29 p.m.

 3/21/18
Patricia A. Lombel (Date)
Board Secretary