

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
April 17, 2019  
Academic Center  
7:47 p.m.

Present: Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Blankenhorn,  
Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello,  
Mr. Moran, Mr. Stank, Mr. Urban,  
Dr. Zwiebel, Superintendent;  
Mr. Manning, Business Manager;  
Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/  
Board Secretary; Atty. Kevin Reid, Solicitor

Absent: Mr. Quandel

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The meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m. by President Atty. Rismiller.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Atty. Rismiller welcomed everyone in attendance and announced an executive session was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Atty. Rismiller asked if there were any public comments this evening.

Mr. Adrian Portland, teacher and PASDEA Vice President, asked the Board of Directors on considering consistent testing for mold at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center. Mr. Portland noted that with the wet and warm weather, teachers were hoping that the district would be proactive on mold testing.

Dr. Zwiebel's response was that testing is scheduled for Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Atty. Rismiller thanked Mr. Portland for his comments.

Mr. Nicholas Leiby expressed his concerns about the district's dress code and would like to have a more informal dress code. Mr. Leiby said there are other issues which should be addressed such as bullying.

Atty. Rismiller thanked Mr. Leiby for his comments.

On motion of Dr. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the March 13, 2019 Board Meeting. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board accepted the report of the Treasurer for the month of March 2019: Mid Penn Bank – \$606,276.88.  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Stank, the Board approved the Cafeteria Financial Report for March 2019. Motion carried.

A list of bills, as appended, was submitted for payment. (Copy to each Director.)

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, 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. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board preapproved 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
Meredith Coleman	-	6 Credits
Derek DiRenzo	-	3 Credits
Katrina Greenawalt	-	9 Credits
Kayla Kurtz	-	5 Credits
Peter McDonald	-	3 Credits
Charles Taronis	-	3 Credits
Krista Torpey	-	9 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board preapproved the credits indicated for the following administrative employee be ratified.

Caitlin Mohl	-	6 Credits
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Motion carried.

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

Leigh Ann Bosak	-	\$300.00
Stacey McClusky	-	\$300.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the resignations for retirement purposes be

accepted from the following professional employees in accordance with their submitted letters effective at the conclusion of the last day of school 2018-2019.

Diane Dunkel  
Susan Ebling  
Diane Howe  
John Spleen

Motion carried.

Dr. Zwiebel publicly thanked the four teachers who have provided many years of service to the children of the district. Atty. Rismiller, on behalf of the Board of Directors, also thanked the teachers for their commitment to the district.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following salary adjustment be approved and made effective in the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year:

Julie Saunders - Master's +15

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the 2019-2020 School Calendar be approved. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 26, 2019, and tentatively the last day of school will be Monday, June 1, 2020. Teacher In-service days will be held August 21, 22, 2019; October 14, 2019 and January 20, 2020. An Act 80 day will be held November 11, 2019. Early dismissals will be held on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, Friday, December 20, 2019, Wednesday, April 8, 2020 and the last day of school. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the Athletics and Extracurricular Activities minutes from the following meetings: February 8, 2019, March 8, 2019 and April 9, 2019. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved Thomas McGeoy as Head Football Coach for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Real Estate and Transportation, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the minutes from the following meetings: March 5, 2019 and April 2, 2019. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance, and on motion of Mrs. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the minutes from the March 22, 2019 Finance meeting. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 334, 434, and 534:

- Employee #202 – cafeteria worker - April 5, 2019
- Employee #604 - paraprofessional – April 5, 2019
- Employee #793 – lunch aide – April 10, 2019
- Employee #1231 - lunch aide – April 11, 2019
- Employee #1401 – paraprofessional – April 10, 11, 12, 2019

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the Separation Agreement and General Release for Employee Number 977. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Bernadette Laubenstine, effective conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following substitute cafeteria workers/lunch aides, effective April 18, 2019: Michael Soubik and Sherry Simons. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Bernadette Antonucci, effective conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried.

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

- Congratulations to the Cast, Crew and the Pit Orchestra of the “Hunchback of Notre Dame” for their successful performances held during the weekend of March 29 – 31, 2019.

- Congratulations to the following swimmers and divers who participated at States: 8<sup>th</sup> place medal 200 Medley Relay: Zach Turnitza, Jordan Young, Caleb Reedy, and Zaidian Van Orden. 5<sup>th</sup> place 200 Free Relay: Zach Turnitza, Jordan Young, Evan Lecher, and Zaidian Van Orden. Zach Turnitza also received a 3<sup>rd</sup> gold medal and set a new "school record" for his 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 100 backstroke.
- Congratulations to Junior Samantha Mihoda on a fantastic presentation on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Young Entrepreneur Academy's Investor Panel. Samantha has formed a Sole Proprietorship called, "Bossy B. Cosmetics". Samantha will be making high quality, vegan and cruelty-free cosmetics. Samantha's slogan for her company is, "Stay Determined", Stay Beautiful, and Stay Bossy." Samantha was the "top" Investor Award Winner. Samantha is the second PAHS YEA student to pitch her business plan to the investor panel.
- Congratulations to Caleb Reedy (junior) on being selected as the 2019 West Point Society of Lehigh Valley Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Character, Service, and Leadership.
- Congratulations to Grace Muench for earning the Penn State Schuylkill Wylonis Scholarship. Grace is one of the first females to have earned this award.
- The Quiz team held their final match of the season on March 29<sup>th</sup> and finished in second place! Congratulations to Mrs. Krista Torpey and the members of the Quiz team on their success this season!
- Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Pottsville Area School District in this year's Schuylkill County Council of the Arts Annual High School Art Show: Kyla Brobst, Josh Hamilton, Caitlyn Kline, Lauren Covely, Madison Spencer, Casey Cromyak, Haley Richards, Skye Steele, Tym Nevadomsky, Libby Gardner, Adrianna Glunz and Reilly Babcock. Congratulations also to Adrianna Glunz for winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Sculpture and Pottery category.
- Congratulations to Preston Hunter (Junior) for being selected as the Republican Herald "Artist of the Month for April. His artwork was featured in the March 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday paper.
- Congratulations to Victoria Oswald, senior, who was accepted at Harvard University.

- Congratulations to the DHH Lengel Middle School Drama Club for their performance of "The Adams Family".

On the recommendation of the Technology Committee, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the minutes from the following Technology meetings: January 24, 2019, March 6, 2019 and April 3, 2019. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Technology Committee, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the Administration to enter into an Apple Master Lease Agreement in the \$1,211,704.50 for the purchase of technology. Motion carried by roll call: Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Stank, Mr. Urban, Aye; Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Nay; Mr. Quandel, Absent. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Technology Committee, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the Administration to enter into an Apple Master Lease Agreement in the amount of \$74,597.00 for the purchase of technology equipment and services. Motion carried by roll call: Dr. Cardamone, Dr. Davidson, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Stank, Mr. Urban, Aye; Atty. Rismiller, Mrs. Blankenhorn, Nay; Mr. Quandel, Absent. Motion carried.

Note: Savings from early renewal and sale of equipment is estimated at \$245,019.48.

On the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the March 28, 2019 Curriculum meeting minutes. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Policy and Procedure Review Committee, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the updated Key Card Access Control Policy for Faculty, Staff and Students. Motion carried.

Mr. Manning presented an excellent and very informative PowerPoint titled – "Annual Results Analysis without Charter School Costs". This report spans 10 years of increased costs, not only for the taxpayer but state revenues, from charter schools. (See attached).

Mr. Manning explained these facts in his PowerPoint:

- Charter schools consist of Cyber Schools and a Brick and Mortar School (Gillingham).

- The Audited Excess (Deficit) – 2008 -\$4,124,224.00 through 2018 –Deficit \$8,469.76.
- Actual Millage – 2008 through 2016 - 34 mills; 2017 - 35.15; 2018 – 38.56 mills.
- Charter Cost in Mills – 2008 - .53 mills; 2018 – 8.90 mills – a significant increase.
- Enrollment held steady but the costs increased.
- Percentage of mills to Charter Schools – 2008- 1.56% through 2018 – 23.08%. (Note – a Mill Value is 266,881.59)
- Actual Year-End Balance – 2008 – \$11,089.898.00 through 2018 – (\$1,223,535.76).
- Year-End Fund Balance without Charter Schools – 2018 - \$13,566,302.18.

Mr. Manning noted that if we would open up our own cyber/charter school, students would graduate from Pottsville Area High School. We support school choice if the district has a cyber charter school. House Bill 526 and Senate Bill 34 would encourage students to attend a free full-time cyber education programs offered by their local school district. Instead of mandating the local public school to pay for attendance, the parents or guardians would be solely responsible at a state-wide cyber charter school.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran, Chairperson, read the following resolution and signed copies will be submitted to its State Legislators:

**“POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Pottsville Area School District’s limited tax funds are necessary to adequately fund and strengthen our District’s public schools to help all students to succeed; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pottsville Area School District taxpayers should not continue to have their property taxes and state revenues diverted to pay for tuition at cyber schools not operated by the Pottsville Area School District; and,

**WHEREAS**, publicly funded cyber charter schools are not accountable to the voters and taxpayers; and;

**WHEREAS**, during the 2019 Session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, House Bill 526 and Senate Bill 34 have been introduced and referred to their respective Education Committees; and,

**WHEREAS**, both Bills encourage students to attend free full-time cyber education programs offered by their local school district by alternatively requiring parents or guardians to be solely responsible for the cost of tuition at a state-wide cyber charter school, instead of mandating the local public school to pay for such attendance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Pottsville Area School District supports parental options within the public school system.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The Pottsville Area School District School Board is collectively concerned about the negative effects of diverting to cyber charter schools scarce public dollars urgently needed to strengthen the District's public schools; and
2. The Board supports amending the Pennsylvania Public School Code in the manner proposed by House Bill 526 and Senate Bill 34 to eliminate the diversion of a public school district's tax revenues and education subsidy to cyber charter schools not operated by the local public school district; and,
3. The Board of School Directors shall submit copies of the Resolution to its State Legislators".

On the recommendation of Mr. Manning and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the Revenue Report for March 2019, which included local, state and federal sources. (Local Sources - \$534,843.47; State Sources - \$1,427,811.84; Federal/Other Sources - \$75,296.60 Total - \$2,037,951.91. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Dr. DiCello, Dr. Davidson, Mr. Moran, Mr. Stank, Mr. Urban and Atty. Rismiller, Aye. Mr. Quandel, Absent. Motion carried.

Under New Business:

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

#### DHHL Middle School

1. Pauline Hall, Parking for pick up/drop off/leave vehicles (6), July 5 – 7, 2019, All day, Martz Hall Lot.
2. Pottsville Fire Dept., Public Safety Night Out, June 17, 2019, 5:00 – 8:30 pm, Middle School Upper and Lower Parking Lots. (Rain date June 18, 2019)
3. Track and Field, Pizza Party, May 1, 2019, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, MS Cafeteria.

#### PAHS

4. Track and Field, Pizza Party, April 25, 2019, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, HS Cafeteria.
5. PAHS Boys Soccer, Parent/Student Meeting, May 21, 2019, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, HS Little Theatre.

#### JSC

6. JSC PTO, Auction Basket Wrapping Night, April 29, 2019, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm, JSC Gym.
7. JSC PTO, Spirit wear Pick Up, April 16, 2019, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, JSC Bus Lobby. (Retro)



Athletic Fields

8. Pottsville Youth Softball League, Softball, April 18, 19, 25, 26, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Field #3 16<sup>th</sup> Street Complex.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mrs. Blankenhorn, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Denise Swartz, tax collector of the Borough of Mechanicsville, effective January 1, 2019. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Stank, the Board approved the following repository sales:

- o Parcel 68-26-312 – 719 West Race St. Pottsville - \$1.00.
- o Parcel 68-43-16.1 – 567 South Centre Street Pottsville - \$2,211.00.

Motion carried.

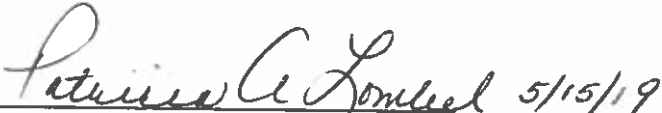
On the recommendation of Mr. Manning, and on motion of Mr. Stank, seconded by Dr. Davidson, the Board approved the cancellation of the work sessions, which are held on the first Wednesday of each month, effective May 1, 2019. Motion carried.

Note: The Board of Directors will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Notification of these changes will be on the district's website and advertised in the Republican Herald.

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 Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Urban, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Executive Session: 8:30 p.m. to 8:52 p.m.

 5/15/19

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary